

June 2024 Newsletter

On the 18th June, we held our third working group meeting of the year. We reported back on some achievements over the past month including:

- 1) Submission of a grassroots cycling grant application to the Department of Main Roads and Transport in partnership with Repair Café. We want to show people in The Gap three ways to get to three city locations safely (mostly on bikeways). Thank you to Jonty Bush MP (Member for Cooper) and Elizabeth Watson-Brown (Federal Member for Ryan) for their letters of support for our application. We should hear outcomes in September/October.
- 2) Our intensive with Rewiring Australia has now finished, but we are staying in contact with the team and continue to build a separate Energy Group webpage based with the insightful materials the group shared with us;
- 3) We prepared a more extensive 4 page newsletter which should be delivered to your letterbox soon, once you had a read, pls pass it on to friends and family who might be interested;
- 4) The Platypus group continues to liaise with SOWN towards eDNA studies of Enoggera Creek and is preparing to host a future PhD student;
- 5) We continue our successful bimonthly street tree project (2nd and 4th Saturday morning of the month) and increased listings on our [website calendar](#) site; feel free to join any of the many bushcare opportunities, and other events around The Gap. It's very rewarding and you will meet so many wonderful and inspiring people. For example, Janet Mangan, who leads a number of bushcare groups and just won the Women in Landcare Award 2024! Congratulations Janet.

We then had a group discussion. Damien presented his thoughts on how we can improve our new member onboarding experience by delivering short video messages, and emails to make the new members feel welcome and well orientated towards our activities. Damien is looking at our communication strategies and working towards improvements more broadly – watch this space.

Richard had suggested a discussion around feral animals (cats in particular), but could not attend and the presentation was postponed to August. Despite this, we discussed the issue, members reported various observations and insights. For example Nerida, who is a very well versed wildlife carer, reported that even if a cat just bites a glider or possum and even if it gets away, their saliva contains

bacteria that will kill the animal in a few days. So overall there was much support to start tackling the issue, probably in the context of the Platypus group, as feral animals would also pose a threat to them.

Mark reported on ways to recycle “hard to recycle”



Six ways you can help rewild platypus

1. Clean up
Put rubbish in bins and dispose of chemicals responsibly
2. Reduce run-off
Use water tanks, plant rain gardens and verge gardens
3. Control pests
Remove pests and weeds, and control domestic animals
4. Grow native plants
Get your plants from your local native nursery
5. Restore our creeks
Join a bushcare group or SOWN
6. Spread the word
Invite your friends, neighbours, family and local MPs to get involved!

Join us at thegapsustainability.org

items, such as razors or toothbrushes, with several sites in The Gap collecting such items already as listed on our [website](#). Sue reminded people about the three “buy nothing” facebook pages in the Gap which allow you to give away household items for free that would otherwise go to landfill, and also the [Share Waste app](#), where people in the Gap can either ask for compostable items, or bring them to someone who wants them.

The **Platypus Group** needs volunteers to sew platypus toys, that Walkabout Creek rangers have offered to display and sell for us. If you can help out pls contact Fanny at fdebusserolles@gmail.com;

The **Community Energy Group** needs volunteers to lead our engagement with Energex and Energy Queensland for the implementation of the community battery; pls send a message to michaelboley.ows@gmail.com if you are interested in this topic.

The Sustainability For All group needs volunteers to assess the impact of yellow crazy ants and the related eradication program on our local wildlife - we are looking for someone interested to document the native ant populations in existence in the absence of yellow crazy ants, and compare with areas where crazy ants are present. We also need people with expertise in community outreach and project planning in relation to our planned sustainability hub, best contact for this is thegapsustainability@gmail.com.

Member T-Shirts: If you are interested in a The Gap Sustainability Initiative branded T-Shirt, please email us at info@thegapsustainability.org. The T-shirt is free for paid members, and we will order more if interest is there.

Membership renewal: With the financial year ending, please renew your memberships for the 24/25 financial year either on our [website](#) or use our Bank Account Name: The Gap Sustainability BSB124001 Account No: 23277186 and send us your name, DOB, and address to info@thegapsustainability.org for the membership registry. You can also renew via tap and go at our next seminar where we will bring the square.

Upcoming events and activities:

- Our next seminar will be held on the 16th July hosted by the Platypus group and focus on wildlife conservation. Our speaker is Genevieve Deaconos, Development Manager for Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Please see the flyer attached for details.
- We will support the upcoming Jonty Eco Forum on the 31st August, which will follow The Gap State High School's annual Launch event on the 30th August, and be organised by the High School Students this year. If you can spare a couple of hours to man our table at the forum pls let us know on info@thegapsustainability.org.

FUNDRAISING: TGSi now is an official fundraising team with **Containers for Change**. Please consider donating your refund to our cause by using our Member ID: C10826699.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Please stay updated about our activities by visiting our website www.thegapsustainability.org. We now also have an active presence on [Facebook](#).

Yours sincerely, The Gap Sustainability Initiative Mgt Committee