



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010 - Number 14  
**Friends of Oxley Common Inc**



Community Caring for Our Common"

[www.friendsofoxleycommon.org.au](http://www.friendsofoxleycommon.org.au)

PO Box 319, Sherwood QLD 4075

ABN 278 820 592 26

**Friends of Oxley Common Inc**  
 Invite you to help celebrate

## New Year Get Together

- help make compost
- help make some garden beds
- help plant some seeds
- take home some seeds to plant
- plus enjoy a morning tea

everyone invited  
 on

**Sunday 16th January 2011**  
 (9am start with morning tea at 10am)

Environment Centre  
 Oxley Creek Common  
 Sherwood Rd, Rocklea

All welcome – bring some food to share  
 If possible RSVP by email  
[mfo40368@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mfo40368@optusnet.com.au) OR 38990912

### NEWS IN BRIEF

At the Tennyson Tennis Centre on 8/11/2010 all the members of Friends of Oxley Common's Management Committee being Marj Dixon, Fred Olsen, Karen Possingham, Fasenya McPhee and Marion Forrest received a 2010 Community Volunteer Award from Senator Russell Trood. With about 100 people and groups being awarded certificates, it was a very good reminder about how our society does indeed donate many volunteer hours to the community.



Above: Marion & Fasenya receiving awards.

So the big round of applause (which we heard on 8/11/2010) needs really to be sent to all Friends of Oxley Common volunteers who are the ones who are actually helping to progress community engagement on the Oxley Creek Common. Thank you for your volunteering.



## Happy Christmas Everyone

Quotes below:

from **Alf Orpen co-founder of Organic Farm Share (who has recently been giving talks around Brisbane).**

[www.organicfarmshare.com](http://www.organicfarmshare.com)

“Over the past century, human activities have increased CO2 in the atmosphere by over 35% from around 280 parts per million to now over 380 parts per million. When we consider energy consumption, carbon displacement into the atmosphere, reduction in soil fertility and petrochemical usage, agriculture is responsible for approximately 30% of global warming.”

“The fertiliser, pesticide and agricultural chemical industries are growing at a rapid pace whilst environmental and health consequences grow in parallel. Many health professionals consider a large number of ‘foods’ to be a major health risk.”

“What we need is a new way to bring a large variety of locally grown organic food directly to more people.”

## PELICAN LAGOON



On 24/10/2010 the tree planting and weeding around Pelican Lagoon went well. A good crowd of volunteers got working in teams very early (maybe due to the combined experience of our volunteers). We all surprised ourselves how we managed to get all the trees, understory plants and even little ferns planted before it got too hot to be in the sun. Thanks also to those who had brought the food. We had food galore but the volunteer workers managed to eat and eat until we had very little left. All in all, it surely was a very worthwhile event resulting in helping to restore a bit more the natural environment around Pelican Lagoon. However, we did spot the dreaded salvinia still in the Lagoon but have subsequently been assured by the Works Department that the weevil is in place and will hopefully keep eating the young salvinia.

## NEW BOOK:-

*Eaarth-Making a life on a tough new planet* by Bill McKibben

**Reviewed** by James Hansen:-

“Adapting to our new home won’t be easy. It will be expensive – and the natural resources on which our economy is built have been damaged and degraded. Our survival depends, McKibben argues, on scaling back, concentrating on essentials and creating the kinds of communities that will allow us to weather trouble on an unprecedented scale. Change – fundamental change – will be our best hope on a planet suddenly and violently out of balance.”

**Here is a quote** from the book *Eaarth*:-

“So it’s unsettling (but also the first unambiguously good news this book has to offer) to learn that serious people have begun to rethink small-scale agriculture, perhaps just in time to help us deal with the strains of our new planet. In the last ten years academics and researchers have begun figuring out what some farmers have known for a long time: it’s possible to produce lots of food on relatively small farms with little or nothing in the way of synthetic fertilizer or chemicals.”

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

**What do you make of the Lord Mayor Campbell Newman’s latest letter to us dated 15/ 11/2010?**

In this letter he states:- “I can confirm that negotiations between the Queensland Government and Council about the long-term management arrangements for Oxley Creek Common are underway. While it is not possible to predict the timing of the outcomes, Council remains committed to ensuring that the Oxley Creek Common becomes an asset for the Brisbane community.”

I believe we can still read this any way we want to – either positive or negative.

It strikes me as unbelievable that decisions and arrangements of this type take so very long. I first became involved with the Common when attending a public meeting in the old dairy shed in September 1999. That public meeting was intended to gauge what the community wanted on the Common. It was run by Brisbane City Council people for the Department of Primary Industries who, together with politicians, were also present.

Still, if this land, zoned for community use, eventually gets put into a community land trust and the community gets to be involved in the management of same, all will be worth the wait.

by Marion Forrest