



Samford
commons

2018/
2019

Annual Report

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*Discussions at a Community
Conversation in Samford Village*

*Front cover images: inaugural
Community Conversation event
(top); Ink on the Couch music
event for young people (bottom)*



1 Foreword by the board

Samford Commons aspires to be a dynamic example of sustainability principles in action with the support of members, groups and organisations.

With so many people volunteering their time and ideas towards building a sustainable community, the Board is well supported to provide the governance and oversight to secure our vision of living, learning, working and playing sustainably in Samford.

Our partnerships with Moreton Bay Regional Council, Innovate Moreton Bay, Moreton Bay Regional Industry and Tourism (MBRIT) and a growing number of community organisations continue to help us to grow and meet our strategic objectives.

This year provided a challenge to the Samford Commons vision, with the lease of the Samford Commons site not being renewed.

Our thanks go to two directors who resigned from the Board since the last Annual General Meeting, Shaun Reeves and John Elliott. John provided a valuable service by contributing to Board processes and preparing financial statements and monthly accounts since he was appointed in 2017. He has been replaced by Heather Ellson, who takes over the role of Treasurer. Shaun provided great insights to the Board's strategy and valuable networks to engage with the community.

The contribution of these directors is gratefully acknowledged and we wish them all the best in the future.

In 2020 we look forward to achieving the next phase of our sustainable future at Samford Commons.

*Directors: Stuart Blacket, Leah Hudson,
Rob Seljak, Heather Ellson and Ed Sweeney*

We look forward to the construction of the Samford Community Hub on the site and plan to engage actively with activities that may be offered. The Board's strategy will focus on delivering programs and other activities to engage the community in promoting innovation and sustainability.

Design concept for the new community hub building

2 The concept of Samford Commons

Samford Commons is a working model of sustainable living, working, learning and playing. The concept was conceived from a significant community engagement process and operates as a community-owned, not-for-profit volunteer run company limited by guarantee, Samford Commons Ltd.



Our vision is to be a place to grow... and our mission is to foster a community where new possibilities are nurtured so we can build a sustainable and resilient future.

Samford Commons aims to nurture a sustainable local economy which provides a significant social, economic and environmental value to the region and beyond.

Samford's creativity, community collaboration, innovative thinking, educational capacity and commitment to a sustainable future is being channelled to contribute to:

- connecting our community
- creating benefits for local employment and economic growth
- improving personal resilience, wellbeing and engagement
- encouraging sustainable homes, workplaces and practices
- a different approach to resource use and consumption
- genuine care for our environment.

Participants at a "community conversations" event in Samford

3 The work of the collective

Working groups provide guidance and development for core requirements of Samford Commons.

Infrastructure & Services

Purpose

- consult with Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC) to provide;
 - input to the whole of site master plan
 - input to the design of the Hub building including detailed design and functionality.
 - finalise refurbishment work on Building 54
- renew the lease with MBRC for the precinct around Building 54.

Progress to date

Liaison with groups interested in utilising the site for commercial purposes

Groups have been referred to MBRC Strategic Planning and Economic Development department. One such group included the Container Recycling Program recently introduced by the State Government. MBRC were reluctant to engage in any such initiatives due to the pending redevelopment activities on the site.

New community hub building:

Despite our long involvement with the planning and repurposing of the old CSIRO site, Samford Commons was not involved in the current plans for the Community Hub. Whilst the proposed building may not be aligned with our original vision, we are looking forward to the site being activated and are aiming to strengthen relationships with other community groups and the Council, to continue our association with the site into the future. We give special thanks to those who donated countless volunteer hours towards achieving an outcome for the whole of our community.

The funding round was announced in Q1 2019, with our local federal member of parliament supporting a higher level than was applied for by MBRC. A sum of \$4.5 million was allocated to cover demolition costs of all timber structures including the MBRC works depot. SCL called a meeting to determine if there was community interest in retaining several timber buildings and relocating them on site in addition to the community hub building. The meeting resolved that due to MBRC's strong resistance to this proposal, there was little appetite to lobby further on this point.

Design concept for the community hub building.

Building 54

The community lease for Building 54 was granted to Millen farm in mid-2019, thereby ending SCL's long association with the building. It is worth noting the legacy of improvement works left by Commons members through the various upgrades to this iconic brick building.

Marist 180 used it as their construction training base, led ably on the ground by Sam Bailye. Projects facilitated by SCL included:

- refurbishment of the interior spaces of rooms 1 and 2
- adding windows and walls to room 1 to make it a secure useable space
- adding an exterior awning to the northern and eastern sides of the building, yielding significantly more undercover workspace
- installing a 6.5kW solar panel system, battery and hot water system funded by the State Government Community Sustainability Grant

- replacing the power board
- purchasing a large 9x9m marquee, to be installed as a space to house new activities on site. Note this marquee is currently in storage and will be offered for use once the demolition phase is completed
- purchasing a small 6x3m marquee.

Total grant expenditure approximately \$45,000.

Thanks go to all participants who worked collaboratively to secure grants, submit works applications to council, procure materials and provide labour on site.

People participating: Cameron Meekin, John Atkinson, Alan Sonnenburg, Ralph Bailey and Tim Guymer of Guymer Bailey Architects, Howard Nielsen, Daniel Nordh, Stuart Blacket, Sam Bailye, Peter Booth of Sulinski Booth Architects, plus many working group volunteers.

Stuart Blacket (Convenor)

People & Culture

Purpose

The People and Culture team aims to support the human element of the Commons, including how we connect through meetings, volunteer activity and membership administration.

Main achievements

- the launch of the Community Conversation Series in place of the monthly General Member's Meetings
- engaged and inducted new volunteers to contribute to the board and management of administration and finances as well as marketing and communications
- transitioning a majority of member subscriptions to the online payment portal on the website to align with a November renewal. One step closer to all memberships being due at the same time every year!
- maintaining engagement and morale in the face of site setbacks and navigating local and personal politics.

George Quezada talks to participants at the inaugural Community Conversation event





*A Community Conversation at the
Little Tree Bake House in Samford*

Objectives for next 12-24 months

- use the automation capability of the website and Mail Chimp to streamline the membership renewal process.
- redesign the newsletter and ensure more regular publication of topical news
- continue to show gratitude to volunteers by increasing reward and recognition through volunteer spotlight and volunteer recognition functions
- continue to strengthen communication between Working Groups, The Board and Operations Management and to strengthen the culture of commons through open communication and empowered distributed leadership
- strengthen relationships with local Counsellor, local Member of Parliament and influential community leaders
- support in the delivery of a suite of Sustainable Living Workshops to not only share skills but to deepen engagement and connect with a wider audience.

Main challenges

- attraction and retention of willing volunteers, and conversion of interested people into active volunteers.
- although also an achievement, maintaining engagement and morale in the face of site setbacks and navigating local and personal politics was also a significant challenge to the culture of our organisation.

People participating: Leah Hudson, Daisy Bradford, Elizabeth Heck, Ellena Stone, George Quezada, Ed Sweeney.

George Quezada & Leah Hudson (Co-Convenors)

Samford Commons social media stats

- 158 new Facebook page likes since Nov 2018
- 2478 Facebook page likes
- Average post reach 400 – 500 people.



Samford Commons School of Sustainability (SCSOS)

Purpose

The School of Sustainability will continue to offer learning opportunities relating to education towards a sustainable community and society.

Innovation education and engagement programs on sustainability in the community and businesses will be a focus in the period ahead.

Main achievements

STEAM Immersion Program

- STEAM Immersion (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) will be the catalyst for inclusive co-learning processes accessible to school students, tertiary students, members of the community and workplace staff
- the STEAM Immersion Program was delivered at the end of 2017 for year 9 students from four local and regional schools, partnering with Mitchelton High School as a sponsoring school
- in the 2018-19 year a significant partnership with Advance Queensland, Innovate Moreton Bay and Grace Lutheran College has enabled a revised STEAM Immersion program to be conducted for year 7 and 8 students in Moreton Bay. Students from four secondary schools have enrolled in the program which is to be conducted in December 2019 with follow up projects well into 2020. The program is innovative in Australia in that it includes a focus on the Sustainability General Capabilities elements of the Australian Curriculum as well as the more traditional science, technology and engineering components.
- In 2019 Grace Lutheran College joined our Partnering Schools group and took on the role as Lead School for the STEAM Immersion Program

Wellbeing Trail

- the Wellbeing Trail was conducted at the end of 2018 as part of the Samford 100 events program. This innovative event received positive feedback from participating community members and the support, engagement and expertise of 15 local businesses and groups enabled a successful first-up event. Many thanks to Samford Rotary, MBRIT, MBRC, Extreme Marquees, Grace Lutheran at Rothwell and Colorcorp for their significant sponsorship of the Wellbeing Trail and associated Makers Lane
- congratulations to all the Trail sites: Tinker Town by Kids Community Collect, Terry White Chemmart, Snap Fitness, Impact Hearing, SwimFit, Samford Museum, Samford Village Healthy Minds, Pilates Lifestyle and Wellbeing, The Performance Place, Southern Cross Tennis, Anglican Church, Samford Eco Corridor, Pilates Emporium and Ferny Hills Guides. Also many thanks to caterers Long Yard Larder, Powerful Owl Café and the Famous Samford Patisserie.

Sustainable Businesses

- the Sustainable Startup Hub recently established by NACC Sustainability is supported by Samford Commons, as a way to fulfil educational purposes through engagement with community enterprises and businesses.

*Wellbeing Trail activities.
Left: Samford EcoCorridor.
Right: Labyrinth at the Anglican Church.*



Samford Power

Objectives for the next 12–24 months

- sponsorship support has been found through Innovate Moreton Bay for the continuation of another STEAM Immersion program, tentatively planned for mid 2020
- the Wellbeing Trail Program will be considered for a repeat in 2020, depending on continuing sponsorship and availability of people to coordinate the community groups who participated so energetically in 2018
- develop a calendar of practical workshops centred around ‘Sustainable Living’ to educate and encourage sustainable living, working, learning and playing
- continue the partnering relationship with Innovate Moreton Bay via engagement with school-based and business-based programs
- continue to develop government-private-community partnerships to facilitate the operation of SCSOS
- continue to explore and finalise sponsors for a broader range of educational activities
- activate agreements with selected local schools regarding their use of Samford as an outdoor teaching environment
- continue to build and strengthen links with and between partnering entities and local community, for learning opportunities.

Main challenges

- expanding the range of Immersion Programs with limited resources
- developing viable units/projects with current condition of buildings and lack of facilities
- funding of key organisation personnel.

People participating: Ellena Stone, Carolyn King, Ed Sweeney, Leah Hudson, Howard Nielsen, George Quezada, Stuart Blacket.

Howard Nielsen (Convenor)

Purpose

The working group exists to coordinate both the development of a community owned energy services enterprise, and physical infrastructure to supply the Samford Commons site with affordable clean energy. The group aims to make clean energy easy to implement for asset or property owners, and easy to invest in for anyone in the Samford region and beyond.

Main achievements

- evaluation of different service model options that Samford Commons could operate to help deliver clean energy solutions with businesses and households
- selection of a preferred service model option and development of a high-level plan to build up the service offering.

Objectives for the next 12–24 months

- deliver our clean energy plan, including partnering with like-minded energy retailers and facilitation of home/business energy audits and installations.

Main challenges

- uncertainty about SCL’s future at the Samford Commons site (former CSIRO research station north of Samford Village) has limited our work on the site’s clean energy infrastructure
- time constraints for working group members

We are looking for volunteers to roll out our clean energy plan over the next 12 months.

People participating: Stephen Lewis, George Quezada, Alan Sonnenburg.

George Quezada (Convenor)

Wellbeing Trail. Left: Snap Fitness. Right: Tinker Town.



Samford Commons War on Waste (WOW)

Purpose

The working group exists to encourage waste reduction in our community. Through our facebook group Samford Commons WOW, projects, events and meetups the group aims to connect those acting against waste and pollution and encourage and support others in their waste reduction initiatives.

Main achievements

- in partnership with Luvaberry Farm we have saved over 1 tonne of edible waste fruit by holding 'carpark parties' to give community members a chance to support Qld farmers and reduce waste
- we held an e-waste collection in February to divert e-waste from community members to the appropriate channels for recycling and refurbishment. In partnership with Buy Equip we saved 800kg of e-waste from landfill
- our Facebook Group Samford Commons WOW (War on Waste) has 270 members with a high level of engagement from people sharing waste reduction ideas, events and discussion.

Objectives for the next 12–24 months

- continue our partnership with Luvaberry to save fruit from entering landfill
- create and support other community activity that reduces waste
- support the delivery of Sustainable Living workshops that encourage waste reduction in life, work and play.

Main challenges:

- Time constraints, Low volunteer numbers, volunteer burnout.

People participating: Ellena Stone, Amanda Schultz.

Ellena Stone (Convenor)



*Left: berry fruit ready for sale.
Right: e-waste collection*



Samford Music

Purpose

Samford Music aims to foster a creative musical culture in our community.

Ink on the Couch collaboration

Ink on the Couch Music and Arts for Young People, in collaboration with Samford Commons, produced two live music and art events for young people in 2019 at James Drysdale Reserve Bunya, with funding from Moreton Bay Regional Council. The aim was to provide a platform for emerging talent and a recreation activity for local young people. The events featured live music acts, art displays, and participating creative brands. The series was instigated by local young people committed to establishing a community to express creativity and enjoy music. They were mentored by Samford Commons music advisor Chris Bowen.

Benefits

SCL support and Council funding enabled Ink on the Couch to demonstrate that events such as these can work. The young producers developed professional operational skills and created strong connections with the artists, some of whom played or presented publicly for the first time. New links

were forged between stakeholders across music and visual art, and artists appreciated the promotion received. The link with Samford Commons and MBRC provided the benefit of professional relationships and learning to work with a community organisation. 18 performers and 15 visual artists participated, 226 people attended and the digital reach was impressive – over 9,500 people, with 660 actively engaged.

Challenges

Securing a suitable venue was one of the biggest challenges, as Council did not give permission to use the former CSIRO site. Finding a new venue resulted in logistic, budgetary and audience appeal issues. The region's lack of suitable spaces for creative activity by young people remains an ongoing problem.

Next steps

The team is motivated to continue this creative work and is currently reviewing progress with a view to planning sustainable activities in the future.

People participating: Jay Denti, Alex Harvey, Nick Ravn.



*Ink on the Couch 2019, l to r:
Nick Ravn, Jay Denti, Alex Harvey*



4 Our journey in pictures

These images represent just a small sample of the many community events, meetings and initiatives by Samford Commons over the last six years...



2014



2015



2016





2017



2018



2019

5 Annual accounts

Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
ASSETS	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents</i>		
Main Business	9,899	2,583
<i>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</i>	<i>9,899</i>	<i>2,583</i>
<i>Trade and Other Receivables</i>		
Accounts Receivable	620	2,675
<i>Total Trade and Other Receivables</i>	<i>620</i>	<i>2,675</i>
Total current assets	10,519	5,258
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
<i>Property, plant and equipment</i>		
Plant and equipment at cost	8,200	8,200
<i>Total plant and equipment</i>	<i>8,200</i>	<i>8,200</i>
Total non-current assets	8,200	8,200
TOTAL ASSETS	18,719	13,458
NET ASSETS	18,719	13,458
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	18,719	13,458
TOTAL EQUITY	18,719	13,458

Community conversations in
Samford during 2019



Income and expenditure statement

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
REVENUE	\$	\$
Donations Received	4,335	3,331
Fundraising Revenue	922	6,015
Grants	2,870	5,000
Lease Income	–	(2,165)
Membership Fees	506	460
Operational Income	14,810	18,987
Other Revenue	2,341	–
TOTAL REVENUE	25,783	31,627
EXPENSES		
Advertising & Promotion	1,535	6,311
Bank Fees	28	49
Consultancy Fees	4,000	15,000
Donations paid	–	250
Event Expenses	4,247	13,914
Insurance	3,631	3,598
Postage, Printing & Stationery	113	86
Site Improvement & Repairs	6,202	38,179
Subscriptions	70	345
Website & Hosting Expenses	695	4,861
TOTAL EXPENSES	20,522	82,593
CURRENT YEAR OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT	5,261	(50,966)
OTHER ITEMS		
Extraordinary item	–	93,925
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	5,261	(144,891)

6 Acknowledgements

So many people contribute to Samford Commons in ways big and small, that there are too many to name individually. All these contributions make Samford Commons the successful community that it is now and will continue to be as we achieve our aim to build a working example of sustainable living.

We acknowledge

- The tireless volunteers who continue to rise to the challenges of creating a cohesive and sustainable organisation
- The over 2477 community members who have befriended Samford Commons
- The Mayor, councillors and staff of Moreton Bay Regional Council who put their trust in our community
- RDA Moreton Bay, for providing a strong support network
- We thank Councillor Darren Grimwade and Member of Parliament Nikki Boyd for their ongoing support and advocacy
- The community organisations that have supported or joined our projects and/or emerged as partners
- The foundation members of Samford Commons who have given unstinting support
- The volunteers and contractors who have worked hard to get things done
- Schools and universities that have endorsed the concept and built partnerships
- The local business community that has embraced our aims
- Local media which has carried the Samford Commons story
- The United Nations Global Compact Cities programme which has endorsed Samford Commons
- The members of Working Groups, which have helped in so many practical ways to establish Samford Commons as “a place to grow” and as a model for sustainable living, working and playing.

*Board of Samford Commons Ltd.
30 June 2019*

Web: samfordcommons.org.au

Email: admin@samfordcommons.org.au

Facebook: facebook.com/samfordcommons



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