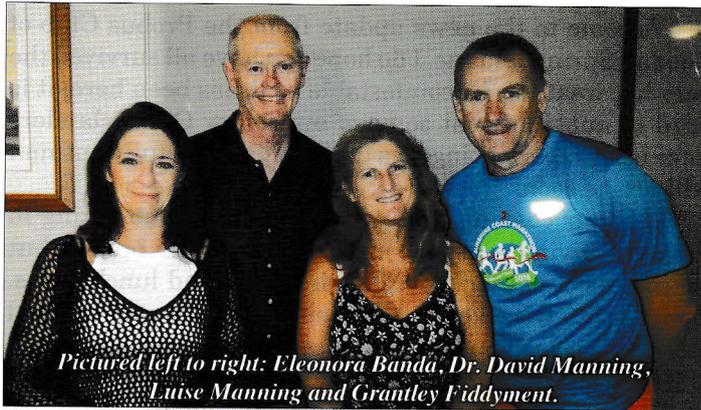


New environmental group formed



Pictured left to right: Eleonora Banda, Dr. David Manning, Luise Manning and Grantley Fiddymont.

Last month, 11 keen and committed Springfield Lakes residents met in Cr Irelands Office in Orion, to discuss the need for a land and water care group.

Dr David Manning from Healthy Waterways and Catchments gave a short talk about the issues effecting most urban areas in relation to water quality such as sediment and gully erosion, nitrogen loads from lawn and garden clippings, toxic dumping of pollutants such as paint and pesticides, litter in waterways causing harm to wildlife, and dumping of pest species such as carp (gold fish into the lake).

The group also heard how the fauna have also suffered from feral animals (wild cats, dogs and foxes) that are present in the Greenbank Military Reserve which backs onto a large section of Springfield Lakes, stretching from Johnson Road to the Greenbank Arterial Road. The close proximity to a busy arterial road has resulted in road strikes of native animals, such as quoll and redneck wallabies which live in and visit streets in close proximity to the Conservation area in Butterfly Green adjacent to Regatta and Discovery Lakes.

The gathered residents have a desire to be involved in a range of activities that encompassed all things in the ecosystem/catchment and suburb area, such as flora, fauna land and water health.

"Springfield Lakes Nature Care was chosen as the name of this new group because it aligned with the principals of the Queensland Water and Land Carers Group (QWaLC) with whom we will seek membership with and will provide the group with Public Liability insurance," said Luise Manning, President Elect. "Membership to the group is free with individual family membership available."

The groups objectives are: to enhance the natural environment of Springfield Lakes; to build awareness of the local environment amongst the Springfield Lakes community through provision of educational activities and distribution of information; and to promote community participation in environmental activities that enhance and protect existing conservation areas/parklands/reserves and waterways in Springfield Lakes and surrounding areas.

The group already have ideas to hold family fun days with community activities such as tree planting or toad busting nights, possum spotting or bush walks in the reserve and weed whacking days.

If you're interested in joining this new group, residents must apply in writing by sending an email to luise.manning@gmail.com. Information can also be obtained by visiting www.facebook.com/SpringfieldLakesNatureCare/.