

Going 20  
years!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2016 TO AUGUST 2017

### INTRODUCTION

CDEA has had another busy year since the last AGM. We thought that with the development of nearly all the vacant building land that there would be less work for us to do in that respect. Wrong! I shall discuss this later in the report.

### CDEA and WaCC's Successful End of Year Celebration and Celebration of TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CDEA

We started the 2016/2017 year with our End of Year Celebration in November 2016 at Pooh Corner. This is largely an environmental education exercise. We like to introduce people to the pleasures and values of native bushland and its wildlife. We also celebrated CDEA's 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary. We joined up with Wolston and Centenary Catchments for this event.

We had an excellent morning starting with some speedy bushwalkers and another group of stealthy birders. Children were entertained with craft activities. We unveiled the new colourful signage on the Pooh Corner Environment Centre which was the cherry on top of the fitting out of the building making it into a fully fledged environment centre. After a scrumptious morning tea we finished off with a Geckoes Wildlife presentation of some wonderful and friendly birds and animals. The weather was good and we had an excellent turnout.



Lighting the candles on CDEA's 20th year anniversary cake



Children enjoying the Geckoes Wildlife presentation

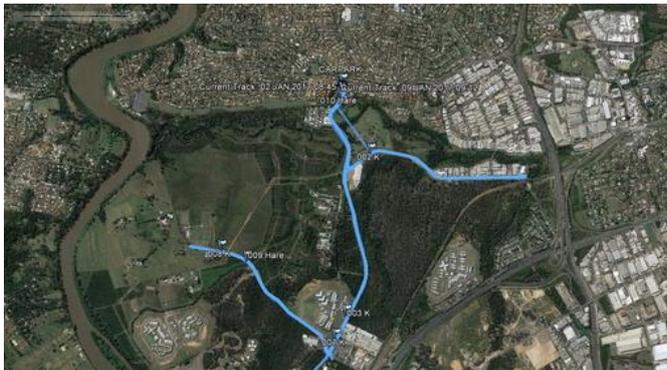
### Project Kangaroo

CDEA started on the issue of reducing kangaroo deaths on Grindle and Wacol Station Roads in 2005. This project has been bubbling along with a few little successes such as having vehicle speeds reduced and having warning signs put up, both rather ineffective.

At last something meaningful is happening. To remind you, as a result of the wanton killing of 17 kangaroos with a vehicle on Grindle Road in Wacol in February 2016, the RSPCA convened a meeting with Brisbane City Council, Friends of Pooh Corner, CDEA and WaCC, to seek a way to address the issue of kangaroo/vehicle impacts in Wacol. As a result, council engaged Professor Darryl Jones of Griffiths University to study the issue and come up with some ideas. At the CDEA August AGM, Darryl explained some of the measures that could be taken. He said that wildlife measures have to be implemented during road construction. As it happens, council is replacing the old wooden bridge over Wolston Creek on Wacol Station Road this year. The new bridge will be high enough to cope with minor flooding and CDEA had already negotiated with council to provide dry shoulders on either side of the creek so that kangaroos and other wildlife can cross under the road, thus reducing potential kangaroo/vehicle impacts.

CDEA and WaCC have a kangaroo monitoring team that is recording wildlife deaths in Wacol. The team did this for 3 months before construction of the bridge and will do it again for 3 months after the opening of the bridge. The purpose of this is to show that the measures taken are effective in reducing

wildlife/vehicle impacts so that council can get funding to go ahead with similar strategies in other parts of Brisbane.



The route: Wacol Station Rd, Wolston Rd and Grindle Rd.

### Transfer of 200 ha of state-owned land at Wacol

The transfer of 200 hectares of Corrective Services land in Wacol to be used by the Brisbane public under Brisbane City Council management or ownership is still on hold. This project has been running since 2006. The present government is assessing its assets and considering the project.

The Premier's Deputy Chief of Staff, Parliament and Policy expects that a decision will be made by the end of 2017.



Wacol Corrective Services land

### Oxley Secondary College Site

The future of the Oxley Secondary College site is still being considered by the State Government. A community panel worked for several months with Economic Development Queensland and the local community with a number of options being proposed. However, in October 2016, the State Government included the college land on a list of eight Queensland sites up for sale or development. This seemed to negate all the EDQ and community panel work and proposals. We made our disappointment in the statement and the consultation known to EDQ but as yet no decision has been made.



Oxley Secondary College site

### 67 Chapman Place, Oxley: proposed development on land with protected vegetation

Good news, an issue that raised its head last year, for the third time, has been resolved. An application to build 10 townhouses at 67 Chapman Place, Oxley, on a protected vegetation area just south of Oxley Secondary College, has been rejected by council. The local residents made a fuss and CDEA put in a submission opposing the development. Happily, Council rejected the application.

### Damage to bird habitat

CDEA received a most disappointing report from Roger Jaensch about destruction of bird habitat along Jindalee Creek in Ashfield Road Park, Darra. The problem was council or their contractors slashing vegetation so close to the creek that it drastically reduced valuable bird and other wildlife habitat.

CDEA recently met with Cr Bourke and he will instruct slashing to be stopped in a tongue of land near the creek. However, slashing will continue along the concrete pathway in line with CPTED pedestrian

safety principles. CDEA has asked council for Habitat Brisbane bollards to be installed along this area and to other areas susceptible to over-slashing but this has not been agreed upon yet.

### Three new development issues in Jindalee

#### Proposed development on former Qld Urban Utilities site, next to Genesis

The present Queensland Urban Utilities site, adjacent to Centenary Highway at Jindalee, formerly tennis courts, is proposed to become a service centre for Westpoint Motors. Ed Parker attended an on-site community information meeting in July and members of the CDEA management Committee recently met with Cr Bourke about the proposal.

The site is now owned by private developer who has negotiated access from the back through an easement next to the Genesis Gym. There is a proposed new bridge across Jindalee Creek for this access road. 28 service bays are expected to be built with the ground floor reserved for parking.

Cr Bourke told us the site was no longer suitable for its recreation zoning as the air is too polluted from the highway and the site would be too noisy for teaching tennis. However, there is no plan to offset the loss of recreational land.

CDEA is concerned about the industrial look at the entrance to the Centenary suburbs, extra traffic at peak hours and building too close to a waterway. We will put in a submission to council when the DA is open for public comment.



Proposed service centre in Jindalee

#### Jindalee Bowls Club

There has been talk recently of the Jindalee Bowls Club moving over to the neighbouring Golf Club and the land being used for an aged care facility. The CDEA committee discussed this with Cr Bourke who told us that this project would probably not go ahead for economic reasons. We pointed out that if it did, this would mean another loss of recreational land, plus an addition of people to the area.

#### Proposed fast food outlet at Goggs Road, Sinnamon Park

A Mexican fast food outlet is proposed between the service station at the corner of Goggs Road and Seventeen Mile Rocks Road, opposite McDonalds. The committee voiced its alarm to Cr Bourke at the loss of the vegetated buffer that was required by the building conditions for the service station, but mostly for the loss of the two native trees planted on Seventeen Mile Rocks Road. These trees were planted to replace the historic fig tree planted by Dr Cecil Sinnamon, brother of Sir Hercules Sinnamon. The Fig tree was removed in 2009 when it became diseased with fungus, which had probably infected its roots which were damaged during construction of the service station.

The proposed development is code accessible and not open to public comment. Having spoken to Cr Bourke, the CDEA committee hopes that the trees will be protected in council's development conditions. We really hope the development is turned down as it will just be more hard concrete surfaces replacing green buffer zones.



Proposed food outlet at Goggs Road

### Submissions on proposed developments and plans

- Submission objecting to the proposed **subdivision of 38 Richmond Street, Corinda into six blocks** requesting the preservation of a wildlife corridor - February 2017
- Submission on Draft SEQ Regional Plan **requesting protection of the 200 hectares of open space on the Correctional Service land as valuable kangaroo and other wildlife habitat and recreation space for the community** - March 2017
- Submission objecting to environmental and visual aspects of the latest Hare Krishna proposal – June 2017. There will be a loss of many trees along the ridge above Rocks Riverside Park and the temple would be very imposing above the park.

## Deer

Oddly enough, it is a force of Nature that is now threatening our bushland areas and parks – feral deer. They are very resilient and great survivors, and being tropical, do very well in the Centenary suburbs and all over Brisbane.

The Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve has been particularly badly damaged – soil erosion, bare ground where there was once grass, bark-stripped trees, badly damaged creek banks, destruction of habitat for native wildlife and the subsequent disappearance of local fauna. With food depleted until the rains come in Spring or Summer, the deer move into suburban gardens at night to eat there. They will also expand into other local bushland reserves.

A serious problem is deer being hit by vehicles, especially on the Centenary Highway. Being such big animals, they do a lot of damage to fast-travelling cars and can cause bad injuries to occupants.

CDEA is working with Council on this very vexed issue and will soon be engaging with State Government. We try to carry out public education as the general public is not aware of the damage deer do. If the deer were feral pigs, people would be more than happy to be rid of them. Actually deer do far more damage.



Damage caused by deer to Mount Ommaney Creek bank



Bushcarer getting down to it

## Bushcare Groups

The local bushcare groups continue their bushland rehabilitation work. There have been a couple of problems in three bushcare sites over the past year with severe deer damage, vandalism and over-clearing. CDEA is working with council to address these issues.

## Communication and interaction with members and the community

### General Meetings

Our quarterly General Meetings are free and open to the public. They include interesting and topical presentations and this year two were held outdoors.

**August 2016 AGM:** Professor Darryl Jones, behavioural ecologist working in the fields of urban ecology and wildlife management His presentation was titled “What can we do about roadkill? Some new ideas from around the world”.

**November 2016:** End-of-year Gathering at Pooh Corner, a combined event between CDEA and WaCC. It included a bush walk, children’s activities, ‘Geckoes’ wildlife presentation and morning tea. We had a good roll-up and sunny weather.

**February 2017:** Dr Melissa Ashley fiction writer, poet and academic gave a presentation on the story behind ‘The Birdman’s Wife’, her recently published book. (Elizabeth Gould was the wife of John Gould, the ‘father’ of Australian ornithology).

**June 2017:** World Environment Day Picnic at Pooh Corner done in combination with WaCC – bird and bushwalks, planting at PCEC, kids’ craft and morning tea.

### Web Site

CDEA’s excellent web site continues to be run by Brian Korner. Brian also sends out bulk emails of CDEA notices. Many thanks go to Brian for all his work.

### Brochure and handouts

- [CDEA brochure](#) and the insert of [Current Hot Issues and Successful Outcomes](#) as well as the information sheet on [Local Bushcare in the Centenary Suburbs](#).
- Ed Parker drew up the map of bushland and parkland protected by the community in Centenary and surrounds since 1991.

- Warner and Tricia Dakin continue to update a list of Volunteer and Community Groups in Centenary Suburbs Area and Environs.

Many thanks to these people for all their very worthwhile work.

### Facebook

CDEA continues to use the 4074 Community & Beyond Facebook page to advertise events and to discuss environmental matters.

### Presentations

I did a presentation on CDEA to the Jindalee Neighbourhood watch at their meeting in June.

### Sharing of electronic equipment

CDEA lends its public address system, laptop and projector to community groups. All equipment was purchased with grants.

### Memberships

CDEA continues to be a member of the Environmental Defenders Office and Queensland Conservation.

### Some management requests

- We need an **editor for our quarterly newsletters**. It's mostly formatting: I usually source the articles so putting together the newsletter not a big job.
- We would also like someone to **manage our membership list**, not a big job but important.

### Sincere thanks go to:

- Brisbane City Council for its Environmental Grant that we use to cover costs of printing etc.
- the Management Committee for their ongoing commitment and work: Ed Parker, Ray Lane, Di Ruffles, Warner Dakin and myself. Special thanks to Jos Hall who retired from her position of Minutes Secretary in July and will be moving to NSW. Special thanks as well to Tricia Dakin who took up the role at short notice.
- Geoff and June Rudd who provide the suppers at CDEA meetings
- Di Ruffles who monitors the new mail box

### NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

This will be the End of Year Celebration to be held at Pooh Corner in combination with Wolston and Centenary Catchments on the morning of 26 November. Details will be issued nearer the time but it will be an excellent morning as usual.

### To close

As I said at the beginning, The CDEA management Committee thought we would not have a lot to do this year with the development of nearly all the vacant building land. However, now redevelopment needs to be monitored and feral pest problems are increasing. There also seems to be a reduced general interest in the health of the environment which is a worry.

Thank you to all CDEA members for ongoing support that makes fighting these threats possible and often successful. We have twenty years experience behind us and will keep going as long as the natural environment needs us.

*Shealagh Walker, President,  
10 August 2017.*

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*Centenary and District Environment Action Incorporated (CDEA) is a community environmental group which focuses on:*

- protection of the natural environment, public parkland and recreational areas; and
- mitigation of urban development impacts within the Centenary suburbs and neighbouring areas.

In its Constitution, two of CDEA's functions are:

- to facilitate education and interpretation of the values of the relevant lands including conservation, recreation and community uses
- to provide advice on the use and management of the relevant lands, impacts of surrounding uses of land and any other management related issues.