

The History of the Centenary Bushcare Groups

- 1st September 1991 - Save our Riverfront Bushland (SORB), a Centenary suburbs residents' committee, was established after a public meeting was held to express concern at the wholesale clearing of remnant riverfront bushland. Developer Australian Housing and Land's (AHL) pre-emptive clearing of 21 hectares of land along the riverfront in August 1991 just prior to the Council's introduction of the Vegetation Protection Ordinance. Over 100 people attended, including Councillor Christine Watson and Lord Mayor Jim Soorley.
SORB's goals are :
 - the protection of remnant bushland
 - the retention of public access to the riverfront (absolute river frontage)
 - the adequate provision of public open space in the Centenary suburbs, which has much less than other suburbs.
- January 1992 - Lord Mayor Soorley announced that agreement had been reached with AHL for approx. 2.7km of riverfront land to be reserved as future public parkland in Westlake and Riverhills.
- 3 March 1993 – The Lord Mayor launched the project on site. BCC gave \$5000 grant to Save Our Riverfront Bushland (SORB) for site analysis and community education.
- 21 March 1993 - The Westlake-Riverhills Bushcare Group was launched, a community group operating under BCC's Bushland Care Program which supports grass-roots activity to protect and maintain remnant bushland in Brisbane.
- Mt Ommaney Walkway started but not completed.
- November 1995 - Steering Committee formed as a result of conflicts regarding the management of riverfront land in Centenary. (Public meeting held by Councillor Watson at Mt Ommaney near the reservoir after a controversy when BCC proposed a walkway linking Jindalee Boat Ramp Park with Westlake Drive.) A steering committee was formed to prepare a framework for the establishment of an Advisory Committee with Councillor Watson as general co-ordinator and convenor.
- April 1996 - the Centenary Riverfront Advisory Committee (CRAC) formed at a public meeting held by Councillor Christine Watson. (44 attended)
 - First president - Walter Wood
 - First Vice President - Geoff Rudd
 - Secretary - Shirley Gilkens
 - Treasurer - Ray Lane
 - plus James Chen, Alan Dick, Maria Delahunty and Leighton Brough.
- July 1996 - Clr. Watson introduced the Centenary Riverside Parks Development Strategy to CRAC.
- 21 August 1996 - motion passed to become incorporated.
- 1996 - CRAC Newsletter started for a few issues.
- 3 November 1996 - first meeting of the Jindalee Bushland Care Group
- April 1997 - Mt Ommaney Walkway work restarted.
- March 2006 – Name changed from CRAC to Centenary and Districts Environment Action (CDEA), to better reflect the focus and geographical coverage of the organisation.

What does CDEA do?

- In a nutshell, it is watchdog and guardian for the Centenary section of the river, that is from Counihan St in Seventeen Mile Rocks upstream to Wolston Ck in Riverhills
- All members are members of the committee, this being the term BCC uses for other such groups in the Brisbane area. However, the running of affairs is carried out by the management committee of about eight people who are elected every year.
- CDEA is an established community group where matters to do with the riverfront can be addressed. Eg
 - CDEA was consulted on the Sinnamon Farm development now called Windermere.
 - We worked with BCC on the Centenary Riverside Parks plan which covers a 500m strip along our river section from Blackheath Rd, Oxley to Wolston Creek. This is a very important issue as it includes:
 - the extensive area of land formerly owned by Queensland Cement and Lime, and which is now the Rocks Riverside Park.
 - Windermere Estate,
 - two bushland areas,
 - several public parks,
 - former prison land at Wolston Creek,
 - bikeways and walkways along the river
 - possibly the Boral quarry site in Middle Park

CDEA is the co-ordinating body for all local bushcare groups

- CDEA tries to inform and educate the community on current issues and environmental matters with :
 - speakers at the quarterly general meetings
 - a quarterly newsletter
 - an extensive mailing list
 - newspaper articles (\$250.00 for medium length article in local rag)
- Funding is from:
 - \$5.00 annual subscription
 - \$500.00 BCC environmental grant for advertising and administration

What is a Bushland Care group?

- A group of concerned people who care for a bushland remnant in their local area.
- In Brisbane, the City Council supports and guides these groups to rehabilitate their bushland areas to a healthy condition and maintain them.
- There are over 100 bushcare groups in Brisbane

What does a Brisbane Bushland Care Group do?

- Works with BCC to establish a programme of weed eradication and rehabilitation/re-vegetation.
- Gets together regularly to eradicate weeds and put in new plants.
- Utilises a grant from BCC which provides :
 - equipment - hoses, tools, gloves
 - materials - mulch, poisons, plants
 - rubbish removal
 - training on-site with officers from Greening Australia,
 - access to workshops held by Greening Australia on regeneration techniques, etc ,
 - communication through “The Regenerator” newsletter with Habitat Brisbane (previously the BCC Bushland Care Program), the BCC over-seeing body.
- Has social events such as morning tea after bushcare working bees, Christmas get-togethers.

What about the Centenary Bushcare Groups?

- Currently, there are six groups. Contact details are given on the web site at www.cdea.org.au.

Who can join a bushcare group and what is there to do?

- Anyone who feels like it. There are a range of tasks for all ages, abilities and inclinations which include :
 - Heavy initial weeding such as hacking lantana
 - Ordinary weeding such as grasses and cobbler’s pegs
 - Light weeding such as pulling up new weeds from previously weeded areas
 - Poisoning vines and other weeds - cut and paint with poison
 - Planting new seedlings
 - Hammering in stakes and putting plastic tubes around new plants
 - Moving mulch
 - Watering new plants
 - Collecting seeds
 - Propagating seeds and cuttings
 - Collecting rubbish
 - Identifying plants, what to get rid of and what to get more of
 - planning regeneration strategies
 - Providing morning tea to participants