



**Centenary and District Environment Action**  
Incorporated  
PO Box 515  
Mount Ommaney Qld 4074

President: Shealagh Walker tel 3376 1287  
**NEW** email: [shealagh1@bigpond.com.au](mailto:shealagh1@bigpond.com.au)  
Vice-president: Warner Dakin tel 3376 7724  
email: [twdakin@bigpond.net.au](mailto:twdakin@bigpond.net.au)  
Website: [www.cdea.org.au](http://www.cdea.org.au)

## **PRESS RELEASE : FOXES IN CENTENARY SUBURBS**

**(Ms) Shealagh Walker, President**

**10.09.2009**

In 2006 CDEA was looking for information on the wildlife corridor between the bushland on Horizon Drive, opposite Peter Lightfoot Oval, the McLeod Golf Course and the Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve and fortunately found a student wanting to do a study. This formed important baseline information in the successful community campaign that resulted in Council purchasing the bushland. This study has also provided other important wildlife information.

Study - wildlife corridors and their role in mitigating the effects of bushland fragmentation in urban areas.

Student - Kirsty Pappalardo, Honours thesis for Bachelor of Applied Science, UQ (Gatton) 2006.

Research area – Peter Lightfoot Oval, parts of McLeod Golf Course and the Westlake end of the Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve.

Site research period – 25 April to 5 August 2006.

The study found 13 types of animal, in order of abundance: deer, macropod (kangaroos and wallabies), hare, bird, fox, possum, bandicoot, amphibian, rodent, snake, lizard, cat and dog.

Since then there has been a noticeable drop in sightings of kangaroos and wallabies and a huge increase in the number of deer sightings, especially Rusa deer. On Tuesday morning, 8 September, Meg Gordon saw a group of nine crossing Westlake Drive.

There has also been an increase in fox sightings in the Centenary suburban area, not only in bushland. A Westlake family had a fox visit their chicken coop three nights in a row recently. Fortunately it was a secure chicken coop and the fox gave up.

Some members of CDEA and Jindalee Bushcare Group have known for a long time of the existence of foxes and even the location of a fox lair. This was reported to BCC some years ago but no action was taken.

Recently I, and other local residents, have noticed a lack of Whipbirds that live on or close to the ground. I haven't seen Quails or Buff-banded Rails, both ground-dwelling birds, for over ten years. Both would make very tasty meals for a fox.

I have also not seen the diggings of bandicoots near Summit Place entrance for over a year, there were always fresh ones when I went there.

There is the possibility that cats are responsible and they probably are to some degree. However, the thesis points out that fox and cat territories tend not to overlap as both are predators – there was not much evidence on cats, but a lot on foxes.

There are so many negative impacts on wildlife still surviving in remnant urban bushland, the reduction of just one of these impacts would be a great step forward. CDEA is starting to work with Council again on removing the foxes.