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FOR YOUR DIARY : PARTY TIME



©Geckoes Wildlife 2014

COME AND MEET FRIENDLY LOCAL WILDLIFE

... AND PAT SOME ANIMALS TOO

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You are invited to our End of Year Celebration,

This is a 'Wild About Your Creeks Community Day' joint event between Centenary and District Environment Action (CDEA) and Wolston and Centenary Catchments (WaCC).

DAY: Sunday morning 29 NOVEMBER

TIME: 7.30 to midday depending on what activities you wish to join

**PLACE: Pooh Corner Environment Centre
Picnic Area on Wolston Road, Wacol.**

PROGRAM

- 7.30 am a bush walk and a bird walk
- 9.00 am children's water quality activities
- 10.00 am 'Geckoes' wildlife presentation
- 11.00 am morning tea refreshments

ALL FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Please RSVP if you can, to shealagh1@bigpond.com

Note: even if you haven't got round to replying, you'll still be most welcome to come along.

THE FINE PRINT

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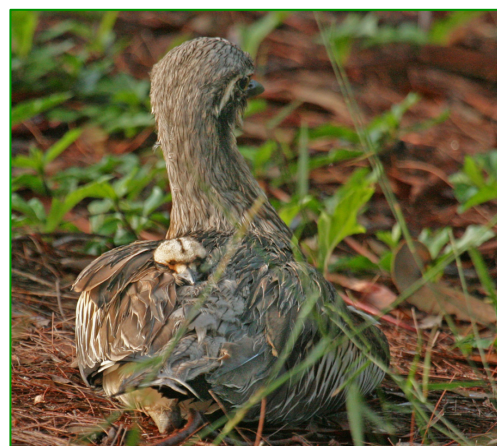
THOSE EERIE CALLS IN THE NIGHT

Some residents in Jindalee have been disturbed by strange shrieking/wailing cries in the early hours of the morning. Alarming as the sounds are when heard for the first time, they are the calls of a ground-dwelling bird, the Bush Stone-Curlew, a protected species under the Nature Conservation Act and quite harmless to humans. A long-time resident of local Golf Courses, it is now increasingly being heard and seen in some local suburban streets.

We are lucky to have such an icon of the Australian bush around Brisbane. In New South Wales and Victoria, the Bush Stone-Curlew is classified as an endangered species and captive breeding programs have been initiated in an attempt to ensure its survival.

The unusual appearance of the bird has always evoked mythology, some positive and some negative. In reality, it is just a native creature trying to survive. Like many night-feeding birds, the large eyes help it to see in the dark. The Stone-Curlew's colouring along with its unusual postures and slow daytime walk provide excellent camouflage. Sitting on mulch or on grass where branches and sticks have fallen, it can merge into the background so that even experienced bird observers sometimes fail to see a bird quite close to them.

Many pairs are currently breeding. Being ground-nesters, the adults have to protect their eggs and young chicks from predators such as foxes, goannas, cats, dogs and predatory birds.



Parent bird and chick ©Julia Sarna

The public can, and some do, support the breeding process. A wide range of people watch nests and warn people not to go too close. Cats and dogs should be kept away from nesting pairs (with cats shut in at night). Stormwater drains are a known fatal hazard for young chicks that fall into them and cannot get out. In at least one area, some residents have taken the initiative of temporarily covering stormwater drains near breeding pairs with young chicks.

See Scott O'Keeffe's project site for more information about the species and the current study of breeding stone-curlews
<https://www.facebook.com/BushStonecurlews> Meg Gordon

2015 IN REVIEW

It's been a different sort of year for CDEA with more positive results than usual. The Tenth Anniversary of saving Pooh Corner from development and the completion of the Environment Centre there have been the highlights.

Pooh Corner open for business



Pooh Corner Picnic ©Shealagh Walker

The community celebrated the TENTH anniversary of saving Pooh Corner bushland in April 2005 with our Picnic at Pooh Corner in May as reported in the Spring newsletter.

It was the first time the Pooh Corner Environment Centre itself had been used, the culmination of many years of work by CDEA, Friends of Pooh Corner, Save Our Riverfront Bushland, State Government and Brisbane City Council. The licence for running the centre has been taken on by Wolston and Centenary Catchments (WaCC) who will use it for future activities, as will CDEA, other community groups and BCC. Both CDEA and WaCC have received Council grants for furniture and fitting out and the centre is now operative with tables, chairs, storage, computers and most important of all, toilets and a kitchenette. Having a good venue will enable us to include children's events in our repertoire to help promote environmental awareness.



PCEC and picnic area © Ed Parker



Pooh Cnr Track: ©Shealagh Walker

Some of the other projects we have worked on during the year are outlined below.

Upgrade and new bridge for Wacol Station Road

Council plans for a new bridge over Wolston Creek will be finalised in 2016. Through negotiations with Friends of Pooh Corner and CDEA, Council agreed previously to include dry shoulders for kangaroos to cross under the new bridge as they do under the Wolston Road bridge, also arranged with BCC and local community groups when the project was being planned.

The upgrade of Wacol Station Road will mean that Council can go ahead and complete the fauna fencing along this road, as promised by Lord Mayor Campbell Newman when Wolston Road was being constructed.

The fences and the bridges will make the roads safer for motorists and kangaroos.

Wacol Station Road will be upgraded to two lanes each way. CDEA is working to protect 90 native trees in and beside Pooh Corner which would be removed if the road widening is taken out of the bushland side. Our preferred option is for it to be taken off State land which would mean the welcome removal of about 22 badly behaved exotic pine trees which spread seeds and saplings far and wide in the bushland. The complication is that it could also involve the relocation of powerlines and about 18 poles.

Waiting for a Wacol parkland decision

With the return of a Labor government we look forward to the fulfilment of a promise by the Beattie government nine years ago for 200 hectares of correctional land at Wacol to be opened up for parkland. Labor was in government during the long years of negotiation with CDEA, Save Our Riverfront Bushland and Friends of Pooh Corner when an agreement was reached for State Government to lease the land to Brisbane City Council. The terms of the agreement were almost finalised when the State Government changed from Labor to LNP in 2012. The LNP began a lengthy process of reviewing its assets and no progress was made in the Wacol lease agreement. Labor was returned to government in 2015 and, we are told, they are now reviewing their assets! So we remain in wait.

Welcome consultation with Queensland Urban Utilities

In June, Queensland Urban Utilities met with Members of CDEA and the co-ordinator of Jindalee Creek Bushcare Group. We discussed a route through the bushcare area at Jindalee Creek that would minimise the impacts of the new sewer main. QUU will rehabilitate any damage their construction causes and have offered to assist with a bush regeneration event when they have finished works in that area. The community really appreciates meaningful consultation such as this.



'Pooh! What fence?' ©Ed Parker



Jindalee Ck pipe ©Shealagh Walker

CDEA helps out with a site for the new Men's Shed

Council has allotted an area of parkland, north of Monier Road and west of Jindalee Creek, for the new local Men's Shed. In 2000, CDEA and over 50 Sinnamoon Park residents went to arbitration in the Planning and Environment Court, as the developers

were planning to build their substantial retaining walls on PUBLIC parkland, rather than on their own land. To compound this encroachment, the soaring retaining walls would have made the adjacent park very, very narrow and uncomfortable to walk along. The community negotiated for the retaining walls to be pulled back onto the developer's land and to be stepped. Best of all, the community group negotiated for one of the large industrial allotments to be dedicated as parkland. This is where the Men's Shed will now be located.



Christmas wish

Rudolf and his team are reindeer and go back to the north pole after every Christmas. Not so the feral Rusa deer that are destroying many of the local bushland areas and displacing the native wildlife. The unwelcome visitors arrived on the southern banks of the Brisbane River over fifteen years ago. Dear Santa,

please may we have the resources to solve our feral deer problem?

In closing

Sincere thanks go to all CDEA members for their ongoing support; the Management Committee for its commitment and continued hard work; Geoff and June Rudd who provide the suppers at CDEA meetings; Noel and Claire Wilson for monitoring the mail box; local politicians Tarnya Smith MP, Crs Matthew Bourke and Milton Dick and Bernie Ripoll MP for their ongoing support.

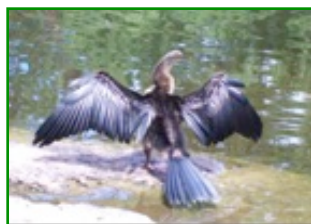
CDEA continues to make a difference to the community and the natural environment in the Centenary suburbs and beyond. We often do activities with WaCC and together make a great combination of advocacy and hands-on environmental protection, restoration and education.

All the best for 2016! *Shealagh Walker, President*

eBIRD AND 'BIRDING IN THE 21ST CENTURY': NO MORE WHISTLING IN THE DARK

These days, it's hard not to feel overwhelmed by environmental issues and wonder what one person can do.

Mat Gilfedder's lively and accessible presentation at the September AGM showed how any one of us can make a small but vital contribution towards an unequalled global knowledge base.



Darter @Grace (age 9)

Mat, who chairs the Steering Committee for eBird in Australia, explained in brief how uploaded information is monitored and moderated and illustrated the ease of moving around the site.

He also explained how birders in the field can simply follow their usual practice, then instantly upload sightings, with full comments as to number, gender, place and time etc with a free app, eBird Mobile, for iPhone iPad and iPod touch, available via the iTunes store. Apps are to be developed for other devices.

Australian birders of all ages and levels of expertise can be part of this unrivalled database, as contributors explore the user-friendly ways to record and share personal sightings and examine frequently updated aggregated data via interactive graphics.

For interest groups like CDEA, a system of 'hotspots' such as 'Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve' or 'Oxley Common' carries data for nominated single sites.

One interesting place for newcomers to start is here <http://www.ereamaea.com/BirdlineRecentSightings.aspx?Birdline=7> It carries an updating list, with photos, of examples of interesting and unusual observations in Southern Queensland.

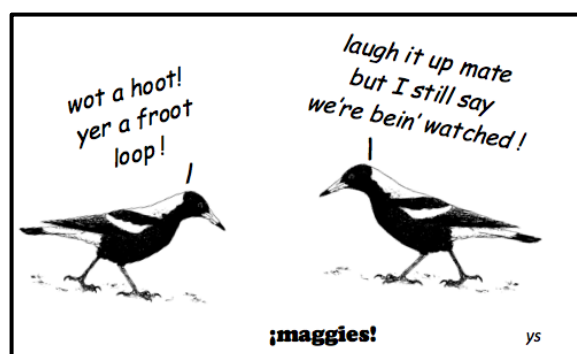
By mobilizing the Citizen Scientist in all of us, eBird puts environmental groups on the front foot with rich sources of verifiable information. This free, open, up-to-date and diverse information is vital



Rail @Grace (age 9)

at a macro level in monitoring species numbers and informing public agency decision-making. At the micro level it can, for instance, pinpoint the habitat of a small community or even individual birds on small or ephemeral sites such as migration stopovers, so that well-founded arguments can be made against site-specific environmental threats.

You'll find Eremaea eBird's homepage at ebird.org/content/australia/ *Ynes Sanz*



AROUND THE TRACKS

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

The Fort Bushland Reserve and Bush Care group.

A glance at John Lahey's excellent newsletter gives a snapshot of the doings and beings at this site, and offers pointers for others.

One of John's recent articles addressed the issue of perceived outcomes. In today's funding climate, effort is calculated in equivalent paid person hours and rehabilitation of a site seen in shorthand terms as number of surviving re-introduced plants. As he rightly points out, a more telling measure of success, less comprehensible to the accountant's mind, is weed species eliminated. Just as with a successful paint job, where the pleasing final result relies on a disproportionately large number of hours of invisible hard graft in preparation, so the successful rehabilitation of any bushland area will only be achieved through many, many hours of labour-intensive weed eradication. Sustainable rehabilitation relies on this groundwork.

A vital factor in retaining council support is in defining real performance criteria, and making sure that they are understood by all.

Here are some more items from John Lahey's great Newsletters:

- Index of items in the Notes • Native Plant List
 - Bushcare Restoration Plan 2015 - 2021
 - Monthly Notes from November 2006 – August 2015
- they are linked at

[https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/76236455/FBRD
ropbox.xls](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/76236455/FBRDropbox.xls)

The Fort Bushland Reserve Bush Care Group meets at the Picnic Ground, first Sunday of every month, 8am to 10am. Weekday weeders Thursdays 8am to 10am.

All welcome.

More info on the Fort's website

at <https://fortbushlandreserve.wordpress.com/>



Reveg at Wacol ©Ed Parker



Leaf beetle ©John Lahey

!!! STOP PRESS !!! ATTEMPT TO STEAL BLACK ORCHID FROM LOCAL PARK!

A clumsy attempt has been made to steal one of only two known Black Orchids in the Centenary suburbs.

Cymbidium canaliculatum is relatively rare in the Brisbane urban region although it is more common further west. Our specimen was big and beautiful until it had its top roughly chopped off.



Native Black orchid (Wikipedia)

It grows high up in a large Eucalypt in a local park. By the substantial scars on the tree, the vandals used a piece of earth-moving machinery with a bucket or similar to try to pull it down. This would have been impossible as the orchid's roots go down the hollow inside of the tree for over 5 metres, any removal would destroy the whole plant.



Host tree ©ShealaghWalker

Some greedy people have gone to a lot of trouble to commit this dastardly deed, any orchid enthusiast would know it could not work. The orchid has only a couple of small flower spikes left, perhaps the thieves were only after the stunning flowers.

CDEA has been protecting this Black Orchid and its host tree from being cleared for development since 1999, 16 years.

Please would anyone who knows anything about this, report it to Crimestoppers. The vandalism has been reported to Cr Matthew Bourke's office and Brisbane City Council is following up the crime. *Shealagh Walker*

'ETERNAL VIGILANCE'



Shealagh (CDEA) Chris (South West News - on ground) & Simon (FoPC)
Keeping it in the News ©Ed Parker