

Centenary and District Environment  
 Action Incorporated  
 PO Box 432  
 Mount Ommaney Qld 4074  
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Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Climate Change.....	1
CDEA Community Award.....	2
CDEA in a Changing World.....	2
Mt Coot-tha Zipline.....	3
Environmental Articles.....	4
Next Issue.....	4

**NEXT MEETING –  
 THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST  
 Mount Ommaney Library**

**Professor  
 Darryl Jones –  
 “What happens when we  
 feed wild birds?”**

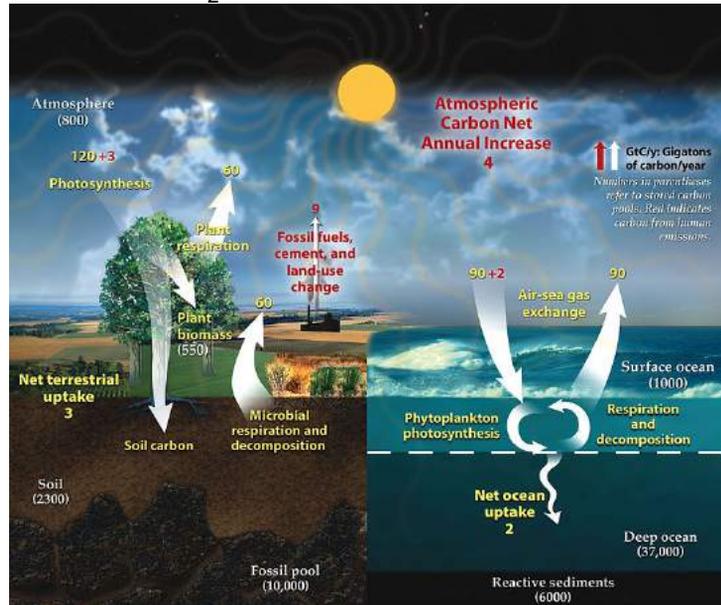


Darryl Jones is fascinated by bird feeders. Not the containers supplying food to our winged friends, but to the people who fill the containers. Why do people do this? Does the food even benefit the birds? What are the unintended consequences of providing additional food to our winged friends?

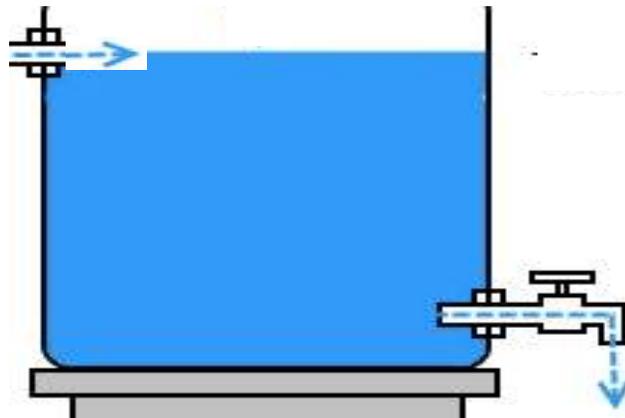
## CLIMATE CHANGE IN AUSTRALIA: A LOT OF HOT AIR OR IN HOT WATER?

(Brief report by Vaughan Kippers)

During his presentation at the May meeting, Professor Anthony Richardson concentrated on his explanations against arguments made by sceptics and climate change deniers. One argument is that CO<sub>2</sub> from humans is miniscule.



According to the US Department of Energy, human emissions/year constitute only ~4% of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Water vapour is 95% of all greenhouse gases! Increased CO<sub>2</sub> leads to increased warming, leading to increased evaporation, which leads to more H<sub>2</sub>O vapour. Thus, the effect of CO<sub>2</sub> is amplified by H<sub>2</sub>O. In the tank below, if the CO<sub>2</sub> inputs (top left) = CO<sub>2</sub> outputs (bottom right), the level remains constant.



The small amount of extra CO<sub>2</sub> produced by human activity may be the “tipping point”, causing the tank to overflow.

## QUEENSLAND DAY 2018 COMMUNITY AWARDS

(Report by Tricia Dakin)

Centenary and District Environment Action was honoured to receive a Queensland Day 2018 Community Award at a special morning tea hosted by Jess Pugh MP, Member for Mount Ommaney, on 8<sup>th</sup> June. This award was presented to CDEA and other community groups for our ongoing contribution to the local community. Shealagh Walker, President, and Tricia Dakin, Committee Member, attended on CDEA's behalf.

The other guests at the morning tea represented a variety of community organisations, including the Oxley Creek Catchment Association, Jindalee State School annual fete, St Catherine's United Football Club, an anti-bullying group at St Aidan's Anglican Girls School, representatives of the local Catholic Church who visit the elderly, and FB Community 4074 and Beyond administrators.

Queensland Day is a celebration of Queensland's birthday and its official separation from New South Wales as an independent colony on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1859. Queensland marked its 159<sup>th</sup> birthday on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018.



From left: Shealagh Walker, Jess Pugh & Tricia Dakin with CDEA Award (June 2018; Photo © Jess Pugh's Office)

## CDEA KEEPING UP WITH A CHANGING WORLD

(Shealagh Walker)

I was recently asked how our environmental group designs and implements its campaigns. I had to think about that; we don't really do campaigns, mostly we 'put out bushfires'. We do what's necessary at the time using a few methods learnt from experience. Our issues usually come out of the blue with little time for design or planning. However, it got me thinking...

Centenary and District Environment Action, previously called Centenary Riverfront Advisory Committee, had a different set of problems to confront twenty years ago. Then there were several open areas of bushland in and around the Centenary suburbs and all sorts of proposals by developers to build on them. There were open blocks of land where development was proposed with little or no regard for existing native vegetation and its wildlife, our Green Heritage.

There was a Brisbane City Council rule that 10% of the land on a proposed development site had to be handed over to council for public open space, or a monetary contribution paid to go towards council buying open space elsewhere. Inevitably, the 10% area of open land proposed to be retained had no trees and the trees that were on site were all proposed to be cleared!



Most of CRAC/CDEA's work was researching development applications and putting in submissions to council on how proposals didn't comply with statutory requirements and trying to persuade council to buy the land to increase the percentage of open space in the Centenary suburb area, which was way below what it should have been.

We had quite a lot of success especially in getting land kept as remnant open bushland although we are not yet up to the 10% open space, and anyway, that requirement has changed to something much more difficult to work out. We had some dismal failures as well.

Eventually there was no more remnant bushland that could be protected and used by its wildlife and the local community; the CDEA committee thought perhaps we could sit back and close shop. Hah, fat chance! Now there are proposals to build on the existing recreation spaces – retirement accommodation, commercial enterprises and more. There is still a great need to protect our valuable parks and recreation land. If not, we will have more people living at higher densities but less and less recreation space. It's becoming a mental and physical health problem for people, as well as previous problems.

Then the deer arrived and multiplied and multiplied and started destroying the bushland that had been saved. It was a long haul to get the deer declared a pest species and by then, their numbers were burgeoning, still are. Many areas of bushland are badly affected and the wildlife is literally being eaten out of house and home. Not to mention the damage by foxes, feral cats and dogs and weeds. Flying foxes are a similar but different issue that has arrived.

What to do about the new urban open space problems? What to do about the 'renovation' of the suburbs? Sadly, there is still an important place for an environmental advocacy group like CDEA and its membership support is still vital.

Who knows what the next wave of development and unknown forces will bring?

## MOUNT COOT-THA ZIPLINE

(Vaughan Kippers)

In late November, the ABC reported that the Brisbane City Council had approved Australia's longest zipline. Click on this URL <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-30/zipline-thrill-brisbane-visitors-council-approval-australia-ride/9210138> . According to their website, the Council's aim is "to deliver a low impact, environmentally sensitive, world-class ecotourism zipline experience." From their website, "Brisbane City Council is pleased to announce the proposed design has been released and the tender for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of a zipline at Mt Coot-tha has been awarded to Zipline Australia." The Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk, assures us that it will have "minimal impact on the environment" without providing any details how environmental concerns will be addressed. You can download the January, 2018, BCC newsletter at <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/parks-venues/mt-coot-tha-precinct/mt%C2%A0coot-tha-precinct-projects/mt-coot-tha-zipline> , which summarises the three proposed experiences and stages of the project.



Interestingly, the Courier-Mail reported on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 that "TWO proposed ziplines on Mt Coot-tha will likely trigger state tree clearing laws unless the Brisbane City Council can prove the project is for a "relevant purpose". But if they cannot, the Council will not even be allowed to submit a development application." The Courier-Mail had earlier, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018, reported that local Indooroopilly residents were concerned about the noise that may be made by patrons on the zipline.

THECA (The Hut Environmental and Community Association), which is based at

the edge of the Mount Coot-tha Forest Park, has listed 22 community concerns about the proposal, as the result of a meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. See <https://www.nabo.com.au/whats-on/event/mt-coot-tha-zipline-community-info-evening-1> You can read the 22 concerns at <http://www.theca.asn.au/index.php/news/242-is-mt-coot-tha-under-threat> . If you decide that you object to the plans, you can sign a petition sponsored by Michael Berkman, State Member for Maiwar <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=2962> .

Shealagh Walker reported recently, that “My friend saw a KOALA while walking on Mt Coot-tha this morning”, and on Facebook, she has advised “Sign the petition against the SIX ziplines proposed by council to go down Mt Coot-tha, damaging vegetation, probably scaring off the endangered Powerful Owl, causing loud noise till 9.30 at night, requiring huge car parks and numerous buses to go through the presently peaceful Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens at the bottom of the hill, most of all, giving over a large chunk of PUBLIC PARKLAND to a PRIVATE developer. A TWO minute ride will cost \$100! It will only go ahead if it has community support so sign the petition if you disapprove.”

## MEDIA ARTICLES ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT

(Vaughan Kippers)

You may be interested in reading articles related to our environment.

“To get conservative climate contrarians to really listen, try speaking their language. It’s a well-studied fact that facts don’t speak for themselves. This is especially apparent with climate change. Some brilliant studies in the past ten years have shown that people respond to narratives about climate change, not raw facts.” – **Read more at** [https://theconversation.com/to-get-conservative-climate-contrarians-to-really-listen-try-speaking-their-language-94296?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2016%202018%20-%20101908949&utm\\_content=Latest%20fr](https://theconversation.com/to-get-conservative-climate-contrarians-to-really-listen-try-speaking-their-language-94296?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2016%202018%20-%20101908949&utm_content=Latest%20fr)

“Darryl Jones’ journey from ecology expert to evangelistic bird feeder” “Professor Darryl Jones is an urban ecology expert and a bird feeder. That combination is incredibly unusual in Australia. “The predominant advice is generally to avoid feeding birds,” Professor Jones said. “But, since I started investigating this, I’ve turned my views completely around.” – **Read more at** <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-05/this-ecologist-will-make-you-feel-better-about-feeding-birds/9383686>

## NEXT ISSUE

You may have noticed that Wacol Station Road has a new bridge over Wolston Creek. In the next newsletter, we will have an explanation of the new bridge design, which is an attempt to protect the local wildlife from the hazards of traffic.



New sign on Wacol Station Road. (July 2018; Photo © Shealagh Walker)

Dr Chris Wiley will also discuss Rusa Deer, which are abundant in the Centenary Suburbs of Brisbane. As large, hooved animals with broad habitat preferences, deer have the potential to cause widespread damage to a fragile Australian landscape that is ill-equipped to cope with such pressures. Just how much damage is not fully understood, and even more poorly publicised. **Read more in the next newsletter.**

***Readers are encouraged to contact the editor with ideas for future issues, or to submit articles for potential publication.***