

FROM THE EDITOR

You may notice that you haven't received a newsletter as usual, before the CDEA meeting; and that you only received a Notice of Meeting.

There are a couple of reasons for this. One is that we decided to include the President's report from each meeting, in the following newsletter. Another is to reduce the pressure of a fixed dead line: sometimes contributors are a little late with their articles, sometimes we have computer or printer problems.

So, let us know how you like the new timing.



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NEXT CDEA PUBLIC MEETING

May 24

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

April 26

CDEA WEBSITE & INFO

www.cdea.org.au

Report on Two Million Trees (Feb 27)

Dennis Gannaway from Brisbane City Council told our recent CDEA meeting about 'Recreating Brisbane's Forests'.

Dennis spoke about the "Two Million Trees - Our Urban Forest" project; and its environmental legacy for Brisbane, with the restoration of cleared habitat areas and its protection in perpetuity.

We heard about some of the forests that Dennis is helping to recreate around the city generally through mass planting and restoration of remaining bushland remnants.



Apparently, a whopping 450,000 of the "Two Million Trees" have been planted locally in the Riverhills and Wacol area alone.

Dennis Gannaway has worked with Brisbane City Council for the past four years in the habitat restoration, invasive species management and the "Land for Wildlife" areas; as BCC's Principal Officer for Habitat Restoration & Partnerships with the Natural Environment and Sustainability Branch.



CDEA President's report, February 2012

Greetings all.

Here is a short summary of current CDEA issues.

Finalising state land at Wacol to become used for open space and recreation

In October 2011 the three environmental groups, CDEA, Save Our Riverfront Bushland and Friends of Pooh Corner had a meeting at Julie Attwood's office with the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) and BCC. This was to discuss the details of the in-principle agreement between BCC and the state government whereby 122 ha of state land will be transferred from Queensland Corrective Services to DERM who in turn will lease it to BCC for environmental and sporting uses. 26 hectares will remain with QCS as a buffer along their facilities on Wacol Station road but the buffer will be retained as bushland accessible to kangaroos and other wildlife.

Discussion at the meeting was mainly about surveying the land which will be paid for and carried out by BCC. This is underway and the environmental groups are waiting to be included in the finalisation of the boundaries.

CDEA has assurances from the new state government that it supports the arrangements in place regarding the transfer of land from QCS to be utilised as green space at Wacol.

Trying to protect Dry Rainforest in Corinda

Last year council approved a proposed subdivision into three, of a block of land next to the Fort Bushland Reserve in Corinda. The land is covered by an endangered Regional Ecosystem, but sadly it loses its protection from subdivision because it is less than 2 hectares in area.

CDEA will be following up this loophole with the state government.

We have asked council to buy the land which is up for sale. We received some excellent news from the Lord Mayor in January this year that council will include the property in the planned bushland acquisitions review.

There are various inconsistencies in compliance with the approval conditions so I have written to the Lord Mayor telling him of these and have asked once more for council to buy the land so that it may be added to the Fort Bushland Reserve. We will see what happens.

Consultation on a proposed new bridge over Wolston Creek, Wacol

CDEA and a couple of other local environmental groups have been asked to meet with council to discuss the landscaping of the proposed bridge over Wolston Creek on Wacol Station Road. It is an old wooden bridge and has had a lot of heavy traffic going over it since the opening of Wolston Road.

I have requested that other issues such as the alignment of the road and bridge and the dry fauna passage be discussed as well as the 'landscaping'.

Let me know if you have any thoughts on the matter.



Metroplex Development Proposal [ex-Sanananda Barracks], Wacol

As you may recall, the Court Appeal by Metroplex against BCC was dismissed in November 2009. CDEA was a co-respondent by election in a case in the Planning and Environment Court, as were SORB and Friends of Pooh Corner.

Very unfortunately for the natural environment, the Metroplex appeal against this court decision was upheld, which meant Metroplex could go ahead with its proposed massive development.

The three environmental groups entered into mediation with Metroplex but only managed to have a few environmental conditions included in the BCC development conditions to protect some bushland and wildlife.

That's all for this time.....Shealagh Walker, President CDEA

The good, the bad, the ugly!

In, dare I say, an optimistic presentation on the catastrophic advance of the dreaded cane toad, I was shattered to find that the rampaging Mother of Millions weed (*Bryophyllum sp*) has a very beneficial use! Professor Rick Shine, of the University of Sydney, told of research on animals which are surviving the poisonous cane toad.

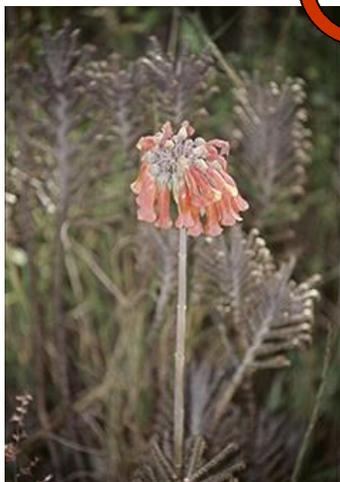


One of the few is the Blue-tongued Skink which, bless its cotton socks, has a predilection for the weed plant, Mother of Millions. Amazingly, a researcher has discovered that the poison that occurs in the Mother of Millions is the very same one that the cane toad carries – what a strange overlap.

What this means is, that the Blue-tongued Skink has developed a resistance to the poison that is deadly to many unfortunate creatures that have tasted a cane toad. *Bon appétit* Oh Blue Tongue, dine on cane toad and Mother of Millions to your heart's content. And bushcarers, leave some MoMs for the skinks please.

See www.BrisScience.org for future presentations – free and of a high standard

Shealagh Walker



Please report the following to Brisbane City Council

Illegal activities such as dumping, encroachments, dogs off-leash

All feral animals such as deer, fox, dogs, cats and weeds

Contact Brisbane City Council on 3403 8888 or www.brisbane.qld.gov.au

All-weather track upgrade completed at Pooh Corner



Two Eastern Grey Kangaroos near Sandy Creek. Pooh Corner contains the largest populations of macropod of any capital city in Australia.

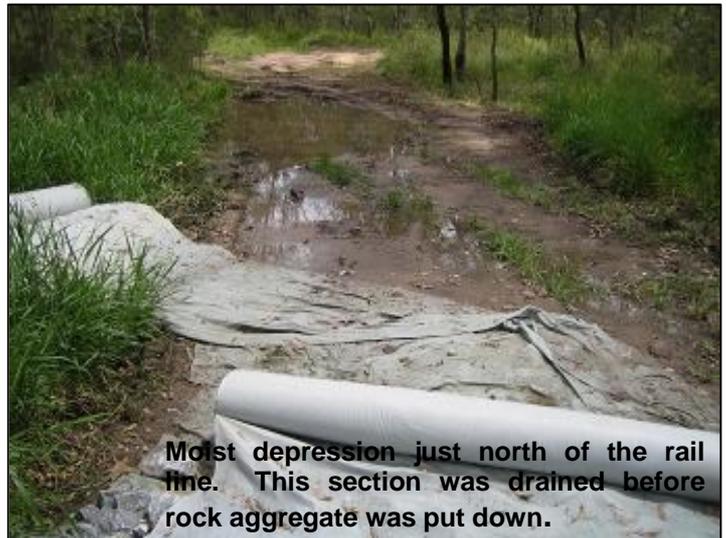
Dry conditions during November 2011 have seen the early completion of the all-weather vehicle access track being constructed at the Pooh Corner bushland reserve in Wacol. These works have been carried out by contractors employed by Brisbane City Council's (BCC) Natural Environment Unit South.

The 3.8 kilometre loop track that follows a section of Sandy Creek will allow BCC all season access into areas that were once impassable during the wetter months. As a result, this will improve fire and weed management within Pooh Corner while also allowing members of the public to visit to enjoy the natural attributes.

Pooh Corner is a 138 hectare biodiversity hot spot that contains Queensland government recognised endangered ecosystems. The land was defence land since the Second World part of Camp Columbia. In 2005 the land was surplus to requirements so the Federal government put it up for sale.

Recognising the ecological values, members of the community set up 'Friends of Pooh Corner' to campaign for the protection of Pooh Corner, rather than being sold off for industrial 'development'.

After a swift two week campaign involving all three levels of government, the Federal Government agreed to sell Pooh Corner to the Brisbane City Council for \$1, to be managed as a nature reserve.



Moist depression just north of the rail line. This section was drained before rock aggregate was put down.



Track upgrade in progress parallel to the railway line. Note the elevated road base well above the natural earth level.

Prior to machinery accessing the track, the wet areas were pumped and drained and saturated soils removed to reveal the hard substrate. These soils were then set aside to dry out and later used for battering the track edge.

Following this, the ground was covered in a geo textile fabric before a layer of 75mm - 300mm blue rock aggregate was put down. A second layer of geo textile fabric was then rolled out before a layer of Road Base (CBR 35) is added, spread, rolled and then compacted.

As the photos show, the track has been raised above the ground level that will allow for the lateral movement of ground water through the track aggregate.

Sean Marler, WaCC Creek Catchment Ranger

WaCC gets active for Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 4 March was the official 'Clean up Australia Day'. The Wolston and Centenary Catchment group was thrilled to be one of more than 7,000 clean up sites doing our bit around the country. We had chosen to focus our attention on Bullockhead Creek in Sumner at a site just downstream of the Wacol Bushlands Frog Pond. WaCC has carried out clean up events here in the past and it has been identified as a key area to have restored back to good health.



Our dedicated team of seven hit the ground running and had collected several large piles of junk well before morning tea. We enjoyed a cuppa and snack before ramping it up again and we took off in different directions to give the general area a thorough sweep.

In total, we collected more than 4 cubic meters of waste that included building and vehicle parts, some that appeared to have been illegally dumped. All in all, we created six piles of rubbish that consisted of tyres, chipboard, electrical cable, insulation, old kitchens, engineering bits, piping and foam rubber. We also filled three yellow bags with recyclable content.



Following our clean up, we enjoyed a hearty vegetarian lunch that included marinated tofu rolls and salad & veggie burgers. Funding for our lunch had been provided by Healthy Waterways who supported our project with 'Clean Up' grant. As we grazed, we were fortunate to see some local wildlife including a Buff-banded Rail (*Gallirallus philippensis*), Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) and pair of Red Backed Fairy Wrens (*Malurus melanocephalus*).

For more information about WaCC, click onto: www.wacc.org.au
Or contact Sean Marler, WaCC Creek Catchment Ranger
0400 711 321 or email: sean.marler@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Wolston and Centenary Catchments (WaCC)

WaCC is a non-profit volunteer group (est 2008) with the vision of a catchment where our creeks are in harmony with the natural and built environments, providing a safe and nurturing home for wildlife and a natural asset for the enjoyment of the community. WaCC steering group meets every 2nd Thursday monthly at Mt Ommaney Library at 7.00pm.

**Do you have the skills and the energy to benefit our local environment?
Do you prefer to simply be on our mailing list?**

For more information about WaCC, click onto: www.wacc.org.au
Or contact Sean Marler, WaCC Creek Catchment Ranger
0400 711 321 or email: [<sean.marler@brisbane.qld.gov.au>](mailto:sean.marler@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Thank you Julie Attwood

I would like to thank Julie Attwood, one of CDEA's long-standing members, for her strong support of our organisation. Julie held the position of State Member for Mount Ommaney from 1998 until retiring at the end of the last parliamentary term.

As MP, Julie was instrumental in helping CDEA on several big issues and made a significant contribution to many successful outcomes of our organisation.

Thank you to Julie for all she has done for CDEA and the local environment. We wish her all the best for the future.



Shealagh Walker, President CDEA

Centenary and District Environment Action Incorporated (CDEA)

CDEA is a respected non-profit local community group (est 1996) focusing on the protection of the natural environment and the provision of parkland and recreational areas for the community and the mitigation of urban developmental impacts on both natural environment and community.

CDEA holds quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov) public meetings at the Mt Ommaney Library at 7.30pm (4th Thursdays). Committee meetings are held most other months with the same timing. Current committee members are: Shealagh Walker (Pres), Warner Dakin (Vice Pres), Dianne Ruffles (Sec), Ray Lane (Tres), Elizabeth Ryan (Asst Sec), Ed Parker (Advisor), Julie Vejle (Editor), Jos Hall (Asst Editor).

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For more information about CDEA, click onto: www.cdea.org.au
Or contact Shealagh Walker, CDEA President
3376 1287 or email: [<shealagh1@bigpond.com>](mailto:shealagh1@bigpond.com)