

Centenary and District Environment Action Inc



Ed Parker WINS Lord Mayor's GreenHeart ♥ Award !

Ed Parker has been awarded the newly established **Lord Mayor's GreenHeart Award** as part of the **Lord Mayor's 2009 Australia Day Awards**. The award has been given in recognition of Ed's overwhelming contribution to the natural environment of Brisbane.

Ed initiated the environmental movement in south west Brisbane about 17 years ago and has taken it from strength to strength. He has inspired many people to appreciate and protect their local environmental assets. Along the way he has been involved in saving many valuable tracts of bushland both for the community and the environment.

He has been instrumental in the formation of several community environmental organisations: **Save Our Riverfront Bushland** in 1991, **Westlake/Riverhills Bushcare Group** in 1993, **Friends of Pooh Corner** in 2005 and **Rocks Riverside Community Garden** in 2007.

Towards the end of 2007, a long-standing project of Ed's finally came to fruition when he persuaded BCC to create the position of **Co-ordinator for the Wolston and Centenary Creeks catchments**. A catchment group is in the process of being formed.

Ed is also active in the wider environmental movement in Brisbane. He is often the first person that the community turns to when an environmental issue arises. He is always willing to help and spends long hours working voluntarily.

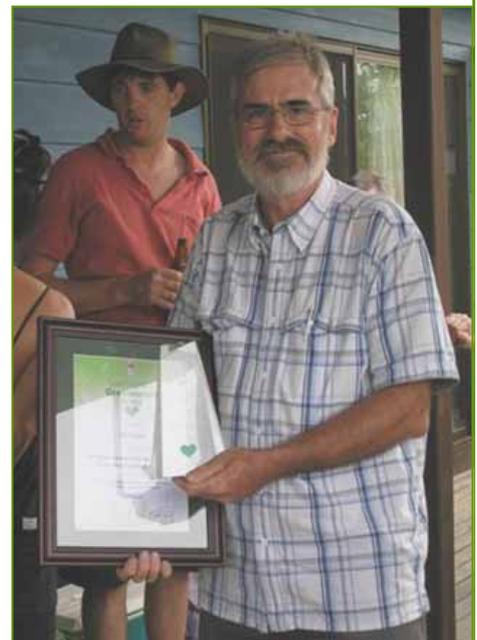
The reason for Ed's success is that he uses hard facts, is meticulous in project managing and is dogged in his perseverance. He is at home both in the court room and in the bushland.

CDEA was one of several nominators and we are VERY PROUD that Ed's contribution to the environment has been recognised by Brisbane City Council. An encouraging part of the creation of the **GreenHeart Award** is that it shows that BCC now considers that environmental issues are important for many reasons and that they are definitely mainstream.

CDEA is very appreciative that Ed has been working in our part of Brisbane.

CONGRATULATIONS Ed and many thanks!

Shealagh Walker, President CDEA



Details of the Lord Mayor's awards are on the BCC website:

http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE:558939830:pc=PC_2094

See CDEA's nomination on the CDEA web site: www.cdea.org.au

Next CDEA General Meeting 26 February at the Mt Ommaney Library

Guest Speaker: Cathryn Dexter B.Sc Ecology & Conservation Biology (Hons)

Cathryn is a researcher with Griffith University's Centre For Innovative Conservation Strategy, Applied Road Ecology Group. Her specialist knowledge area is urban ecology, with a particular focus on roads and their effect on wildlife.

Cathryn's talk will bring to light some of the major issues associated with roads and how they affect faunal movement and threaten wildlife populations. It will also showcase how these issues are being tackled in Australia and in countries such as Europe and Canada as well as at the local level.



Brief overview:

It is now understood that many species of mammals and birds use a variety of habitats on both a daily and seasonal basis. Therefore, the intrusion of a road through previously connected areas containing a mosaic of habitats can act as a major barrier to movements and restrict their use of multiple habitat types.

Forest remnants, especially those in areas affected by urbanisation, are often surrounded or bisected by roads, presenting a large obstacle to animals attempting to disperse or move between remnants. As a result, local populations of fauna frequently become marooned in increasingly isolated patches, inevitably susceptible to population declines. Increasing urbanisation is a modern phenomenon and now recognized as a major threat to habitat and associated wildlife. The good news is as we continue to investigate and understand the impacts of roadways on nature, mitigation initiatives for road systems are increasingly being implemented in Australia.

Possum Pandemic / Pandemonium

Facts:

- Possums are extremely territorial so legally and humanely they must be relocated within 25 metres
- To do otherwise is an absolute death sentence for the relocated possum

Would we do that to our own pets? Absolutely not!

Solution:

- Firstly - install a possum nesting box in your yard
- Secondly - secure the area where possum has access to your premises
- Thirdly - trap, then release the possum within 25m of your home
- Note - traps must be thoroughly scrubbed to remove previous scents



Gertrude McLeod Golf Course - 200 mature trees dying in deep dirt!

Photographic evidence required urgently!
Please please can you (can anyone) help us?

Location:

Fairway 9 - behind 'Fairway Views' townhouse complex that fronts Bilga Street (near corner of Beanland Street) in Middle Park

We Need:

A digital photo dated between 2004 and 2006, showing the trees before the dirt was dumped around their trunks

Contact:

Julie on 37156434



Brisbane City Council 2 million trees project *Article by Warner Dakin*

On 16th November 2008 Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve was officially named, and the first of 7,000 trees were planted in the reserve, as part of "The 2 Million Trees" project as it is now called.

Weeks of work went into slashing, weed poisoning, mulching and hole digging to ready the area for the planting. CDEA was involved in the selection of plant species to ensure that they were both native and indigenous to the area. Through a process unknown to our group, the Australian Lung Foundation (ALF) became involved, and the plan to plant 7,000 trees at Wolston Creek evolved, the number being significant inasmuch as it represents one tree for each death annually in Australia from lung disease.

On the day, the preparation was phenomenal. Car parks had been mown and Marshalls were on duty, a bus had been provided to ferry volunteers from Sumners Road, a sausage sizzle ran non-stop, a marquee had been erected for the speeches and there was even a covered stage for the String Quartet which played. Needless to say the day warmed up and white ALF umbrellas were issued as was water. Some of the volunteers were lung disease sufferers, and care was taken to ensure that they did not stress themselves. The planting continued at an amazing rate and follow up teams watered and erected protection around the plants. By the time they ran out of plants, the team had planted in the vicinity of 2,500 trees. A boulder bearing a plaque now marks the event.

Two days later a 1 in 50 year rain event created havoc across Brisbane, but apart from adding considerably to the level of the dam, caused virtually no damage to the planting. At this time teams from the contractor are slashing the weeds that have taken advantage of the favourable conditions, and they are about to tackle the weeds springing up within the bagged areas around each tree. Most of the plants have survived the summer heat, and plans to plant a further 4000 trees are under way.



On a poignant note, whilst walking through the planting after the event I noticed a few trees bearing cards dedicating them to family members who had succumbed to lung disease

Jindalee RECREATIONAL PATHWAY

Construction is underway on a recreational pathway through bushland along the banks of the Brisbane River in Jindalee. It will run from the end of Koorungal Drive, across Jindalee Creek to the end of Mount Ommaney Drive.

The path is not a long distance as the crow flies, but it had to be designed to be longer in order to avoid unstable areas of slippage-prone ground. This in turn means it will have to wind up steep slopes at a gradient that will make it accessible to all users. In addition, the pathway will have to snake its way between groups of mature Queensland Blue Gums. The sloping terrain necessitates extensive batters along some sections.

Unfortunately for the bushland, BCC insists that the pathway be **3 metres wide** and made of concrete, their standard to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. At this width, and with all its winding, the CDEA Management Committee believes the pathway makes an unnecessarily large 'footprint' in the bushland.

The CDEA Management Committee first started working with council on this project about 10 years ago, back in the days of Councillor Watson. It was shelved for a few years then resuscitated during Councillor Farmer's time. We have continued to negotiate with BCC through the current councillor, Cr Bourke. Throughout all this time, CDEA has strived to ensure that the pathway will cause as little damage to the bushland as possible. We have pored over drawings; we have struggled through grass taller than us and slid down muddy banks while walking the route with councillors and officers. Not to mention the pit trap hidden by dead branches!

All this effort has had some positive outcomes. A minimum number of six native trees, will need to be removed. These will be left lying on the site for wildlife habitat. One dead Eucalypt 'stag' will be fixed vertically to an existing tree elsewhere on the site so wildlife can still use its hollows, a great initiative. To reduce the impact of the 50 metre long bridge, it will no longer be made of steel but of the much lighter aluminium and so can be a single span. This means pylons will not need to be constructed down in the gully of Jindalee Creek. The use of aluminium is another new initiative of council.

The actual process of installing the original bridge was one of the major causes of negative impacts as it necessitated bringing large machinery into the bushland. The installation of this lighter bridge involves far less construction damage to the bushland. A large clump of invasive bamboo and a few exotic trees at the end of Koorungal Drive will need to be removed for the crane to swing in the bridge. One large native Fig tree in the middle of the bamboo is shivering in its boots, but all efforts will be made by council to retain it.



Koorungal Drive bridge site

CDEA has worked with council on the plant species to be used in the project so that they are all **local** natives. About 250 saplings will be planted, as well as thousands of groundcovers to revegetate batters and adjoining areas. Gone is the metre wide strip of turf along both sides of the path, replaced by bushland-friendly mulch, native grasses and groundcovers. Weeds will be removed, including a number of large Chinese Celtis.

As this is officially a BIKEWAY, CDEA still has concerns about bushwalkers and joggers being mowed down by speeding cyclists, but we are working on ways to avoid that. The CDEA Management Committee was never happy about the large negative impact of the proposed pathway and bridge. However with perseverance and continued consultation, we have achieved a good outcome. In fact, the RECREATIONAL PATHWAY, as it should be called, will be a pleasant addition to Centenary's outdoor facilities.

Article and photograph by Shealagh Walker, CDEA President

SNIPPETS - CURRENT HOT ISSUES

Lobbying for:

- Kangaroo-friendly fauna crossings in Wacol
- Feral Rusa Deer to be declared a pest species in SE Qld
- Open access to 200ha on State-owned prison land in Wacol
- Removal of deep soil around 200 mature tree-trunks at Middle Park
- Maintenance of environmental links from Flinders Peak to Karawatha
- Ecological corridor/access to Brisbane River and local creeks in Wacol

Lobbying for mitigation of negative impacts from local developments:

- Child care centre plus 99 townhouses at 380 Wacol Station Road
- Wacol's 650 old growth trees and ecological corridor (Metroplex)
- Mt Ommaney Creek Shopping Centre (and marshland) upgrade
- Koorringal Drive to Mt Ommaney Bridge and pathway (BCC)
- Rowing Club on Brisbane River at Sumner's Road Riverhills
- Jindalee Creek and native bushland at Darra (CSR)
- Kenmore Baptist Church at Seventeen-Mile Rocks
- Major road works through Centenary suburbs
- Sinnamon Heritage Strip in Jindalee
- Wolston Road extension at Wacol

Metroplex Update

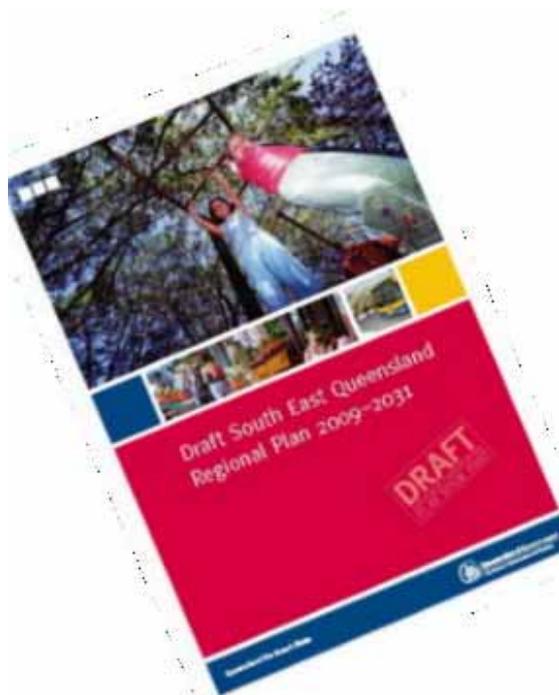
**We await the outcome of the court case
Judgement is expected in July/August**

CDEA SNIPPETS - SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

Helped community to:

- Prevent unnecessary culling of Wacol's kangaroos
- Establish 11 local Habitat Brisbane bush-care groups
- Preserve ridgeline walkway at Seventeen Mile Rocks
- Establish walkway at Westlake/Riverhills bushland reserve
- Retain environmental links from Flinders Peak to Karawatha
- Retain 134ha at Pooh Corner in Wacol as public open space
- Preservation of two historic fig trees on Council land in Jindalee
- Retain 5.6ha of parkland opposite Mt Ommaney shopping centre
- Retain 10.5ha of bushland at Fort Road Oxley as public open space
- Replacement plantings on Centenary Highway (near Jindalee bridge)
- Retain 200ha on State-owned prison land in Wacol as public open space
- Plan BCC '02' plantings at Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve in Riverhills
- Retain 3.14ha of bushland at Horizon Drive Westlake as public open space

PUBLIC MEETING 7pm Tuesday 3rd March



South East Queensland Regional Plan

The **SEQ Regional Plan** is the framework for planning decisions in SEQ. It therefore is a key process for influencing your future as a resident of SEQ.

The [Draft South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009–2031](#) proposes a revision of the strategic directions, principles and policies of the SEQ Regional Plan 2005

The draft SEQ Regional Plan was released for public comment in December 2008.

Submissions are due by 3 April 2009.

After a review of the submissions, an updated SEQ Regional Plan will be finalised in July 2009.

This is YOUR opportunity to get involved in the planning of your region!

CDEA is hosting a special public meeting to:

- **inform residents** of the South-Western suburbs of Brisbane and the adjacent Brisbane-Ipswich corridor about the SEQ Regional Plan;
- **have your questions answered;** and
- **assist you in preparing a submission.**



PUBLIC WELCOME and this invitation is extended to members of all community groups in south-western Brisbane and Ipswich western corridor.

CDEA has arranged for speakers from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning to make a presentation and respond to your questions.

Topic: *South East Queensland Regional Plan
Public information session*

When: **Tuesday, 3rd March, 2009**
7:00pm to 8:30pm

Where: **Mount Ommaney Library**
Dandenong Rd, Mount Ommaney



Come along and be informed in time to prepare your submission by 3rd April.

Enquiries: Shealagh 3376 1287 or Ed 3376 1389

Centenary and District Environment Action Incorporated (CDEA) is a community environmental group which focuses on protection of the natural environment, public parkland and recreational areas and the mitigation of urban development impacts within the Centenary suburbs and neighbouring areas.

CDEA regularly networks with other groups and continues to be a respected local community voice of over 11 years, providing a platform for environmental and recreational issues.

Clean Up Australia Day - 1st March

site still to be decided - either:

- **Wolston Rd SUMNER**
- **Pooh Corner WACOL**
- **Wilruna St WACOL**

2009 CDEA MEETING DATES

Thursday May 28

Thursday August 27

Thursday November 26

President - Shealagh Walker - 3376 1287

Vice President - Warner Dakin - 3376 7724

Treasurer - Ray Lane

Secretary - Dianne Ruffles

Newsletter Editor - Jos Hall

Committee members

⇒ Julie Attwood MLA

⇒ Ed Parker

⇒ Elizabeth Ryan

⇒ Julie Vejle

Visit the web site www.cdea.org.au

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