



Newsletter

Issue 13 - May 2009

Thursday 28 May 2009 at 7.30

MT OMMANEY LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

Guest Speaker Ric Nattrass

Ric will talk about crows and their unrecognised value to our community. He is a contributing author to the blockbuster *Wildlife of Greater Brisbane*, an honorary Life Member of four conservation groups, past president of the Queensland Frog Society, patron of the Ipswich Koala Protection Society, secretary of the Australian Dragonfly Society and in April 2003 was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal "For outstanding service to community knowledge and conservation of the natural environment"



VISITORS WELCOME

FREE ENTRY - LIGHT SUPPER PROVIDED

2009-2010 membership renewals due 30 June, can be paid at this meeting

For further information contact Warner Dakin 3376 7724

CDEA urgently requests BCC to buy land above Rocks River Park

CDEA is alarmed at the proposals made by a Hare Krishna group to build a large temple complex on the escarpment above the Rocks Riverside Park in Seventeen Mile Rocks. The temple buildings would dominate the park and destroy the natural character of the Seventeen Mile Rocks Ridge. They would also be contrary to planning provisions in *City Plan 2000*

CDEA believes that the amenity of an extensive area, including suburbs north of the Brisbane River, would be seriously compromised by the proposed buildings on the ridge and escarpment in front of it. Included would be users of the Brisbane River and in particular, users of Rocks Riverside Park

In April CDEA sent letters to the Lord Mayor and Cr Bourke urgently requesting that Brisbane City Council purchases the land as an extension of Rocks Riverside Park. We voiced the following concerns

The Seventeen Mile Rocks ridge runs along the northern boundary of the new housing estate, Verandah, to the east of the site. There, it has already been protected from development under the requirements of the *Western Gateway Local Plan (WGLP)* in *City Plan 2000*. The WGLP clearly states that in the Emerging Community Area: "House and ancillary structures must not be visible above the ridgeline from the Brisbane River"

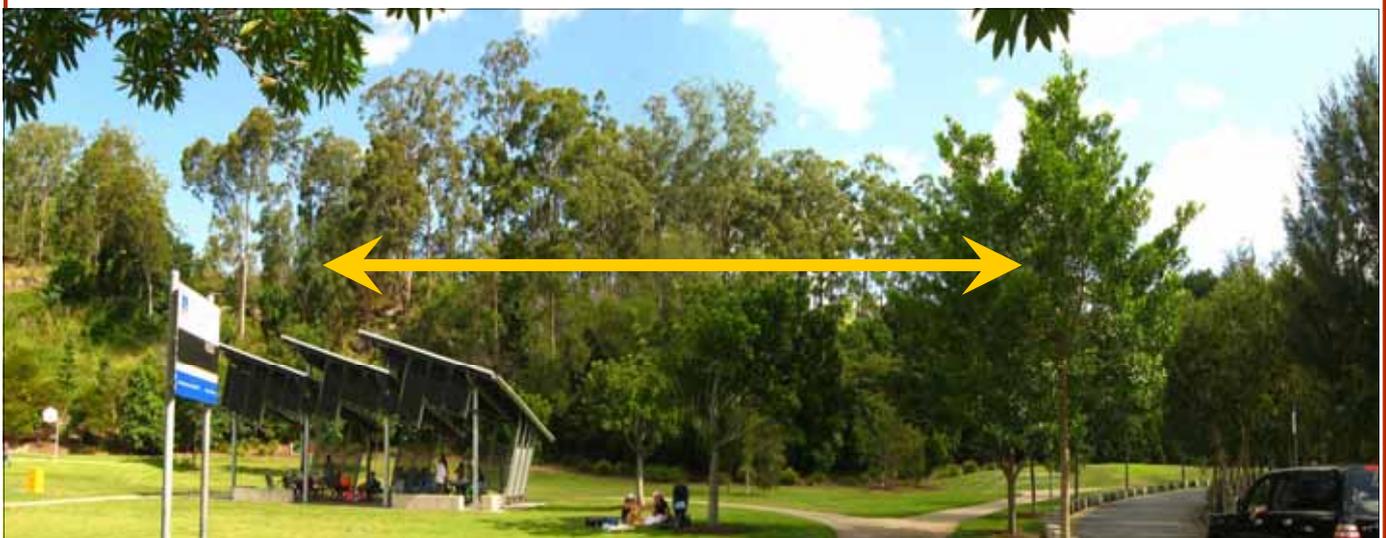
This and other planning constraints which protect this ridge, derive from a judgment of the Planning and Environment Court which allowed the appeal made by *Save Our Riverfront Bushland* in 2000. The Centenary Riverfront Advisory Committee, as CDEA was then called, were Co-respondents in the case and strongly supported SORB

For more information see: <http://archive.sclqld.org.au/qjudgment/2001/QPEC01-005.pdf>

The WGLP also states that any structures should not exceed 8.5 m above natural ground level. Besides being visible from the Brisbane River, the three proposed altar towers in the Hare Krishna complex massively exceed this: two are 12 metres high and the third is 15 metres high

In *City Plan 2000*, the Jennifer Street site has two Area Classifications: *Emerging Community* and *Parkland*. CDEA firmly believes it should retain the *Parkland* classification

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Panoramic view of ridgeline as seen from Rocks Riverside Park
Arrow indicates approximately where the Hare Krishna complex is planned to be built

Stitched photo by E Parker

Rocks River Park Cont

Further reasons CDEA believe this site should be preserved as a bushland extension to Rocks Riverside Park are listed below:

1. The wooded escarpment and soft ridgeline form an important natural backdrop to Rocks Riverside Park.
2. A very pleasant and popular walking trail runs through the Eucalypt forest along the ridge to the east. This could be extended along the ridgeline as it flows onto the site.
3. Koala scratchings have been found at the upper entrance to RRP and in the Fort Bushland Reserve to the east. The proposed development site is vegetated with open Eucalypt forest including koala food trees. It is reasonable to expect that koalas use the site as it is directly connected to these areas physically and ecologically. Koalas need all the habitat they can get as they are fast dying out in South East Queensland.
4. Site vegetation is protected by BCC under the *Natural Assets Local Law 2003* as *Significant Landscape Trees*. The Hare Krishna proposal only plans to save four of the trees on site. These are so close to buildings that they will not survive the earth works and construction.
5. The adjoining escarpment is rich in bird life and also has squirrel gliders, wallabies and kangaroos on it as well as other smaller fauna. Of course, these will also inhabit the Jennifer Street site.
6. The extensive fill construction and retaining walls necessary to build on the steep slope would definitely cause a loss in visual amenity as this site is a valuable part of the Seventeen Mile Rocks escarpment. Being one of only a few escarpments in Brisbane, it would be a shame to deface this one.
7. Rocks Riverside Park has proved to be immensely popular and is highly used by the overall Brisbane community as well as by the local community: a very good reason to extend it. The proposed extension is a truly lovely section of the landscape, both within it and as seen looking at it from the surrounding area.
8. There is still a shortage of parkland in the Centenary suburbs which has historically been under resourced in this regard.

Here is an excellent opportunity to add a little more public open space and a whole lot more general amenity! Once again, we implore the Brisbane City Council to buy this valuable community and natural asset

***Shealagh Walker - President
Centenary and District Environment Action Inc***

To view the proposal drawings, the development application is on the BCC website at:

<http://pdonline.brisbane.qld.gov.au/masterview/masterplan/enquirer/default.aspx?page=disclaimer>

Scroll down the disclaimer and if you agree, click on "I agree". Then click on "Application enquiry" and enter A002256510 as the Application Number (you don't have to fill out any other fields).



Children at Rocks Riverside park with escarpment in background photos by Jos Hall 24 May 09

BCC's Habitat Brisbane restores Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve

Habitat Brisbane, with 2 Million Trees, Wipe Out Weeds and Bushcare, is restoring the 56ha Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve in Riverhills. Maintaining the reserve's indigenous integrity is fundamental to all of these Brisbane City Council projects.

Mass native plantings of at least 7000 trees throughout the reserve will help to achieve Council's Vision 2026 target of 40% native vegetation cover in Brisbane, which is vital to preserve Brisbane's biodiversity for the future. The 2 Million Trees project works in conjunction with Council's [Core Biodiversity Network](#) to expand and connect habitat for threatened species and to improve ecosystem health and resilience. The 2 Million Trees bushland plantings and regeneration projects will also contribute to a regional 'carbon sink' for south east Queensland, helping our region become carbon neutral.

Bushland restoration sites are springing up all around Brisbane. The 2 Million Trees bushland restoration work calls on a wide range of environmental specialists within Council and the broader community, including local Bushcare and Environment Groups. Project specifications involve best practice environmental management by project staff, contractors and community groups. These techniques include indigenous native species and site selection, with autumn site preparation for springtime plantings, then summertime weeding and watering with recycled water. Natural regeneration is another very exciting component of the 2 Million Trees bushland restoration work which was incorporated into projects in 2009. Site management including soil disturbance, suppression of weeds and pest exclusion, allows the bush to repair itself through natural processes.

Natural regeneration, which is being assisted by appropriate and mindful weed eradication from Habitat Brisbane through Wipe Out Weeds and Bushcare, can be the most successful way to restore vegetation communities and increase native cover.

For more information on Habitat Brisbane, 2 Million Trees, Wipe Out Weeds and Bushcare:

Phone council on (07) 34038888 or visit <http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au>

Article by Julie Vejle - using information from BCC web site



Photo by Ed Parker

Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve has been inhabited in the past by the Jagera and Turrbal peoples and the Simpson and Goggs families. Queensland State Government used it as a prison farm from 1957 until 2002 when CDEA known then as Citizens Riverfront Advisory Committee plus other community groups including Citizens Revolt Against More Prisons worked with Julie Attwood MP, to have the reserve transferred from State to Local Government control for use as community open space.

This 56ha reserve is a wildlife corridor of remnant vegetation bounded by Wolson Creek, Brisbane River, local housing and Wacol Station Road. A 1.9 km track meanders above the southerly creekline between Tomkins Road and Riverpoint Boulevard entrances, with another track on the northerly power easement. Sumners Road entrance opposite Daintree Place sports a well-appointed dog off leash area.

Eastern Grey kangaroo, Red Necked Wallaby, Coucal Pheasant, Azure Kingfisher are some of the fauna to be seen plus a wide array of flora including Wild Lime, Crows Ash, Owenia and possibly three varieties of Native Tamarind in various eco-systems ranging from grassy open woodland to dry rainforest. The southern section remains quite wet during rainy seasons due to underground springs, overflowing dams and run-off from the northern section.

Habitat Brisbane's Wolston Creek Bushcare Group meets on each fourth Sunday of the month at Riverpoint Boulevard entrance from 7.30am followed by sausage sizzle and morning tea at 9.30. All welcome to attend these very social events.

For more info phone Warner Dakin on 3376 7724 or visit www.cdea.org.au

Habitat Brisbane will hold the 2009 Bushcare Induction Day at the reserve

SEQ Region Draft South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009 – 2031

CDEA put in a 10 page submission as a response to the Draft South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009 - 2031 (SEQRP). Below are some of the points raised by CDEA.

The new plan seeks to accommodate 4.4 million people. CDEA feels this is more of a target than a projection and is excessive. The current built infrastructure is groaning under the load of the present population and the natural environment is seriously suffering under the impact.

The Draft SEQRP is clearly contradictory as it claims to be protecting the natural assets of SEQ but at the same time promoting increasing its population. General amenity will be destroyed and the 'liveable' lifestyle will vanish, as will the bushland and its wildlife and colourful birds.

The offset conditions regarding both remnant vegetation and koala habitat are both seriously flawed. They favour development over critical biodiversity values. In essence, offsets give developers permission to destroy existing complex natural areas and vegetation with the promise to 'replace' them elsewhere or give money for the government to do this. Any offsets will take decades to establish and in the meantime wildlife will die without essential habitat.

There is only a conservation management plan proposed for koalas. CDEA is of the strong opinion that there need to be management plans for kangaroos and wildlife in general.

Just as there is a proposed network of roads and other built infrastructure, there need to be networks both of natural areas and of regional recreational open space. These would both be to support biological diversity and to provide outdoor recreation spaces for a growing population that is becoming increasingly aware of fitness and health and is spending time outdoors pursuing these.

CDEA recommended an inter-urban break on the State-owned land at Wacol and abutting natural areas in the south west of Brisbane, connecting eastwards to Pooh Corner and BCC bushland north of Centenary Village and westwards to the Brisbane River corridor.

CDEA's submission on koala conservation listed 15 natural areas in the Centenary and district area where there have been signs of koalas and recommended these sites be added to the Interim Koala Habitat Protection Area.

For riveting reading see our web site for the full CDEA Draft SEQRP submission as well as our supporting submission on koala conservation: www.cdea.org.au

Shealagh Walker, President CDEA

Wacol and Centenary Catchment Bus Tour

From Oxley Creek Environment Group's Newsletter by Jocelyn Clarkson

The recent Wolston & Centenary Catchments bus tour was an excellent event, touring all over this newly named catchment. We visited places most of us had never seen before. Thanks to Stacey Hodge (BCC WaCC Co-ordinator), Ed Parker and Shealagh Walker for the most interesting local and historical information throughout the trip. Other WaCC members added their stories when we passed through their 'patch'. The main impression gained was that this new emerging group still has a larger than usual amount of bushland to preserve. It was quite inspiring and hopeful. Such a vital and positive group that already has funding deserves support from the other catchments



The WaCC official launch date is yet to be advised

THE MARY RIVER DAM? AT WHAT COST ?

The Mary River is not in our area yet issues relating to it are relevant to us. The Mary Valley supplies food for Brisbane and in a time where we need to reduce food transport miles, and having destroyed areas like Redlands as a food producing area, it is imperative to protect other food producing areas close to Brisbane.

The extract below was taken from the book 'Love, Mary' published by Save the Mary River Coordinating Group. This beautiful little book is available for \$10, to inform people of the precious nature of this river, and to raise funds for the Save the Mary River Group.



The Mary River Turtle

"..... An astonishing number of valuable species recognised both nationally and internationally rely on this slender river as a fragile lifeline. Its catchment has been recognised by the Australian Rivers Institute as the most significant coastal river system in South East Queensland for its biodiversity. The other rivers in the region have been severely impacted by regulation with dams and barrages..... This river supports an incredibly rich and valuable biodiversity with more than 150 rare and threatened plant and animal species currently under investigation across its regions.

Saltwater crocodiles frequent the area as their southernmost territory and dugongs feed on the sea grass fed by nutrients brought to the coastal strait by the river. Eels that begin their lives in the Pacific Ocean travel the length of the river and navigate steep gorges and weirs to breed in mountain streams that feed this fragile river of life - a living ribbon that must be connected to the sea.....

The Mary River supports no less than six species of freshwater turtles, an outstanding biodiversity which makes it an exceptional turtle river on planet Earth..... Two freshwater turtles living in the Mary's waters are cloacal ventilators, or 'bum-breathers', able to use oxygen from the water through their tails. One of these, the Mary River Turtle (*Elusor macrurus*), is listed with 25 most endangered turtles in the world. This turtle's only home in the world is the Mary River. Of the planet's 7 species of marine turtles, 5 of them use the Mary River mouth as a breeding ground.

The Mary River provides habitat for four other known endangered species: the Mary River Cod, the Giant Barred Frog, the Cascade Tree Frog and Coxen's Fig Parrot..... The Mary River Cod is Critically Endangered and now completely protected, once inhabiting a much wider territory across south-east Queensland. Now it only lives naturally in parts of the Mary River system.

Many other creatures in the Mary River ecosystem have been declared vulnerable, including the Queensland Lungfish, the Tusked Frog, the Honey Blue-eye Fish, the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, and the Illidge's Ant-blue Butterfly.

The Queensland Lungfish is a unique and rare creature, the only Australian survivor of a species which has existed from pre-dinosaur times. This lungfish only lives naturally in one other river system, the Burnett River. Due to the construction of the Paradise Dam on the Burnett River in 2005, the survival of the Queensland Lungfish in this river is at-risk. This ancient species can live for 100 years, but it needs a flowing river to breed. Successful spawning is declining, due to dams and weirs blocking their movement to their last breeding sites."

If anyone would like a copy, please phone Jos Hall on 3379 4269.

Visit the website: www.savethemaryriver.com

CDEA SNIPPETS - CURRENT HOT ISSUES

Lobbying for:

- BCC to buy ridge land in Seventeen Mile Rocks as an extension to Rocks Riverside park
- BCC to reduce road speed on Grindle Rd Wacol from 70KPH to 50 KPH to reduce kangaroo deaths and increase safety for children visiting the sports fields.
- 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:

- Proposed 100 + Townhouses at 380 Wacol Station Road
- Wacol's 650 old growth trees and ecological corridor (Metroplex)
- Mt Ommaney Creek Shopping Centre (and marshland) upgrade
- Koorinal Drive to Mt Ommaney Bridge and pathway (BCC)
- Jindalee Creek and native bushland at Darra (CSR)
- Kenmore Baptist Church at Seventeen-Mile Rocks
- Sinnamon Heritage Strip in Sinnamon Park
- Wolston Road extension at Wacol
- Made detailed submission on the draft SEQ Regional Plan and the SEQ State Planning Regulatory Provisions on the BCC City Plan Review
- Put in a submission on the City Plan 200 Review

Metroplex Update

We are hoping to have a final judgement to report in our August newsletter

CDEA SNIPPETS - SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

Helped community to:

- Prevent culling of Wacol's kangaroos
- Establish 8 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
- Negotiate native plantings on Centenary Highway near Jindalee bridge
- Acquire 3.14ha of bushland at Horizon Drive Westlake as public open space

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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE 1st JULY

You can join or renew at or before the AGM on 27 August 2009 for the current price of \$5 pp or \$10 per family

You will then be eligible to vote on a motion to increase membership fees to \$10 pp (\$5 concession) or \$15 per family

The greater CDEA's membership, the greater our community voice

2009 CDEA MEETING DATES

Thursday May 28

Thursday August 27

Thursday November 26

Management Committee

President - Shealagh Walker 3376 1287

Vice Pres - Warner Dakin 3376 7724

Treasurer - Ray Lane

Secretary - Dianne Ruffles

Committee Members

Julie Attwood MLA

Ed Parker

Elizabeth Ryan

Julie Vejle

Web Editor

Brian Korner

Newsletter Editors

Jos Hall

Julie Vejle

Visit the web site www.cdea.org.au



Other Centenary enviro meetings also held at Mount Ommaney Library

- Sustainable Jamboree - 7pm on July 14, Sept 22, Nov 10 this year
- Wacol and Centenary Catchments - 7pm each 1st Tuesday monthly

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