

General Meeting - 7.30pm Thursday 27 May 2010

BCC Library Meeting Room - Dandenong Rd Mount Ommaney

GUEST SPEAKER:

Louise Saunders

Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld

About us and bats

Bats are true Aussie heroes, out every night, spreading seeds and pollinating our native forests - a job they have been successfully doing for thousands of years, which has enormous economic benefit for Australia. World Heritage rainforests would not exist without the seed dispersal skills of flying foxes.



VISITORS WELCOME

7.30pm: speaker (entry free)

8.30pm: light supper (free) - 9.00pm: meeting (close 9.30pm)

For further information contact Shealagh Walker on 3376 1287 or shealagh1@bigpond.com

Thanks for my GreenHeart Award! *Shealagh Walker, President, CDEA*

As you may know, in January this year I was presented with the *Lord Mayor's 2010 Australia Day GreenHeart Award*. This took me completely by surprise! What was more amazing is that Ed Parker, also a resident in the Centenary suburbs and a member of CDEA, won the award last year!

Thank you to the CDEA Management Committee and Cr Matthew Bourke for nominating me. And of course, a BIG thank you to the local community and the groups to which I belong, I could not have achieved the things I have done without them. The Lord Mayor asked me to pass on his thanks as well.

The best thing for me about the GreenHeart Award is that it demonstrates the growing recognition of the natural environment, this being only the third year the award has been presented.



Photo: Ed Parker

We are fortunate in the Centenary suburbs to still have several areas of urban bushland which we value for its tall trees, its recreational opportunities and its wonderful wildlife. Much of this bushland has been won by community action. To look after it, we have a particularly high number of Bushcare Groups for one ward, eight groups in all.

I've got a tremendous amount out of living in Brisbane for the last 21 years and am very pleased to have been able to contribute towards keeping it beautiful and environmentally aware. I have learned a lot along the way, met some really great people and had a lot of fun. Many thanks to you all.

Shealagh cutting her GreenHeart celebratory cake at the CDEA General Meeting in February.

Catchment booklet launched !

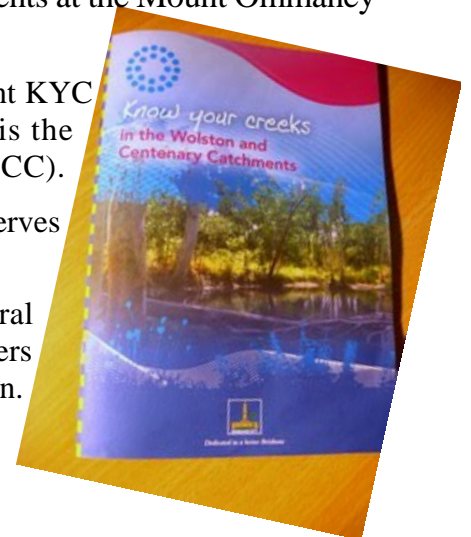
The newly published *Know Your Creeks in the Wolston and Centenary Catchments* booklet was launched by Councillor Matthew Bourke at the Earth Day event held jointly by Sustainable Jamboree, CDEA and Wolston and Centenary Catchments at the Mount Ommaney library on 24 April.

Brisbane City Council has previously produced over a dozen different KYC booklets for catchments throughout Brisbane, and this new one is the inaugural edition for the Wolston and Centenary Catchments (WaCC).

The booklet is packed with information on local creeks, parks and reserves as well as on history, plants, animals and waterway health.

The publication is the culmination of many hours of work over several months last year by Creek Ranger Stacey Hodge and volunteer members of the WaCC group who contributed text, photos and other information. Look out for your free copy at your local library soon.

For further information on **WaCC**, visit their website at <http://www.wacc.org.au/>



I urge you to support our catchment group which was initiated by Ed Parker and CDEA, a long awaited catchment group for the local waterways.

Shealagh Walker, President, CDEA

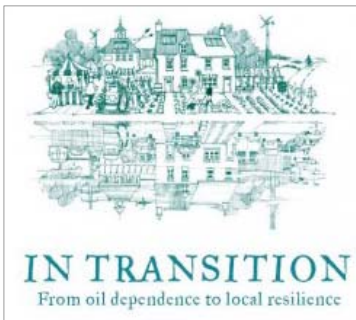
Earthday Event Success

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on 22 April, the Mount Ommaney Library meeting room was filled with people who had come to see the showing of '**In Transition - from oil dependence to local resilience**'.

This documentary is about the international Transition Towns movement, communities around the world responding to peak oil and climate change with creativity and imagination, setting about rebuilding their local economies and communities.

Many people around the world are tired of waiting for action from the top echelons of governments and are acting from the bottom up, the way of most social change. They are making small changes to the way they live by doing things such as growing their own fruit and vegetables, starting local businesses or riding bicycles. All these small actions add up to making a huge difference.

The Earth Day Network is active in 190 countries in the world and the Earth Day celebration is the largest secular civic event in the world which is heartening.



This event was co-hosted by *Sustainable Jamboree, Centenary and District Environment Action* and *Wolston and Centenary Catchments*.

Brisbane has its own transition movement, to find out more visit:

<http://brisbanetransitionhub.ning.com/> and www.transitionbrisbane.org

See also the international website: <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/>

Make those changes!

Shealagh Walker, President, CDEA

Bushcare Working Bee with a Difference by John Vanlint - Coordinator

Horizon Drive Bushcare Group has been in operation for around 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years now. After the initial enthusiasm with high attendance we have settled down to around 14 reliable volunteers with monthly attendance mostly around 8-10.

The site is 3.1 hectares and is relatively "clean", other than areas close to the road or adjoining properties. There has been a fair amount of dumping (garden refuse, builder's rubble etc.) over the years, again mostly close to the roadway.



In place of our monthly working bee in April, BCC's Habitat Brisbane Officer Rob Mollison as well as CDEA's Shealagh Walker and Julie Vejle joined us, walking around the site identifying plants and noting "problem" areas for future attention. Good summer rain had resulted in a profusion of plant growth and many were in flower. At least 9 new native species were identified. I think it is true to say that we all learnt a great deal, but it wasn't entirely academic. We did stop to admire fauna along the way.



The event was thoroughly enjoyed by our volunteers and I believe it has given our group a greater appreciation of the variety and beauty of the site. Rob treated us all to a sausage sizzle at the end. I thoroughly recommend this type of exercise to other Bushcare groups.

Horizon Drive Bushcare Group meets on the second Sunday of every month at 7.30 am at the picnic area opposite Peter Lightfoot Oval, Horizon Drive, Middle Park. The working bee is followed by morning tea at 9.30am. All welcome. John Vanlint 3279 2146.

Wollastonia biflora – a local native plant related to Singapore Daisy

Article by Carole Bristow of Cliveden Reserve Bushcare Group - photos by Shealagh Walker

I think everyone knows Singapore Daisy – that ground hugging plant with yellow daisy flowers - a popular garden plant some decades ago which has now become a major environmental weed.

Its botanical name used to be *Wedelia trilobata* and it has had a name change – it is now *Sphagneticola trilobata*.

There was a native *Wedelia* in the district – and it has had a name change too! It is now *Wollastonia biflora*.



It does not change the fact that the two plants are closely related – a close up of the flower shows that.



Wollastonia has a totally different growth habit from Singapore Daisy. It is a shrub and grows up to 1.5 metres tall.

It can look “weedy” – so hold your hand – don’t pull it out.

The Flora of SEQ describes it as “a straggling perennial herb”. I have come across it along riverbanks, in association with mangroves. That would indicate a liking for saltwater areas.

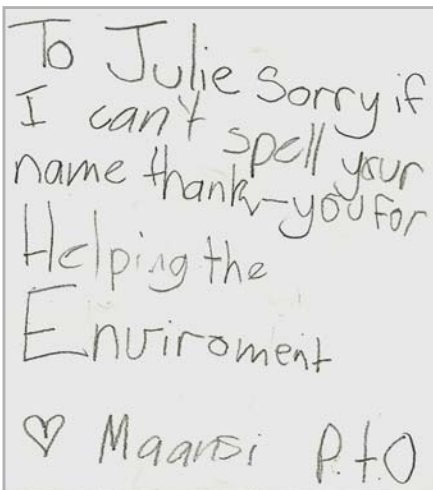
It adds to habitat values for Fairy-wrens and other small birds which use waterways as corridors. You can find it near the mouth of Mt Ommaney Creek, and at the end of Blackheath Road, Oxley, at the water’s edge.

It could be a useful species to plant in revegetation adjacent to mangrove communities, if natural resilience has proved to be low and little natural regeneration has occurred after, say, a year’s trial.

It doesn’t have a common name – any suggestions? Or we could just call it Wollastonia – not a difficult name.

Cliveden Reserve Bushcare Group meets on the first Saturday of every month at 8 am at the eastern end of Cliveden Avenue, Corinda. The work is mainly weeding in the remnant bushland in the vicinity of Oxley Creek. Anyone is most welcome to come along. Phone Carole on 3379 1453.

Maansi’s thank you - a heartfelt and pleasant change from ‘Keep up the good work’



Whilst weeding at Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve, I stopped to chat with a family of local residents walking by. They were very interested in seeing the natural regeneration happening there, so I showed them around. Then we sat down at the picnic table for a while. That’s when seven year old Maansi wrote the message to me on the left and the drawing of me on the right.

by Julie Vejle



The Fort Bushland Reserve – Progress Report by John Lahey

In 2006 the Brisbane City Council, using money raised by their Bushland Preservation Levy, purchased from the Catholic Church 10.5 hectares of land on the corner of Fort Road and Cliveden Avenue. This block of land is now commonly referred to as the Fort Bushland Reserve and it extends from Cliveden Avenue to the Brisbane River where it adjoins the Rocks Riverside Park.

The Reserve contains a wonderfully diverse mixture of dry rainforest and open eucalypt forest but regrettably is very badly degraded with severe infestations of Cat's Claw creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*), Ochna (*Ochna serrulata*) and Lantana (*Lantana camara*). In fact the infestation was so bad that many experts doubted that the forest could be saved. The area had been partially cleared in the late 1800s and early 1900s but then totally neglected from 1955 to 2006. Native wildlife from small insects right up to birds and mammals was virtually non-existent in the areas where the Cat's Claw and Ochna dominated.



Since 2006, a small but dedicated band of bushcarers has made steady progress in the restoration of this bushland. It is estimated that we are now three years into a fifteen year project. In general the process being followed is to cut and poison the Cat's Claw and Ochna and then carpet spray the Cat's Claw creepers on the ground. Usually a second and sometimes a third spot spraying is required followed by hand weeding and hand poisoning.



Three rules are being applied in this restoration process:

- Rule 1 All weeds in the area being restored should be continually destroyed until the weed seed bank and underground tuber stores are exhausted.
- Rule 2 No weed should be allowed to produce seeds or to reproduce itself vegetatively in the area being restored.
- Rule 3 Minimise the damage to native vegetation.

This process minimises the amount of rework required and the zero tolerance to weeds ensures that ultimately the site can be maintained with a minimum of effort by a small group of people. It does however limit the area being restored at any one time to the resources of the group to achieve rule 2.

While this bushland site is undoubtedly one of the most degraded in Brisbane, it is blessed by having a framework of forest trees and some understorey shrubs still intact. Because of this it is possible to base the restoration process on natural regeneration rather than planting. In this regard our thinking is:

- Planting should be a last resort not a first resort. Once weeds are removed the bush will regenerate naturally.
- Unless the new plants are propagated from plants already present on the site the botanical integrity of the site will be compromised.
- Most planted areas look unnatural.
- Water restrictions make it difficult to keep new plantings alive.
- Bushcare groups have limited resources that are better devoted to weed removal than to planting.



Without doubt natural regeneration is now very evident in the restoration areas with large numbers of native seedling trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses and vines now appearing. Much of the restoration area is now covered by a thick carpet of native grasses particularly *Ottocloa gracillima* but also *Oplismenus aemulus* and *Oplismenus imbecillis*. It is now quite clear that planting will not be required on the site.

It is estimated that the ultimate restoration of this site will take decades to achieve with the major human intervention component lasting about fifteen years. Some restoration areas are now within about 1 year of being placed on care and maintenance when all the weeds have been destroyed and the weed seed bank exhausted. It is pleasing to see that hundreds of local people now regularly walk through the Reserve.

The picnic area beside Fort Road has two excellent shelter sheds with tables and benches and with adjacent free barbecues. It seems to be well patronised. It is also pleasing to note the gradual increase in native wildlife as the restoration progresses.

See before and after photos on page 6.

THE FORT BUSHLAND RESERVE
(from page 5)

From weedy degradation

to healthy restoration



-A-



-B-



-C-



The Fort Bushcare Group meets for two hours on the first Sunday of every month at 8 am (9 am in winter) at the picnic area on Fort Road Oxley. A smaller group of weekday weeders meets at the top end of Eddystone Road every Thursday at 8 am (9 am in winter) for two hours of weeding. Both working bees are followed by morning tea. If you would like to help at either of these times please come along as you will be very welcome. There is no shortage of work to be done.

Sustainable Jamboree!

Promoting sustainable living in the local community

Take advantage of State and Federal Government initiatives to find out how you can reduce energy and water consumption in your home.

The **Queensland Government's Climate Smart Home Service** helps you understand your energy usage. In addition to the home service, you will receive 15 energy efficient light bulbs, a water-saving showerhead and a monitor that provides real-time feedback on energy consumption in your home. This is an effective way of understanding your energy use and provides motivation to reduce wastage. The **Climate Smart Home Service** costs \$50, but the good news is that residents in Brisbane can claim a \$50 rebate from the Brisbane City Council. You can make a **Climate Smart** booking by contacting the telephone hotline on 13 20 40.

The free **Federal Government's Home Sustainability Assessment** will give you a more thorough understanding of your home's energy and water use. A qualified home sustainability assessor will come to your house or apartment and will record the physical characteristics of the building and take note of your electrical appliances and ask about their usage. You will be provided with practical advice on ways of reducing your energy and water consumption. After the visit, you will receive a report from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency showing how your home compares with others in Australia and giving you further advice on the most effective ways that you can save on energy and water. To book a free **Home Sustainability Assessment** call the hotline on 1800 895 076. You can also book through the local *Carbon Doctors* on 1800 899 302. Check their website: www.carbondoctors.com.au



by Justin Clareburt of **Sustainable Jamboree**
<http://sustainablejamboree.org/>

Money might soon grow on trees

From the ABC website

A dollar value might soon be put on Adelaide's city trees. Adelaide City Council has voted to consider adopting a formula used in Melbourne which has valued some trees there at more than \$200,000.

Adelaide City Councillor Anne Moran says she hopes it can lead to fewer trees being felled.

"For instance, in the situation when the government removed 59 trees on Port Road Melbourne to put the tramline extension, but then said but we're planting 'x' number of thousand trees, you may actually be removing a very small number of trees at a very high cost to the environment," she said.

"What Melbourne's done is quantify that value and given these trees a replacement value.

"If a developer wants to chop a tree down that has been valued at \$100,000-plus we can say well 'OK, but you've got to plant a \$100,000-plus worth of trees to replace that'."



SNIPPETS of ONGOING HOT ISSUES

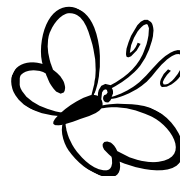
CDEA is lobbying to protect and preserve:

- Local koala and wildlife habitat
- Rocks Riverside Park ridgeline land
- Wacol wildlife, with reduced/enforced speed limits
- Local bushland, parkland, riparian and wetland areas
- Environmental links from Flinders Peak to Karawatha Forest
- 200 ha on State owned land in Wacol for wildlife and public recreation



CDEA is lobbying to mitigate negative impacts of:

- Pest plants and animals
- Rowing Club development
- Atthows Park development
- CSR vegetation rehabilitation
- Road upgrade at 17 Mile Rocks Road
- Mt Ommaney Shopping Centre wetland
- Proposed housing development on the 'Turf Farm'
- Kenmore Baptist Church at Seventeen Mile Rocks
- Bushland encroachments and dumping of rubbish
- More than 100 townhouses at 380 Wacol Station Road
- Contamination of Edenbrooke Lakes and Jindalee Creek
- Hare Krishna temple on ridgeline near Rocks Riverside Park
- Metroplex development proposal at old Sanananda Barracks in Wacol



SNIPPETS of SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

CDEA worked with local community to:

- Remove weed trees in Horizon Drive
- Prevent culling of Wacol's kangaroos
- Declare feral Rusa deer a pest species in SEQ 2009
- Preserve an historic fig tree on Council land in Jindalee
- Retain 5.6ha of parkland on Dandenong Road, Lorikeet Park
- Retain 134 ha at Pooh Corner in Wacol as public open space
- Retain 10.5 ha of bushland at Fort Road Oxley as public open space
- Negotiate native plantings on Centenary Highway near Jindalee bridge
- Stop Metroplex proposed development and clearing of habitat at Wacol
- Restore and regenerate 50 ha bushland near Wolston Creek at Riverhills
- Celebrate Centenary Suburbs 50th year with a BBQ funded by a BBC grant
- Acquire 3.14 ha of bushland at Horizon Drive Westlake as public open space
- Save Goggs Rd Rainforest Remnant and use local native plants in Windermere Estate
- Show Transition Towns film (CDEA, Sust. Jamboree and WaCC) to celebrate Earth Day
- Negotiate use of local species for street trees at Veranda Estate, Seventeen Mile Rocks
- Use local native plants to vegetate along new pathway to Koorinal Dv bikeway bridge



Brisbane's bushland and wildlife needs you!

There are **eight** bushcare groups in the Centenary suburbs Jamboree Ward area helping to protect, monitor and increase native flora and fauna populations, especially rare and threatened species.



Blackheath	3379 3597	Margaret
Edenbrooke	3375 3968	Felicity
Fort Road	0434 919 448	Jason
Horizon Drive	3279 2146	John
Jindalee	3376 1412	Noel/Claire
Jindalee Creek	3376 2639	Rod
Westlake-Riverhills	0427 681 612	Gary
Wolston Creek	3376 7724	Warner

Group tasks include:

- improving the attractiveness of natural areas for visitors
- removing weeds and rubbish - and establishing native plants
- drawing people together to create an increased sense of community
- reducing illegal dumping through community awareness and education
- spreading the word in the community via newsletters, open days, displays etc to schools and clubs
- reporting new sightings of wildlife: squirrel gliders, koalas, wallabies, microbats and boobook owls

AWARDS to CDEA and CDEA MEMBERS

2001: Shealagh Walker - State Government Award

2001: Ed Parker - State Government Award

2009: Ed Parker - BCC's GreenHeart Award

2009: Noel Wilson - State and Federal Government Awards

2009: Shealagh Walker - State and Federal Government Awards

2009: Ngaire McGaw - State and Federal Government Awards

2009: CDEA Inc - Brisbane's Spotless Suburbs Environmental Award

2010: Shealagh Walker - BCC's GreenHeart Award



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
A respected local community group since 1995

2010 General Meeting dates:
August 26 (AGM) and November 25

Visitors welcome

President: Shealagh Walker - 3376 1287
Vice President: Warner Dakin - 3376 7724
Secretary: Dianne Ruffles
Treasurer: Ray Lane



Committee members:
Elizabeth Ryan
Julie Vejle
Ed Parker
Jos Hall

Newsletter Editors - Jos Hall and Julie Vejle

Newsletter articles welcome - julievejle@tadaust.org.au

Web Editor - Brian Korner - www.cdea.org.au

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Each newsletter resolution is reduced to enable comfortable electronic transmission.
Should you require a full resolution copy, please email jos.hall@bigpond.com



**CDEA cordially invites
your membership subscription
1st July 2010 - 30th June 2011**

Please ignore this notice if you have already paid

The greater our membership - The greater our community voice
Household \$15 ~ Individual \$10 ~ Concession \$5

Fees for 2010/2011 (due 1/7/10) may be paid early, either by post or at meeting in May
Simply indicate the amount and list members over 18 with contact details
CDEA Membership, PO Box 515, Mount Ommaney QLD 4074

Quarterly Notice of Meeting & Newsletter is distributed mostly by email
2010 General Meeting dates - Thursdays: May 27, Aug 25, Nov 25

Queries to Shealagh Walker on 3376 1287 or shealagh1@bigpond.com

Membership address:

Date.....Postal address

SuburbP/code Home phone

Individual members:

1. Last Name

First NameMobile Phone.....

Email address

2. Last Name

First NameMobile Phone.....

Email address

3. Last Name

First NameMobile Phone.....

Email address

4. Last Name

First NameMobile Phone.....

Email address

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