



President's Report for 2005-2006

24 August 2006

This was my third year as President and it was quite a year!

New name and direction

It was our first year as Centenary and District Environment Action - this direction and name change was adopted at the 2005 AGM. I'm happy with the new name and structure and I think that's the general feeling. It took a while to finalise the exact wording and content of our Constitution with the Office of Fair Trading but we are now ahead of the pack and already comply with new changes to the legal requirements of being an incorporated body.

We can thank Noel Wilson for his perseverance with the Office of Fair Trading.

New Web Page

With the name finalised, we could go ahead with setting up our new web page. That was almost wholly organised by Brian Korner with help from Ed Parker. That took a good bit of perseverance and work.

The new web page was officially launched in May 2006. Thanks to Brian for that and to Keith Faulkner who helped with the initial set-up. Thanks also to our host, Lee Asher.

The page is steadily growing – have a look at it if you haven't already. cdea@org.au – what a great address!

New Newsletter

One of our new committee members, Jos Hall, has taken up editorship of the newsletter after it had had a break for a while. There have been two fantastic editions and Jos is considering putting them out more often than quarterly. With the growing number of members on email, the logistics of sending out the letters is much simpler and costs of production are much less. All in fabulous technicolour!

Many thanks to Jos and all the people who have contributed.

Successful Campaign to Save 154 Horizon Drive Bushland

A couple of years ago the management committee decided that it would have to choose between the Passionist Fathers' land in Oxley and 154 Horizon Drive in Westlake to campaign to save as parkland. We decided we would have more chance with the Passionist Fathers' land and indeed, after three years of campaigning with other groups and individuals, the Lord Mayor and Civic Cabinet agreed in July 2005 to buy the land with the Bushland Preservation Levy.

When a development proposal for 90 units was submitted to go on 154 Horizon Drive in early 2006, the Management Committee decided to try to save the bushland, to give it a go anyway. The campaign started rather slowly but community concern over the loss of the bushland gave it impetus, as did the formation of a new group, Friends of the Horizon Drive Bushland. Group founder, Joanne Robertson, started a petition which ran to almost 3000 names.

CDEA also tried a proforma submission form to help community members in expressing their concerns in the official 'community consultation' process. Council was flooded with submissions.

We suspected we might find koalas on the site so Ric Natrass, wild life expert, came and investigated and found koala scratchings on almost every smooth-barked Eucalypt he looked at. Ed Parker got out his GPS and mapped all the koala scratch trees and CDEA firmed up its request to council with hard ecological facts.

Councillor Farmer gave the campaign great support and put the community case to Civic Cabinet.

On 3 July 2006, the Lord Mayor and Civic Cabinet agreed to purchase the land. It was a triple win – a win for the community, a win for the environment and a win for the land-owners.

Thanks to every one who contributed towards these wins!

Successful Campaign to Save Wacol from 'Westgate'

Shortly before last Christmas the State government made four proposals for the development of a large area of Wacol. It called the project "Westgate". There had been no community consultation and little if any consultation with State members and Brisbane City Council.

CDEA's main concern about the proposals was that no mention was made of the 3000 kangaroos and wallabies resident on the site or the protected vegetation, nothing about the site's environmental values. We were also concerned at, not only the loss of open space, but the proposed injection of 10 000 more people to the area.

CDEA, SORB and Wolston Creek Bushland Group, got together with the new Wacol Action Group (WAG). Meetings were held and rushed submissions were made within the short time allowed, using the small amount of information provided.

Julie Attwood MP organised a meeting with Henry Palaszczuk MP and the community to ascertain community concerns. She took these to the government and kept worrying the powers that be.

In early August 2006, Premier Peter Beattie announced a fifth proposal which is definitely a win for the community and the environment. In this proposal, a large amount of the land will become available for public recreation and open space, the golf courses will remain and development will be restricted to the area immediately adjacent to Wacol Railway Station.

CDEA and SORB continue to work with Julie on the details of the proposals which are still very general.

Thanks go to Julie Attwood MP and all the community groups and individuals involved in this successful campaign.

Friends of Pooh Corner's Successful Campaign

The then CRAC was rather ham-strung in the campaign to save Pooh Corner from development. However we did support Friends of Pooh Corner and continue to do so on management details for the area.

Congratulations to Friends of Pooh Corner for what is the fastest and most successful environmental win in our region!

Turf Farm Campaign

CDEA continues its quest for an adequate amount of parkland for the Centenary district and to protect the local environment.

This morning I sent off a letter to the Lord Mayor asking if BCC would acquire the land at the former Turf Farm on the Centenary Highway in Sinnamon Park. This land is zoned as an Environmental Protection Area but there is an application before council for a 256 unit aged care facility to go there. Part of the environmentally important Jindalee Creek corridor runs across the site which is well suited to community parkland.

CDEA is working with the Sinnamon Park Residents Progress Association on this one. We have used our submission proforma method and there are two petitions running.

CSR development application for Monier Road Industrial Park

CDEA has already helped residents in the affected area to draw up a petition to council. CDEA members will be going on site shortly to investigate the situation. The land carries a tract of bushland which we are keen to inspect.

Education and Promotion

- CDEA is supporting Kirsty Pappalardo, an honours student from UQ in a wildlife study in Westlake.
- Committee members have given information talks to local groups and to students at QUT.
- CDEA ran a successful stall at the Centenary Rocks festival in July.
- We are sending our newsletter far and wide.

'Cityscape'

Approximately ten CDEA members participated in BCC's 'Cityscape' programme which was gathering community concerns, opinions and future planning ideas for the local region. We took up two tables and were very prolific.

2005-2006 Major Project

All the activity this year has pushed our Major Project to the back but we will be pursuing it this year. This project will use local knowledge to identify local environmental and community issues and act to resolve them.

Shealagh Savage, President.

Centenary and District Environment Action is a community environmental group which focuses on:

- **protection of the natural environment**
- **provision of parkland and recreational areas for the community**
- **mitigation of the impacts of urban development on the natural environment and on the community.**