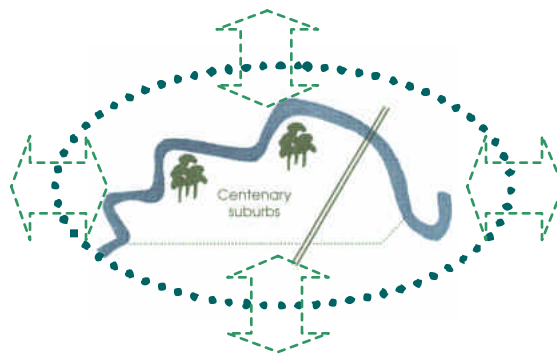


Centenary and District Environment Action Incorporated



President's Report for 2006-2007

This was my fourth year as President. CDEA, previously known as CRAC, has been going 11 years. Once again it has been an eventful year. Fortunately there has been a global swing towards the environment and we no longer feel that we are constantly swimming against the tide. In fact, green is the new black. Below is a short summary of the main things CDEA has done over the past 12 months.

Wacol and 'Westgate'

The 'Westgate' saga continues. In August 2006, Premier Peter Beattie announced a fifth proposal for 'Westgate' in which 200 hectares 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. As yet there is no detailed plan of the whole site. There are sports grounds going in off Grindle Road but we do not know exactly where. Construction will start in September. However, there is a master plan of the proposed Police Academy which looks like it will definitely go ahead in the land south of the correctional centres. CDEA has been assured that the goal is for a 'green academy' and that there will be community consultation. The first phase of a training facility will start in 2009. A member of the planning team will be coming to a future CDEA Management Committee meeting.

CDEA's major concern is for the areas of endangered vegetation within the proposed site and for an ecological corridor to be maintained between Pooh Corner and the Brisbane River, especially for the kangaroos and wallabies. Thanks go to Julie Attwood MP and all the community groups and individuals working for a good community and environmental outcome.

Wacol and the kangaroos

Pooh Corner has now been handed over to BCC. The Federal Government funded a cleanup of the site and a fauna friendly fence along the northern boundary to keep out recreational vehicles.

The major problem this year has been the EPA's attempts to solve the problem of vehicles hitting kangaroos on Wacol Station Road. They stated that they would 'cull' 1000 kangaroos within the month to address the issue. Community pressure prompted the EPA to conduct a count of the kangaroos and found there were 1350, not the various estimates of 800 to 8000 kangaroos. The EPA has put out a Draft Kangaroo Management Strategy with minimal involvement from the local community. I have yet to read it but I am told it relies on modifying driver behaviour. The local community does not believe this is sufficient and is asking for fences along Wacol Station Road and a couple of fauna crossings. CDEA will continue to pursue this issue along with SORB and FoPC. Thanks to Julie Attwood MP and Annastacia Palaszczuk MP for their involvement in this matter.

Western Corridor Recycled Water Project

CDEA has supported FoPC in ensuring that the route of the recycled water pipeline does not impinge upon Pooh Corner. CDEA continues to try and ensure that the impact of the pipeline is minimised in other local natural areas it crosses.

Metroplex Proposals for the Former Sanananda Barracks

CDEA has put in a submission contesting the Metroplex proposals for an Industrial Park on the former Sanananda Barracks site south of the Ipswich Motorway. The proposal claims to be green but in fact consists of broad scale clearing of all vegetation not within the waterway corridors and only two of the three corridors are recognised. Further, the proposal is using these ecological areas for their parkland contribution which is contrary to requirements and detrimental to the ecological values of the waterways. BCC is yet to make a decision on the development application.

CSR development application for Monier Road Industrial Park

BCC has just approved the development application for a roof tile factory in Darra with conditions controlling noise and pollution. CSR has the option to appeal these conditions. I have yet to read the conditions but CDEA will follow this up. BCC has also approved the Industrial Park on Monier Road without community consultation. One win has been to change the application from heavy to light industrial use. However, CDEA believes that this site is too close to local residential areas for industrial use and should progress to a residential area as proposed in the City Plan. There is also Bushland that needs to be conserved and protected. SPRPA will be pursuing these development applications, as will CDEA.

Kenmore Baptist Church

The KBC cleared their land on Seventeen Mile Rocks without council approval. CDEA and some local individuals protested to BCC and the clearing and construction was stopped after a couple of weeks. The case is still with council.

Flinders Peak to Karawatha Link

CDEA continues to work with the EPA to ensure an ecological corridor is kept open between Flinders Peak and Karawatha.

Koorngal Drive Bridge

CDEA is liaising with BCC on the best possible route for a bridge and pathway joining Koorngal and Mount Ommaney Drives. The present issue is the 9 m corridor that will be cleared, other than for a few trees, for a 3 m wide pathway which we consider is too wide for a Bushland area.

Boat Club at the end of Summers Road

CDEA has put preliminary comments to Cr Farmer on the proposed dub. There are several environmental issues that need to be addressed as well as the size of the proposal.

Integrated Planning Act Review

CDEA put in a submission on this. IPA dictates all procedures for development applications and is skewed towards developers although it daims its purpose is to provide **ecologically sustainable development**.

Bushcare Groups

There are now 10 Bushcare Groups in Centenary and another application being considered for the Horizon Drive Bushland in Middle Park. This was the Bushland saved from development in 2005. The purchase by BCC has recently been finalised.

Community Garden

CDEA has been supporting the establishment of a Community Garden which is now underway at Rocks Riverside Park.

Web Page update coming up

No sooner do we have a web page than it seems we need to update it! We have a web page graduate helping us with this. We are making the page easier to navigate and easier to adjust according to current issues. Thanks to Brian Korner and Ed Parker for their ongoing work and to our new advisor, Neil Rutherford. Ongoing thanks to our host, Lee Asher.

Grants

We have applications in for our usual BCC Environmental Grant for administration of CDEA and also for a BCC Community Grant to buy a laptop computer and projector.

Education and Promotion

- Jos Hall continues putting out our excellent CDEA newsletters. You may have noticed recently that we are trying to get one out every six weeks. Many thanks to Jos, and to Carole Bristow who often helps with the newsletters. Thanks also to all the people who have contributed articles.
- The Satellite and the SW News have printed several articles highlighting local environmental and social issues.
- CDEA, being incorporated, is the auspicing body for a Jamboree Heights School Environmental Grant application which has been successful. CDEA will also advise the school on a revegetation project they plan.
- CDEA ran an information stall at the Centenary Rocks festival in July. We gave away plants and sachets of water holding material from BCC together with the CDEA newsletter and other information. It was rather a noisy experience I am told.

Memberships

We are members of the following organisations:

- **Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc. (EDO)** is a non-profit, non-government community legal centre dedicated to providing legal advice and representation to individuals and community groups working to protect the environment.
- **Queensland Conservation Council (QCC)** is Queensland's peak non-government environment group which seeks to protect and conserve Queensland's environment to create a sustainable future for the community.
- **Natural Areas Alliance** is an informal alliance of environmental groups across Brisbane
- **Sustainable Jamboree** is a group run by Cr Farmer to promote sustainability in Jamboree Ward.
- **Centenary Community Planning Team for Neighbourhood Planning:** a community design project run by BCC.
- **Centenary Community Connections (CCC)** is a local community group focussing on the youth.

Connections

We have worked with several other environment and social organisations including the following: **Save Our Riverfront Bushland (SORB)**, **Friends of Pooh Corner (FoPC)**, **Sinamon Park Residents Progress Association (SPRPA)**, **Oxley Residents Association**, **Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA)**, **Wacol Action Group (WAG)**.

Major Project

We are starting with **Wonderful Waterways**. This project will use local knowledge to identify local environmental and community issues and act to resolve them. Noel Wilson will be letting us know the next step soon.

The Dreaded Deer

The number of deer damaging our local bushland and waterways is increasing. We continue to work with the State Government and BCC to remove them.

Thank you to the CDEA Management Committee and to all the CDEA members that make us a force to be reckoned with in the local area.

Shealagh Savage, President. 23 August 2007

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.**