



President's Report for 2007-2008

The last 12 months have seen the fruition of a couple of CDEA projects, the start of few more and the continuation of too many issues still awaiting resolution. The range and scale of issues and activities is immense, varying from advising on an underpass mural to being a party in an appeal against the multi-million Metroplex proposal. Below is a summary of CDEA's activities and achievements.

CATCHMENT RECOGNITION

Wolston and Centenary Catchment Co-ordinator

Thanks to the work and perseverance of Ed Parker, BCC has now appointed a Catchment Co-ordinator for our local catchments. Until this year there has been no catchment association for Wolston Creek catchment which includes Bullockhead and Sandy Creeks, nor for all the creeks in the Centenary area. Stacey Hodge is working on this area now with the ultimate goal being the formation of a catchment association. This is a big step forward.

DEVELOPMENT

Wacol State Government Precinct - Police Academy

In October 2007 Julie Attwood MP arranged for the Project Co-ordinator for Westgate to attend a Management Committee meeting to discuss the latest plans. It was apparent that many of CDEA's concerns about the Police Academy had been taken into consideration and the committee was pleased with the outcome. The design goal is to keep as much open space as possible. To do this they will reuse heritage buildings on the site and only build on land that has already been cleared. Most importantly for CDEA, there will be no perimeter fencing so that kangaroos and other wildlife will be able to get through from Pooh Corner to the Brisbane River. The intention is to rehabilitate land on the adjoining Qld Health land and use it for training. There will be an Environmental Management Plan.

Wacol State Government Precinct - Wacol Sports Fields

The Committee generally was not completely happy about the design of the sportsfields constructed by Main Roads to replace the fields that would be taken up by the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade. Peter Beattie allocated 200 hectares in 2006 for public recreation and open space in the Wacol State Government lands and we felt too much of this hard won public open space was being tied up for one sport. Another problem is the perimeter fencing which keeps the kangaroos out. CDEA is concerned that if this is a pattern of future development then there will be no space for the kangaroos and the open space use will be limited to a select few instead of to the community as a whole. CDEA would like State Government to do a master plan for the remaining land so we don't land up with a patchwork of facilities. So far, State Government has agreed to do a masterplan for the land along the southern side of Wolston Creek which is a step in the right direction. CDEA will continue negotiating with SafeLINK to get a better outcome for the ongoing problem of kangaroos dying on Grindle Road next to the new sports fields.

Wacol Station Road and the Kangaroos

The extension of Wolston Road in Sumners Park to connect with Wacol Station Road has had the added benefit that the Lord Mayor has undertaken to work with Friends of Pooh Corner to provide fauna fencing along both roads to help stop the carnage to kangaroos. BCC will also provide fauna underpasses to allow the kangaroos to move safely from Pooh Corner to the Brisbane River corridor. These will make the roads safer for motorists as well. CDEA has been working to stop the slaughter but this was a coup for FoPC.

We are still awaiting the **Kangaroo Management Strategy** which has been in draft form for about a year.

Metroplex Proposals for the Former Sanananda Barracks in Richlands

CDEA is one of 13 parties in a case in the Planning and Environment court where Metroplex is appealing against BCC for not making a decision on their development application for a multimillion dollar industrial and office park. CDEA is working with Save Our Riverfront Bushland (SORB) and Friends of Pooh Corner (FoPC) in opposing the application on environmental grounds as it involves clearing most of the vegetation except that in two waterways, which is protected. In fact **all** the vegetation on site is protected to varying degrees. The environmental groups are particularly concerned about retaining fauna corridors across the site and valuable old growth hollow-bearing trees for wildlife breeding. The case runs for three weeks ending in September.

Darra to Springfield Railway Extension – Horizon Alliance

Ed Parker has represented CDEA in worthwhile consultations with the Horizon Alliance on the Darra to Springfield railway extension.

Dowstress

Ed Parker and I, together with FoPC, were invited to discuss extension proposals by Dowstress for their prestressed concrete works on Wacol Station Road. This is because their site borders on Pooh Corner. We think they will take our input on board and once again I sent them the list of local native plant species to use for their landscape works.

CSR Development Application for Land between the Industrial Park and BCC Parkland on Monier Road

This is the third of 3 applications by CSR for their properties in Darra and CDEA has opposed them all on environmental and community grounds. We have managed to improve the environmental impacts of the industrial park and the tile factory proposal but not prevent the applications which we would have preferred. The tile factory mediation involving Sinnamon Park Resident's Progress Association (SPRPA) should be finalised but I don't know the final result.

BCC refused CSR's Development Application to extend their industrial park eastwards into an area classified as Emerging Community land and CSR appealed the decision. Before the appeal had been finalised CSR started clearing trees on the site. Quick action from SPRPA and CDEA who contacted BCC, resulted in the clearing being halted. Ed Parker was CDEA's representative in the mediation which has achieved a strip of CSR land being added to the parkland to offset the high retaining walls all along its boundary. Additional land has been allocated for public park.

Kenmore Baptist Church

In 2006 KBC cleared an extensive area of their land on Seventeen Mile Rocks Road although it was all protected by BCC regulations. CDEA and some local individuals protested to BCC and the clearing and construction was stopped after a couple of weeks. KBC subsequently put a Development Application into council which made little if any reparations for the clearing and was unsatisfactory for a large number of reasons, many of them environmental. BCC is assessing the applications and the submissions. A large number of design documents were made accessible to the public two and a half days before Public Notification period closed. CDEA has asked Cr Bourke to follow this up as there has clearly been a fault in the Notification process. Cr Bourke is also arranging a meeting between KBC and community groups to discuss the proposal.

Boat Club at the End of Sumners Road

CDEA put in a submission to BCC on the proposed rowing club. BCC has approved the application but has put in some development conditions in consideration of CDEA's concerns. The application is still in the appeal period so CDEA will scrutinise the development conditions to decide if they are acceptable to us.

Koorngal Drive Bridge

BCC is proposing a 3 m wide pathway within a 9 m wide corridor that will be cleared, other than for a few trees. CDEA considers this is too wide for an already narrow Bushland area. We will continue to pursue this vexed issue to get a path and bridge that are sympathetic to the natural environment.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Heritage Fig Trees

- **The Murna Street Fig Tree.** This tree was used as the centrepiece of the original subdivision layout for Jindalee. Council condemned it and started to cut it down although the community had got a temporary stay of execution on the tree. Fortunately Matthew Bourke has probably managed to save the tree. It was severely pruned to give it a better shape so it doesn't hang over neighbouring houses. If it doesn't survive, cuttings and seeds are being grown by BCC for a replacement tree – just plant, add water and wait 150 years.
- **The Goggs Road Fig Tree** is now under threat. Again it is a case of development being allowed too close to a tree. CDEA warned BCC of this when the Development Application went in for the service station on the corner of Goggs and Seventeen Mile Rocks Roads. However we were ignored. This tree is part of the Sinnamon Farm Heritage Strip and needs to be protected. Earlier this year it dropped a branch which tipped the service station canopy. There is a lot of space on the driveway so it would be better to relocate the canopy a little rather than chopping down the landmark tree. Council is assessing the tree.

Pine Trees between Jindalee Golf Course and the Centenary Highway

Earlier in the year the Pine trees were removed by MR without any community notice or consultation. However, despite this, the committee thought it a good idea as the trees are recognised environmental weeds. They also support very little wildlife. On behalf of CDEA I sent our two lists of local native plants to Julie Attwood MP to forward to MR and asked that native plant species be used in any replanting. We didn't hear any more until last week but the news is that GA will be putting in plants only from the CDEA lists. Work started this week. It seems the grass will remain but I hope this will be gradually mulched over to give a more natural look and a more sustainable planting area. Regarding the community consultation, MR has contacted me and apologised saying they thought we had been contacted earlier.

Gertrude McLeod Golf Course Trees

CDEA has been working with council to save 23 native trees in the grounds of the golf course. The golf course people had misguidedly dumped the mud from the lake they were cleaning out, all around the bases of the trees. This would unfortunately have rotted the trunks and killed the trees. It is very important to preserve and care for all existing native trees. New ones take decades to grow to a size where they can support wildlife and the rest of the natural environment.

The Dreaded Deer

In January 2008 Julie Attwood MP arranged for the Hon. Tim Mulherin MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Fishing to visit the Jindalee Bushcare Group's area to see first hand the damage the deer is doing to the Bushland by way of erosion and destroying vegetation. There was a downpour at the time so the meeting continued in Julie's office. The Minister told us that the Queensland Government proposes to declare the Rusa deer a Class 2 Pest. This means that landowners will be required to take reasonable steps to keep their land free from deer. This is CDEA's third meeting with Minister's concerning deer and we are anxious to get legislation passed on the deer as they are increasing in numbers as we wait.

Bushcare Groups

There are now **11 Bushcare Groups** in Jamboree with the latest being the Horizon Drive Bushcare Group in Middle Park. The group had its first meeting in November 2007 and is looking after the Bushland saved by the community in 2005.

GENERAL

Council Elections

In March 2008 Jamboree and Richlands both voted in new councillors. CDEA thanked Felicity Farmer for her support over her term in office especially as regards the natural environment. We started Cr Matthew Bourke's first few hours in his new office with an urgent call to stop BCC chopping down the heritage Fig Tree in Murna Street Park. Fortunately he was willing and able to do that. Since then we have formally welcomed him and he has attended a CDEA Management Committee meeting to meet all the committee. CDEA has always worked closely with the local politicians and we value their support. We intend making contact with Cr Milton Dick of Richlands in the near future.

Web Page

As Lee Asher could no longer host our web site, Ed Parker has found an inexpensive web-based host. We will be changing to a different and easier content management system. Many thanks to Lee for hosting our site for its first few years. Thanks to Webmaster Brian Korner and to Ed Parker for their ongoing work on the website. This year we will definitely upgrade it.

Grants

- CDEA was successful in our application to Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund for money to buy a laptop computer and a projector. These have now been purchased. Thanks to Ed Parker for all his research and legwork to finalise the purchase.
- We were also successful in being given the BCC Environmental Grant which we depend upon for administration.

Education and Promotion

- Jos Hall continues putting out our excellent **CDEA newsletters** now numbering 11. Many thanks to Jos and to Julie Vejle who now assists her.
- CDEA was on the **Steering Committee** for the new **Peaks to Points Festival** which ran from 19 July to 3 August 2008 and was a celebration and promotion of the corridor of natural areas between Flinders Peak and Morton Bay. The festival was a success and will hopefully be expanded in the future.
- CDEA ran information stalls at the **CitySmart Fair** in October 2007 at the Rocks Riverside Park and the **Peaks to Points Family Day** in July 2008 at Oxley Common.
- As part of the **P2P Festival**, CDEA hosted the **Wolston Creek Wildlife Walk** which included a guided walk along the parkland and a sausage sizzle hosted by Wolston Creek Bushland Group. CDEA, under its previous name, and Julie Attwood MP were instrumental in getting this former State owned land dedicated as public parkland in 1996.
- On behalf of CDEA I advised **Jamboree Heights School** on a revegetation project they are running. CDEA helped in their successful application for an Environmental Grant application. I have now introduced the school to Stacey Hodge who can probably help them more than we can.
- SPRPA referred Jamie Maclean to CDEA for advice on local plants and wildlife for the **Centenary Highway Underpass Mural** in March this year. By now the mural should be finished. It should educate people on the local natural environment, beautify the underpass and hopefully stop graffiti.
- The Satellite and the SW News have printed several articles highlighting local environmental and social issues.

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 which promotes sustainability in Jamboree Ward.
- **Centenary Community Planning Team for Neighbourhood Planning**: a community design project run by BCC.

Community Connections

We have worked with several other environment and social organisations including the following: **Save Our Riverfront Bushland (SORB)**, **Friends of Pooh Corner (FoPC)**, **Sinnamon Park Residents Progress Association (SPRPA)**, **Oxley Residents Association**, **Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA)**, **Wacol Action Group (WAG)**, **Sustainable Jamboree**, **Rocks Community Garden** and more recently **Goodna Action Group (GAG)**. This networking makes all the groups more effective.

THANKS

- **Thank you to Julie Attwood MP and Cr Matthew Bourke for their continuing support including all important photocopying and postage.**
- **Thank you to the CDEA Management Committee who work hard and are dedicated and committed.**
- **Thank you especially to all the CDEA members who give us the power to make a difference in the Centenary suburbs and surrounding areas.**

Shealagh Walker, President. 27 August 2008

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.