

President's Report for 2009-2010

I was surprised to see how many items from last year's President's Report are still awaiting outcomes. Below is a brief summary of CDEA's activities over the last 12 months.

DEVELOPMENT

Koalas in SEQ

CDEA put in submissions on the *Draft South East Queensland Koala Conservation State Planning Policy* and *Draft South East Queensland Koala Conservation State Planning Regulatory Provisions December 2009* in February and sent copies to relevant Queensland ministers. We received generic letters from the Office of the Premier, the Hon. Kate Jones MP, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability and the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. However the whole koala protection issue is still unsatisfactory, especially the mapping of koala habitat areas. The policies came into effect on 31 May 2010. CDEA also wrote to BCC asking for a BCC Koala Policy but were advised that they abide by the state legislation and the establishment of a koala advisory group for Brisbane was not considered necessary. Some CDEA members took part in the Koala Rally on 25 September 2009. The koala needs to be classified as endangered and we need to work on that.

Wacol State Government Precinct – Peter Beattie's promised 200 hectares of public open space

In 2008 members of the committee had two meetings with the Hon. Judy Spence regarding the upholding of Peter Beattie's 2006 promise to grant the community 200 hectares of public open space at the Wacol Government precinct. By the end of 2009 nothing much was happening so in November CDEA, Save Our Riverfront Bushland (SORB) and Friends of Pooh Corner (FoPC) formed a delegation to meet with Premier Anna Bligh and members of the Cabinet at the Community Cabinet meeting held at Forest Lake.

This delegation meeting resulted in a renewed commitment from the government to work towards turning the 200 hectares of land, previously the Wacol Prison Farm, into an area of public open space for conservation and recreation, in the terms of the 2006 Beattie promise. In 2009 CDEA, SORB and FoPC were invited to join a task force under the present Minister for Police, Corrective Services, and Emergency Service to discuss future use of the land. The first meeting between the members of the delegation and staff of the Department of Corrective Services was held in December 2009 and there have been three subsequent meetings. The meetings have been productive for the most part, but there are important issues that still need to be sorted out.

One of the stumbling blocks is the buffer zones Corrective Services require adjacent to the prison, the police firing range and the row of sex offender houses along Wacol Station Road. Another issue is that the Department of Corrective Services can only deal with land under its control, meaning that the environmental groups will need to have further negotiations with the Department of Environment and Resource Management to include a parcel of land next to the Brisbane River to make up the promised 200 ha.

A further issue that needs more exploration is the matter of tenure, who controls the land and for how long. At present the state owns the land but there are a number of possible tenure options.

A further meeting is expected in September.

CDEA committee members have met with Cr Peter Matic and Margaret Jacobson in April 2010 to discuss BCC involvement in the 200 ha. They are keen to have the open space but CDEA wants to make sure it will not all be taken over with sports fields.

Wacol Station Road, Grindle Road and Wolston Road Extension

Finally after a few years of lobbying, the speed limit on Grindle Road was reduced to 60 kph in June 2010. This hopefully will reduce kangaroo deaths along that road. There is still a problem of kangaroo entrapment at the end of Grindle Road.

Friends of Pooh Corner have an undertaking from the Lord Mayor that BCC will fund fauna fencing along both sides of Wacol Station Road; this will happen when the road is upgraded. The proposed new bridge over Wolston Creek will have dry shoulders to allow fauna passage as is already the case under the new bridge over Sandy Creek on the recently completed Wolston Road Extension. CDEA worked with BCC on the road and bridge design, fencing and landscape works for Wolston Road Extension

Metroplex Proposals for the Former Sanananda Barracks in Richlands

CDEA was one of 13 parties in a case in the Planning and Environment Court where Metroplex appealed against BCC for not making a decision on their development application for a multimillion dollar industrial and office park. The case was held in 2008 and the appeal by Metroplex was dismissed in November 2009, basically on planning issues. Of the 62 pages of the judgement, nearly a third were on environmental issues. These will guide any future development applications. The three environmental groups, CDEA, Save Our Riverfront Bushland and Friends of Pooh Corner, have recently put in submissions on Metroplex's latest development application for the western side of the site. This means we will all be able to partake in any further court actions. There were many flaws in the latest Metroplex proposal.

Hare Krishna Temple Proposal for the Seventeen Mile Rocks Escarpment

The development application is still in council. CDEA still strongly believes that BCC should purchase the site which is zoned both *Park* and *Emerging Communities*. We are still smarting from our discovery of the removal from the Western Gateway Local Plan of restrictions regarding the protection of the escarpment's visual amenity. These visual restrictions came about as a result of SORB's win in its case in the P&E Court in 2001, in which CDEA, (then Centenary Riverfront Advisory Committee) was a Co-respondent. In essence, if the Hare Krishna temple is built, the visual amenity of this section of the escarpment will be destroyed and the temple will completely dominate Rocks Riverside Park.

Rocks Riverside Park

CDEA put in suggestions to Cr Bourke on new improvements and facilities as requested in April 2010.

380 Wacol Station Rd (opposite the archery club)

CDEA put in a submission on the DA for this site. We asked for extra parkland to make up for the extra houses planned to replace the childcare centre. We also worked with BCC to make sure that protected Grass Trees on site are retained.

Turf Farm

The third Development Application to BCC for the Turf Farm in Sinnamon Park was lodged in early 2010. The proposal has been reduced to 252 units and is no longer a retirement development. It is far more acceptable than the second proposal with a significant parkland contribution and without the previously proposed 7m high retaining walls along the edge of the watercourse corridor. CDEA put in a detailed submission to BCC in March 2010. We are still awaiting a decision.

CSR, Sinnamon Park and Edenbrooke 'Lakes'

CDEA has been involved in addressing CSR's reluctance to fulfil their responsibilities regarding general revegetation and planting of retaining wall terraces. Their development caused silting of neighbouring bushland and Jindalee Creek but according to council, more damage would have been done removing the silt. CSR has paid BCC compensation money which is being used to clean up the Edenbrooke 'lakes' downstream. CDEA has worked with BCC, Sinnamon Park Residents Progress Association and Edenbrooke Bushcare Group to try and solve these problems.

A new and serious problem has recently emerged, which is the construction on the previous CSR site of a building classified as General Industry where it should have been Light Industry. This is completely unacceptable so close to a residential area. CDEA is collaborating with SPRPA and council to stop this from happening again.

Rowing Club

We have made various complaints to BCC on the mistreatment of existing native vegetation.

Peter Lightfoot Oval refurbishment

CDEA has discussed this with Cr Bourke.

Catholic Church development, Dandenong Road.

CDEA and church representatives conferred on tree removal and proposals for landscape works.

Atthows Park, Darra

We believe a master plan is being drawn up for Atthows Park: CDEA will be working on contributing to this.

Seventeen Mile Rocks Road upgrade

CDEA and BCC representatives conferred on tree removal and intersection proposals, including landscape works.

Richlands Neighbourhood Plan

CDEA somehow fell between the cracks in the public consultation meetings for the Richlands Neighbourhood Plan. However we just squeaked in with a submission on the draft plan. Ed Parker and I had a productive meeting with the planner leading the neighbourhood plan process. A major concern was the Metroplex site and the waterways and parklands in Richlands which is largely industrial.

Submission to Integrity and Accountability in Queensland

CDEA put in a submission in October 2009

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Ric Natrass passing

In September 2009 Ric Natrass slipped away in his sleep. He was such a bright light in the environmental world of Brisbane that he is keenly missed. He was always ready to help CDEA whether it was in presentations or advice on wildlife. His finding of fresh koala scratchings in the Horizon Drive bushland was pivotal in persuading BCC to purchase the land.

Kangaroo Management Strategy for Wacol

There has been one meeting in March 2010 with no results as yet. We will be following this up.

Kangaroo and Wallaby data base

Ed Parker has started a data base of kangaroo and wallaby sightings and road-kills for the local district so please report any sightings and deaths to him or me.

Horizon Drive Bushland improvements

I walked with BCC officers to locate a fire break and maintenance track. CDEA negotiated with BCC to replace the weed Cadaghi trees (*Corymbia torelliana*) with local tree species when a new footpath was completed along the Horizon Drive frontage. Consultation with BCC also resulted in a picnic shelter as well as bollards to stop vehicle access into the bushland.

The Dreaded Deer

There doesn't appear to be much success in removing the deer from the Centenary suburbs and at present the deer are winning and are multiplying. They have been found in the Bushland Reserves of Mount Ommaney, the Fort and Wolston Creek as well as in the Horizon Drive Bushland and McLeod's and Jindalee Golf Courses. They are very destructive to Bushcare Groups' revegetation and cause serious soil erosion to the reserves. They have even started eating the bark off street trees. One deer was killed on the Centenary Bridge a few months ago so they are a traffic hazard as well. CDEA feels more funding and people are needed to address this fast growing problem. We will continue to lobby council to rid Centenary suburbs of deer.

Foxes

CDEA is working with the council to control foxes, also with little effect so far.

Bushcare Groups

There are 8 Bushcare Groups in Jamboree Ward. A few of these groups are experiencing dwindling numbers. In August CDEA organised a meeting of interested people and have submitted a letter to Cr Bourke with comments and suggestions.

EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND PROMOTION

Web Site

CDEA has a revamped web site thanks to Brian Korner, Keith Faulkner, a volunteer from BCC, and Ed Parker. It can be accessed by anyone who has been granted a password by the webmaster so that bushcare groups and CDEA members can run their own sections.

Newsletter

Julie Vejle and Jos Hall continue to produce four excellent newsletters each year. They have a constant high standard of interesting content and layout.

Brochure

The Management Committee decided against a formal printing of a brochure promoting CDEA as issues are constantly changing. Instead, Elizabeth Ryan produces a brochure which is updated regularly. We also use it as a business card bearing contact details and information about CDEA.

Peaks to Points Festival

- CDEA combined with Sustainable Jamboree and Wolston and Centenary Creeks for a display stand on Family Fun Day at the beginning of the festival
- We combined with Wolston Creek Bushcare Group to host a most enjoyable wildlife walk along Wolston Creek with afternoon tea overlooking the Brisbane River.

Speakers at General Meetings

- August 2009: video on "The Power of the community – how Cuba survived peak oil"
- November 2009: Glen Alchin BCC on the management of pest animals
- February 2010: David Stephen, Chairman of *Fair Go* on "When is a koala not a koala – when it lives on the Scenic Rim".
- May 2010: Louise Sanders of *Bats Conservation and Rescue Queensland* on "About us and bats".

Earth Day Event

Showing of: "In Transition – from Oil dependence to local resilience" with Sustainable Jamboree in April.

Display screens

Thanks to Brigitta Prenner for the donation of 3 retractable display screens and to *Flash Photobition* for replacing the missing support poles. We are working on getting a new logo and when we have one, we will have it printed on the screens.

THECA forum

CDEA will set up a display at the popular THECA Forum in September 2010.

RECOGNITION

GreenHeart Award

On Australia Day 2010 I was honoured to receive the *Lord Mayor's GreenHeart Award*, one of the main awards in the *Lord Mayor's Australia Day Awards*.

As a result of the award I was invited to give two presentations promoting CDEA: Middle Park Uniting Church and the Western Suburbs Society for Growing Australian Plants.

Federal and State awards

In October 2010 Noel Wilson, Ngaire McGaw and I were honoured to receive Federal and State awards in recognition of our contribution to the local environment. This is the first time that the Federal government has given environmental awards in the Centenary suburbs area.

Newspapers

The Satellite, the *SW News* and the *Centenary News* have printed several articles highlighting local environmental and social issues involving CDEA.

GENERAL

Community Cabinet

In November 2009 CDEA with Save Our Riverfront Bushland and Friends of Pooh Corner formed a delegation to meet with Premier Anna Bligh and members of the Cabinet at the Community Cabinet meeting held at Forest Lake.

Lord Mayor and Civic Cabinet

In May 2010 members of CDEA attended the Civic Cabinet held by Brisbane City Council. We had a good discussion with Cr Peter Matic about the 200 ha at Wacol.

Wolston and Centenary Catchments (WaCC)

This group continues to develop and CDEA supports all its efforts. Earlier this year the creek ranger was moved to a position with another catchment but a replacement ranger should be arriving soon.

Trailer

We took delivery of the new bushcare trailer in December 2008. Unfortunately it was stolen in February 2010. Cr Bourke has kindly offered to replace it.

SINCERE THANKS TO:

- all CDEA members for their ongoing support
- the Management Committee for their commitment and hard work
- Julie Vejle and Jos Hall for the excellent CDEA newsletters
- Brian Korner for revamping and maintaining the web site
- Julie Attwood MLA, Crs Matthew Bourke and Milton Dick who represent us in their respective areas of government
- Geoff and June Rudd and Ann Walker who provide the suppers at CDEA meetings
- Noel and Claire Wilson for monitoring the mail box
- BCC for the Environmental Grant which we depend upon for administration.

Shealagh Walker, President, 26 August 2010.