

PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2013 to SEPTEMBER 2014

I will start by restating CDEA's aims and functions and continue by outlining how the group has followed these aims and functions over the last twelve months.

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**
- **mitigation of urban development impacts within the Centenary suburbs and neighbouring areas.**

In its Constitution, two of CDEA's functions are:

- **to facilitate education and interpretation of the values of the relevant lands including conservation, recreation and community uses**
- **to provide advice on the use and management of the relevant lands, impacts of surrounding uses of land and any other management related issues.**

Protection of the natural environment, public parkland and recreational areas

Wacol State Government Precinct, the 200 hectares open space promised in 2005

This project has been on hold for almost three years since the Department of Corrective Services agreed to transfer control of the 200 hectares, formerly part of the Wacol Prison Farm, to the Brisbane City Council for open space and recreation purposes.

We understand that the handover is being dealt with by the Deputy Premier. The present state government is assessing its assets and deciding which to dispose of and which to keep. However, we have a pre-election assurance that:

"the LNP supports the current arrangements in place regarding the transfer of Land from the Correctional Service Department to be utilised as green space at Wacol. The LNP have no plans to impede this process".

The community groups involved, CDEA, Save Our Riverfront Bushland (SORB) and Friends of Pooh Corner (FoPC), continue to pursue this matter with the LNP government through Tarnya Smith MP.

Environmental Centre at Pooh Corner

The Environmental Centre is nearing completion. The building is finished except for electrical connection and will be officially opened when that has been completed. The picnic area is finished and has already been well-used and enjoyed during the Peaks to Points activities there in August. Various walking track signs, seats and notice boards are being finalised.

All these add up to make an excellent bushland reserve with good facilities.

Bird Survey of Pooh Corner

Meg Gordon, a CDEA member, and a group of birders have been conducting a bird survey of Pooh Corner under the auspices of Birdlife Southern Queensland. This survey has almost finished its run of two years. Meg previously led a two and a half year bird survey of the Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve.

This baseline information is vital in protecting and maintaining natural areas and their fauna. Many thanks to Meg, Birdlife Southern Queensland and all those who took part in the survey

Meg has also helped produce a large vinyl display banner to help visitors with bird identification, using photos of the most commonly seen birds at Pooh Corner. The banner will be used at environmental functions and has already been displayed at Pooh Corner for the CDEA and WaCC events in the Peaks to Points Festival in August.

Feral Deer

The feral deer problem continues to grow as the deer multiply and move into more and more areas. CDEA appreciates all the work done by council in removing the deer from Brisbane generally but believe more funds and resources need to be committed to this issue by council and state government. Addressing this matter is well beyond the capabilities of both individuals and the community. All levels of government need to step in and co-operate in ridding Queensland of feral pests such as deer.

Deer are now found in all the bushland areas and waterway corridors in the Centenary suburbs and adjoining areas. In the recent dry period, they moved deep into the suburbs late at night to forage food in irrigated gardens and to strip the bark off street trees.

CDEA will be approaching state government to work out ways to make it easier to get rid of deer. We will also be contacting the University of Queensland to get rid of the deer on their land in Pinjarra Hills. These deer swim over to the Centenary suburbs.

We will continue to educate the community on the deer problem, as common misconceptions about the deer are part of the problem of ridding Queensland of feral deer.

Common (Indian) Mynahs

Common Mynahs have been moving into the Centenary suburbs for several years now. Lorikeet Park on Dandenong Road is over-run by them. They are aggressive feral birds that out-compete local birds and take up all the nesting hollows. In May, some members of CDEA attended a B4C workshop on trapping Common Mynahs and Ed Parker is now testing a trap. CDEA is working with Cr Bourke to have these traps installed locally in the near future.

Nesting boxes

CDEA is looking into a way to fund, install, maintain and monitor nesting boxes to be made by the Men's Shed. All the nesting boxes in Lorikeet Park on Dandenong Road have fallen apart and need replacing. This could be the start of a project to install more nesting boxes throughout the area to help make up for the loss of the hollow-bearing Eucalypts that have been removed for development and housing.

Bushcare Groups

Over the years, CDEA has been instrumental in gaining several bushland parks in the Centenary suburbs and surrounds, for example, the Bushland Reserves on Horizon Drive, Middle Park and Fort Road, Corinda. We have helped start Bushcare Groups to look after the Bushland Reserves and step in when problems arise or facilities are needed.

A current problem with all community groups is the falling off of member numbers and some local Bushcare Groups are suffering this problem.

To increase awareness of the Bushland Reserves and their Bushcare Groups, WaCC and CDEA held a Nature Morning in August at Westlake-Riverhills Bushland Reserve. It was an outstanding success with over 100 adults and 50 children coming along! We had information on the local Bushcare sites, guided walks along the Coucal Track, including one on fungi. Geckoes Wildlife did a wonderful presentation on local wildlife that fascinated adults and children alike.

There are six Bushcare Groups in Jamboree Ward and CDEA continues to support and promote them.

Loffs Road dog off-leash area

The CDEA committee has discussed the location of a future dog off-leash area off Loffs Road, Westlake with Cr Bourke. It will be in a weedy area next to the Brisbane River. The project will include a walking track to connect up with the Coucal Trail. The new facility will help dissuade people from walking their dogs off the leash in the adjoining bushland.

Mitigation of urban development impacts within the Centenary suburbs and neighbouring areas

Industrial land next to Pooh Corner (previously Lennons)

Despite it being a central part of a natural area, the land on the corner of Wacol Station and Wolston Roads was sold for industrial development, now undergoing completion.

Recently members of CDEA and FoPC noticed that the building contractors were damaging the adjoining land in Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve with their earth-moving works. This damage was reported to BCC who are working to have it repaired. CDEA and FoPC will continue to keep an eye on this issue.

Kangaroo signs Wolston Rd

Cr Milton Dick picked up on CDEA's reporting of the need for kangaroo warning signs to be erected along Wolston Road opposite Pooh Corner, as there had been a number of kangaroo and wallaby fatalities there. As a result, BCC erected kangaroo signs along that stretch of road as they had previously done on Wacol Station and Grindle Road a few years ago, before Wolston Road was completed.

Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) petition

CDEA forwarded a petition to its email list for the state government to continue its important funding of the EDO. We are supporting members of the EDO and they have been extremely helpful to us in our fight to protect the environment, helping in past court cases where CDEA has been involved, and in legal advice generally.

Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc is a non-profit, non-government community legal centre which helps people understand and access their legal rights to protect the environment in the public interest.

To facilitate education and interpretation of the values of the relevant lands including conservation, recreation and community uses

General Meetings and Events

Our General Meetings are free and open to the public.

September AGM 2013: Megan Prance impressed us with her photographs and Latin in her presentation on Incredible Fungi.

November 2013: The End of Year Get-together with WaCC landed up at the library before a big storm. John Lahey, Co-ordinator of the Fort Bushcare Group, spoke about the history and restoration of The Fort Bushland Reserve. Luckily we could do the guided walk through The Fort Bushland Reserve after afternoon tea and participants only got a bit wet.

February 2014: Tarnya Smith unfortunately couldn't give her presentation on National Parks but sent the text which Ed Parker presented.

June 1 2014: CDEA and WaCC combined to host a very successful and well-attended Nature Morning next to the River at the Westlake-Riverhills Bushland Reserve. The event was supported by Habitat Brisbane and funded by the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund. Our aim was to increase awareness of local Bushcare and Bushland. We had information on the local Bushcare sites and guided walks along the Coucal Track including one on fungi. Geckoes Wildlife did a fascinating presentation with live animals.

2 August 2014. CDEA, WaCC and Friends of Pooh Corner combined to host two guided walks as part of the Peaks to Points Festival: a Bird Walk led by Meg Gordon and a Walk with Kangaroos led by Ed Parker.

Web Site

CDEA's excellent web site continues to be run by webmaster Brian Korner. Brian also sends out bulk emails of CDEA notices. Many thanks go to Brian for all his work.

Brochure and handouts

- Elizabeth Ryan continues to produce the CDEA brochure and to update the inserts of Current Hot Issues and Successful Outcomes. She has newly completed an information sheet on Local Bushcare in the Centenary Suburbs. It goes with our new aerial map of the Centenary area, provided by BCC.
- Warner and Tricia Dakin continue to update a list of Volunteer and Community Groups in Centenary Suburbs Area and Environs.

Many thanks go to Elizabeth, Ed, Tricia and Warner for all their very worthwhile work.

Sharing of electronic equipment

CDEA lends its public address system, laptop and projector to community groups. All equipment was purchased with grants.

Memberships

CDEA continues to be a member of the Environmental Defenders Office and Queensland Conservation

Sincere thanks go to:

- all CDEA members for their ongoing support
- the Management Committee for their commitment and continued hard work
- Geoff and June Rudd and Ann Walker who provide the suppers at CDEA meetings
- Noel and Claire Wilson for monitoring the mail box
- Tarnya Smith MP, Crs Matthew Bourke and Milton Dick and Bernie Ripoll MP for their ongoing support
- Brisbane City Council for its Environmental Grant

To close

CDEA and WaCC will end the year with a combined celebration at the new Pooh Corner Environmental Centre on Sunday 16 November.

I had thought this had been a less busy year for CDEA but, having summed it all up in this report, we are as busy as usual and still making a difference to the community and our natural environment in the Centenary suburbs, the surrounding areas and further.

Shealagh Walker, President, 17 September 2014.

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*Excerpt from the CDEA constitution:*

### 3. FUNCTIONS

3.1 In pursuit of the association's objectives, the functions of the association shall be:

- (a) to make recommendations to all levels of government and associated bodies issues of
  - conservation, recreation and management
  - funding
  - development of land use policies and practices including rehabilitation of degraded areas.
- (b) coordinator of activities and responsibilities between the council, landowners, interested residents, other government departments, other park visitors or any other interested individuals or groups.
- (c) to provide advice on:
  - the use and management of the relevant lands.
  - impacts of surrounding uses of land.
  - any other management related issues.
- (d) to facilitate education and interpretation of the values of the relevant lands including conservation, recreation and community uses.