



Centenary and District Environment Action  
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## **PRESIDENT'S AGM REPORT: NOVEMBER 2020 TO NOVEMBER 2021**

**This year is the 25th Anniversary of the formation of Centenary and District Environment Action Incorporated, previously known as the Centenary Riverfront Advisory Committee.**

The group was formed as a result of a conflict between council and residents when council started the construction of a walkway along the riverfront in Jindalee and Mount Ommaney without public consultation. Then councillor, Cristine Watson, held a public meeting on site to consult with the community. Arising from this meeting, she formed the Centenary Riverfront Advisory Committee on 6 April 1996. It was one of many advisory committees to council. A Steering Committee was formed and one of the original members was our current Treasurer, Ray Lane.

And that was 25 years ago! Amazing!

In 1996 Centenary Riverfront Advisory Committee became incorporated and in 2005 changed its name to Centenary and District Environment Action Incorporated. It also became independent from Brisbane City Council.

Right from its inception, CRAC then CDEA have had an enormous impact on the Centenary suburbs and district varying from court cases to nest boxes, all benefitting the environment and the community.

**Coming forward to this year, many things have changed as has the work CDEA does. Since 2020, COVID has changed things even more.**

However, having had a restricted start to 2020 due to COVID, things eased up a bit. After a while, carefully planned meetings of CDEA could go ahead. World Environment Day could take place although this year's AGM had to be changed from June to November, as it was last year.

Luckily, we have been able to move all meetings to the Pooh Corner Environment Centre and this Breezeway has been very useful. This environment centre is one of CDEA's achievements.

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION** was this year's combined outdoor event with Wolston and Centenary Catchments. In June we teamed up with Cr Sarah Hutton and Brisbane City Council and made it the biggest and best ever!

Over 200 people enjoyed a wonderful morning of activities and entertainment.

Activities and entertainment included bird walks, a Kids' Environment Hunt followed by gift bags full of snacks and exciting environmental things.

The highlight of the day was a fascinating presentation by the very entertaining and knowledgeable Snake Boss. Children and adults loved her and learned a lot along the way about different reptiles and how to behave around them.

Many people were introduced to Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve and its environment centre. Making people aware of local bushland areas and the flora and fauna in them is one of the environmental groups' main aims.

We have agreed to team up again next year!

**Opposite Pooh Corner is the Wacol Corrective Services land.**

All the surveying and groundwork have been done, it just needs a final decision from state government to make it 'public open space and recreation' as Premier Peter Beattie promised in 2005. However, it appears to remain in state government's 'too hard' basket.

CDEA is still promoting that the land be kept as public open space which would protect the kangaroos and other wildlife there. The Wacol land could become part of a substantial 400 hectare natural area if it were connected to other adjoining environmental reserves nearby.

Hopefully, when COVID is not such a threat, the government will be able to turn its attention back to finalising this initiative.

**CDEA has also been involved with the redevelopment of the Oxley Secondary College site off Seventeen Mile Rocks Road.** Despite extensive consultation with the community and Community Panel, Economic Development Queensland has largely gone its own way. Clearing and construction of the Priority Development Area housing began in 2019. The wholesale removal of native trees has been extremely disappointing. Fewer than one third will be retained. On the positive side, the state government has agreed to hand over 9 hectares of open land to council as public open space. Some of this is the state-protected Endangered Regional Ecosystem area. The Community Panel, in which Ed Parker and I represented CDEA, has mitigated some aspects of the project.

**Moving on to smaller housing.** Last year, CDEA asked council to replace the defunct nesting boxes in Lorikeet Park, originally installed by the developers of Mount Ommaney Central Parklands when they cleared a large number of hollow-bearing trees.

After much discussion with council, Cr Hutton offered to fund the installation and maintenance of some new nest boxes. She arranged for the local Men's Shed to make some sturdy cedar boxes and for someone to install and monitor them. The Lorikeets have already moved in.

There are plans afoot to put more nest boxes up in local parks. The availability of nesting places is the single most important factor in the sustainability of birds, so this is an excellent initiative.

**One of CDEA's aims is for community environmental education** so when the Rotary Club of Jindalee offered CDEA a \$3,000 Rotary District Grant we jumped at it. We have long been wanting a notice board to go at the Westlake end of Wilsons Walkway. However, we had no idea how expensive they were! After much thought and discussion, Rotary has teamed up with Cr Hutton and Brisbane City Council who will together fund the project. The notice board will be shared by CDEA and the Jindalee Bushcare Group who look after a large proportion of Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve. It's an excellent way to end another year of ups and downs.

**To finish up, sincere thanks go to:**

- the Management Committee for their ongoing commitment and work: Ed Parker, Ray Lane, Di Ruffles, Warner and Tricia Dakin, Vaughan Kippers and myself;
- Brisbane City Council for the environmental grant that keeps us going;
- Vaughan Kippers for the newsletters that have been one of our main communications with CDEA members and friends since COVID19 started;
- Brian Korner who maintains and runs the CDEA website and sends out notices;
- Di Ruffles who monitors the mail box; and
- all the members, politicians and friends that support CDEA!

**The NEXT PUBLIC MEETING** will be on Thursday, 24 February 2022. The venue is yet to be finalised.

**THE MID-YEAR GENERAL MEETING** is planned for **June 2022**, the 5th June being World Environment Day. It will be at the Pooh Corner Environment Centre, all being well.

All the best for a happy Christmas holiday and a peaceful and healthy New Year!

**Thanks to Brisbane City Council for their ongoing and important support.**

**Many thanks for supporting CDEA, we depend on you!**  
**Shealagh Walker, President**