

Centenary and District Environment
 Action Incorporated
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PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday 27th February, 2020 at
 7.30pm in Mt Ommaney Library

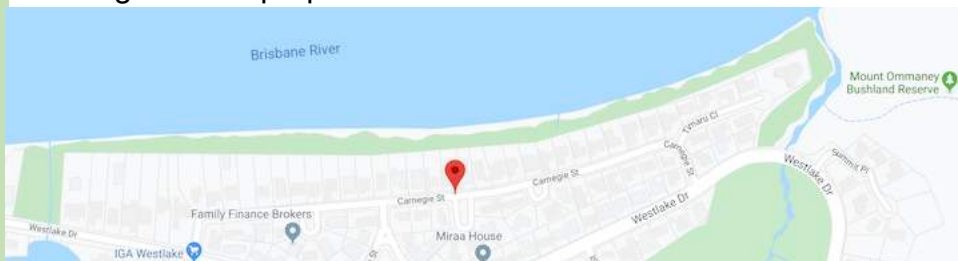
Guest Presenter: **Professor
 Richard Fuller**, The University of
 Queensland

The actions of people just like us have caused a massive biodiversity crisis, pushing many species to the brink of extinction and beyond. Doing something about this is one of the most important and urgent problems globally. Richard is interested in understanding how people have affected the natural world around them, and how some of their destructive effects can best be reversed. On the flip side, Professor Fuller is also keen to understand whether people can benefit positively from experiences of biodiversity.

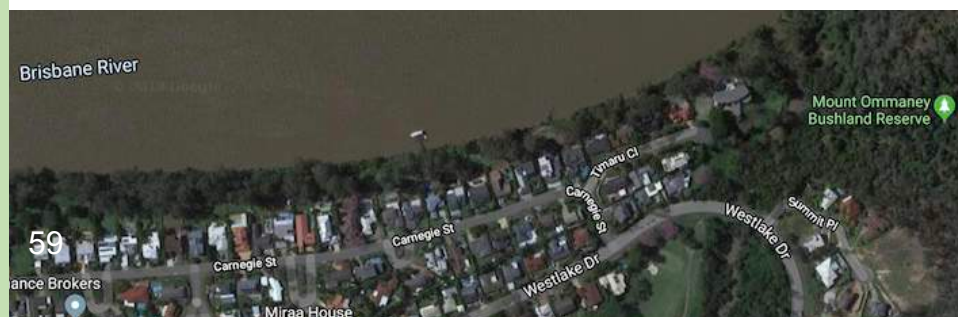
RIVER WALK IN WESTLAKE

(Vaughan Kippers)

In the November 2019 Newsletter, there was an article about the quarry on Wilsons Walkway. If you have completed this walk and would like to extend it, you can continue to walk along the riverbank from Summit Place, Westlake. This was part of the Great Centenary Brisbane River Walk 2008, which was led by Ed Parker (see http://www.sorb.org.au/p2p/greatwalk_details.htm). You can walk through the public riverfront land at the rear of the Carnegie Street properties.



Walk along Westlake Drive from Summit Place, over Mount Ommaney Creek, then into the public parkland on your right. A short section of the track is a bit “adventurous”! When confronted by multiple tracks, my advice is to choose the “low” track closest to the river. Walk to the mouth of the creek and then along the riverbank, upstream. The exit at the end, which is bit rough, takes you back onto Westlake Drive (Prepared from Google Maps © by Vaughan Kippers)



Alternatively you can shorten the walk by exiting to Carnegie Street via #59, which is my recommendation (Prepared from Google Earth © by Vaughan Kippers)

Once you have completed the walk along Wilsons Walkway, and possibly the walk along the riverbank behind Carnegie Street, you may like to try some of the 12 recommended Brisbane River walks (see <https://www.mustdobrisbane.com/outdoors/walks/river>).

A local walk at Jindalee, along the Riverside Rocks Promenade is one of the recommended walks (see <https://www.mustdobrisbane.com/outdoors-walks-river-kids-outdoors-walks-bike-rides/rocks-riverside-promenade-jindalee>).

There are many more potential walking tracks in the 9500 hectares of bushland in Brisbane (see <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/clean-and-green/natural-environment-and-water/bushland-reserves/bushland-reserves-map>). Brisbane City Council also has listed 18 Heritage Trails (see <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/outdoor-activities/walking/walking-trails/heritage-trails>) of which the closest is the Indooroopilly Heritage Trail, and four Public Art Trails close to the CBD (see <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/experiences-and-culture/public-art/public-art-trails>). In addition, there are many guided walks throughout the calendar (see <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/whats-on-and-events/search?search=guided%20walks>).

WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE CHICKS

(Vaughan Kippers)

In the November 2019 Newsletter, I reported on the adult and chick wedge-tailed eagles. We had not seen any of the eagles since October, until Christmas Eve. On that morning, a few of us saw one adult and both chicks soaring over the opposite side of the Brisbane River from the Designated Dog Off Leash Area (dog park) at the end of Loffs Road, Westlake. Unfortunately, I did not have my camera, which I have taken with me since. We saw one adult a few days later (morning of 29th December), and then an adult and chick on the morning of Thursday, 2nd January, 2020. They were too far away to take photographs.

COUCAL TRAIL

(Vaughan Kippers)

We sometimes see a Pheasant Coucal from the dog park in Loffs Road, which is close to one end of the Coucal Trail along the Brisbane River. It is about 2.8km along the river bank and return (see <https://www.aussiebushwalking.com/qld/coucal-creek-walk>).



“A common summer migrant to mixed habitats around the city, the Pheasant Coucal is Australia’s only non-parasitic cuckoo and Brisbane’s only species of coucal. It is a large, distinctive and mostly ground-dwelling species, superficially similar to pheasants in several ways, which gives it its name”

(<https://brisbanebirds.com/pheasant-coucal-centropus-phasianinus.html>) (Photo © Vaughan Kippers 08:13, 3rd January, 2020)

You can read more about the environmental requirements of local Pheasant Coucals at <https://wsca.waterbydesign.com.au/site/html/coucal.html> . After some years of relative neglect, the Coucal Trail is now being maintained again, by the Westlake-Riverhills Bushcare Group, and is in very good condition. If you would like to be involved as a volunteer, please contact Ed Parker through the Jamboree Ward office; see below.

BUSHCARE GROUPS IN CENTENARY DISTRICT

At the February Public Meeting, CDEA will have a brochure listing the bushcare groups in the Jamboree Ward. If you would like to join any of the following groups summarised here, you can contact:

- **Jamboree Ward Office: 3407 7000**
- jamboree.ward@bcc.qld.gov.au
- **BCC Call Centre: 3403 8888 (24 hrs)**
- www.brisbane.qld.gov.au
- **CDEA: www.cdea.org.au**

Jindalee Bushcare Group

Usually Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve, Summit Place, Mt Ommaney Drive
Occasionally Mount Ommaney Drive, opposite Canowindra Street
Third Sunday of the month
7.30am – 10.00am

Horizon Bushcare Group

Horizon Bushland, Horizon Drive, opposite Peter Lightfoot Oval, Middle Park
Second Sunday of the month
7.30am – 9.30am

Jindalee Creek Bushcare Group

Along Jindalee Creek, next to the Centenary Bridge, behind the sports centre
First Sunday of the month
7.00am Summer
8.00am Winter

The Fort Bushland Reserve Bushcare Group

The Fort Bushland Reserve, Corner Fort Road and Cliveden Avenue, Oxley
First Sunday of the month
8.00am – 10.00am

Westlake-Riverhills Bushcare Group

Balaton Street entrance to riverfront bushland, Westlake
Second Sunday of month
8.00am – 10.30am

Wolston Creek Bushcare Group

Picnic table near the entrance to Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve, Riverpoint Boulevard, Riverhills
Fourth Sunday of the month
7.30am – 9.30am

Edenbrooke Bushcare Group

This group will restart later this year.

BIRD BATH TIPS

(Chris Wiley)

Australia has just suffered through its hottest and driest year on record, and it's not just our farmers who are suffering. As creeks and dams dry, water has become a scarce resource for our local wildlife. Bird baths have never been more important as a source of water for our suburban birds, possums and other wildlife. If you haven't already got one in your backyard, what are you waiting for? Not only do bird baths provide a vital resource to wildlife, but they provide an endless source of entertainment as local birds drink, splash and bathe.



*Lewin's Honeyeater splashing in bird bath
(Photo © Chris Wiley 08:13, 8th October, 2019)*

Here are my tips for installing a bird bath in your garden:

- 1) Don't place bird baths too close to windows.** Bird baths can get crowded, with smaller birds often chased off by bigger ones. A startled bird is very likely to crash into a glass window, if this is too close, leading to death or serious injury. As tempting as it is to place bird baths where they can be easily viewed from the comfort of an armchair, it is best to position them at least 10 m from any window.
- 2) Place bird baths in a shaded spot near bushes.** Bird baths in full sun get hot and covered in algae. An ideal location is beneath a shady tree, with dense shrubs a couple of metres to the side. The shrubs provide a safe place to which small birds can retreat when more aggressive species attack.
- 3) Keep the ground beneath bird baths open.** Birds get nervous when bird baths are placed amongst long grass or dense, low groundcovers — the sort of cover that could conceal a cat or python. Place the bird bath on a mulched garden bed, lawn or paved area instead.

- 4) **Change the water regularly.** Water fouls quickly in hot weather, so replace it at least daily to keep your birds healthy.



Lewin's Honeyeater reflected in clean water in bird bath (Photo © Chris Wiley 08:25, 8th October, 2019)

- 5) **Deep baths with shallow sides are best.** Birds like to stand in water and bathe, and have difficulty if the sides of the bath are too steep. However, baths that are too shallow overheat and dry out faster. A bath that is deep in the middle but with shallowly sloping sides is best.



Double-barred Finches in shallow bird bath (Photo © Chris Wiley 15:28, 4th February, 2017)

- 6) **The more baths, the better.** Aggressive species such as currawongs, butcherbirds and kookaburras can monopolise a bird bath, preventing access for smaller birds. Providing multiple baths reduces the ability of aggressive birds to dominate the resource.

RECOGNITION OF CDEA



Councillor Matthew Bourke presenting Warner & Tricia Dakin (CDEA Committee Members) with a Jamboree Community Award at his Christmas Party held in Centenary Rowing Club (Photo © Martin Gilles, Matthew Bourke's Jamboree Ward Office, 20:42, 10th December, 2019)

