

Centenary and District Environment
 Action Incorporated
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IN THIS ISSUE

Mt Ommaney Quarry.....	1
Wedge-tailed Eagles.....	2
What is a Weed Tree?.....	3

2020 DATE CLAIMERS

Public Meetings

- BCC Library –
 Mount Ommaney
 7.30-10.00pm
 Thursday, 27 February 2020
 Thursday, 27 August 2020 –
 AGM
 Thursday, 26 November 2020

World Environment Day Celebration

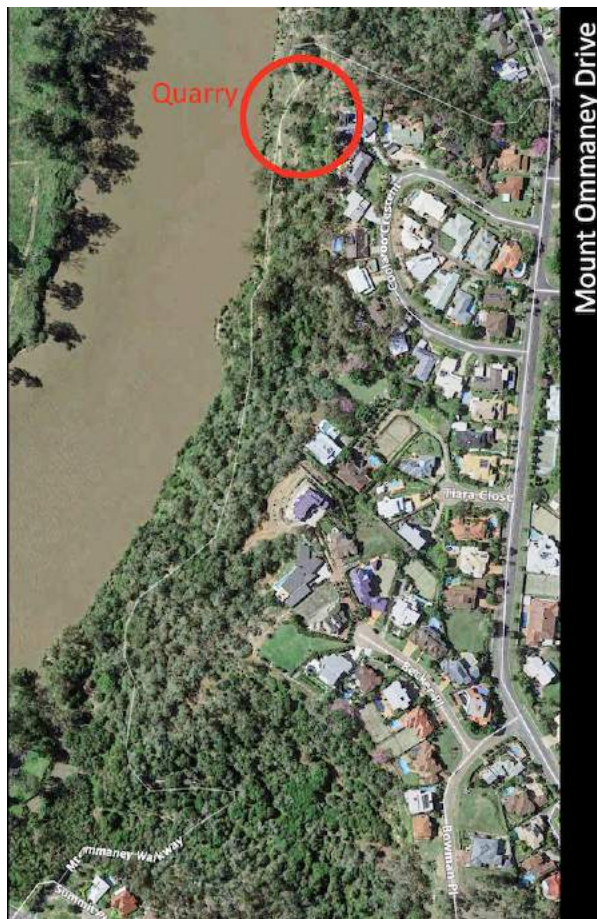
Sunday Morning, 7 June 2020
 Pooh Corner Environment
 Centre, Wolston Road, Wacol

World Environment Day is
 actually Friday, 5 June 2020
 and the UN Environment
 Committee is calling on
 citizens, companies and civil
 society groups to get out and
 organise clean-ups in their
 communities.

QUARRY: WILSONS WALKWAY - MOUNT OMMANEY BUSHLAND RESERVE

(Vaughan Kippers)

A friend of mine, Bryan Rhodes, often walks along Wilsons Walkway through the Mt Ommaney Bushland Reserve between Mount Ommaney Drive and Summit Place, Westlake. He recently asked me about the quarry near the Mount Ommaney end, about which I knew nothing.



*Wilsons Walkway
 (formerly Mt
 Ommaney Walkway)
 (Prepared from
 Google Earth © by
 Vaughan Kippers)*

So I consulted another Committee Member of CDEA, who is also Secretary of the Centenary Suburbs Historical Society Inc. (<https://cshsoc.org.au/>). Di Ruffles sent me some historical and geological information, on which I have based this short report.

The site of of the original quarry, where works commenced prior to 1915, was described as being “on the banks of the Brisbane River at Darra.” This area later became known as Jindalee, and now Mt Ommaney.

“Underneath the trees at the base of Mt. Ommaney where the river bends along Westlake, are the remnants of this old bluestone quarry which operated until the 1920s.” “Many relief workers got jobs during the Depression digging up material which was used to pave Brisbane’s roads. The quarry even had a concrete jetty, pier and a turning bay for boats.” These can be seen in the historical photograph of the quarry.



Northern cliff face of Mt. Ommaney Quarry site, (Photo © Vaughan Kippers 12:17, 12th August, 2019)



These guys were photographed around brew time in August 1915. (Collection: John Oxley Library, Brisbane)” (Step back in time, Mt Ommaney)

Interestingly, this photograph had to be flipped horizontally because it was published as a mirror image of the original. The following photo was taken 104 years later.



Concrete footings of what could have been the original jetty (Photo © Vaughan Kippers 12:18, 12th August, 2019)

Wilson’s Walkway is now a wonderful local attraction, which is highly recommended. All potential walkers should be aware that there is a long climb from the quarry to Mt Ommaney Drive, including a large staircase.



Mt. Ommaney Quarry site, looking downstream (North) (Photo © Vaughan Kippers 12:16, 12th August, 2019)

The rock material in the quarry is described as greywacke or bluestone, which are both sedimentary rocks, like sandstone. This hard rock is dark blue-grey in colour.

In 1967, Houston wrote a report (*Economic Geology of the City of Brisbane*, Government Printer) that recommended re-opening of the Mt. Ommaney quarry because there was sufficient rock material present!

WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE CHICKS

(Vaughan Kippers)

Earlier this year, my wife observed two adult wedge-tailed eagles from the dog off-leash park in Loffs Road, Westlake. They had a nest on the opposite side of the Brisbane River.



Dog park at bottom and nest near tree top on river bank, at top left (Prepared from Google Earth © by Vaughan Kippers)



Adult wedge-tailed eagle flying over Westlake, displaying its distinctive tail and large wingspan, which can be up to 2.3m (Photo © Vaughan Kippers 10:07 25th May, 2019)

For the past few months, we have been observing their two chicks. Although two or three eggs are often laid, normally only one chick survives, but this is dependent on conditions.



One of chicks preparing for its first flight. (Photo © Vaughan Kippers 07:54 11th October, 2019)

It takes about three months for the chicks to develop their feathers fully, ready for flight. However, they remain dependent on their parents for another three to six months.

Interestingly, Ed Parker wrote an article in June, 2000, on Australia's second largest raptor, the White-bellied Sea Eagle, which he observed nesting in a similar area to the one described in this article. The Wedge-tailed Eagle is Australia's largest raptor.

For further reference, the Australian Museum site has an article on the Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*). See https://australianmuseum.net.au/learn/animals/birds/wedge-tailed-eagle/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI59ugrIGE5glVjiQrCh3XXgCMEAAYASAAEgJEz_D_BwE



Two chicks waiting patiently to be fed. The chicks are fed directly by their parents for about five weeks. (Photo © Vaughan Kippers 08:34 8th October, 2019)

WHAT IS A WEED TREE?

(Vaughan Kippers)

On its web site, The Australian Government has defined a weed as “any plant that requires some form of action to reduce its effect on the economy, the environment, human health and amenity. Weeds are also known as invasive plants.” See <https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/weeds/what.html> .



Parent feeding two chicks on nest, which can weigh up to 400kg. (Photo © Vaughan Kippers 07:23 11th October, 2019)

In his May CDEA presentation, John Hall said the interpretation of this definition is partly subjective. As an example, the Camphor Laurel, which is classified as a weed, aids in regeneration of native species in the Northern Rivers District of New South Wales.

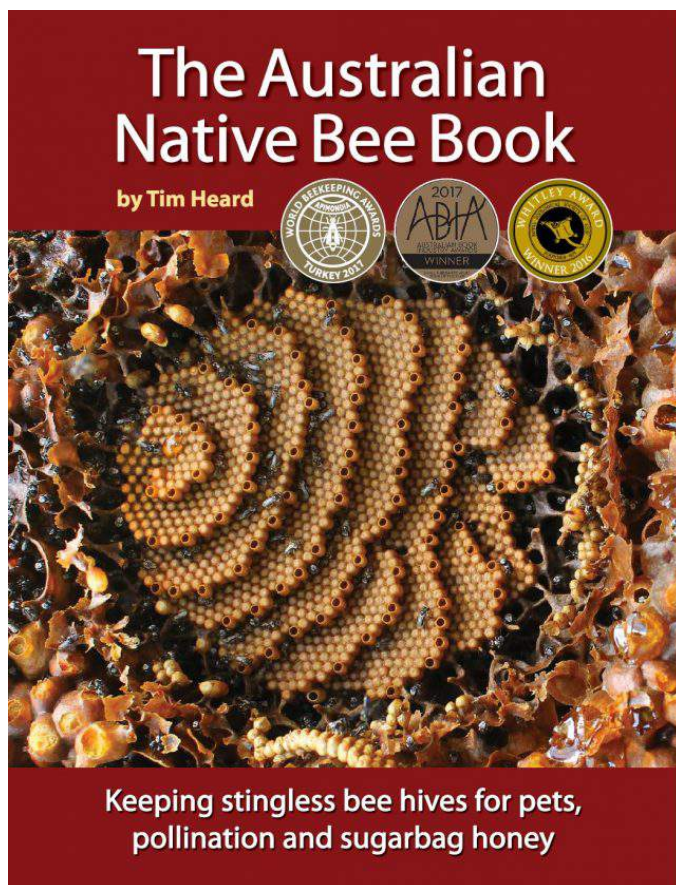
Many of us would be aware that there is continual updating of Brisbane City Council (BCC) lists of recommended and weed trees. On 31st October, Shealagh Walker alerted us to an article in the Northside Chronicle, headlined “Native trees should ‘be the default’ for Council not Jacarandas. Brisbane City Council will plant 13,500 new trees across the city in the next 12 months but one tiny sapling is causing a storm, prompting calls for one of the city’s most-loved species to be removed from the plant list forever.” Should Jacarandas, which are native to tropical and subtropical regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, be classified as a weed or a recommended street tree?

BCC has a Weed Identification Tool that lists 357 weed plants

(<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/browse/weeds?page=6>). The Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosaeifolia*) is on this list, but it is also on the BCC list of Types of Street Trees (<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/clean-and-green/natural-environment-and-water/plants-trees-and-gardens/brisbanes-trees/street-trees/types-of-street-trees>), as a tree that “must have more than 1.5 metres clearance from the kerb or footpath strip.” There is an additional note specifying that “Council does not plant jacaranda trees within one kilometre of natural areas and environmentally sensitive areas.”

The Australian Government web site points out that “Not all of Australia's weeds have come from other countries. Australian native plants can also become weeds when given the opportunity.” One such example is the Cadaghi (*Corymbia torelliana*), native to Far North Queensland, which was planted by BCC as a street tree in Westlake Drive. It is now classified as a weed tree, which led to BCC removing Cadaghis as street trees. If you “Google” cadaghi, you will find “*Corymbia torelliana*, cadaghi, or cadagi are an example of a native Australian tree that has become an invasive weed with invasive roots. An arborist tells why”, but when you access the web site, there is no explanation of its classification as a weed tree.

One reason for classifying Cadaghi as a weed was its proposed negative effect on native stingless bees, but Tim Heard, author of “The Australian Native Bee Book: Keeping Stingless Bee Hives for Pets, Pollination and Sugarbag Honey”, writes “I now doubt that cadaghi is a serious threat to stingless bee hives.” (p 193)



Other claimed adverse impacts include “black sooty mould fungus and attack by monolepta beetles and scale insects” (<http://www.davidmcminn.com/ngc/pages/cadaghi.htm>), which make it unsuitable as a street or garden tree. Also “Its large horizontal limbs are prone to snapping” (<http://arborage.com.au/2019/01/04/cadaghi/>). BCC recognises that not all weeds are equal so it has three classes of weeds – E, C & R, where E = requires early detection and eradication, C = containment and reduction recommended, and R = reduce population as part of routine maintenance (<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weed-classification#e>). Jacaranda and Cadaghi are both listed as environmental weeds but are species that are not in the Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014. Both are regulated under the *Natural Assets Local Law 2003*.