

Centenary and District Environment  
Action Incorporated  
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*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

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### Report it: Feral Animal Sightings via BCC website

See <https://forms.brisbane.qld.gov.au/report-it-feral-animal-sightings> (cut & paste)

“Use this form to report feral animal sightings within the Brisbane City Council area. Feral animals that you can report are:

- European red fox
- Feral deer
- Rabbits
- Feral cats
- Wild dogs.”

Also, “The FeralScan community pest animal monitoring resource (<https://www.feralscan.org.au/default.aspx>) has recently reached an amazing milestone – with over 250,000 records and photos submitted by people all across Australia. Information entered by you is helping communities, landholder groups, and local biosecurity organisations to reduce the problems caused by pest animals through coordinated best-practice pest management.”

## CDEA AGM

*(Shealagh Walker, President CDEA)*

CDEA is going to go ahead with its AGM. As you know, COVID-19 has meant public meetings have not been allowed in Queensland since March. The Queensland Government extended the time in which Annual General Meetings had to be held. The COVID-19 situation has improved to the point that some gatherings are now allowable.

**The AGM will be held on Saturday morning 28 November, to be held within COVID-19 protocols.** Only financial members can vote, so please renew your subscription.

It will be in the open-air Breezeway at the Pooch Corner Environment Centre, 100 Wolston Road, Wacol. Our usual venue in the Mount Ommaney Library meeting room has not been available, and probably won't be, for some time. The Breezeway has the capacity for 20 to 30 people to sit at 1.5 metre social distances and in the shade.

Before the AGM there will be the option of a Bush Walk through Pooch Corner. We will have refreshments in line with COVID-19 protocols. It will be really good to see everyone again!

## WILSONS WALKWAY IN THE MOUNT OMMANEY BUSHLAND RESERVE

*(Di Ruffles)*



**View of Brisbane River from bitumen path down to quarry (Photo © Vaughan Kippers, 06:52, 26 March, 2018)**

Wilson's Walkway in the Mt Ommaney Bushland Reserve is one of the best kept secrets in the Centenary suburbs, enjoyed by locals for over two decades! The walk provides stunning views of the Brisbane River, in addition to being a haven to a variety of native wildlife in their natural bushland environment.

The walkway is 1.2 kms long, primarily running adjacent to the Brisbane River from Summit Place off Westlake Drive to Mt Ommaney Drive. Vegetation is predominantly open-forest, although open-scrub and low open-woodland exists in small pockets.



**View of Brisbane River from quarry on Wilson's Walkway (Photo © Vaughan Kippers, 08:11, 9 March, 2018)**

The now bushland area also has a rich pioneering history. Midway through the walk the remnants of quarrying activity last century can still be seen (see Newsletter #40, Nov, 2019). The loading wharves and machinery have long disappeared - the quarried cliff face and cleared foreshore area below it are the only reminder of its past activity and an era when the Brisbane River was the main transport mode for all manner of cargo between Ipswich and Brisbane.

Mt Ommaney, which rises approximately 70 metres above the river, was originally named Green Mountain by John Oxley during his 1823 exploration of the Brisbane River as far upstream as Goodna in the *HMS Mermaid*. His report on this voyage of discovery mentions that he camped overnight near the creek which entered the Brisbane River at Mt Ommaney. This seasonal creek is now named Mt Ommaney Creek. A descriptive



**Four generations of John Oxley's descendants standing behind plaque at commemoration of John Oxley's landing in 1823, Summit Place, Mount Ommaney (Photo © Vaughan Kippers 11:24, 3 Dec, 2011)**

## John Oxley

The Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve is sited adjacent to the Brisbane River and the mouth of Mount Ommaney Creek.

John Joseph William Molesworth Oxley set out from Sydney in October 1823 aboard HM Cutter "Mermaid" in search of suitable sites for convict settlements.

On 3 December 1823, Oxley landed and ascended to the summit of Mount Ommaney to take his compass bearings, describing it in his logbook as 'the Green Hill'.

On a return journey in 1824, accompanied by renowned botanist Alan Cunningham, Oxley again travelled to the Brisbane River and camped in this area on September 17.

John Oxley was born in 1784 and died on 26 May 1828. Oxley entered the Royal Navy as a midshipman at the age of 15 and in 1812 was appointed Surveyor-General of lands in New South Wales.

Project initiated by Julie Attwood MP Member for Mount Ommaney and funded by the Department of Public Works, Queensland Government.

## **Inscription on plaque commemorating John Oxley's landing.**

commemorative plaque was unveiled on 3 December, 2011, acknowledging his stay and can be found at the Summit Place end of the walkway (see Newsletter #33, Feb, 2018).

The Mt Ommaney Bushland Reserve was declared by the Brisbane City Council for preservation as an area of natural environment and in 1996 Council completed the construction of the pathways and



stepped boardwalk at the Mt Ommaney Drive end of the walkway. Shortly after its completion, at the instigation of newly arrived residents Noel and Claire Wilson, the Jindalee Bushcare Group was formed and under the auspices of Habitat Brisbane commenced the restoration and regeneration of the area to its natural state. The Jindalee Bushcare Group, which continues to maintain the bushland, is one of the original and most successful bushcare groups in Brisbane (see Newsletter #45, Aug, 2020).

Removal of pest plants and weeds, such as lantana and cat's claw creeper, were a mammoth task but perseverance was rewarded and replanting of plant species native to the area was undertaken. The "before" and "after" photos at the Summit Place end of the walkway are testament to the resolve the group has shown.



**Planting at Summit Place, now known as Wiley's Scrub (Photo © Noel Wilson, Oct, 1999). Take a walk to view this area today.**

This work continues today but has faced challenges over the years from feral animal invaders, droughts and floods. The abandoned quarry section of the walkway suffered considerable degradation during the 2011 floods, which made access and enjoyment of the walkway a challenge for anyone but the fittest and bravest! Brisbane City Council completed restoration work in August 2015.

As a result of two decades of continual regeneration work, the bushland is again home to an increasing range of birdlife - over 80 species of birds have been identified by bird watching groups who regularly visit the area and update their findings.

In October 2006, Bachelor of Applied Science (Protected Management) Honours student, Kirsty Pappalardo undertook part of her thesis - The Impact of Road Barriers on Animal Movement in Urban Wildlife Corridors - in the Mt Ommaney Bushland Reserve, as well as the adjacent Macleod Golf Course, Peter Lightfoot Oval & Horizon Bushland Reserve. Passive soil plots, faecal transects and trapping efforts were used to identify the presence of animal species, their habitat preference, as well as activity levels and patterns of wildlife movement along the corridor. Her findings identified (in order of abundance): deer, macropod, hare, bird, fox, possum, bandicoot, amphibian, rodent, snake, lizard, domestic cat and domestic dog.

Of the species she identified, it was a disturbing confirmation of the ongoing problem experienced with feral deer, the numbers of which continue to increase and cause considerable damage through ringbarking of native trees as well as degradation of the slopes. Brisbane City Council is aware of this increasing population and some action has been taken to address the issue, but the Jindalee Bushcare Group continues to press for an appropriate solution.

Mount Ommaney Walkway was renamed Wilsons Walkway on 8 September 2018 to honour Noel and Claire Wilson, following a proposal to Brisbane City Council by their family, to acknowledge their considerable contribution to the restoration and preservation of the local bushland environment (see Newsletter #36, Nov, 2018). CDEA is currently in consultation with Council to install a descriptive sign for both entrances to the walkway.

## **IS IT A KOALA, OR IS IT A KANGAROO?**

*(Shealagh Walker)*

With the lack of rain this year, kangaroos from Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve have literally been in search of greener pastures and they are finding them in Riverhills, lovely mown parks and watered lawns. The big

problem is that kangaroos are big animals and if you hit them with your big car, it's a big deal for all involved.

Since early this year, Riverhills residents near the river end of Sumners Road have been asking council to erect some street signs to warn motorists about the kangaroos that frequently cross the road along there. Unfortunately, there was no budget at the time so they were informed that they needed to wait. At the busier, highway end of Sumners Road, sometimes a temporary flashing sign was placed next to the road for a week or so then removed.

As an interim solution towards the river end of Sumners Road, a concerned and enterprising local resident made some very eye-catching kangaroo warning signs; they even had an abundance of reflective tape on them!



**Kangaroo warning sign on median strip of Sumners Road, Riverhills (Photo © Shealagh Walker 11:27, 2 March, 2020)**

Life went on, then in early August, great excitement - two sets of temporary flashing signs were put up on Sumners Road, one outside the servo and another outside Middle Park State School: "SLOW DOWN, WATCH FOR KOALAS". Really? *Facebook 4074 and Beyond* lit up! It turned out that the contractors who put up the temporary



**Temporary electronic sign in Sumners Road, Riverhills (Photos © Warner & Tricia Dakin, 6 Aug, 2020)**

flashing signs for Brisbane City Council all over Brisbane, had got the sign mixed up with one for somewhere else. It was quickly corrected and 'koala' became 'kangaroo'.

Within days, permanent fixed kangaroo warning signs had been installed outside the servo and further along Sumners Road just past the bus turn-around, near the park the kangaroos like to visit. Excellent!



**Permanent "Kangaroos – Slow Down" Sign in Sumners Road, Riverhills (Photo © Shealagh Walker 12:18, 28 September, 2020)**

Of course, there are more measures that could be employed to keep kangaroos off our roads but signs are a good start. They create awareness of where big animals cross roads and remind motorists when they forget or don't know. In time, more measures will be taken, making the kangaroos and the people all safer.

In Newsletter #35 (Aug, 2018) there was a photo of a large Wildlife sign painted on Wacol Station Road, Riverhills. Similar warning signs are painted on Wolston Road and Wilruna Street, Wacol.