

Centenary and District Environment  
 Action Incorporated  
**PO Box 432**

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**CDEA Public Meeting**

**We're back! We hope!**

We have booked Mount Ommaney Library for our first Public Meeting of 2021, which is scheduled for 7.30pm, Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. Put this in your diary now.

If there is a recurrence of COVID-19, we may have to change the venue.

As usual, we anticipate having an interesting guest speaker. This will be announced in the February, 2021, Newsletter.



**RECENT TREE PLANTING**

*(Vaughan Kippers, Editor)*

On the morning of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, Treescape planted 30 trees along the path in **Riverview Farm Park**, leading from the end of Loffs Road toward the playground at 121 Wendouree Crescent, Westlake. Three species were included in the planting, including **12 silky oaks** (*Grevillea robusta*).



**Looking west from Loffs Road, down path through Riverview Farm Park. The native silky oaks are on the left and the exotic pink trumpet trees are on the right of the path. (Photo © Vaughan Kippers, 08:11, 20 November, 2020)**

There is a 32m tall silky oak in Brisbane City Botanic Gardens (Alice Street). According to the National Trust, "This Silky Oak is a good example of the largest of Australia's grevilleas. The species was identified by explorer and botanist Alan Cunningham in the Moreton Bay area at the time of his explorations in 1827 to 1829. During his journeying he established a route from the new settlement to the Darling Downs through the pass that bears his name. The Silky Oak's distribution is restricted to rainforests from central New South Wales to central Queensland. It was highly valued for its distinctive silky-textured timber and its spectacular yellow brush-like racemes. In its natural state it has become quite rare, although it is frequently planted in streets, parks and gardens."

(copy & paste -

[https://trusstrees.org.au/tree/QLD/Brisbane/Brisbane\\_City\\_Botanic\\_Gardens\\_Alice\\_Street\\_2](https://trusstrees.org.au/tree/QLD/Brisbane/Brisbane_City_Botanic_Gardens_Alice_Street_2))

**Eleven pink trumpet trees** (*Tabebuia palmeri*) were also planted along the footpath in the park. They are “A medium deciduous South American tree (8-12 metres). In spring it produces a stunning display of pink flowers with a tubular, bell-like shape similar to a trumpet. It is best suited to larger areas as a feature/specimen tree, ideal for coastal as well as inland gardens and tolerant of salty soils.” It is planted as a shade tree along roadsides, and has non-invasive roots. (copy & paste - <https://emahotrees.com.au/products/tabebuia-palmerii-pink-trumpet-tree> ). If you would like to see local examples of the pink trumpet trees, they have been planted as street trees along Seventeen Mile Rocks Road, although CDEA promotes using local native species as street trees to bolster and support the local wildlife and suburb character.

**Seven Water Gums or Kanooka** (*Tristaniopsis laurina*) were also planted in the Loffs Road dog off-leash area.



**Native water gums planted in north-west corner of dog off-leash park. (Photo © Vaughan Kippers, 08:12, 20 November, 2020)**

According to the Australian National Botanic Gardens, “The forest tree *Tristaniopsis laurina*, commonly known as the Kanooka or Water Gum, belongs to the Myrtaceae family, and is related to the eucalypts. It occurs naturally on moist, well-drained sites along the east coast of Australia, from the Brisbane River in Queensland, through coastal New South Wales to the Gippsland region of Victoria. It is commonly found growing along creek banks and in rainforest openings in light shade to full sunlight. The species grows from 5 m to 15 m in height, is ideally suited to a large garden, and has also been planted as a street tree in Sydney. It grows slowly and rarely attains a large size in southern Australia.” (copy & paste - <https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/gnp10/tristaniopsis-laurina.html>).

If you would like to see local examples of the water gums, they have been planted as some of the street trees along the northern side of Horizon Drive between Tennent and Tekapo Streets.

Since the plantings, local dog owners and walkers have expressed their appreciation of the Brisbane City Council’s initiative. In the future, walkers will appreciate the shade and the visual amenity/beauty they add to the park, and the colourful birds they attract.

## **WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE CHICK**

(Vaughan Kippers, Editor)

We first reported on two wedge-tailed eagle chicks last year (see CDEA Newsletter #40 Nov, 2019, pp 2-3) and then earlier this year (CDEA Newsletter #42, Feb, 2020, p 2)

John & Beverley Tainton drew our attention to a new chick in late September, 2020. Their son, Geoff, took photos and a video from the riverbank near a bench in Riverview Farm Park on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. Despite being in the Loffs Road dog off-leash area almost every morning, it was not until 31<sup>st</sup> October that I was able to take this photo.



**Wedge-tailed eagle chick testing its wings on nest on opposite side of the Brisbane River. (Photo © Vaughan Kippers, 08:17, 31 October, 2020)**

The following morning, my wife and I observed the chick on a nearby branch, after which it took off on its maiden flight. We did not see it again until the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> November. At least, we think the single wedge-tailed eagle flying around was the juvenile.

## TIMARU CLOSE PARK

*(Vaughan Kippers, Editor)*

Until recently, **59 Carnegie Street** was unsigned with a residential-type front fence. In late October, the Brisbane City Council made a new boundary with wooden bollards and a gate, and put up a new sign to indicate that this is part of Timaru Close Park.



*Gate, bollards and sign at 59 Carnegie Street, Westlake, indicating it is part of Timaru Close Park. (Photo © Vaughan Kippers, 13:58, 27 October, 2020).*

How far is it from here to Timaru Close? You can take an easy stroll 500 metres along Carnegie Street or take the more adventurous route downstream along the riverbank within Timaru Close Park. This was reported on in CDEA Newsletter #42 (February, 2020, pp 1-2).

## RIVER WALKS IN CENTENARY SUBURBS

*(Vaughan Kippers, Editor)*

There are five major walks along various reaches of the Brisbane River in our local area.

The **Coucal Trail** (see CDEA Newsletter #42, February, 2020, p 2) through Barcoorah Street Park overlooks Pullen Reach of the Brisbane River and is an easy walk. The Westlake Riverhills Bushcare Group (see CDEA Newsletters #38, February, 2019, p 4 & #43, April, 2020, pp 1-4) helps look after this park.

**Wilsons Walkway** is also a relatively easy walk with views of Mount Ommaney Reach (see CDEA Newsletters #36, November, 2018, p 5; #40, November, 2019, pp 1-2, &

#46, October, 2020, pp 1-3). Jindalee Bushcare Group helps look after Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve (see CDEA Newsletter #45, August, 2020, pp 3-4).

**Timaru Close Park** runs along the riverbank adjacent to Two Mile Reach and a walk along here is not for the faint hearted!

There's also a bike/walking path between the **Jindalee Boat Ramp** and **Riverside Rocks Park**, passing along Mount Ommaney Drive, then through **Jindalee Park (Wyaribah)**, **Koorungal Drive**, **Pioneer Belz Park**, which is a **Jindalee Creek Bushcare Group** restoration site, and **Amazons Place Park** in Sinnamon Park. This walk consists of bitumen and concrete paths.

## QUEENSLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AGENDA FOR THE NEXT QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

*(Vaughan Kippers, Editor)*

Individuals cannot join QCC as members, but CDEA is a member. From the **QCC website** [https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/environment\\_agenda](https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/environment_agenda) (copy & paste): "Queensland is facing unprecedented challenges, with an economy and community disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and disasters driven by climate change such as the widespread, devastating bushfires of last summer, and the third mass coral bleaching on our iconic Great Barrier Reef that followed.

We have seen the possibility of bold government action, where a reliance on science and expertise has given our political leaders the confidence to radically change the status-quo in order to protect life and avoid the most devastating consequence of COVID-19.

The next Queensland Government should act with the same bold confidence to create new jobs and sustain our quality of life by transitioning our economy to net-zero climate pollution, develop the renewable energy generation to realise our potential as a Renewable Superpower, and create a fairer, healthier, more democratic and equitable state.

Any economic stimulus should deliver community and ecological benefits as well as



**Ten crucial environment issues identified by the Queensland Conservation Council prior to recent State Government election ([https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/environment\\_agenda](https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/environment_agenda) - copy & paste)**

jobs. This crisis is an opportunity, and we need a government confident enough to act with a positive vision of, transforming Queensland to a state that leads the world in protecting our reef and our environment, transitioning our energy systems and our cities and towns, and creating the technology and community necessary to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

We believe boldly seizing the agenda outlined within offers a way to create employment opportunities, develop a sustainable economy, increase the resilience and health of our Queensland population and build a fairer community for everyone. This agenda, covering 10 crucial environment issues, has to be part of how the next Queensland Government works to unite and recover from the Covid pandemic. This is how we build back better.”

I have chosen a few of the Agenda items to see how they relate to environmental issues within Centenary & Districts. This is certainly not an extensive list.

Preserving and protecting the **Native Vegetation** that remains in the Centenary and surrounding suburbs has been an ongoing battle, during which there have been a number of “wins”. As the result of community action, we have a number of riverside bushland areas mentioned on the previous page.

In addition, there is **Westlake Bush Park** in

Horizon Drive, **Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve** from Tomkins Road to Riverpoint Boulevard, Riverhills, **Edenbrooke Park, Fort Road Bushland** in Cliveden Avenue, Oxley, **Rikki Bailey Park**, Oxley, **Pooh Corner** in Wolston Road, Wacol, and many more that contain tracks used regularly for walking. The **Pooh Corner Environment Centre** is the headquarters of **Wolston and Centenary Catchments** (*copy & paste* - <https://www.wacc.org.au>) and is a hub for local environmental action.

According to the Queensland Conservation Council **Protected Areas** Agenda issue, “Despite being Australia’s most biologically diverse state, Queensland is failing to deliver a protected area network adequate to address the increasing threats from habitat destruction, invasive species and climate change.” CDEA has mounted a campaign for over ten years, for the Brisbane City Council to manage 200 hectares of land between the Brisbane Correctional Centre and the Brisbane River, to encourage the kangaroos. The Wacol Eastern Grey kangaroo population is already the largest in the coastal regions of Australia and could become a major tourist attraction. We will hear more about this campaign in a forthcoming Newsletter.

The Agenda issues include **Healthy Rivers**: “Rivers are the lifeblood of our landscapes. While many of our state’s rivers have been degraded by pollution, vegetation clearing and excessive water use, we still have free-flowing rivers that are among the best in the world.” **Wolston and Centenary Catchments** (WaCC) is concerned about many of the local creeks including Wolston Creek.