

Centenary and District Environment
 Action Incorporated
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Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday 25th February, 2021 at
 7.30pm in Pooh Corner
 Environment Centre Breezeway,
 100 Wolston Road, Wacol (RSVP
 required for COVID-safe plan; see
 Meeting Flyer for information)

Guest Presenter: **Professor
 Myron (Meron) Zalucki**, The
 University of Queensland -
 “Butterfly Population
 Dynamics: Stability, Outbreaks
 and Extinctions”.

Professor Zalucki’s research falls
 under the rubric of insect
 population ecology, with a leaning
 towards plant feeding insects,
 which has both theoretical and
 applied aspects: from conservation
 to pest management. The research
 questions have been deceptively
 simple to ask but difficult to
 answer. Why do some plants get
 more eggs laid on them than
 others? Why did the caterpillar die?
 What is a population? Where do
 infesting populations come from or
 just how far does a butterfly fly?

CDEA WEBSITE

(Vaughan Kippers, Editor)

I would like to thank Brian Korner for his efforts in upgrading our website (<http://www.cdea.org.au/>), which has all newsletter issues archived (<https://www.cdea.org.au/cdea4/index.php/cdea-newsletters>). Simply scroll down to find an issue, listed in reverse chronological order (newest first); but visitors to the site can select from a number of different options via the drop-down box at the bottom of the listing page. To help you find specific articles, there is now an index with the following **Content Headings**:

- Awards (to groups and individuals)
- Book Reviews
- Bushcare Groups
- Campaigns & Projects
- CDEA Public Presentations
- Creeks & Rivers
- Environmental Organisations/Groups
- Flood Effects – 2011
- Functions/Acknowledgement
- News/Announcements
- Parks, Reserves & Open Spaces
- People
 - Authors/Photographers
 - Subjects
- Plants
- Suburbs (Streets)
- Tracks, Trails & Walks
- Wildlife



LOCAL PARKS

(Vaughan Kippers, Editor)

When preparing the index, I realised that there were many parks in Centenary and District, which had never been mentioned in CDEA Newsletters, so I thought it would be appropriate to have an ongoing series on the parks of the area, **with the help of readers of this Newsletter**.

To find a local park you can go to the BCC website (<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks>). Brisbane City Council maintains more than 2000 parks across Brisbane, with over 100 in Centenary and District.

You can find parks listed by suburb at <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb>.

Information includes the official park name, location and a list of park facilities. This list can be very limited or quite extensive. Specifically, the parks in **Centenary and District** are:

Centenary Suburbs

Jamboree Heights – 2 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/jamboree-heights-parks>

Jindalee – 9 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/jindalee-parks>

Middle Park – 7 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/middle-park-parks>

Mount Ommaney – 3 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/mount-ommaney-parks>

Riverhills – 4 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/riverhills-parks>

Westlake – 6 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/westlake-parks>

Western District

Darra – 12 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/darra-parks>

Oxley – 28 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/oxley-parks>

Seventeen Mile Rocks – 5 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/seventeen-mile-rocks-parks>

Sinnamon Park – 14 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/sinnamon-park-parks>

Southern District

Sumner – 3 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/sumner-parks>

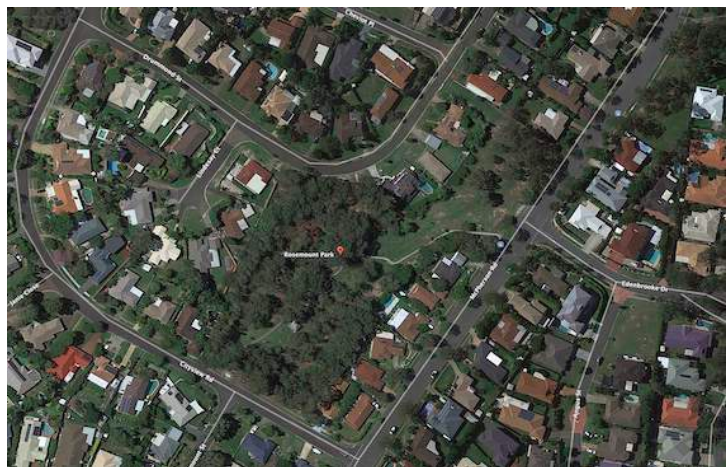
Wacol – 10 official parks. See: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/parks-by-suburb/wacol-parks>

If any reader would like to write about their local or favourite park, please submit a brief article including a summary of the facilities, what you like about the park, any projects that have occurred in this park, and any suggested improvements. Please submit to editor@cdea.org.au .

In the Index, you will see that the **Sinnamon Park Residents Progress Association** (SPRPA) is mentioned five times. I contacted Lindsay Brown who was the President more than twenty years ago. In my discussion with him, he told me about a tree planting that occurred during the late 90s. I asked if he could write an article about this project, which he agreed to do. Geoff Fett is now the President of SPRPA.

A PARK IN SINNAMON PARK – ROSEMOUNT PARK

(Lindsay Brown)



Rosemount Park has entrances from Drummond Street, Cityview Road & McPherson Road. (Prepared from Google Earth © by Vaughan Kippers)

The Sinnamon family were one of the pioneering families of the area known as Seventeen Mile Rocks, with James Sinnamon Sr purchasing four blocks during 1865 and 1866. James Sr and his wife, Margaret, had migrated from (Northern) Ireland with his 10 (later 11) children in 1862. James and his sons developed prosperous farms, embracing dairying, small cropping, and horse-breeding. They named their properties after places in Ireland, including Glen Ross, Avondale and Rosemount. These names have now been commemorated in the residential development of Sinnamon Park, officially named and bounded as a suburb on 13 May, 1989. The number of residents doubled between 1991 and 2004. The official population at the 2016 census was 6,419. Sinnamon Park is included in the Jamboree Ward of the Brisbane City Council. The older residential parts of the suburb were set out during the time of Councillors Phil Denman (1976-1991) and Christine Watson (1991-2000). In particular, Christine Watson

worked with the Sinnamon Park Residents Progress Association (SPRPA), formed in the late 1980's, to improve facilities available to the residents, especially the young children.

In the late 1980's and 1990's, one of the major concerns of residents was the provision of parks for recreation. Areas for parks were included in the approved plans from AV Jennings, but improvements were minimal. It was widely rumoured that the only work on the designated parks was the removal of the limited topsoil for separate sale! Cr Watson came to most of the Resident Association meetings, usually held in private homes in the suburb. By mid- to late 1991, out of these discussions came a plan to plant trees, with Rosemount Park as the initial trial site. There was remarkable enthusiasm from Cr Watson and the BCC staff as well as from Sinnamon Park residents. The BCC agreed to dig the holes for the trees in the park – a major task as the land was relatively barren. They also provided the trees and the mulch. In return, the residents agreed to provide the labour to plant the trees.

There had been so many discussions but this was still the plan of a group of amateurs, and social messaging hadn't been invented. When the big day came for planting, I was nervous that perhaps we hadn't got the message out to the residents. We went to the park area but there were only a few people there, including Cr Watson, but lots of holes and trees. We started to plant the trees and the residents started to arrive so that we ended up with around 40 volunteers, if my memory is correct. It was a



Trees in Rosemount Park, 27 Drummond Street, Sinnamon Park. (Photo © Vaughan Kippers, 13:50, 14 January, 2021)

long day but I think we planted around 200 native trees.

The next issue was how to improve the chances for the trees to survive. Cr Watson had been involved with previous park plantings with success rates much below 50%. So how could that be improved? Cr Watson arranged with BCC for a novel trial that home-owners bordering the park would receive a long hose and their water rates would be capped at the last quarter's amount for 2 or 3 quarters so that they could water the new trees. Did it work? It was a spectacular success with the loss of only a few trees. The BCC later set up a barbecue and a children's play area as further improvements.



(Photo © Vaughan Kippers, 13:52, 14 Jan, 2021)

This activity turned the park from a bare unfriendly area to a superb park with a great range of native trees. It's a shady area with lots of birds. The reasons for the success lie with the enthusiasm of the residents and Cr Watson, the willingness of BCC staff to help and the great idea to encourage watering the new trees. So please visit the park to see what can be done with co-operation. Could this model work for your local park?



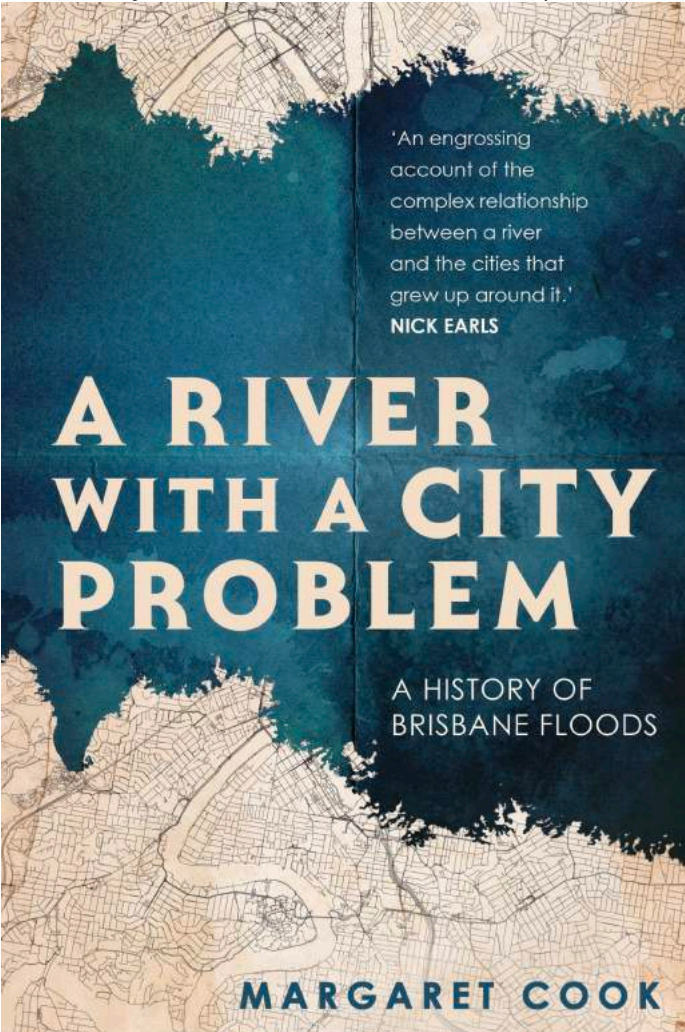
(Photo © Vaughan Kippers, 13:51, 14 Jan, 2021)

BOOK REVIEWS

If you look in the Index under "Book Reviews", you will see only one previous entry. I am keen to receive book reviews from readers who have recently read a book with an environmental flavour. **Please submit to editor@cdea.org.au** .

A RIVER WITH A CITY PROBLEM: A HISTORY OF BRISBANE FLOODS

Written by Margaret Cook (Brisbane: University of Queensland Press, 2019)



The overview from the publisher states

"When floods devastated South East Queensland in 2011, who was to blame? Despite the inherent risk of living on a floodplain, most residents had pinned their hopes on Wivenhoe Dam to protect them, and when it failed to do so, dam operators were blamed for the scale of the catastrophic events that followed.

A River with a City Problem is a compelling history of floods in the Brisbane River catchment, especially those in 1893, 1974 and 2011. Extensively researched, it

highlights the force of nature, the vagaries of politics and the power of community. With many river cities facing urban development challenges, Cook makes a convincing argument for what must change to prevent further tragedy."

Reviewed by Shealagh Walker

This is an eye-opening book which warns us that floods will come again to the Brisbane River valley and why. Margaret Cook's revelations will be uncomfortable to all the various governments, councils and other authorities who have planned the city and allowed construction along the river right up to the present time, particularly in Brisbane.

Ever since British explorer, John Oxley, decided in 1823 that the river valley provided an excellent site for a settlement, things were set up for future disasters. Until then the local Aboriginal people had built their camps high above the watercourse and moved with the seasons. They warned the colonists of previous floods but their advice went unheeded and the new settlement was built right up to the river banks. This ignoring of good advice has continued since then, to the detriment of people and property.

Margaret was five when she experienced the 1974 Brisbane floods, and in the 2011 Brisbane River flood, she was holidaying in Western Australia and felt even more useless than before. With a PhD in history and a passion for environmental and social history, her review of the *The Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry of 2011 and 2012* led her to believe the hazards of settling on a floodplain had been largely overlooked. This prompted her to research and write this well-referenced book. She takes a new perspective of the situation and acknowledges that the river came first, long before humans occupied its banks, hence the title.

We need to acknowledge Margaret Cook's information and must not let it be distorted or to drift to the back of our minds yet again. **A RIVER WITH A CITY PROBLEM** is a must-read for anyone who lives in the Brisbane River valley, or near any river really.