



# NEWSLETTER

Issue 50  
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Centenary and District Environment  
Action Incorporated

PO Box 432

Mount Ommaney Qld 4074

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*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

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**CDEA IS 25 YEARS OLD!**

## CDEA AGM

**Day: Sunday 28 November  
2021**

**Place: Pooh Corner  
Environment  
Centre, 100 Wolston  
Road, Wacol**

**Program: 9.30 am – AGM  
10.00 am – Guided  
Bushwalk  
through  
Pooh Corner  
Bushland  
Reserve  
About 11.00 am –  
Picnic at Pooh  
Corner after the  
bushwalk.**

**Everyone Welcome!**

## 2021 – A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS!?

*(Vaughan Kippers, Editor)*

Globally, 2021 has not been a year for celebrations, but locally, we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of Centenary and District Environment Action Inc (CDEA), and this special 50th Issue marks 15 years since the publication of Issue 1 of the CDEA Newsletter in May, 2006.

In this article, I will concentrate on the evolution of this Newsletter. The first Newsletter was edited by Jos Hall and it announced the AGM, at which there was a guest speaker. The six-page newsletter included a variety of environmental articles, a list of upcoming events, and a membership form.

# CDEA Newsletter



**Centenary and District Environment Action Inc.**

May 2006—Issue 1

## CDEA General Meeting

7.30pm 25 May

at the Meeting Room BCC Library

Mt Ommaney Shopping Centre

Guest Speaker - Monika Rhodes MSc

### "Micro Bats - Their Place and Survival in the Urban Setting"

It is now easy for readers of this newsletter to find old articles via the index, which is updated with the release of each Issue. One article of special local interest in the first issue was titled "Excitement of the Mt Ommaney Trail" (now named Wilsons Walkway), written by David Niland from Birds Queensland. It contained a list of 42 species that had been seen and/or heard.

There was a second Newsletter in 2006 and then a further six in 2007, followed by four in 2008. For the last issue of 2008 (#12), Jos Hall and Julie Vejle were joint editors.

By 2010, CDEA had a web presence, and it was shown in Issue 18 (May, 2010), that Brian Korner had assumed the position of Web Editor. As the Web Master, he updated the CDEA site in late 2012, and has continued to do so.

Year/s	Issues	Editor
2006-12	1-26	Jos Hall
2008-13	12,14,16-28	Julie Vejle
2010-11	19-24	Shealagh Walker
2015-16	29-32	Ynes Sanz
2018-21	33-50	Vaughan Kippers



(Photo © [https://twitter.com/jos\\_hall](https://twitter.com/jos_hall) )

For many years, **Jos Hall** has been passionate about a range of environmental and health issues. She has been a candidate for the Greens in past State elections and for the past seven years has been President of Dying With Dignity QLD Inc. The Queensland Parliament recently passed the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021, although access to voluntary assisted dying will not be available until 1 January 2023.

**Julie Vejle** has been involved in local environmental activities since early 2003 when she joined the Jindalee Bushcare Group, and has been a productive member of the WaCC Committee for a number of years. Julie nominated WaCC and they were awarded the Jamboree Community Award in 2018, which was presented by Cr Matthew Bourke. Julie is presently organiser of the Wolston Creek Bushcare Group.



**Shealagh Walker** has been President of CDEA since its inception, and was Newsletter Editor of its forerunner, Centenary Riverfront Advisory Committee. She is organiser of Jindalee Bushcare Group, and continues to be a strong advocate for local environmental issues.



(Photo © <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY0ZIsU72mM>)

**Ynes Sanz** has worked as a town planner, a teacher and a counsellor. She is an author and was Poet-in-Residence for a year at The Royal Mail Hotel, Goodna.



(Photo © Vaughan Kippers 17 Sept 2021 11:54)

**Vaughan Kippers** has been a member of the Jindalee Bushcare Group for over 20 years, and joined the CDEA Committee in 2017, after which he accepted nomination as Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter had not been published since 2016, so it was resurrected in February, 2018. Vaughan would like to publicise environmental issues to as large a group of local residents as possible, so feedback is encouraged.

I have recently been given some historic newsletters from the forerunner to CDEA – CRAC (Centenary Riverfront Advisory Committee), which should be mentioned in this celebratory edition of our newsletter.

“News from C.R.A.C.” was published during 1996 & 1997. It is thought that **Shirley Gilkens** edited the first few issues. Previously, Shirley had been one of the film makers of a 1989 Brisbane documentary entitled “Art and Working Life – Art Works: A May Day Project”.

CRAC and its subsequent newsletter were started by Councillor Christine Watson as a result of conflicts between council and residents about the management of riverfront land in Jindalee Ward. Residents did not want a walkway along their river frontages in Jindalee and were angry when construction started without any consultation. CRAC was created in 1996 to look into the issue and the newsletter soon followed. In April 1996, CRAC was formed at a public meeting where there were 44 attendees with the following people voted onto the committee: President - Walter Wood; Vice President - Geoff Rudd; Secretary - Shirley Gilkens; Treasurer - Ray Lane, plus; James Chen, Alan Dick, Maria Delahunty and Leighton Brough.

The inaugural management team of CRAC did their homework and were certainly “hands-on”. From Volume 1, Issue 1: “In an effort to improve our knowledge of the total area embraced by CRAC, the Management team have walked the full length of the new Mt Ommaney pathway. The pathway was in great shape and no doubt will be of great benefit to the community, however, the volume of noxious weed in that area was surprising.” Jindalee Bushcare Group is still looking after Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve and Wilsons Walkway, which, as Mt Ommaney Walkway, was started in 1995.

The first CRAC Management Team “also inspected the area of parkland being cared for by S O R B (Save Our Riverside Bushland - the community bushland care group) in the Riverhills/Westlake area”. The Westlake Riverhills Bushcare Group continues to look after the Coucal Trail and adjacent bushland.

“The second outing for the team was a boat trip up the river from Boat Ramp Park. This

3 provided first hand sighting of the riverbank and the community open space and encroachments. We also sighted various areas of land-slip indicating an unstable riverbank in certain areas. The management team have the view that our role will be in a long-term advisory capacity to the Brisbane City Council and other government bodies through their local representatives.” (Volume 1, Issue 1). CDEA continues this role today and into the future.

In April 1998, CRAC published Issue No. 1 of its newsletter, with Shealagh Savage (now Walker) as editor. “The Centenary Riverfront Advisory Committee (CRAC) was formed in August, 1995 in response to a strongly felt need for a group to act as a “watchdog for the river”. CRAC’s purpose is to oversee development and provide a forum for residents’ views and wishes with regard to the river which is such a feature of the lifestyle of our suburbs.”

Shealagh continued her role as editor of the Newsletter until Issue 16 in February 2004, after which there was a hiatus until May, 2006 when Jos Hall edited the new Issue 1 (see Page 1). I would like to see all newsletters from 1996 to 2004 included on the CDEA website in the future, with all articles listed in the index for easy reference.

## SIGNBOARD FOR MOUNT OMMANEY WALKWAY

Jindalee Bushland Care Group (JBCG) has been successful in obtaining a Brisbane City Council Environmental Grant for the placement of a sign board at the Jindalee entrance of the walkway. This board will inform track users of:

- points of interest along the walkway
- forthcoming activities of JBCG
- other matters relating to bushland care in Brisbane generally.

Despite difficult weather conditions the group has had two successful work days so far this year. Work done includes the usual mundane but essential weed-pulling as well as ongoing planting of suitable vegetation in areas previously cleared of smothering weeds and grasses. The plastic tubes which are appearing in greater numbers protect new eucalypt seedlings from hungry wallabies. Their presence, a reassuring aspect of our work, is also confirmed by droppings left in various places from time to time.





**Tents outside Pooh Corner Environment Centre, 100 Wolston Road, Wacol (Photo © Shealagh Walker 6 June 2021 8:28)**

## **LOADS OF FUN AT THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION AT POOH CORNER!**

*(Shealagh Walker)*

A wonderful World Environment Day Celebration was enjoyed by over 200 people on 6 June earlier this year! Centenary and District Environment Action (CDEA) with Wolston and Centenary Catchments (WaCC), joined forces with Cr Sarah Hutton and had the support of the Lord Mayor's Community Fund. CDEA and WaCC always have a big outdoor event once a year, but teaming up with Jamboree Ward made this one definitely the biggest and grandest we've ever been a part of!



**Guests enjoying various displays (Photo © Shealagh Walker 6 June 2021, 11:03)**

The day started early at 7 am with two groups of keen birdwatchers led by expert birders, Richard Fuller and Mike Bennett. It was very encouraging to see so many children as well as adults going off with their binoculars to see and learn about local birds. Over 35 different species were spotted in a couple of hours, which is remarkable. Not to mention, experiencing a very pleasant bush walk.

This was closely followed by a Kids' Environment Hunt which involved spotting fluffy toy native animals hidden along part of the track, all actually found at Pooh Corner in real life. The game was thoroughly enjoyed, that is except by the local noisy miners that were outraged by a fluffy toy koala in one of their trees; they dive-bombed it mercilessly! A butcher bird had a good peck at its nose before they all moved on to see off the invading fluffy toy possum in a nearby tree.

At the end of this, the children were given gift bags full of exciting environmental things, including a real Eucalypt leaf bookmark, a native plant and a colourful map showing where wildlife may be found in Jamboree Ward.



**Children had a lot of fun doing colourful paintings on smooth rocks. (Photo © Shealagh Walker 6 June 2021, 11:03)**

Next came a fascinating presentation by the very entertaining and knowledgeable Julia Baker, Snake Boss. Children and adults loved her and learned a lot along the way about different snakes and how to behave around them. The audience could get close and touch the beautiful pythons and lizards and even get to pull tongues at a blue-tongued lizard who pulled an even bigger tongue back if he liked you!



© <https://www.facebook.com/thesnakeboss/>

5 There were other activities which were popular including, oddly enough, a BCC van teaching everyone about litter and recycling. The crew running it were great.

Everyone enjoyed the free sausage sizzle cooked up by Rotary and a beverage from the coffee cart. There were many council give-aways including beautiful native plants, caps for every size and water bottles – everyone was happy.

Ed and Glenda Parker cooked a delicious cake using a solar-powered oven which was very impressive



*Julia Baker showing python to children in breezeway of Pooh Corner Environment Centre (Photo © Shealagh Walker 6 June 2021, 10:15)*



*Ed Parker serving cake cooked using solar-powered oven (Photo © Shealagh Walker 6 June 2021, 11:11)*



*Children patting blue-tongued lizard held by Julia Baker (Photo © Shealagh Walker 6 June 2021, 10:39)*

Making people aware of local bushland areas and the flora and fauna in them is one of the environmental groups' main aims. CDEA has had a hand in saving nearly all of the local bushland areas from development and having them classified as reserves or parks, including Pooh Corner. They are of great benefit to both the community and the environment. **And they are fun!**

## WACOL 200 PROJECT

*(Warner Dakin)*

Probably CDEA'S longest running project is our attempt to obtain an unused parcel of land on Grindle Road, Wacol, to be declared as parkland and made available as open grassland for the purpose of providing grazing for the kangaroo population of the area. The land is currently part of a prison reserve.

In August 2006, then Premier Peter Beattie announced that 200 hectares of land would become available for public recreation and open space. Much of the land is flood prone and it was previously used as part of the Wacol Prison Farm between 1957 and 1999, when the prison farm was closed. Since 2006, part of the land has been planted with trees as a carbon offset and another area was converted to football fields and a clubhouse.

This land is currently being used by a group involved in the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen, and a further area has been planted with the species of trees which can be used as koala fodder. The remaining 102 hectares is unused and it is this land which is at the centre of CDEA's efforts.

During the last 15 years, our efforts to have Peter Beattie's promise honoured by whichever party is in government have sometimes become a dispute with the Government. We have come close to success and in 2011, as the result of talks between CDEA representatives, those of other environmental groups and high level public servants, an agreement was reached between the Brisbane City Council and the Queensland State Government to transfer the land in trust to the Council. However, before the technicalities could be fully addressed, a state election took place resulting in a change of governing party.

Currently there is a possibility that the negotiations can be resumed and that the part of the land which is still unused can be permanently dedicated to open space, with a primary purpose of maintaining the welfare of our local mob of kangaroos.

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***View from Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve showing unused paddock of Wacol state land in the middle distance, home to a large mob of eastern grey kangaroos and red-necked wallabies. Border Ranges in the far distance. (Photo © Shealagh Walker 01 August 2009, 15:42)***



***Resident eastern grey kangaroos on the sports fields off Grindle Road, Wacol. (Photo © Shealagh Walker 16 February 2014, 09:40)***



***View of proposed Wacol parkland from Grindle Road (Photo © Warner Dakin October 2021)***

This is a prime example of a project which CDEA undertakes for the long term benefit of nature and the local residents, and to achieve success, we need to represent a strong membership. It is for this reason that your membership is so important to CDEA.

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## LORIKEET PARK GETS NEW BIRD BOXES

(Ed Parker)

Lorikeets wasted no time in occupying new bird boxes recently installed at Lorikeet Park, as shown in these photos. The park, located in Dandenong Road opposite Mount Ommaney Centre, was so named on the recommendation of CDEA over a decade ago. Naming of this park was in recognition of the birdlife that relied, for many decades, on the hollow-bearing trees that existed in the bushland in and around this site.



**Lorikeet in new bird box (Photos © Kirk Taylor, Cr Sarah Hutton's Office, Sept 2021)**

The new bird boxes were installed by Brisbane City Council (BCC) following CDEA representations to Cr Sarah Hutton. As part of the project, Cr Hutton commissioned Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed to construct the boxes, specifically designed to suit lorikeets.

The back story to this recent installation commenced in mid-2002 when a development project got underway with the clearing of many hollow-bearing trees from nearby bushland.

7 The bushland was on land formerly owned by the state government, originally set aside for a hospital. Amid controversy in the early 2000s, the government sold the land for the private housing development.

Only after strong community lobbying including by CDEA, about a third of the original site below the hilltop to be developed was handed over by the government to BCC for retention as the public park now known as Lorikeet Park.

As part of development approvals, the residential developer was required to install bird boxes among the remnant trees in the public park. This measure was to offset the loss of many hollow-bearing trees during the bushland clearing.

Fast forward to recent years, CDEA became concerned that these original bird boxes, installed in the mid 2000s, had deteriorated and needed replacement. Recent completion of the new bird boxes project thankfully rectifies this situation.

CDEA gratefully acknowledges BCC, Cr Sarah Hutton, and Centenary Suburbs Men's Shed for their respective contributions.

For and before/after photos of the site refer: <https://sorb.org.au/resources/avjennings/index.htm>



**Two galahs on tree branch in Lorikeet Park (Photo © Kirk Taylor, Cr Sarah Hutton's Office, Sept 2021)**

## VALE ROD CROCKART

(Warner Dakin, Shealagh Walker & Tricia Dakin)

Jindalee resident, Rod Crockart, died recently. Rod was familiar to many residents of the area, in particular workers in volunteer groups. He was known to many as "the man on the bike". This was not an unearned epithet, as he pedalled everywhere he went locally. Earlier he had been very involved in orienteering.



**Rod Crockart at Christmas function  
(December 2011)**

For many years he worked as one of, and sometimes the only member, of the Jindalee Creek Bushcare Group, which concentrated on the area around the mouth of Jindalee Creek, very steep and difficult terrain riddled with weeds. It has taken dogged determination on his part to achieve the results that are obvious to walkers, runners and cyclists who use the path from Koorngal Drive and under the Centenary Bridge.

Rod also volunteered with Centenary Meals on Wheels from 2000 to 2008. He produced the newsletter and from 2002 to 2005 he was the President of the management committee, which he led with calmness and intelligence. Such was his modesty that he declined "life membership" when it was offered some time later.

As an engineer, Rod had worked on the construction of the original Centenary Bridge.

8 More recently, in the same capacity, but unpaid, he had coordinated with Urban Utilities with regards to the clearing and revegetation required by the recent pipeline replacement work.

Rod was committed to the environment. His quiet manner, his no nonsense approach and the sparkle in his eye will be missed by his family and friends and those who came in contact with him as he went about his good work. Our sympathy is extended to them in this time of great personal loss.

Brisbane City Council - Habitat Brisbane (HB), has appointed a council leader for the Jindalee Creek Bushcare Group to honour Rod's legacy and to keep the bushcare site thriving. Wes deMuth, the Habitat Brisbane Officer for the local section of Brisbane, conferred with Rod's family and planted a Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) as remembrance of Rod. Furthermore, HB organised a membership event and new and old members planted over 200 plants near the memorial tree. The working bee finished off with delicious morning tea. Future working bees will be held on the first Sunday of the month from 7.30 to 10.30 am. Please contact the Jamboree Ward office for details - 3407 7000.



**On the morning of Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, there was a special tree planting in Rod's honour. Nadia Snajder, new Jindalee Creek Bushcare Group leader, explaining how the bushcare group does planting. (Photo © Shealagh Walker, 3 October 2021, 09:15)**