

Centenary and District Environment
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Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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World Environment Day

is celebrated annually on 5 June and is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

The 2022 theme – '**Only One Earth**' – will highlight the possibilities for shifting to more sustainable, greener lifestyles.

CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

(Organising Committee)

Centenary and District Environment Action (CDEA) and Wolston & Centenary Catchments (WaCC) have organised celebrations for a number of years, and, in 2021, Councillor Sarah Hutton, became involved as a major contributor and sponsor, which resulted in the most successful day ever. See Issue 50 (October, 2021) for details of the 2021 celebrations.

Planning for the 2022 celebration is continuing, but potential attendees will be required to register via Eventbrite to help with organisation. See flyers for further information. The venue is the **Pooh Corner Environment Centre, 100 Wolston Road, Wacol**, and the proposed program includes:

- 7am Bird walk around Kangaroo Circuit in Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve (two groups of about 15 - separate registration will be required)
- 9am Coffee Van on-site (Sheena)
Free Sausage Sizzle (Rotary Club of Jindalee)
Queensland Conservation Council Children's Art Display
- 9am Kids' Environment Hunt and Gift Bags
- 9.30 Aboriginal woman, Jennifer Kent, to paint local landscape with input from attendees
- 10am Acknowledgement of Country (Ed Parker)
- 10.15 Wildcall Wildlife Show in breezeway of Pooh Corner Environment Centre (see <https://www.wildcall.com.au> to introduce yourselves to the animals)
- 11.15 Raffle Draw



WILDCALL WILDLIFE SHOWS

The WILD is CALLing You!

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TREE CANOPY IN OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT (Part 2)

(Vaughan Kippers, Editor)

The tree canopy and its importance was discussed in the February, 2022 Issue (#51). For Brisbane, the following results have been calculated by

<https://www.greenerspacesbetterplaces.com.au/wwattb/brisbane-city-council/> .

BRISBANE HAS



In Brisbane, the tree canopy covers almost half the area, with hard constructed surfaces covering just over one-quarter of the area (<https://www.greenerspacesbetterplaces.com.au/wwattb/brisbane-city-council/>)

The good news is that, between 2016 and 2021, there has been an increase in the tree canopy. Also, Brisbane ranks 4/20 for green cover compared to similar places across Australia, which are urban with a large population, medium population density, and above average rainfall (<https://www.greenerspacesbetterplaces.com.au/wwattb/brisbane-city-council/>).

One web site that can be used by potential home buyers is microburbs.com.au (<https://www.microburbs.com.au>). One of the many scores given for each city and suburb is the **Tranquility Score**, which summarises eight criteria, including **population density** (P.D.; residents per square km), **leafiness** (the density of trees in the area as a percentage of the total area), and nearby bush reserves. The following table provides the figures for Brisbane and the suburbs in the Centenary district, for two of the criteria (population density & leafiness – very, moderate & non-leafy).

City/Suburb	P.D. (res/km ²)	Leafiness (%)		
		Very	Mod.	Non
Brisbane	390	81	1	18
Darra	681	51	5	43
Jamboree Heights	2644	82	0	18
Jindalee	1841	70	2	27
Middle Park Mount	2635	35	0	65
Ommaney	1033	76	3	21
Riverhills	1760	62	6	32
Seventeen Mile Rocks	1396	71	0	29
Sinnamon Park	2182	50	6	44
Sumner	287	57	0	43
Wacol	166	63	2	35
Westlake	2300	42	3	55

Despite my request for the methodology used to determine the figures above, I have not been provided with this information. I assume that images from <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en> are analysed for Leafiness. For those not familiar with **Nearmap Limited**, it is “an Australian aerial imagery technology and location data company that provides frequently-updated, high-resolution aerial imagery of 90% of Australia’s population”.

BRISBANE'S GREEN COVER



This means there is a

HIGH

challenge rating for **Brisbane** in maintaining and growing future green cover



This is the potentially bad news for Brisbane! (<https://www.greenerspacesbetterplaces.com.au/wwattb/brisbane-city-council/>)

SUBURBAN “ISLANDS”

(Vaughan Kippers)

The concept of “islands” was introduced in February (Issue #51), in terms of the “**heat island effect**”. See <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-06/documents/basicscompendium.pdf> to learn the basics.

Alternative islands, termed “**urban forest islands**”, have the opposite effect and are very important in the suburbs. There is widespread acceptance of the many benefits of urban forest by local councils in Australia:

Newcastle (N.S.W.) - “Why We Need Our Urban Forest” -

<https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/living/environment/our-urban-forest/why-we-need-our-urban-forest>

City of Melbourne (Victoria) “Urban Forest” -

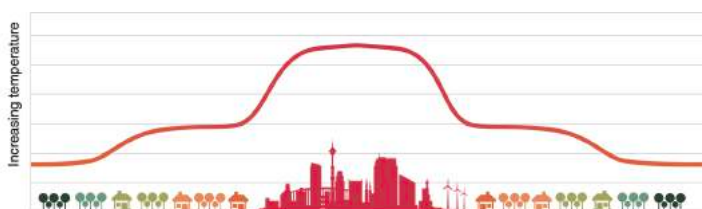
<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/greening-the-city/urban-forest/Pages/urban-forest.aspx>



Aerial view of part of Melbourne CBD
(<http://melbourneurbanforestvisual.com.au>)

City of Stirling (Western Australia) “Urban Forest Plan” -

<https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/your-city/documents-and-publications/waste-and-environment/urban-forest-plan>



“Heat absorbed by buildings and hard surfaces not shaded by tree canopy increases air temperatures and contributes to urban heat. This effect is especially noticeable at night when warmed surfaces radiate their stored heat resulting in increased night-time air temperatures.” (City of Stirling “Urban Forest Plan”)

3 City of Cockburn (Western Australia) “Urban Forest Plan 2018 – 2028” -

<https://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Environment-and-Waste/Street-Trees-and-Verges/Urban-Forest>

Brisbane City Council also promotes Brisbane’s urban forest, which “includes all trees and other vegetation, on public and private land. The trees that make up Brisbane’s urban forest contribute to our subtropical landscape character and biodiversity.” (<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/clean-and-green/natural-environment-and-water/plants-trees-and-gardens/brisbanes-trees/brisbanes-urban-forest>)

Our Council’s “Future goals and targets to enhance and sustain our urban forest are to:

- increase tree shade cover to 50% for footpaths and bikeways in residential areas by 2031
- increase shade at bus stops
- transform major entry roads to the city into subtropical boulevards.”

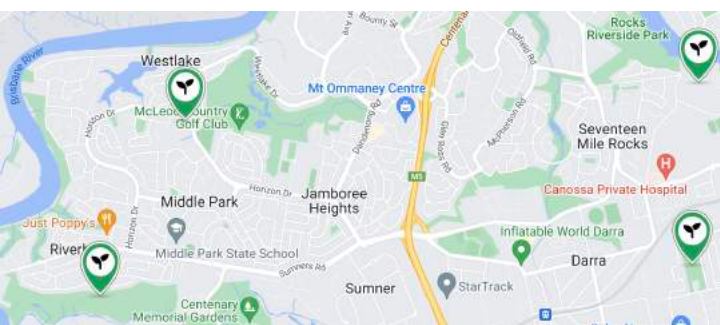
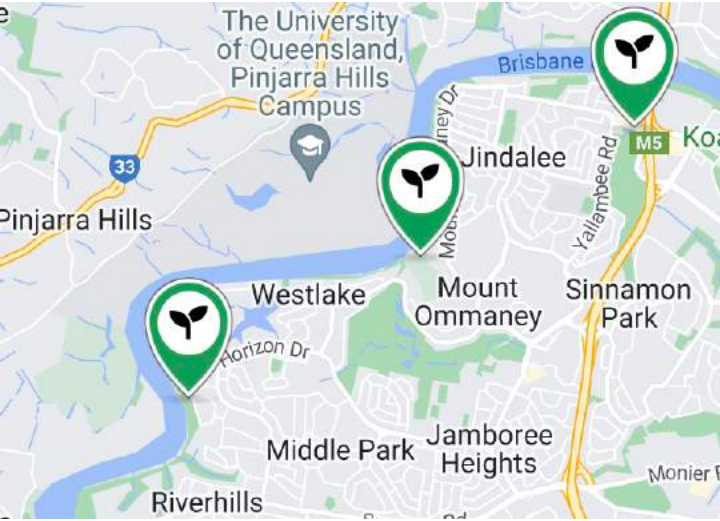
Brisbane City Council has listed nine **benefits of our urban forests**. “Urban trees provide benefits that are important to our city’s liveability and subtropical landscape character. Our urban forest:

- provides shade and cooling, encouraging a healthy outdoor lifestyle
- helps reduce energy consumption (by **buffering the urban heat island effect***)
- provides the natural structure of Brisbane’s subtropical character and scenic amenity
- produces oxygen and consumes carbon dioxide, trapping carbon and helping to reduce greenhouse gases
- supports habitat and food for wildlife
- helps reduce dust, pollution, wind speeds and the effects of UV radiation
- helps manage stormwater run-off and soil erosion
- provides strong links to nature, our natural and cultural history and sense of local identity
- contributes to individual property values, tourism and vitality of business centres.”

(<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/clean-and-green/natural-environment-and-water/plants-trees-and-gardens/brisbanes-trees/brisbanes-urban-forest>)

* **Urban Heat Island effect** - Google Scholar links relating to Brisbane – see list of academic articles: https://scholar.google.com.au/scholar?q=urban+heat+island+brisbane&hl=en&as_sdt=0&as_vis=1&oi=scholar

The Centenary district has a number of bushland reserves, most of which have a Habitat Brisbane group involved in community bushcare.



The Westlake-Riverhills, Jindalee & Jindalee Creek bushcare groups (top map) are all Habitat Brisbane western suburbs groups, while Wolston Creek, Horizon Drive, Fort Bushland Reserve and Rikki Bailey Park bushcare groups (bottom map) are southern suburbs groups. (see <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/clean-and-green/natural-environment-and-water/biodiversity-in-brisbane/habitat-brisbane-community-bushcare> for more detail)

There are other smaller urban forests in the Centenary district, including one adjoining Pioneer Belz Park between Centenary Highway and Jindalee, which is now in danger because of the widening of the Centenary Bridge to six lanes. Interestingly, the bridge and road widening will not directly affect the existing forest, but the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) plans appear to require removal of the forest to allow for realignment of the pedestrian and bicycle paths on the western side of the proposed widened Centenary Highway.



An example of an urban forest island adjacent to Brisbane River, Jindalee Creek and Centenary Highway, which is in danger of being cleared (from Google Earth ©)



The urban forest island viewed from the existing pedestrian/cycle path near the southern end of Centenary Bridge (Photo © Vaughan Kippers, 09:37, 2nd February, 2022)

If the local residents of Jindalee, local walkers and commuter cyclists were aware that their forest may be in danger, I wonder what their reaction would be?

Representatives of Centenary and District Environment Action have met with a TMR communications advisor and engineers, but were left with no idea of their specific plans for the forest. CDEA put forward an alternative realignment of the cycle path and pedestrian path, which would require much less tree removal. This proposal was not accepted by the TMR engineers.

Our local State MP, Jess Pugh, appears to be sympathetic to our position, but it would help if she had the backing of a larger number of her constituents.