



REPA NEWSLETTER



RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

Newsletter No. 1/2010
Print Post Approved PP439224/00011

March 2010

Greetings to all REPA members. We hope that 2010 has started well for you. The recent rain has been most welcome, particularly as January was somewhat dry.

Annual General Meeting

REPA's 37th Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday, 15 April 2010** at the **Brookfield Hall at 7:30 pm**. All Management Committee Positions will be declared vacant. Please consider nominating for a position on the Management Committee; we should very much welcome your input. Nomination forms are included/attached with/to this Newsletter, together with proxy forms for the AGM for those unable to attend.

Amy Bond, who is carrying out research with Griffith University's Environmental Futures Centre, Applied Road Ecology Group, will be our guest speaker at our AGM. Amy has been working on the fauna surveys for Gap Creek Road. She and other members of the group conducted several small mammal trapping sessions last year and they plan to carry out repeat sessions once the road is reopened to traffic later this year. Amy is also working on threats of urbanisation to macropods (kangaroos and wallabies) in Redlands City and will be able to tell us something of this work as well.

Following the AGM, we shall hold a General Meeting. Cr Margaret de Wit and Dr Bruce Flegg, Member for Moggill have been invited, and will be given the opportunity to speak. There will be the opportunity for members to raise any items of concern.

Upgrade of Gap Creek Road

The upgrade of Gap Creek Road is progressing. Residents are very distressed at the large number of trees that have been removed. Gap Creek Road is now a very different place. The community representatives (Rachel Griffiths, representing THECA; Bryan Hacker, representing MCGG and Jenny Hacker representing REPA) were advised that 460 trees would be removed within the Forest Park section. It was hoped that some of these could be saved, particularly trees with good habitat value. We are uncertain whether or not any of these trees has been saved. The 76 trees destined for removal at the junction of Kookaburra Street and Gap Creek Road have also been removed; these included some very fine mature eucalypts and a large fig tree. Fortunately the large forest red gum (*Eucalyptus terreticornis*) near No. 20 is still standing. The community representatives have not been advised how many trees have been removed in the remainder of Gap Creek Road as part of Stage 2 of the project, but it must be close to 200. No advice regarding Stage 2 of the project was provided to the community representatives until 10 December 2009.

REPA very much regrets that Council has decided to proceed with the provision of lighting of the speed control devices through Mt Coot-tha Forest Park in spite of the recommendation from the Chairman, Road Safety at the Injury Risk Management Research Centre at UNSW that these are not necessary for a 50 km/h road. REPA is also disappointed that the petition submitted to Council by the community representatives requesting speed control devices be installed in the portions of Gap Creek and Dillon Roads outside the Forest Park has been rejected. The petition included the results of a survey of all residents of Gap Creek and Dillon Roads and received a 54% response, all of which (with one caveat) were supportive of speed control devices. Council states that the bends in the road will provide sufficient speed control, although they have agreed to install one speed control device just north of the Kookaburra Street junction. The relatively straight stretch between Nos. 71 and 201 seems to have been ignored. There have been three recorded wallaby roadkills near no. 71 between Jan 2006 and June 2009.

There is to be a concrete footpath between Kookaburra Street and Brookfield Road, but there is concern regarding the lack of provision of a footpath north of the Kookaburra junction. The community representatives have been advised that the road will be wide enough to allow pedestrians to walk at the side of the road. We are not convinced that this will be adequate and have asked for guideposts to be installed as was the case near Kookaburra Street previously.

The community representatives are concerned that embankments, created as a result of the road widening, are being stabilised with concrete, for example by the Gap Creek Reserve car-park. These concrete embankments are not at all wildlife friendly and we are concerned that animals will be trapped on the roadway. Furthermore, the concreted embankments are unsightly and, together with the tree removal, contribute to the loss of the road's scenic amenity which was previously enjoyed by residents and visitors.

Now, the task for the community representatives is to endeavour to achieve the best possible outcome from the revegetation and replanting program. Recommendations have been made regarding the species to be planted and MCCG Nursery is providing some of the plants. We have very recently been advised and are gratified that our recommendations for re-planting at the Kookaburra Street junction have been heeded and a greatly improved planting schedule has been provided.

For more information on the upgrade, you can contact the project team on Michelle.Taylor@marcomcommunications.com or phone 1800 199 757. Donna Marshall, our previous contact, is now on maternity leave. If you would like to discuss any of the issues with Jenny, Bryan or Rachel, our contact details are below.

Development Proposal for Moggill Country Club, DA A002171615

In early December, REPA made a submission to Brisbane City Council objecting to this proposed development for 95 lots, park and road on the 19.26 hectares. REPA is of the opinion that most of this site is not suitable for residential development, certainly not at the density proposed in the application.

The reasons for objecting to this proposal included concerns regarding flooding from the Brisbane River; the amount and location of proposed filling; the small lot sizes of many allotments; the distance from public transport facilities and the inadequate protection of valuable koala habitat.

A recent (dated 11 Feb 2010) letter from BCC on their application website is addressed to the owners "MGC Properties Pty Ltd (receivers and managers appointed)" indicating that the company owning the land is now in receivership. The BCC letter goes on to say "The proposed development is not supported in the current form". REPA has contacted the Assessment Manager who advised that the applicant now has the option to revise and resubmit the application or to continue with the existing application. REPA is making further enquiries.

Rafting Ground Road culvert

As most people probably know, work is progressing on the upgrade of the Moggill Creek culvert crossing in Rafting Ground Road. The road is now closed to vehicular traffic, but pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders are allowed through (the latter two after dismounting). There have been concerns when the pedestrian crossing has been closed recently because of higher water levels following heavy rain. We now notice that it is expected that the crossing will be closed until June this year.

Mt Coot-tha Visioning Group

The Mt Coot-tha Visioning Group decided to hold Library sessions in preference to a public forum. These Library sessions took the form of responding to questions or statements about Mt Coot-tha and providing summary phrases as to what participants considered to be important to Mt Coot-tha's future. Three REPA Committee members attended the session at Indooroopilly Library and were part of a lively discussion group that was very positive about conserving Mt Coot-tha's natural and environmental attributes. Many participants raised concerns that the questions were not sufficiently specific and could be misinterpreted.

Brookfield Show

The Brookfield Show will be held on 14, 15 and 16 May this year. It is the 100th Anniversary of the Brookfield Show. REPA is hoping to put together a small historical exhibit on REPA's involvement at the Show since our inception in 1973. Our early photographic record is non-existent! So please, if you have any early photographs of REPA at the Show, would you be prepared to lend them for the occasion? A photograph of the chocolate wheel sometime in the 1970s would be wonderful! (Please contact Jenny Hacker, details below)

Membership

It is the beginning of the new year and membership renewals are now due for 2010 (unless you have renewed previously). Membership renewal forms are included or attached for your convenience, except for those who have already paid. Membership is \$20.00 and may be paid to the Treasurer or directly into REPA's bank account. Details are included on the membership form. If you do pay directly into the bank account, please also advise the Treasurer by email. Memberships may also be renewed at the AGM.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM

Anna Williamson	Chairman, REPA	Phone 3202 7789	Email macmog@bigpond.com
Jenny Hacker	Vice-Chairman REPA,	Phone 3374 1468	Email jbhacker@powerup.com.au
Trish Whellum	Secretary, REPA	Phone 0418 237 863	Email twhellum@bigpond.net.au
Rachel Griffiths	Treasurer, REPA	Phone 3374 2656	Email rachelgriffiths8@bigpond.com
David McCullough	WBBAG	Phone 0410 560 763	Email davidm@westernbypass.org

Websites www.repa.org.au , www.westernbypass.org