



REPA NEWSLETTER



RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

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May 2010

Annual General Meeting

REPA's 37th Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 15 April 2010. The current Management Committee was re-elected with the addition of Julie Cox from Moggill. Our Chairman, Anna Williamson, and Treasurer, Rachel Griffiths presented their reports covering the past year's activities. James Martin who has audited our books for over 15 years is no longer in a position to continue. A local resident who works through CPK Accountants of Forest Lake will be taking on that responsibility for us, for which we are most grateful.

Amy Bond, Griffith University's Environmental Futures Centre, Applied Road Ecology Group, was our guest speaker for the evening and told us some of the results from the pre-upgrade fauna surveys of Gap Creek Road. A point she emphasised was the extraordinary amount of dust found present near the road before the upgrade began. This was measured in special dust monitoring stations. The results from trapping showed that the native mammals were more prevalent away from the road; whereas, by contrast, the house mouse was found more frequently close to the road. The results from hair funnels were not so discriminatory, but all results showed that the area was very rich in small mammals, particularly the yellow-footed antechinus. It is planned to carry out repeat surveys after the upgrade of Gap Creek Road is completed. Amy is also assessing the impact of roads and urbanisation on wallaby populations in Redlands. She hopes to acquire a better understanding of the ways that wallabies move around in the area, with the aim of implementing measures to reduce road kills.

Cr Margaret de Wit and Dr Bruce Flegg were unable to attend our AGM owing to pressing commitments. They were both most apologetic and submitted reports. Cr de Wit advised that Rafting Ground Road will be open to one-lane traffic in May and will be fully open for the Show weekend (the project office has advised REPA that the road will be open for the Show weekend, but they were less definite about it being open at all before then). It is expected that Gap Creek Road will be re-opened at the end of June. After Rafting Ground Road is finished, work will begin on replacing the 120 year old water main between Greentrees and Jacaranda Avenues. Dr Flegg reported that he has some major safety concerns: the Grandview Road bus stop; the Witton Road / Moggill Road junction, which is currently being addressed; and the school speed zone through Kenmore.

Brookfield Show

The 100th Brookfield Show will be held in May, over the weekend of 14, 15 and 16 May. REPA has booked a site and will welcome visitors to our tent. In keeping with the 'memory lane' theme of the 100th Show, REPA will exhibit some of the plans of the district that were compiled by REPA soon after it was founded in 1973. One plan shows estimated 1973 land values, another, the blocks that had houses built on them. In 1974, REPA produced a strategic plan for the area, which encompassed some very forward thinking and innovative concepts. We shall also have information and pictures of Gap Creek Road and the new Rafting Ground Road culvert.

Upgrade of Gap Creek Road

The upgrade of Gap Creek Road is continuing to progress. As I write this, surveyors are pegging out the new road alignment in the vicinity of the Kookaburra Street junction. There is to be a chicane constructed opposite No. 40 Gap Creek Road with the object of slowing southbound traffic down as it approaches the Kookaburra Street junction. Residents have requested that rubberised asphalt be used in this section in order to reduce traffic noise to nearby houses.

The community representatives (Rachel Griffiths, representing THECA; Bryan Hacker, representing MCCG and Jenny Hacker representing REPA) have recently viewed (somewhat briefly) the Forest Park section of the road which is still closed to traffic. Much of the forest atmosphere is retained in spite of the removal of so many trees.

Two roundabouts are to be incorporated; one at the junction of Highwood Road and Dillon Road and the other at the junction of Gap Creek Road and Highwood Road. Widening the road to allow for the roundabout construction has necessitated the building of retaining walls. These two retaining walls, and others where there are steep embankments, including the one by the Kookaburra Street junction, are constructed of large concrete blocks, backed by poured concrete. Both the concrete blocks and the poured concrete are made of porous concrete, which allows water to drain out through the wall.

The community representatives still have concerns however about the concreted embankment near the Gap Creek Reserve car-park. This concrete embankment is almost vertical and over two metres high in places. It is not at all wildlife friendly and there are concerns that animals will be trapped on the roadway because of it. Furthermore, it is unsightly and likely to be de-faced by graffiti.

REPA and the other organisations are continuing to agitate for a further speed control device to be included in the straight stretch of road between Nos 71 and 201 Gap Creek Road. Another wallaby was killed recently near No. 77 Gap Creek Road.

It is anticipated that Gap Creek Road will be re-opened towards the end of June. There is still much to be done however; subgrade has only been laid in one short stretch and there has been no resurfacing to date. A new two-lane culvert crossing has replaced the old single lane bridge and this new crossing is being used by the construction vehicles. The culvert crossing incorporates fauna friendly elements to enable small mammals to use it to move from one side of the road to the other. Another culvert crossing further up the road has also been constructed as a fauna crossing for small mammals.

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 earlier contact, is now on maternity leave. If you would like to discuss any of the issues with Jenny or Rachel, our contact details are below.

Brisbane's Wild West Calendar for 2011 – photo call

We hope that you are enjoying your 2010 calendar, a co-production of four environmental groups (REPA, THECA, Cubberla Witton Catchments Network and Moggill Creek Catchment Group). It's now time to think of 2011; we would like your best and most interesting photos of wildlife – flora and fauna – of Brisbane's western suburbs by **Wednesday 30 June 2010**.

The photos can be digital or hard copy (preferably digital). Please name the subject as accurately as you can. Please email low-resolution files to theca@hotkey.net.au or send prints or a CD to THECA, PO Box 804, Kenmore 4069. If we shortlist your photo, we will contact you for a high-res version, and for a caption of 50 words. For further information, please phone or email THECA: 3878 5088, theca@hotkey.net.au.

Development Proposal for Moggill Country Club, DA A002171615

Further to our comments on this proposed development at Moggill in the last Newsletter, we have been advised that the current owner of the property is intending to sell the land. We reiterate Council's statement that "The proposed development is not supported in the current form" as stated in their letter of 11 Feb 2010 to the applicant and accessible on the BCC applications website.

Contacting Brisbane City Council

Members are reminded that the Council Call Centre on **3403 8888** operates on a 24 hour day, 7 days a week basis. If you have any problems or concerns with Council issues it is well worth while contacting the Call Centre. Council records the issues that are raised, quantifies them and uses this information to determine response priorities. So the more calls they receive over a specific issue, the more likely it is that something will be done. If the Call Centre is contacted over a specific issue, such as rubbish in the creek, they will give a response time and issue a reference number for subsequent checking, should this be necessary.

Membership

We thank all those members who have renewed their membership this year and we especially thank those who included a donation with their renewal. There are some lapsed memberships, some by up to two or three years. A renewal notice is enclosed or attached to this Newsletter if your membership is outstanding. Please note that this will be the last Newsletter sent to those whose memberships have been outstanding for more than two years. This will be indicated on the renewal notice. Membership is \$20.00 and may be paid by cheque to the Treasurer or directly into REPA's bank account. Details are included on the renewal form. If you do pay directly into the bank account, **please also advise the Treasurer by email rachelgriffiths8@bigpond.com**.

We look forward to seeing you at our display at the Brookfield Show

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