



## REPA NEWSLETTER



### RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

Newsletter No. 3/2010  
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September 2010

#### **Brookfield Country Market**

The Brookfield Country Market will be held at the Brookfield Uniting Church on Saturday 11 September, between 8am and 12 noon. REPA will share an area with the Moggill Creek Catchment Group and have information about the new Koala Mapping for this area as well as updates on the completion of the Rafting Ground Road culvert and Gap Creek Road upgrades. The Catchment Group will also have an exhibit and plants for sale.

#### **THECA Forum – “Restoring Biodiversity”**

The THECA Forum is also to be held on Saturday 11 September (as well as the Country market) at the Queensland Centre for Advanced Technologies (QCAT), Pullenvale, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Registration costs \$50.00 and includes morning tea and lunch. Registration forms can be downloaded from [www.theqa.asn.au](http://www.theqa.asn.au) or contact THECA at 07 3878 5088.

The THECA Forums provide a valuable link between current active research projects and local environmental issues. This year the keynote speaker is Professor Hugh Possingham, The University of Queensland, and he will be talking on “Is Conservation too Conservative?”. Professor Possingham is an impressive speaker. Other speakers include Jo Bragg, Environmental Defenders Office – “Unused tools? The legal framework”; Frances Guard, Dilkusha Nature Refuge – “A case study in restoration”; Anne Kemp, The University of Queensland – “A plea for aquatic biodiversity” and many others.

#### **Visit to Rafting Ground Park – Saturday, 25 September**

The Moggill Creek Catchment Group is holding an excursion to Rafting Ground Park on Saturday 25 September 2010, 9:30 am to 12 noon (BYO lunch). REPA members are invited. The excursion will be led by Andrew Wilson who is very knowledgeable about the plants there and Graeme Wilson will give us a brief history of this interesting place. REPA was largely responsible for the initial planting in 1991, supported by BCC who have carried out further substantial work. It will be very interesting to see how the various plantings have grown and to see a valuable vegetation remnant.

If you are interested in joining this excursion, please contact Jenny or Bryan Hacker by either email or phone (given below).

#### **Development Proposal for land at Karana Downs**

REPA has just been advised that Public Notification Signs are being put up at the proposed Karana Waters Estate. This is a substantial proposal involving 38.86 hectares of land that currently comprises the Karana Downs Golf Course and is currently in the Sport and Recreation Area. It is planned to re-classify the land into the Low Density Residential Area and subdivide it into 114 lots, 25 lots in Stage 1. The proposed lots are small residential lots, around 400 – 600 m<sup>2</sup>, which are out of keeping with the surrounding lots adjacent to the golf course.

The City Council advised the applicant in February this year that “the proposal is not supported in its current form” and therefore they did not issue an Information Request. An Information Request was issued by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads expressing, amongst other issues, concern that the proposal is too reliant on private transport.

Any further development in this part of Brisbane is going to put additional pressures on the already overstretched Moggill Road, the schools and other facilities. REPA members are therefore encouraged to make a submission objecting to this proposal before the due date of **4 October 2010**. Further information may be obtained from the Council web-site (which follows), Jenny Hacker (details below) or Sue McCoy at [stopthedevelopment@yahoo.com.au](mailto:stopthedevelopment@yahoo.com.au).

Submissions may be lodged on the Council web-site

<http://pdonline.brisbane.qld.gov.au/MasterView/masterplan/enquirer/default.aspx> (search using the Development Application (DA) number A002696611 or the property address, 212 College Rd, Karana Downs) or post it to BCC at:

Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane City Council, GPO Box 1434, Brisbane Qld 4001

Or deliver it by hand to one of the Council Service Centres, but make sure you see them stamp their receipt on it.

No matter the delivery method you choose, REMEMBER IT IS VITAL that you include:

- Your full name
- Your full address
- The DA number (A002696611)
- Your signature (particularly if posting)

## Upgrade of Gap Creek Road

The upgrade of Gap Creek Road is virtually finished. The road is now open and the contractors are putting the final touches to the landscaping. This week (25 August 2010) four traffic counters have been installed along the road.

The REPA members who have been part of the consultative group and many residents of Gap Creek Road are most concerned that the speed humps in the Forest Park section of the road and not at all effective. They have 20km/hr advisory signs posted by them, but it is quite possible to drive over them at 60 km/hr and barely notice their presence! The chicanes or slow points are much more effective. The advisory signs for them are 30 km/hr and it is necessary to negotiate them close to that speed.

Some of the landscaping is doing well after the recent rain, but sadly in some areas most of the newly planted trees are dying or dead. It is hoped that these will be replaced and more care taken to ensure their survival. Very many trees were removed for this upgrade, so it is most important that the replacements will survive.

Of particular concern is the quite extensive erosion that has occurred close to the Kookaburra Street junction. Large sections of protective jute matting have been washed down the embankment and plants and soil washed away to a depth of up to 0.6 m. It appears that there was inadequate drainage provision. REPA has not been advised how this is going to be addressed.

For more information on the upgrade, you can contact the project team by phone 1800 199 757. If you would like to discuss any of the issues with Jenny, Bryan or Rachel, our contact details are below.

## Rafting Ground Road

The works in connection with the provision of the new culverts for Moggill Creek are now complete. Unfortunately some of the newly planted trees have died. It is to be hoped that they will be replaced and cared for appropriately. Concerns have been raised that the provision for a fish passage is inadequate.

## New Koala mapping in the western Brisbane area

In May 2010, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Kate Jones, and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Stirling Hinchliffe, announced the finalisation of koala state planning instruments to protect koala habitat and manage conflicts with urban development. In our district, substantial areas are now classified as being 'koala habitat' and as a consequence tighter development controls are in place. Additionally more provisions have been made for those who wish to establish permanent conservation status for their land. Information is available on the <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/koalas> website.

REPA is particularly pleased to see that the river banks at Moggill Country Club have been included as koala habitat as this land is under threat of development.

## Contacting Brisbane City Council

Members are reminded that the Council Call Centre on **3403 8888** operates on 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 and uses this information to determine response priorities. 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. In this context, it is recommended that feral deer and feral dogs are reported promptly whenever seen.

## 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. A renewal notice is enclosed or attached to this Newsletter if your membership is still outstanding. 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](mailto:rachelgriffiths8@bigpond.com)**.

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