

page 8)
particularly as our expectations rise - the rewards vary, too. The world is a big place and making it better is a big job. Every little bit helps.

CREEC operates for the most part because there are volunteers to assist - propagating plants for Bushcare and other projects, looking after grounds, keeping statistics up to date, typing, library services, school visits, funding grants, the Fair, workshops, guided walks, visitors, training, planning ahead. Saturday 6 October has been scheduled as volunteers information and sign on day at CREEC. If you would like to see more of the Centre, or perhaps are interested in providing your expertise or time to make the place more valuable to the community, come along.

Jot it in your dairy - or if that day doesn't suit, drop in to the office if you see the gate open.

**CREEC Board of Management
Community Representatives**

Chairman: Rod Blair

Community Nursery Rep: Vacant

Environmental Education: Brian and Eileen Rigden

Events and Publicity: Vacant

Site Development: Jim Pulsford

9 Months to go...

Caboolture Sustainable Living Fair - Saturday 7 June 2008 - for more information contact **Wayne** at CREEC Phone - 3888 8751

Please recycle this newsletter by passing it to friends or neighbours.

Friends of CREEC Office Bearers

President: Rod Blair

Vice-president: Jim Pulsford

Honorary Secretary: Barbara Blair

Honorary Treasurer: Vacant (Jim Pulsford acting)

This newsletter is produced and distributed by volunteers. We believe in its value in communicating information to members of our community who are interested in the environment and the work of CREEC. Contributions welcome

We thank the Caboolture Shire Council for their assistance.



Caboolture Region
Environmental
Education Centre

**This Newsletter is
on the web at
www.creec.org.au**

Inside this issue:

Annual General Meeting
Report
Page 2

Culturally Significant
Species
Page 3

Where Credit is Due
Page 4

Wildlife Bedtime Stories
Page 6

Housing Affordability

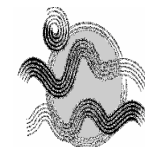
Coming Events

Volunteer Informa-
tion Day Sat 6 Oct
9 am to 12 noon

Friends of CREEC Assn Inc
150 Rowley Road
BURPENGARY QLD 4005

Phone : 3888 8751 Fax : 3888 3211

Email : marshw@caboolture.qld.gov.au



caboolture shire

Winner of Excellence in Business
Award 2005

**September
2007**

Volunteering

Where would we be without the contributions of unpaid workers of all ages? Many younger people help out with community activities in school playgrounds, sports fields and around the house - not always without some coaxing or pocket money bribery.

With more experience and some spare time, volunteers help with tuckshop, library, childminding, meals on wheels, sporting clubs, coaching, emergency services, nursing, youth clubs, committees

When we're older, the unpaid jobs to be done can make use of our previous training and experience. This helps to keep minds and bodies evergreen, or at the other extreme, to allow us to relax, wind down, socialise, complete mundane jobs no one else wants to do, or thinks important or helpful.

Helping out may provide different economic, social or environmental benefits, from raising extra funds for the school from the street stall or the raffle, helping with meals on wheels or training the netball team.

The response may be almost immediate, at other times the effects may take years to show up. The work to be done will generally exceed the willingness of people to respond, (cont

Annual General Meeting Report

“The Friends of CREEC Association has once again had a busy and successful year. At CREEC we are all in no doubt that volunteer contributions will always be a huge part of the continuing endeavour to become a highly regarded Environmental Education Centre, boasting international best practice and standards”.



These were the introductory remarks of Rod Blair in presenting his Presidential Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The report highlighted the following:

Membership: A slight increase, to 70 financial members including several groups who use the centre – with their supporters, numbering several hundred.

Volunteers: Over 18 000 recorded hours on administration, grounds and facilities maintenance, providing information, site walks and school activities. Much additional support was provided in arranging and attending workshops and providing assistance to the Association.

Events: -The Sustainable Living Fair was well attended with about 3000 people engaged, with 45 active stallholders. Monthly barbecues for volunteers are provided by members.

Education: Workshops, talks, school visits and bus trips provided 236 separate opportunities to extend the role of CREEC into additional areas and new audiences.

Community nursery: About 35,000 plants were propagated and over 20,000 supplied to Shire-wide projects, such as Bushcare, Land for Wildlife, National Tree Planting Day, Greencorps and SEQ Catchments.

Site development: Tracks are well maintained, new plantings developed and existing areas tended, so that the site is always well presented and a

Over the 11 years, costs of quality and prestige brick veneer homes increased by 280% and 500% and land prices rose by almost as much.

If you preferred having wood to paint, standard weatherboard timber models increased by 33%, quality by 127% and prestige by 220% over the decade.

A big difference between bricks and timber. Why?

Did you know?

Going on a holiday to Europe uses 2.4 times as much fossil fuel energy as staying at home for a year.



.....
An A380 burns 3 L of fuel per passenger to travel 100 km. Per passenger, a return trip to London emits 5.6 t CO₂ – it’s what pushes the plane along.

.....
The world’s largest industry, tourism, has a greater impact on reducing world poverty than all foreign aid.

.....
Alaskans have started a 3 2 1 campaign to reduce their global warming pollution. Change **3** incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescents, turn thermostats down **2** degrees in winter and unplug **1** appliance when it is not in use. These actions will reduce annual CO₂ emissions by 1 tonne per household.

.....
Poor people don’t have debts, wealthy people do.

Wildlife Bedtime Stories

JP

Adult Killer Whales normally snooze 5-8 hours a night, closing both eyes and floating motionlessly. However for the first 30 days after a youngster is born, neither calf nor mother close their eyes or stop moving for more than a few minutes at a time.



Dolphins sleep for about 9 hours a day, with one eye closed and with half the brain (on the opposite side) asleep, while carrying on otherwise normal activities. They don't stop to sleep.

Horses sleep 3 hours a day, giraffes 4.5, ferrets 14.5, bats 19. Humans sleep at night, mice during the day. Laboratory rats deprived of sleep will die more quickly than if deprived of food. Same with flies.

Prolonged wakefulness in humans leads to degradation of memory, alertness, coordination and judgment. It's the brain that must have the sleep, not the rest of the body. Some migratory birds, preparing for long flights, practise by having periods of drowsiness, taking up to 50 micro naps of 10 to 20 seconds each hour. Their brainwaves resemble those of normal sleep. Could we, by practice, make our brains 4 to 7 times more sleep efficient? Don't forget that the effect of 20 hours of wakefulness, on driving performance, is the same as having two whiskies.

Housing Affordability

JP

In 1995, so my insurance policy document says, a "standard" brick veneer home was 150 m² and cost \$850 per m² to build - \$127,500 all up, plus land etc.



In 2006 the standard home had increased to 200 m² and cost \$1,220 per m² to build - \$244,000. An increase of over 90% - bigger house, higher unit cost, higher mortgage.

credit to the volunteers and contractor efforts which are provided on a regular basis.

Publicity: www.creec.org.au has become a very important communication avenue (3000 hits since October) for the Centre and the Association. The newsletter, with 550 copies being printed and circulated monthly, is also posted to the web and is available on a regular basis to publicise forthcoming events and local topical environmental issues.

Donations and financial support: Council's financial and administration assistance has provided essential services and other support to the Centre. Generous donations from Boral Resources and Queensland Hire Services enabled the Sustainable Living Fair to break even. Gambling Community Benefit Fund and DEH small equipment grants provided for upgrades of computers, enabling improved utilisation of stock-recording systems for the Nursery.

The full text of the report is on the web. Copies of the report presented to the AGM are available on request.

Culturally Significant Species

JP

Do you relate to particular native plants or animals in a way that sets them apart from others – that give you a warm and fuzzy feeling or even the opposite?



We have a very **long** list of animals of conservation significance – 78 birds, 10 frogs, 8 mammals, 11 reptiles, 5 fish. The bird list is long because it includes 36 migratory species which are protected under agreements with Japan and China.

There's a very **short** list of culturally significant fauna – Qld lungfish, koala, echidna and platypus – which we appreciate for their uniqueness, their diet, feeding habits, habitat, reproductive system, recognition calls and other peculiarities.

We may tend to forget that each of these species exists in an ecosystem – part of a web of life in which it eats other species, and is itself eaten, and which may remain stable for thousands of years. Unfortunately the

“system” is easily disturbed, so that cultural significance also needs to embrace rarity and consequently, the need for additional conservation measures.

What about **plants** that are distinctly Australian – part of our culture, significant? The gum tree (now grown in more countries of the world than any other plant) and the wattle, with several hundred species of each? What about red cedar, bunya pine, macadamia, lemon myrtle...? What does cultural significance really mean? Different things to different cultures?

At a recent Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) meeting, members briefly considered cultural significance. They quickly moved off taking about species and on to ecosystems, such as rainforests, tea-tree swamps, wallum heath, where it's the whole rather than just the parts that are important to them. (Nevertheless, the demure single-flowered white fingers orchid drew as much attention as the giant 50 m rose gum, on the walk along an old timber track).

Are we likely to value highly the river terraces, with well over 450 plant species, more than Mt. Mee rainforests with slightly less than 400, and render the littoral zone of Pumicestone Passage with less than 10 species as unimportant? It isn't just species richness that counts.

So the platypus, echidna and koala depend on maintaining quality habitats – water and land and the flora and fauna they support. Can't have one without the others.

Where Credit is Due

JP

Australians are great knockers. Rather than call a spade a spade, it's a `b... short-handled, rectangular-bladed shovel'! We have an innate tendency to denigrate our achievements (especially when we are not winning), whereas on the world scene, we often punch well above our weight. We are also pretty quick to pass on half-truths and repeat half-lies so often that others think they are believable or most likely true – this statement included.

It may be recalled that on 27 November 1997, the PM, announcing

“Australia's Response to Climate Change” referred, among other things, to the need to develop a national carbon accounting system. This was aimed at measuring all the land-based sources of carbon (such as tree-clearing) emitted to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide and methane. The importance of reliably measuring these was because it had been estimated that in 1990 (the base year for Kyoto Protocol arrangements) about 35% of all CO₂ emissions were from this sector. If the numbers were wrong, the 2008-2012 Kyoto targets (ratified or not) would be wrong as well.

In 1998 the Australian Greenhouse Office was established – the **world's first** government agency dedicated to cutting greenhouse emissions,. It operated within the Environment portfolio to provide a whole-of government approach. The Minister visited CREEC to discuss matters of concern with us, greenhouse being one of them, as it still is.

The work done by Australia's scientists to build the system for carbon accounting on a national scale has been recognised internationally as “the most robust, continental scale earth observation data set of its type ever assembled”.

Publication of the annual results by state, type of land, soil and gas, led to calls for extra effort to expand the system's capability to investigate economic issues, develop remote sensing products, maps of soil moisture, trends in crop production and to make projections for many years ahead with different land use scenarios.

The CREEC library has copies of most of the 40-odd technical reports produced. There has been a request to condense the 10,000 pages into a laymen's paper, so that non-technical people can understand what it all means. Better communications can help us get our facts straight, and to know the differences between spades and shovels.

Did you know?

Starlings cost three times as much as any other pest. They range over one-third of Australia; devastate grape and soft fruit crops, contaminate grain stores, feed lots and dairies. A female can produce 6-9 young each year.