



REPA NEWSLETTER

RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

Newsletter No. 1/2006
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March 2006

REPA hopes that all members have had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. Unfortunately we have not had the rain that we have all been hoping for and it appears that Stage 3 water restrictions will soon be imposed. Those of us on tank water will be in a much better position. According to the autumn issue of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group Newsletter, the total rainfall recorded at Smith's Scrub in 2005 was 755 mm, which is only 62% of the mean for that site.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

REPA's 33rd Annual General meeting will be held on **Tuesday 21st March 2006**, at the **Brookfield Hall** at **7:30 pm**. All Management Committee Positions will be declared vacant. A nomination form for Management Committee Positions (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member) is enclosed/attached. Eric Walker resigned from the Committee during the year as he and Judy have moved to Chelmer. Eric is continuing to send out our Newsletters, for which the Committee is most grateful.

New faces on the Management Committee would be most welcome. Over the years, REPA has achieved much. It is very probable that without REPA's activities, closely settled urban development would have spread out further in our direction, particularly up the slopes of Mt Coot-tha. REPA needs the input of its members if it is to maintain its position in caring for the land and the environment. Please, if you are interested, consider joining the Management Committee. Jenny or John Bristow would most pleased to hear from you (phone numbers below).

Jonathon Richards, President of the Brookfield History Group, will give an illustrated talk entitled "Living in the Brookfield Valley". Jonathon is especially interested in the photographic record of the changes to the landscape over time. This is particularly relevant to REPA as we continue to strive for better environmental outcomes for the district.

Immediately following the AGM and Jonathon's talk, we shall hold a General Meeting to provide members with the opportunity to raise matters of concern to them. Cr Margaret de Wit intends to be present and to provide us with some updates on relevant issues.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

The committee has been studying the membership rules in our Constitution and we find that we only have 'life members' and 'ordinary members'. When considered in context, 'ordinary member' is clearly meant to mean 'individual member'. Consequently, the committee decided that membership payments should be brought into line with the requirements of the Constitution. The Constitution also states that "The membership fees for each class of membership shall be such sum as the members from time to time at any general meeting so determine".

Therefore it is proposed that the following motions shall be put at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting: -

1. "That the annual fee for ordinary membership of the Rural Environment Planning Association Inc shall be \$15.00."
2. "That a concessional rate of \$10.00 per additional Rural Environment Planning Association Inc. ordinary member applies when that person resides at the same address as an another ordinary member."

If approved these changes will be implemented in January 2007.

MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that membership payments for 2006 are now due. A renewal slip is also attached or enclosed for your convenience. Membership fees for this year will remain the same as last year, but again we ask you please to include the names of all members (over the age of 18) resident at the one address. Memberships can be paid at the AGM or by post to the Treasurer as indicated on the renewal slip.

SUBMISSIONS ON VARIOUS TOPICS

Since the last Newsletter, REPA has made submissions on four important issues affecting the district. They are: -

1. Moggill Country Club Development Application
2. Westgate Strategic Plan

3. Rafting Ground Park Master Plan
4. Queensland Transport's Green Paper "Smart Travel Choices for South East Queensland"

Moggill Country Club

REPA has objected to the proposed development at Moggill Country Club for subdivision of 3 lots into 47 lots, principally on the grounds that 75% to 80% of that land was flooded in 1974 by the Brisbane River, which rose to a level around 17.5 m. The applicant intends to build mainly on land above the current designated flood level of 13.5 m, but also intends to fill some land to raise it above the designated flood level. REPA also objected to the applicant's proposal that the Moggill Country Club land should be incorporated into Brisbane River Precinct 2 so that the set-back distance for buildings from the River need only be 40 m. The land is currently in Precinct 1, which usually requires a set-back of 100 m. Other concerns included the applicant's request for an area re-classification of part of the land to the Low-Medium Density Residential Area and as to whether or not the important Regional Ecosystem containing the riverine blue gum community has been given proper recognition. No decision has yet been made on this application.

Westgate Strategic Plan

REPA's major concerns with the Westgate Options were: -

- that insufficient attention had been paid to the flood-prone nature of the land
 - that all options had two bridge connections to Moggill
 - that the important endangered regional ecosystem site at 'Pooh Corner' is not compromised or encroached upon.
- REPA suggested that there could be some merit in connecting Bellbowrie to the Ipswich line by rail.

Rafting Ground Park

The attractive post-and-rail fence has been re-instated along the boundary between the car-parking area and the Park.

Several REPA committee members attended both the Public information sessions about plans for the Park, which were held on 4 December 2005 and 26 February 2006. REPA generally supported the Nature Park Option as presented on 4 December, especially the retention and protection of existing trees and revegetation of those areas. REPA did not support several of the suggestions for the District Park Option, particularly the proposal to construct a bridge across Moggill Creek from the main rain forest area.

At the information session on 26 February, attendees were advised of the new Preliminary Master Plan for the park, which includes most of the elements of the Nature Park Option, with a few modifications. One of these is the proposal to allow for more car-parking near the southern boundary of the Park, but not interfering with the creekside vegetation and only extending into the Park for about 80 m. This car-park extension was proposed in response to concerns raised at the earlier meeting over the reduction in car-parking spaces in connection with the widening of Moggill Road. REPA considers that this proposed car-park extension could have an adverse impact on the integrity and visual amenity of the upper eucalypt woodland area.

Smart Travel Choices

REPA has made a submission to Queensland Transport on their green paper entitled "*Smart Travel Choices for South East Queensland*". REPA's submission focussed on the needs for connectivity in public transport planning; the need for more cycle ways and footpaths, particularly in the vicinity of schools and shopping centres and the need for better solutions for travel for school students.

Neighbourhood Planning

Two important Neighbourhood Planning Workshops are to be held shortly in the western suburbs: -

- Saturday, 4th March, at The Gap High School, with 2 core sessions, 9 – 11 am and 1 – 3 pm
- Sunday, 5th March, at Riverglenn (near Nudgee Junior College), Kate Street, Indooroopilly, also with 2 core sessions, 9 – 11 am and 1 – 3 pm.

REPA committee members plan to attend the Workshop at Riverglenn. The contact for booking is 3403 6328. I do urge members to attend one of these workshops as Council can only gauge our interest in planning activities by the response to invitations to workshops such as these.

The Committee looks forward to seeing you at the AGM

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