



## **REPA NEWSLETTER**

### **RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.**

Newsletter No. 1/2007  
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This first Newsletter for 2007 includes the Notice for our Annual General Meeting on 27 March 2007. The Management Committee urgently needs some new members, so you are asked to give serious consideration to nominating. We need to have some fresh ideas and perspectives on issues affecting the district.

Our guest speaker for the AGM is Helen Favelle, project leader of the Brisbane City Council's Landscape Amenity Values and Attributes Mapping project, who has agreed to talk on '*Mapping the Landscape Asset*'. The landscape features of the REPA area are a major reason why many of us chose to live in the district and it is good that at last these important amenity issues are receiving the recognition that they deserve.

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

REPA's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 27 March 2007**, at the **Brookfield Hall** at **7:30 pm**. All Management Committee positions will be declared vacant and a nomination form for these (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member) is enclosed or attached.

John Forrest has recently resigned from the Management Committee as his commitments to the Queensland Cricket Board frequently prevent him from attending Committee meetings. John was Chairman of REPA for four years from 1993 until 1997 when John Bristow was elected to the position. John Forrest was Chairman at the time of the initiation of the Kholo Creek Hardrock Resource Advisory Panel and subsequently participated in meetings of the Panel. His contributions to REPA have been significant and his presence and informed comments at Committee meetings will be much missed.

At last year's AGM we had discussion concerning the introduction of a concessional rate for members living at same address as another ordinary member. The meeting then voted that we have the Constitution changed to allow family membership. Initially we were advised, incorrectly, that we would not have to change our Constitution. Subsequently we were advised by a solicitor specialising in Incorporated Associations Law as follows: -

- Under the current Incorporated Associations Act, there are no definitions of an individual, a family or a corporate person (a company). This means that the standard definitions of legal entities applies – and there are only 2 legal entities under the law – an individual or a corporate person (= a company). Defining a family is a difficult task and therefore it is not advisable to try to define a family, nor to have a class of membership for families in our constitution. There has never been a family membership class in the model rules of the Incorporated Associations Act since the first Act of 1981 and apparently there is no provision for such a clause in the latest draft of the model rules.
- We should give serious consideration to having our entire Constitution reviewed by a law firm (on *pro bono* basis). "*The Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2006*" was introduced into the Queensland Parliament on 28 November 2006 and is expected to be passed soon. It would be desirable to have our Constitution reviewed under this new legislation. This minimises the chances of problems arising from an outdated constitution. Under the review, we could include investigation of the feasibility of family membership.

Also at last year's AGM we discussed membership fees and members felt that \$20.00 would be a more reasonable membership fee as the \$15.00 per "Ordinary member" does not cover our expenses. Accordingly, therefore, the Treasurer, Rachel Griffiths proposes the following Motion, seconded by Secretary Jenny Hacker:

**Motion**- that the membership fee for Ordinary Members be \$20.00 per year.

Should the above Motion be carried, the increase in Membership fees will take place immediately. Those who pay before the AGM, however, may pay at the lower rate. The Committee considered it desirable for the

increase to take place as soon as possible, especially following the discussion on the matter last year. A Membership renewal notice is enclosed or attached to this Newsletter except for those who have already paid.

### **Goodna Bypass**

The Prime Minister has just (5 March 2007) announced that funding for the proposed Goodna Bypass, involving four crossings of the Brisbane River, has been approved by the Federal Government. REPA wrote to the Prime Minister registering our Association's opposition to the Goodna Bypass or alternative Northern Corridor (ANC) in January with copies to Mark Vaile; our federal MP, Michael Johnson and our local State member, Dr Bruce Flegg. REPA is very disappointed by this decision as it will have an adverse impact on the residents of Moggill, the wildlife of the area and the amenity of the Brisbane River.

### **Gap Creek Road**

In December, a Newsletter from the City Council was circulated to residents of Kenmore Hills and The Gap about the feasibility study of the proposed upgrade to Gap Creek Road. Unfortunately many residents in Kenmore Hills, which includes Gap Creek Road, did not receive it then owing to a distribution problem, but further copies were sent out in January. The Newsletter included a form for residents to provide their opinions on upgrading Gap Creek Road. The Newsletter says that a final decision about the upgrade should be made prior to June 2007. Surveyors have been working along the road and sundry marks have been made.

### **Rafting Ground Park Signs**

REPA has offered to pay for installation of signage for the split-rail Pioneer Fence at Rafting Ground Park. But as yet we have not had a response from Brisbane City Council. The fence was originally constructed in 1961 under the auspices of the CWA to mark the centenary of separation of Queensland from New South Wales in 1859 and to commemorate the pioneers of the district.

### **Development Applications**

Moggill Country Club. REPA has been advised by Council staff that this application is still being assessed.

120 Church Road, Moggill A new Development Application has been submitted in which the number of lots proposed is reduced from 100 to 90. But REPA considers that this is still too many. The design and layout is, however, much more ecologically sensitive, with 2 large blocks of about 1 hectare proposed for the area at the southeast of the proposed development where there is a good stand of remnant vegetation. Public notification of this revised development plan has not yet taken place, but is expected shortly. REPA made a submission objecting to the earlier application and has been advised that this objection will still be valid for the current application.

### **Wildlife information - Wanted Dead or Alive!**

Chris Hosking, phone 3374 3453, email [cjmhosk@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cjmhosk@optusnet.com.au) , is compiling a database of all native mammal sightings, dead or alive. She is particularly interested in road kills. The information is being collected so as to provide substantiation for concerns regarding the detrimental effects that proposed roads/roadworks could have on native wildlife. So, please can you let her know of any sightings - time, date & place.

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We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 27 March.

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