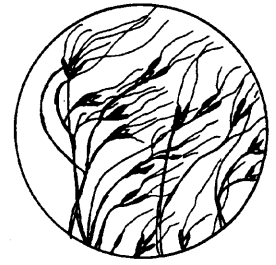




BUSH NEWS

from the Natural Areas of Kedron Brook & Environs



No 22, Spring 1994

GreenBrook Association

ROUTE 20 - THE NEXT STAGE

At a recent public meeting to discuss the Airport Motorway, Transport Minister Hamill announced that the first part of this would be a link between Junction Rd and Gympie Rd.

Mr Hamill stated that the Department of Transport (DOT) is still uncertain what the Gympie Rd end of this will look like, despite saying that construction will start next year!

The most likely reason for such secrecy is that this link is, in fact, the next stage in the Route 20 ring road through Brisbane. Rather than feeding on to Gympie Rd, the main intent will be to connect it with Stafford Rd.

Junction Rd and Stafford Rd are both Route 20. On official maps, both are called the "East-West Connector".

At the western end of Stafford Rd, Route 20 becomes South Pine Rd for a while, before blending into Wardell St where the DOT has recently built a massive overpass.

The conversion of Stafford Rd into a major arterial will have a huge impact on our quality of life.

Little things like walking across the road will become a real hazard, especially for children and the elderly. Traffic noise will become noticeable to many more people, and property values, at least for some, will plummet.

Unfortunately, human nature being

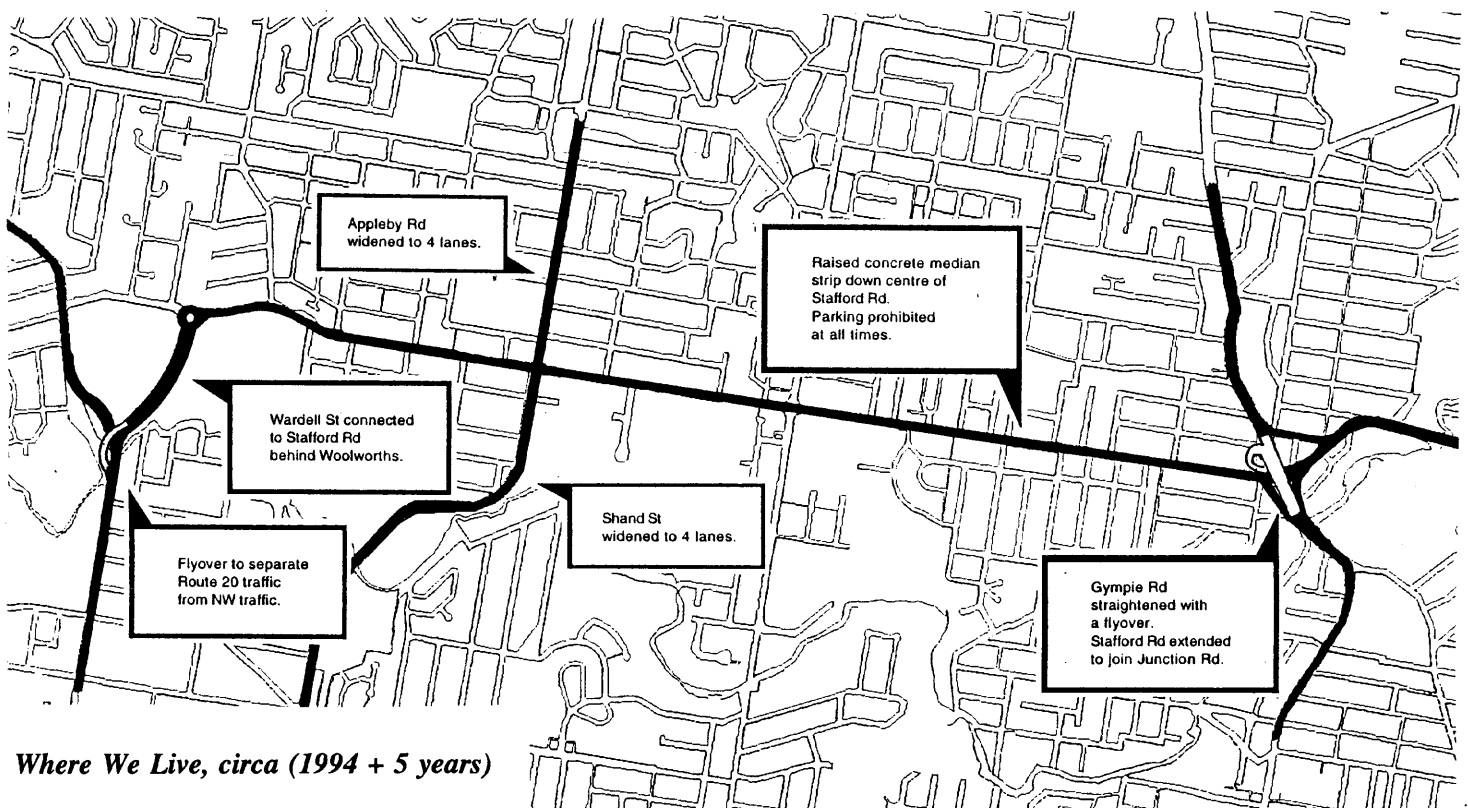
what it is, most of us who are not directly effected will shrug it off - how many of us got excited when Hale St was announced?

And yet there are two aspects to this that affect us all. The first concerns the air we breathe - roads bring cars, and cars make smog. We might be able to filter our water, and buy organically-grown food, but there is no way we can avoid breathing the city's air.

The second effect is on our city. Brisbane is still a great place to live. Do we want it to become another Los Angeles?

There is a limit to how many roads we can build, and still stay healthy. We deserve better than this.

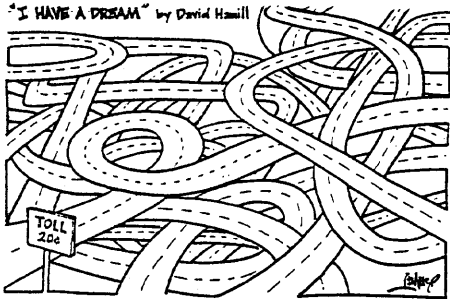
Frank Box



Where We Live, circa (1994 + 5 years)

AIR POLLUTION

Smog is the result of chemical reactions in the air, under the influence of sunlight. The basic ingredients are hydrocarbons and the oxides of nitrogen, the bulk of which come from cars.



Smog causes eye irritation, respiratory problems, and accelerates aging. Smog also contains carcinogens.

Rather than solving the smog problem, it is now known that vehicle emission controls have given us only a 10 year reprieve in the growth of smog. After that, smog will increase as before.

With heavy vehicles, there are no emission controls. The pollutants here are mainly nitrogen dioxide and tiny particulates, both of which are recognised health hazards.

Since 1975, a number of reports to governments have recommended that the only way to limit air pollution in Brisbane is discourage the use of motor vehicles.

Why is it then, that the only solutions which ever seem to come from the Department of Transport are road solutions?

DO WE HAVE A CHOICE?

All the evidence points to the fact that Brisbane will be unlivable if we continue the way we are going. Do we have a choice?

Unfortunately, we have come to rely on cars so much, that it is difficult to seriously consider alternatives.

And yet, there are some surprising facts around. For example ...

- During the Brisbane Expo in 1988, our public transport system carried, on average, an extra 80,000 people into the city every day for 6 months, with no additional expenditure on that system!

- In Germany, where some cities have intentionally halved the average traffic speed over large areas, the time for a typical trip has increased by only about 10%. It seems that, because cars travelling at speed need to leave more room between them, going slower makes little difference.

- When the main road through the CBD of Nuremberg was closed to traffic, 70% of that traffic simply disappeared. It appears that, in the same way that new roads attract cars, so congested roads repel them. Nuremberg, about the size

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of Brisbane, now has 5 km of pedestrian mall in its CBD.

HELP SAVE THE BUSH

It is now too dry to plant trees.

Most of our work over the next 3 months will involve digging out the introduced grasses, so as to lessen the heat in a wildfire.

If you enjoy fresh air, birds, some good exercise and a great cup of billy tea, why not join us?

Meet at the Blandford St entrance to Grange Forest Park, at 8.30 am, on -

9 Oct / 6 Nov / 4 Dec

Bob Devine

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Hardenbergia violacea 'Mini Ha Ha' "Native Wisteria"

A scrambler/prostrate shrub to 1m high x 2m across.

The parent is a native of Kedron Brook, where it lives as a eucalypt understory plant.

Gets covered in masses of violet pea-flowers. Tolerates semi-shade.

Available from
**Perrotts Nursery,
Elkhorn St, Enoggera**

