

Robertson Park upgrade Sally Lake and Dudley Maier OH0212

- MAIER One of the things too, is the wetland that is created there is a seasonal wetland so it's dry at the moment. Initially people thought, well the community won't accept that – they'll want something that's got water all year round like Hyde Park. But what the group did with the Town is before plans were approved we had a day in Robertson Park, brought all the plans, put flyers around the community, said come and have a look, ask questions, put in your comments. Quite a few people did come and made some suggestions and it was fine tuned. But I think because we did that people knew what to expect. They knew that it was going to dry out, it was going to look a bit ugly - well look a little bit ugly in summer. And they were quite happy because they realised that it was a natural system. So it's actually quite good because it's almost like a bit of bush in the inner city because in the last four or five years the trees have just taken off and it works quite well.
- LAKE We thought a lot about the design because that's sort of quite a formal park and it's got lawns and Norfolk Island Pines and Morton Bays. So quite formal trees planted in rows and it's corners and squares and things and we felt well then you suddenly have this bit of wild bushland. So the way the park was designed was that from the formal bits with these sort of Eastern State type trees and lawn, then there's a central garden bed which is still quite formal but uses native plants and then you go to the wild and bush thing. So visually it sort of just changes slowly from one style to another. And I think it was quite good actually coming up with things like that to make it fit into that park quite well rather than just, you know, we'll put in this little wetland and this little bit of bush in the middle of a kind of really manicured area.
- ML And do you have to put water in it or during winter it's natural?
- MAIER All the water comes from the drainage system on the roads.
- LAKE So it's just quite a small catchment, a local catchment.
- MAIER So normally it would just flow into the Claisebrook main drain and go off to the river so they just intercepted the pipe so if it rains on Brisbane Street, also at Palmerston Street, the water will come up into the park, fill up the lake.
- LAKE And there's a little stream there. It was interesting the first winter, people, locals started to realise that the stream would only run when it was actually raining because I think they somehow thought that the stream would run all winter or something. And so people would actually go out, you know, with their umbrellas to see the stream running down when it was raining.