



Cover: 28 Hiron Street, St Lucia

Final Word

A WELCOME GREEN TIDE

It is said that 'every cloud has a silver lining' and it appears such is the case for January's floods that affected Brisbane and much of Queensland. These latest floods caused much destruction and heartache but also returned countless tonnes of desperately needed sand and gravel to the bed of the Brisbane River, replacing much of that removed through 50 years of indiscriminate dredging.

Amazingly the river already looks healthier. Several river beaches from the past are back and the ugly muddy brown colour we have come to know, but not love, has assumed a far more inviting green tinge.

Obviously one good run in the river won't fully reverse the toll of half a century's wanton neglect, and we are a ways to go before we can again see the fish on the bottom of the river (but never again the now extinct Brisbane River Cod), but what a transformation there has already been.

In celebrating this welcome improvement in the health of our one and only waterway, we mustn't forget pressures remain for dredging to recommence, for 'navigation' purposes. For our river to stand any chance of returning to full health, we need to ask ourselves if such a retrograde step can ever again be seriously considered.