

FEP Annual General Meeting.

The FEP AGM will be held on Saturday 17th August 2013 at 210 West Street starting at 1pm till about 3pm, followed by afternoon tea and a chat. Members are invited to attend and requested to provide a plate of nibbles. Coffee and tea will be provided. (Parking down the driveway, suitable for dry or wet conditions.)

Duggan Park Activities.



The Duggan Park spotlighting tour was a success with about 30 locals checking out the wildlife. Although not a large number of animals were seen we eventually came across this white tipped, sugar glider close to the gazebo.

(Email Greg for more info about sugar gliders.)

The following Saturday FEP members welcomed the support from Church of Latter Day Saints Youth Group. This, our first volunteer working bee for many years, was very welcome. We managed to attack the lantana and cobblers pegs. For more information and photos check out our updated web site. www.fep.org.au

Flood Recovery Teams.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee QMDC has established a work base at Adora Downs, Mt Tyson for a number of flood recovery volunteer teams.

We have managed to secure the services of these volunteers helping us with a number of our bushland parks. The teams consist of travellers to Australia that are here on one year work visas. If they would like to secure a visa for another year they need to complete 88 days working in rural areas. This work can be paid or volunteering. As paid work can be hard to come by at short notice, some choose volunteer work which also comes with other benefits like free food and board.

The volunteers that we have assisting, come from a range of countries including England, Ireland, France and Spain.

Parkcare Groups.

Parkcare groups are volunteers carrying out bush rehabilitation in our local bushland parks.



Would you like to get involved?

Duggan Park

(Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville)

We are launching a new Parkcare Group
(Schedule is to be advised)

(Contact Rod Spalding 0418 710 232)

Redwood Park (Each Monday 8:30am)

(Plus 2nd & 4th Saturday each month)

(Warrego Highway below the saddle)

This group is active on Monday & every second Saturday from 8:30am. Access to the park is through the bottom car park on the down section of the Toowoomba range crossing, on the left just after the 100km sign.

(Contact Hugh Krenske info@fep.org.au)

(or call Hugh 0418 748 282 or 07 4635 1758)

Hartmann Bushland Reserve

(Cnr Alderley St & Rowbotham St)

(Wednesday from 7:30am each week)

(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)

(glukes@bigpond.com)

Panorama Crescent Park

(1st Saturday each month now from 3pm)

We would like to get more Prince Henry Heights residents active carrying out bush rehabilitation activities each month.

Pedestrian access is down the laneway between 4 & 8 Panorama Cr, Prince Henry Heights.

(Kathy Gouldson 4613 0195 or 0437 920 936)

Nielsen Park (Tarlington St off Ramsay St)

(1st Saturday each month from 9am - 12)

(Plus 3rd Sunday of the month from 2pm)

(Contact Rob Brodribb 0407 124 863)

(rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au)

Echo Valley South Park (Ramsay St)

(2nd, 4th & 5th Saturday each month from 9am)

This small group is active 2 or 3 Saturdays each month from 9am – 12 noon.

(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)

(glukes@bigpond.com)

Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba Inc.

Newsletter Editor Greg Lukes

glukes@bigpond.com

0428 288 077

Would you like to support FEP? Membership is only \$5 per year (\$10/Family)



The
**Escarpment
Park Friend**

Jul – Aug 2013

Hugh Krenske 4635 1758

info@fep.org.au

www.fep.org.au

FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

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National Tree Day.

Sunday, 28th July 9:30am to 1:30pm
Toowoomba Toyota will be joining forces with **Friends of the Escarpment Parks** and **Toowoomba Regional Council** to host the Planet Ark, National Tree Day activity at Redwood Park. The planned work area will be adjacent to the endangered dry rainforest along the entry track into the park.



This accessible site is already benefiting from the natural regeneration of species from the adjacent forest. Planting more native species will provide a greatly enhanced entry to these spectacular endangered rainforest and creek areas located at our door step.

Tools, BBQ, etc are supplied. Please wear appropriate clothing. Hat, covered shoes, long sleeved shirt and long pants are recommended.

(Warrego Highway Range Crossing)

(Down section below the saddle)

Access is through the car park below the saddle

on the left just after the 100km sign

Enter details below to RSVP and receive the site details by email.

treeday.planetark.org/site/54272

Redwood Park Changes.

TRC are considering building a causeway across Gatton Creek near the picnic area in Redwood and build or widen the track up the existing path towards the crows ash tree and then to the boundary with Toowoomba Regional Council and the Lockyer Regional Council. This track will provide access to the fire trails around the range escarpment from Prince Henry Drive all the way down to the picnic area.

(It is amazing what you need to do to get up the range nowadays without having to drive through the road works. Ed)



Ray and Ray's Rock at Redwood Park

In the process, TRC will be widening the track up from the creek. The large boulder shown above which is a landmark in the area may have to be moved or removed to accommodate the new track.

For the 2013 National Tree Day event we might run a competition for the kids called spot the rock. *How should it be managed?*

If you would like this boulder in Redwood Park to stay, contact the TRC by email to info@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au

Please save our boulder (Ray's Rock) at Redwood Park.

Fern Gully Walk.

The Fern Gully walk provided an interesting outing for members who went exploring at Redwood Park. The gully is a beautiful spot with its cascading waterfall, creek and an array of huge sandstone boulders covered in moss, ferns and fig trees.

The last 20 metres or so was a bit rugged clambering over the rocks and some of the fallen trees. The main group continued up the gully and returned down via the Redwood Forest Walk where we were able to show our new members, the area in which we have been working.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome a new couple from Withcott and also the members of the USQ Environment Society who also joined us on the walk.



Fern Gully, Redwood Park

It's great to see the agility with which these younger people move (triggering memories of years long past).

We finished the day with a very pleasant BBQ at the picnic area thanks to Ray and Eunice's preparation.

Hugh Krenske (FEP)

We have been advised by TRC that the trail is currently closed to the public. If you would like the trail improved to provide proper access again, please contact the TRC by email to info@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au

Please upgrade and reopen the trail to Fern Gully at Redwood Park.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.



We are looking for old (torn, etc) slim leg jeans to be converted into gaiters to cover the laces of work boots. Shoe and boot laces tend to collect then disperse seeds and cobblers pegs when moving around in the bush. By covering the laces, it should help to reduce the seed spread into sensitive areas.

Please contact Coral on 4634 3920.

Weed Watch.

Moth Vine (Mothplant)

Araujia hortorum or *Araujia sericifera*
Family Apocynaceae

Moth vine which is native to Peru is a perennial climber with sparse, twining, scrambling, woody stems. This local pest has a milky latex that comes from cut or damaged stems, leaves and roots.



Moth Vine

Black Diamond Images & Visoflora

Leaves are opposite, dull green on the upper surface and grey to white on the lower surface, sparsely hairy, triangular to pear shaped, tip pointed, base as-if-cut-off to slightly heart shaped.

Flowers either white or pale pink, borne singly or arranged in loose clusters.

Fleshy pear-shaped fruits (false choko) contain many seeds. Each seed has a bunch of fine, silky hairs at one end.

www.iewf.org/weedid/Araujia_hortorum.htm

Seeds spread on the wind and in water.

Native Look-alikes

The flowers and choko-like fruits are distinctive but there are some native climbers with similar leaves. Milk vines (*Marsdenia rostrata* and *M. flavescens*) also have milky sap and opposite leaves. However, the upper surface is shiny and the underside pale green in *M. rostrata* and yellowish in *M. flavescens*. Flowers are smaller, and yellow, and seed pods long and narrow. **Common silkpod** (*Parsonia straminea*) has similar leaves which are dull green above and paler green below, yellow flowers and long cigar-shaped pods. The small native vine *Tylophora barbata* has clear sap, opposite pale green leaves and the rarely produced flowers are small and dark purple.

www.esc.nsw.gov.au/weeds/Sheets/vines/V%20Moth%20plant.htm

Species Watch.

Black-breasted Buttonquail *Turnix melanogaster*

We are on the lookout for platelets and hopefully BBBQs in Redwood Park

The Black-breasted Buttonquail (BBBQ) is a rare buttonquail endemic to eastern Australia, where it is usually found in rainforest. **Like other buttonquails, it is unrelated to the true quails.**



Black-breasted Buttonquail (Not from here ☹)

The Black-breasted Buttonquail is a plump quail-shaped bird of predominantly marbled black, rufous and pale brown, marked prominently with white spots and stripes, and white eyes. Like other buttonquails, the female is larger and more distinctively coloured than the male. Measuring up to 20 cm (8 in), it has a black face and chin, sprinkled with fine white markings. The smaller male measures up to 19 cm (7.5 in) and lacks the black markings.^[4] The female makes a low-pitched **oom** call.^[4]

The species was classified as vulnerable until 2012 when it down listed to **near threatened**,^[8] most of the Black-breasted Buttonquail's original habitat has been cleared and the remaining populations are fragmented. The population has been estimated at 5000 breeding birds and declining.

The usual sex roles are reversed in the buttonquail genus. The larger and more brightly coloured female mates with multiple

male partners and leaves the male to incubate the eggs.^[9] One or two broods are probably laid each year; the nest is a shallow depression scraped out of the leaf litter and ground, lined with dried vegetation. Three or four shiny grey-white or buff eggs spotted with dark brown-black and lavender are laid measuring 28 mm x 23 mm.

The Black-breasted Buttonquail is found from central Queensland south to the northeastern corner of New South Wales. It is rare and its habitat is fragmented. It is found in rainforest and nearby areas, as well as Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) plantations,^[5] and lantana thickets. The Black-breasted Buttonquail was once also populous on Fraser Island, but the numbers are now assumed to be one.^[7]

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black-breasted_Buttonquail

The vegetation types described above generally possess a thick leaf litter layer between 3-10cm deep. It is through this leaf litter that the black-breasted button-quail forages using a technique termed "pivot-feeding". The birds scratch at the leaf litter with one leg while pivoting the body on the other, thus displacing leaves and soil, exposing invertebrate prey. This scratching produces distinctive circular feeding depressions often termed '**platelets**' that are between 15 and 25cm in diameter. Some other button-quail species (e.g. painted button-quail *Turnix varius*) feed in a similar fashion. The diet of the black-breasted button-quail consists mainly of small, ground-dwelling invertebrates and seeds.

www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/recovery/pubs/black-breasted-button-quail.pdf



Examples of feeding scrapes or platelets of the black-breasted button-quail

wetlandinfo.derm.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/components/species/?turnix-melanogaster#!prettyPhoto