

Free Mulch.

Toowoomba residents are able to collect mulch offered by Ergon Energy at the following substations. Alderley Street near Hoeppe Street and North Street between Ruthven Street and the railway line.

It works out a win, win for everyone as the vegetation that is trim from around powerlines in Toowoomba is mulched and stockpiled near the depots. Residents have access to pick up the free, clean mulch at any time.

Face Book.



Are you a **Face Book Fanatic?**

We are looking for someone to help get our newsletters & events onto Face Book. This may get more information out to our **tech savvy youth**. If you can get your kids to do it, all the better. Speaking of kids, are they interested in getting out into the bush? FEP can provide great opportunities and even letters of reference which may help to secure that first job or the next step in their career.

Committee Meetings.

FEP members are invited to attend the committee meetings. Meetings are held on the last Friday of every second month. January, March, May, July, September and November each year. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 27th September from 1pm at the TRC Parks and Gardens office cnr Stephen Street & Anzac Avenue.

Interesting Web Sites.

Robert Ashdown's Wildlife Photos
www.robertashdown.com

Wildlife Magazine
www.wildlife.org.au/magazine

Australian Geographic
www.australiangeographic.com.au

Relaxation of environment laws Qld
www.abc.net.au/news/2013-03-21/concern-as-land-clearing-plans-threaten-species/4585218
www.abc.net.au/news/2013-03-20/qld-govt-to-relax-land-clearing-laws-for-food/4584234

Piranhas
www.youtube.com/watch?v=4frRbnI50HU&feature=em-hot-vrecc
Toowoomba range traffic
[www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Traffic-cameras-by-location/Traffic-cameras.aspx?name=Toowoomba+Range+--+Saddle+\(West\)](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Traffic-cameras-by-location/Traffic-cameras.aspx?name=Toowoomba+Range+--+Saddle+(West))

Parkcare Groups.

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



Would you like to get involved?

DugganPark
(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 each 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/hr 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**
Sep – Oct 2013

Hugh Krenske 4635 1758

info@fep.org.au

www.fep.org.au

FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

In this issue-

- **FEP AGM Report**
- **Redwood Grant**
- **National Tree Day 2013**
- **Species Watch – Bearded Dragon**
- **Weed Watch – Mysore Thorn**
- **Free Mulch**
- **Parkcare Groups**

FEP AGM.

FEP Annual General Meeting was held Saturday 17th August. Committee election. Chair-Hugh Krenske Secretary-Bruce Titter Vice Chair-Geoff Sharp Other-Eunice Addison Treasurer-Ray Addison

Our guest speaker at the meeting was John Swarbrick. John, who is the founder of FEP, spoke about his research into the trees of Toowoomba that he is currently undertaking.

'Toowoomba lies at a point where four major ecosystems overlap, has excellent soils and climate for the growth of trees, and has a long and diverse horticultural tradition. As a result we have a very large tree flora consisting of both local and other Australian natives as well as trees from almost every other part of the world.

A checklist has been compiled of most of the tree species in Toowoomba with some indication of where they are growing in the city. From this base it has been possible to develop detailed reviews of botanical groups of trees, including several families of conifers and the oaks.

The National Trust in each state is developing registers of Significant Trees, but there are only six so far for Toowoomba. This list needs to be increased significantly (perhaps to fifty trees), and the trees of Toowoomba need to be better known, better protected and better publicised to both the local population and to tourists. Toowoomba could become a destination for tree lovers, an increasingly important group of tourists.'

Redwood Grant.

FEP has been approved a grant to carry out weed control, revegetation and the construction of a walking circuit with interpretive signage in Redwood Park. We will be moving fairly quickly to commence these projects within the park. Conservation Volunteers Australia will be providing volunteers to carry out a lot of the work under guidance from Toowoomba Regional Council Officers and the Friends of the Escarpment Parks coordinators.

A covered notice board is also planned to be erected in the picnic ground, the cost of which will be donated by Nannette Davidson, the granddaughter of Edwin Bernays, one of two honorary rangers appointed to work on the range escarpment in 1910.

On Saturday, 5th April, 2014, FEP will be conducting an open day in Redwood Park at which we hope to have an official opening of the walking circuit and, if all goes to plan, the naming of the picnic ground to the "Edwin Bernays Picnic Ground". This open day will showcase the various environmental and heritage groups and clubs that are available to the wider community. Invitations have been sent to various conservation groups to attend.

The open day will feature talks and various guided walks through the park including bird walks, plant walks, butterfly walks and a sample bush walk by the Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club.

Hugh Krenske (FEP)

National Tree Day.

National Tree Day at Redwood Park on Sunday 28th July was a great success. We would like to thank all the people who ventured down the Toowoomba Range to the Redwood Park picnic ground for their assistance on the day.

About 600 shrubs, trees and native grasses were planted along the entry track to the picnic ground.

A number of energetic young people including a team of overseas back packers from QMDC



(Queensland Murray Darling Committee) removed a vast area of lantana.

A guided tour through the rainforest in which members of the Friends of the Escarpment Parks have been working since July 2011 was held for those who wanted to see this endangered rain forest so close to the City of Toowoomba and the work that has been accomplished.

Toowoomba Toyota sponsored the event and provided the free BBQ as well as plenty of volunteers who assisted with the day. It was heartening to see our mayor Cr Paul Antonio, Cr Sue Englart and the Member for Toowoomba North, Hon Trevor Watts, joined in with the planting activities. It was a great day and enjoyed by everyone. You are welcome to check out the progress made in the park.

Ongoing care is still required and any assistance would be greatly appreciated. FEP is active at Redwood Park the 2nd and 4th Saturday each month as well as Monday mornings each week.



Hugh Krenske (FEP)

Species Watch.

Eastern Bearded Dragon

Pogona Barbata



www.aussiepythons.com/forum/field-herping-reptile-studies-5373/please-post-pics-wild-beardies-162008/

The Eastern Bearded Dragon occurs along the length of the Great Dividing Range. They are terrestrial (land dwelling), sun-loving lizards. It is not uncommon to see them basking on logs, etc.

They are named for the distinctive flap of skin which lies below their jaw. When threatened, they assume a defensive posture, opening their mouths and pushing their throat skin forward to make this 'beard'. This combined with the strong spikes which line the lizard's throat and the side of its body serve as a deterrent to would-be predators.

Eastern bearded dragons are predominantly grey to black. The colour variation is largely dependent on locality and temperature. They regulate their body temperature through subtle changes in shades of colour, from light to dark; becoming darker in cooler weather and vice-versa. Colour change can also depend on emotional state, with colouration becoming more obvious when startled or in an aggressive posture. The adult males can grow up to about 24 inches (60 cm), and females up to 20 inches (50 cm)

www.burkesbackyard.com.au/factsheets/Others/Bearded-Dragons/364

Weed Watch.

Mysore Thorn

Caesalpinia decapetala

Mysore thorn is native to southern and eastern Asia. It is a relatively widespread weed species that is mainly found in the coastal regions of eastern Australia. It is most common in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales, and less common in the coastal and sub-coastal districts of central and northern Queensland.

It is a weed of forest margins, disturbed forests, wetter bushland areas, waterways (i.e. riparian vegetation), pastures, disturbed sites, old gardens, roadsides and plantation crops in tropical, sub-tropical and warmer temperate regions.

Mysore thorn is a large sprawling shrub (2-4m tall) or tall climber with prickly branches. The branches are also densely covered with tiny brownish or golden-coloured hairs. Its twice-compound leaves have a prickly main stalk and 4-10 pairs of branchlets. The lower surface of the leaflets is significantly paler than the upper surface (i.e. they are discolourous). They produce pale yellow flowers which have five petals (10-15 mm long) and are borne in elongated clusters (10-40 cm long) at the tips of the branches. Flowering occurs mostly during winter and spring (i.e. from June to November).



Mysore thorn (*Caesalpinia decapetala*)

The young branches are densely covered with tiny brownish or golden-coloured hairs and have numerous sharp prickles. Older stems are thicker, greyish-brown in colour, and have larger hooked thorns.



The fruit, brown, flattened pods (6-10 cm long and about 25 mm wide) have a small projection at their tips. These woody pods are hairy when young and turn from green to brown as they mature. When they are fully mature, they split open to release 4-9 rounded seeds. These seeds (6-10 mm across) are brown and black in colour. Fruit are present mainly during spring and summer (i.e. from August to December). The seeds may be dispersed by animals (e.g. rodents and birds) and human activities (e.g. in dumped garden waste). The pods may also float on water.

Mysore thorn is regarded as an environmental weed in Queensland and New South Wales. It is particularly troublesome in the wetter parts of south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales. It is an extremely aggressive climbing plant that smothers native vegetation and makes walking through infested areas impossible. It forms stands along roadsides and creeks (i.e. in riparian zones) and invades disturbed tropical and sub-tropical rainforests. This species dominate native vegetation and severely impact biodiversity through restricting germination, reducing forest biomass and by smothering native species. It also restricts the movement of native fauna and the sprawling thickets provide habitat for foxes and other pest animals.

The long spines of Mysore Thorn can also inflict serious injury to human and animals, both native and domestic.

In Hawaii, there is even a report where a cow became so entangled that it was killed and ended up suspended on the thicket four feet above the ground.

keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/03030800-0b07-490a-8d04-0605030c0f01/media/Html/Caesalpinia_decapetala.htm