

Tool Topics.

To hear the story and see the results when the Brothers Grimm get going in the bush at Echo Valley South Park on Monday mornings check out the Landcare web site-

<http://landcareqld.placestories.com/story?id=2700122&p=2700024>

Now there are three stories in the "Tools N More Tools" section.

Euan (Ian) McLean (FEP)
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How is this for a yarn?

An old Italian lived alone in New Jersey, USA. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot.

I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days.

Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Pop,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.

Love, Vinnie

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologised to the old man and left.

The following day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Pop,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love, Vinnie

(Where there is a will, there is a way. Ed)

Parkcare Groups.

Parkcare groups are volunteers doing rehabilitation work on these Sundays each month.

Would you like to get involved?

Nielsen Park (1st Sunday)

Prince Henry Heights (3rd Sunday)

Waterbird Habitat (4th Sunday)

Nielsen Park

This park is located at the eastern end of Tarlington Street or can be accessed via Rowbotham Street and/or Nielsen Court.

Prince Henry Heights

This group is still working along Prince Henry Drive.

The Waterbird Habitat

This group is very active on the 4th Sunday each month on the main land and the islands.

Rehabilitation may include weed removal, propagating and planting native species as well as monitoring plants and wildlife.

For more information on parkcare groups, please contact –

Kristie Jenkinson

4688 6514 or 0408 714 215

kristie.jenkinson@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au

FEP News.

FEP Volunteers help with National Tree Day

We would like to thank the council staff and the FEP volunteers for helping to make the National Tree Day planting activity such a success. This included the training, supervision and feeding of over 200 volunteers. Well done.

**Friends of the Escarpment Parks
Toowoomba Inc.**

FEP Membership is only \$5 per year

Would you like to support FEP? Membership is only \$5 per year



The
**Escarpment
Park Friend**
Sep – Oct 2009

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FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

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National Tree Day.

National Tree Day Toowoomba Sunday 2nd August 2009 Picnic Point

The Toowoomba Bushland is now 2600 native plants better off after National Tree Day. Young and old joined in and did their bit for the environment planting native trees and shrubs at Tobruk Memorial Drive at Picnic Point.



Among the native flora planted were 40 Birdwing Butterfly vines (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*), the larval host vine for the brilliant green, but endangered Richmond Birdwing butterfly.

National Tree Day

The National Tree Day site is a southern facing gully which was planted up as a rainforest gully about 3 to 4 decades ago by Toowoomba Council gardeners.



We had over 200 volunteers including families, school and work groups assisting with this project.

In more recent years, the gully has been maintained by students from Clifford Park School as part of their Bushcare Program.

In years to come, as the plantings in the gully grow and are extended, the gully will become an important part of the parkland surrounding Picnic Point and will provide habitat for wildlife.

A very big thank you to all who volunteered their time for the day!

For further information about this or other activities, contact Toowoomba Regional Council Bushcare Facilitator on 4688 6514 or visit the Toowoomba Bushcare Facebook site or visit the TRC Bushcare web site -

www.toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au/bushcare.

Weed Watch.

Mother of Millions (*Bryophyllum species*) are escaped ornamental plants from Madagascar.



As the name suggests one plant can reproduce a new generation from masses of embryooids (plantlets) that are formed on the leaf edges. These plantlets drop readily, develop roots, and establish quickly to form a new colony. This makes these plants fast spreading and hard to eradicate.

Mother of millions are erect, smooth, fleshy succulent plants growing to 1 metre or more in height and are often found as a garden plant in eastern Australia. They form tall flower spikes in winter with cluster of bell shaped flowers making it easy to find and identify.



Mother of millions has become a widespread weed of untended areas. They can spread from these areas, especially in flood and re-establish easily. They are adapted to dry conditions and can survive long periods of drought.

Mother of millions are toxic to cattle and are a declared environmental weed under Queensland Legislation, which means that land holders are responsible for their control.

When out-breaks of Mother of millions occur, pull up plants by hand, bag them and dump in a bin whose contents are buried at councils refuse tip rather than recycling into mulch.

Large infestations can be treated with herbicide, before using any herbicide always read the label carefully. All herbicides must be applied strictly in accordance with the directions on the label.

Mother of millions flowers in winter which makes May to August the best time to remove plants.



Embryooids (plantlets)

For further information see the [DPI website](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)

Species Watch.

Look at Lichens (Part 2)

SHRUBBY, LEAFY OR CRUSTY – How do you like your lichens?

Lichens come in three main forms – shrubby (fruticose), leafy (foliose) and crusty (crustose), which is very useful in their identification. A few lichens have other forms as well, including powdery (leprose) and scaly (squamulose). The body of a lichen is not differentiated into complicated internal tissues like that of a flowering plant but generally consists of a fungal mass enclosing a thin surface layer of photosynthesizing algal cells, and is known as a thallus.

Shrubby or fruticose lichens are firmly attached to the substrate on which they live by small central disc-like holdfasts, rather like a lot of seaweeds. From the holdfast the thallus grows as a stem-like structure which branches repeatedly to form the body of the lichen. The branches may be rounded or flattened, regular or irregular, and either sparse or dense. The *Ramalina* illustrated in the first article on lichens clearly shows this type of growth with its long tapering irregular flattened branches. Many fruticose lichens have round tightly clustered branches all of the same length making them look like little heads of coral, whilst one of the commonest fruticose lichens (*Usnea*) has round slender elongate thread-like branches. Fruticose lichens grow from the tips to form longer and longer or larger and larger thalli.



Foliose lichen, *Parmelia*

Leafy or foliose lichens are generally flattened onto the surface of their substrate. They have distinct upper and lower surfaces – the upper surfaces generally contain the photosynthetic algae and the lower are often white or coloured. The edges of their thalli are often lobed, and they grow outwards from the centre to form discs or circles. Foliose lichens are firmly attached to their substrates by rhizines, short white or coloured hair-like outgrowths from their lower sides which lock into irregularities in the surface of the bark or rocks on which they live. Foliose lichens may grow up to ten centimeters across, following any irregularities on the surface or the substrate and often overlapping other lichens of the same or different species.



Crustose lichen

Crusty or crustose lichens are similar to foliose lichens but do not have a clearly defined lower surface, so that they adhere very tightly to their substrates and lack clearly marked marginal lobes. The fungal mass that makes up most of their substance integrates closely with that of their substrate. Crustose lichens also grow outwards at the edges so that they often form discs or circles which vary from only a few millimetres to several centimetres across. Because they cannot rise up at the edges they may become overgrown by foliose lichens.

John Swarbrick (FEP)