

Committee Meeting

FEP members are invited to attend the committee meetings. The **next meeting has changed to Friday 19th September** from 1pm at the TRC Parks and Gardens office cnr Stephen Street & Anzac Avenue.

Jubilee Park National Tree Day



www.thechronicle.com.au/news/volunteers-roll-up-for-tree-day/2353070/

TGS Students Help at Redwood

Toowoomba Grammar School students made light work of a serious rainforest infestation helping the Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba group clear lantana from Redwood Park.

About 100 students with their parents helped clear the weed from about three hectares of land. Mackintosh House master Brodie Bassingthwaite was impressed by the dedication the students showed to the task. "The school is very proactive in terms of its service and initiatives in the community," he said. "We put the call out to the boys and they turned up today."

Hugh Krenske, of Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba, was thrilled at the work done by the student cohort.

Exert from **The Chronicle**
Article by **Tara Miko**

www.thechronicle.com.au/news/grammar-boys-slash-lantana-infestation/2354399/

Jubilee Park Rescue



Youth rescued from Jubilee Park, Sunday 24th August

Photo Geoff Sharp (FEP)

www.thechronicle.com.au/news/dramatic-rescue-underway-after-youth-falls-25m/2362084/

Parkcare Groups



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

Would you like to get involved?

Jubilee Park (Coventry Court) (New)
(Northern end of Mackenzie Street, Mt Lofty)
(Last Sunday of the month from 3 - 5pm)
(Contact Geoff Sharp 0427 038 055)

Redwood Park (Each Mon & Thu 8:30am)
(Plus 2nd & 4th Saturday each month)
(Warrego Highway below the saddle)

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 first 100km speed sign.



(Contact Hugh Krenske info@fep.org.au)
(or call Hugh 0418 748 282 or 07 4635 1758)

Duggan Park (1st Saturday from 8:30am)
(Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville)
(Contact Rod Spalding 0418 710 232)

Hartmann Bushland Reserve
(Cnr Alderley St & Rowbotham St)
(Wednesday from 7:30am each week)
(Plus 3rd Saturday each month from 9am)
(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)
(glukes@bigpond.com)

Nielsen Park (Colman Drv off Mackenzie St)
(1st Saturday each month from 9am - 12)
(Plus 3rd Sunday of the month from 2pm)
Please note that the container has been relocated from Tarlington Street to the western end of Colman Drive. (Please call if lost.)
(Contact Rob Brodribb 0407 124 863)
(rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au)

Panorama Crescent Park
(1st & 3rd Saturday each month 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 kathygouldson@bigpond.com)

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)

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

Newsletter Editor Greg Lukes

glukes@bigpond.com

0428 288 077



**You are invited to check out our parks and progress (See Parkcare Groups)
Would you like to support FEP? Membership is only \$5 per year (\$10/Family)**



The
**Escarpment
Park Friend
Sep – Oct 2014**

Hugh Krenske 4635 1758

info@fep.org.au

www.fep.org.au

FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

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FEP AGM

The FEP Annual General Meeting was held Saturday 9th August. Election results are -

President: **Hugh Krenske**

Vice President: **Geoff Sharp**

Secretary: **Bruce Titter**

Treasurer: **Ray Addison**

Other Member: **Eunice Addison**

Our guest speaker at the meeting was Robert Ashdown. Robert's presentation featured Australia's spectacular wildlife and views of our country.



How is this for great camouflage?

Red grasshopper in the red Simpson Desert

Photo Robert Ashdown

www.robertashdown.com

www.robertashdown.com/blog

Spotlight Tour Nielsen Park

Spotlight Tour of Nielsen Park, Coleman Drive, Middle Ridge (Off Street parking is available at the western end of Coleman Drive.)

The tour is to highlight our local bushland environment as well as a variety of different nocturnal birds and other native animals that come out at night. See Australia's unique animals and birds in their natural bushland environment during the wildlife spotlighting tour. Led by nature guides, your small nocturnal tour group can explore the paths around and through one of Toowoomba's many bushland parks by starlight. You will have an opportunity see a range of different possums as well as possibly kookaburras, Tawny Frogmouths, etc. Even the trees and insects are able to be highlighted when seen in a different light at night.

This is a great opportunity to open up a new world of interest especially for our younger generation. Participants will have an opportunity to be part of a group exploring and identifying a variety of different nocturnal birds and other animals that come out at night. Along the way you can also find out how many of the species interact with each other and different type of habitat is required for many of the different species.

TOUR DATE: Saturday 20th September.

START TIME: Start 6pm, finish by 8pm.

TOUR COST: FREE

The tracks are easy walking access on level ground suitable for people of general fitness level. As Nielsen Park is a bushland environment visitors are advised to wear closed in shoes. (A jacket is recommended, torch and cameras are optional.)

For more information

www.fep.org.au/fep-meetings.php?as_year=C

To register please RSVP to info@fep.org.au

Weed Watch

Taiwan Lily (Article from Burke's Backyard) *Lilium formosanum*

Taiwan lily is a beautiful tall lily that has **escaped from gardens to become a weed.**

It is now outcompeting many of our native Australian plants, and degrading the value of our urban bushland.

Taiwan lily is a bulbous plant with upright, straight, flowering stems 1 to 1.8m (up to 6') tall in summer.



Taiwan lily escaped into bushland

Clusters of 1 to 3 lightly scented, trumpet-shaped flowers are borne at the top of each stem. The flowers are white with a pale yellow throat, and some have pink staining on the outside of the petals or when in the bud.

The botanic name is formosanum which is Latin, meaning 'from Formosa'. The island of Formosa is now Taiwan.

This plant has now escaped from gardens and naturalised in southeast Australia from Queensland to Victoria and also on Lord Howe Island. It is usually found along roadside verges, drainage ditches, on wasteland **and in bushland.** Reasons for success are that the Taiwan lily grows from the seed, from the bulbs and from the fleshy leaves around the bulb called bulb scales.

The plant grows from seed to flowering stage in around 6-9 months (most lilies take two years from seed until flowering). **Each flower produces hundreds of seeds.** As the seeds mature, the seed pods are held upright and open slowly. Seeds are released over a 4-8 week period to take advantage of good conditions. Seeds are light and travel long distances on the wind.

A single seed blown or washed away or a plant dumped in bushland can become the nucleus of a new weed infestation if not identified and removed early. Note - If lilies are of interest try planting the types that do not pose a weed risk for our bushland.

Never plant or dump potentially invasive exotic plants. Any plant that grows and spreads quickly in your garden is likely to do the same thing in the bush.

For information and suitable alternatives to Taiwan Lily see Burke's Backyard web site.

www.burkesbackyard.com.au/factsheets/Weeds-and-Garden-Pests/Taiwan-Lily/463



Seed pods, seeds, bulb and bulb scales

Removal **Greg Lukes (FEP)**

- **Do not** pull out stem by hand. If the stem is lifted it is likely to break away from the bulb which is well below the soil surface. Lifting the stem can also cause the bulb scales to dislodge underground making them harder to locate and to remove. The bulb and each of the bulb scales are capable of germinating. Initially retain the flowering stem to identify where the bulb is located.
- Carefully remove the seed pod at the top of the stem keeping the pod upright if mature or splitting and place all seeds in a bin.
- Dig out the bulb well below the ground surface collecting all the bulb scales and place in a bin. Once cleared, monitor area again each 3 - 6 months.

Species Watch

Grey Goshawk

Accipiter novaehollandiae

The Grey Goshawk is seen fairly regularly along the escarpment. It is a medium-sized bird of prey that can be all white or white with grey head wings and back. Some have grey banding (feather bling) on the chest. The long yellow legs, half yellow beak, rectangular tail and lack of a black shoulder help identify them.



Grey goshawk

Geoff Sharp (FEP)

This grey goshawk was perched in the canopy on Mount Kynoch keeping one foot warm on a cool July morning. They come in a range of fashionable colours so have a few names such as the Grey, White or Variable goshawk – but they always have those long yellow legs. The grey coloured form is the most common in the Toowoomba area but the white form has also been seen here. They are permanent residents and form stable pairs. The home range is defended all year and nest sites may be reused.

They prefer moist forests or woodland areas and are said to nest high in a live tree. Home ranges can be many square kilometres for each pair, so large connected habitat blocks like the Toowoomba escarpment are needed to maintain populations. Studies in Victoria indicate it requires forest at least 30 years old to breed, while in Tasmania the preferred nesting areas are at least 50 years old.



Geoff Sharp (FEP)

The species occurs from New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Northern and Eastern Australia to Tasmania. They are listed as Near Threatened in Queensland. They are thought to be secure here but need monitoring, retention of suitable habitat and avoidance of impact to breeding sites. In southern states logging, habitat loss and habitat fragmentation increases extinction risk so they are Vulnerable or Endangered there.

Grey Goshawks feed on small animals such as birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. They often hunt from a perch in the canopy and pursue prey in flight or chase it on the ground. Its long legs help it move on the ground, while the powerful feet can pluck a bird from the air.

Whatever you call them, they are another natural ornament retained in our large Escarpment Parks on Toowoomba's doorstep. You might see them at Jubilee Park look out (northern end of McKenzie Street), Mount Kynock, Picnic Point or Table Top where many raptors cruise the range. They might even come to town occasionally.

Geoff Sharp (FEP)

www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Accipiter-novaehollandiae

bird.net.au/bird/index.php?title=Grey_Goshawk

www.fpa.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/68108/Grey_goshawk_2011.pdf