

Review

Rainforest Plants of Australia Rockhampton to Victoria.

Those who are interested in knowing more about the plants in our local area might like to get hold of this new computer key. Written by Gwen Harden, Hugh Nicholson, Bill McDonald, Nan Nicholson, Terry Tame and John Williams, it was launched in November and is available on a USB from www.rainforestpublishing.com.au, or from rainforests.net.au.

The cost, if ordered on the internet, is \$80. My first thought was that the price is rather high, but it contains so much more than could ever be fitted into a single book, that it is definitely worth it. The key identifies all the trees, shrub, climbers, mistletoes and treeferns that fit within the authors' rather broad definition of a rainforest plant. This includes plants of wet environments like Goomburra, Ravensbourne or the Bunya Mountains; dry rainforests such as those in Redwood Park or Highfields; and even the "scrub" plants to the west of Toowoomba. (There are no "sclerophyll" gumtrees or wattles listed)

"Keying out" plants can be quite difficult if you use a traditional key, but the great thing about this one is that you can enter anything you know about the plant. It begins with a list of all its 1139 plants. Type in one fact - that it has pink fruits of a certain size, for example - and all plants that don't fit this description disappear from the list. Type in the geographical area and suddenly you find yourself with quite a short list that makes it easy to find your plant. Add a few other facts, such as the length of the leaves and you may have identified your plant already checking its description and the photos provided.

If there are still a few to choose from, you can look at the photos of each of the plants left in the list, which might give you the bit of extra help you need to find "your" plant. Because it's a computer key, it has been able to include lots more photos of each plant than books can afford to publish - 12,000 of them altogether, with ten or a dozen of every plant, so you get a really good idea of what each plant looks like. Another use for the program is to look up any plant that you're curious about, in the list of names. Because it offers a full written description of each plant, an indication of where it's likely to grow and photos of the whole plant as well as close-ups of the trunk, flowers, fruit, leaves, etc, you can start to feel you really know that plant.

As a bonus, if you order it from Hugh and Nan Nicholson's www.rainforestpublishing.com.au site you also get a free copy of Vol 1 of their rainforest book series. (Hugh & Kay have a key)

This is a fantastic resource. Trish Gardner

Parkcare Groups



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

Would you like to get involved?

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)

Jubilee Park (Coventry Court)
(Northern end of Mackenzie Street, Mt Lofty)
(1st Sunday of the month 8 - 9am) (New)
(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 (New schedule)
(Each Thursday & 3rd Saturday from 8:30am)
(Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville)
(Contact Max Henderson 0427 866 091)

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)

Panorama Crescent Park
(1st & 3rd Saturday each month from 3pm)

Local residents are actively 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)
(glukes@bigpond.com)

Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba Inc.

Newsletter Editor **Greg Lukes**
newsletters@fep.org.au
0428 288 077



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



Friends of the Escarpment Parks
TOOWOOMBA INC.



The
**Escarpment
Park Friend**

Jan – Feb 2015

High Krenske 4635 1758

info@fep.org.au

www.fep.org.au

FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

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Funding for FEP Projects

Trevor Watts and John McVeigh visited Redwood Park Monday 22nd December to present a cheque from the Everyone's Environment grants program to Friends of the Escarpment Parks, Toowoomba Inc.



Some of the FEP crew with Trevor Watts and John McVeigh at Redwood Park

Trevor Watts is the Australian Federal Member of Parliament for Toowoomba North and John McVeigh is the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and State Member for Toowoomba South.

The funds will be used to assist with projects at both Redwood Park on the range and Nielsen Park in Middle Ridge, Toowoomba.

Day/Night Park Tour & BBQ

Nielsen Park Sunday, February 15th

Western end of Colman Drive

Park Tour from 5pm, free BBQ 6pm and/or Spotlight Tour starting at 7pm.

Members and local residents are welcome to join in for the full event or any of the section(s) (Please **RSVP** to info@fep.org.au by 11/2/15)

Wildlife

Carpet Python (Costal Carpet Python)
Morelia spilota sub species mcdowelli

We found this cute little juvenile carpet python in Duggan Park when we were removing lantana with the Toowoomba Christian College students end of November.



Veronica's Visit to Toowoomba

Veronica Newbury was the TCC Bushcare facilitator with the former Toowoomba City Council. Veronica and her family visited Toowoomba over Christmas to catch up with family, our group and visit a few bushland parks where she was actively involved.

Veronica is the Environmental Manager of Bold Park since 2009. Bold Park is a 437 hectare (1,080 acre) urban bushland area located in the suburb of City Beach, Perth.

Species Watch

Hairy Lolly Bush

Clerodendrum tomentosum

Hairy Lolly Bush (also known as Hairy Clerodendrum, Hairy Clairly or Downy Chance) is a shrub or small native tree occurring in eastern and northern Australia and in New Guinea. In Australia it is distributed from Batemans Bay in southern coastal New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory and also Western Australia. Habitat is the margins of warmer rainforests of various types.

It can survive in certain areas of under 1000 mm average annual rainfall. (Toowoomba's average annual rainfall is 895 mm en.climate-data.org/location/66/)

Hairy Lolly Bush is an opened branched plant 4m but can grow up to 15 metres tall with a trunk diameter of 25 cm (usually much smaller).

The trunk is mostly cylindrical or sometimes flanged at the base. Bark is grey or fawn, somewhat scaly or corky on larger plants.

Young branchlets have lenticels, and are downy and soft. Angled or square in cross section, brownish grey and sometimes purple at the tips.

It has large veiny leaves which are opposite



Hairy Lolly Bush

on the stem, 4 to 14 cm long, 2 to 4.5 cm wide. Upper leaf surface is usually hairy. The under side of the leaf is hairy soft and downy to the touch. Pale green below the leaf and darker green above.

The leaf veins are prominent on the underside and visible on the top surface. The 5 or 6 main lateral veins curve near the leaf edge.

White flowers form in dense heads between the months of October to January. Four long stamens protrude from the fragrant flower. Flowers are pollinated by nocturnal moths.



The fruit starts green turning a shiny black or navy blue drupe (stone fruit) surrounded by a fleshy red calyx (husk or pod).



Hairy Lolly Bush mature fruit

Photo [Trish Gardner](#)

toowoombaplants2008.blogspot.com.au/2009/02/hairy-lolly-bush.html

The red calyx and the dark fruiting body attract birds, such as the Satin Bowerbird. Drupe size is 5 to 8 mm with four lobes, the width of the red calyx is up to 20 mm.

Hairy Lolly Bush is a good pioneer species in regeneration areas. It is also a bird and butterfly attracting plant.

The attractive flowers and fruit make this suitable to native gardens in Australia.

Plants can be slow to regenerate from seed, though it can strike from cuttings.

The fruit is not edible for humans.

[Text & 1st image from Wikipedia](#)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clerodendrum_tomentosum

Hairy Lolly Bush can be found locally in Duggan Park, Franke Scrub Highfields and at Highfields Falls.

Despite the display and the common name 'lolly', this brightly coloured fruit is *NOT* edible.

Weed Watch

Wild Oats

Including *Avena ludoviciana* and *Avena fatua*

Wild oats infestation is one of the most common weeds of winter crops and fallows across southern Queensland.

Populations are generally a mix of 2 species, *Avena ludoviciana* and *Avena fatua*.



Photo property of the Government of Manitoba

Wild oats are highly competitive weeds with low numbers able to cause substantial crop losses. The largest flush of seedlings is generally late autumn/early winter provided there is adequate soil moisture, but weeds will emerge periodically throughout the rest of winter and in spring.

Seed production of a wild oat plant is estimated to be around 50 to 225 seeds.

Most wild oat seeds in the surface soil do not persist for long periods. Found on river banks, forest margins, roadsides and other disturbed areas.

Their main method of spread is via seed by soil, water, machinery, footwear, stock and wildlife. It is important to prevent seed production. The aim of wild oat management should be to stop seed set ideally by removing seedlings before seed production starts. To identify the seedling early, leaves are a dark blue/green colour slightly different to most other grasses and almost white at the base of the leaves.

If removing green wild oats in seed, ensure that all seeds are safely recovered and placed head first into a deep container for proper disposal. **(Not green waste bin.)**

Found locally in most parks & mown areas.

High School Helpers

Toowoomba Christian College (TCC)

Monday 24th November we had a number of TCC students helping to remove lantana from Redwood & Duggan Parks. **Thanks!!!**



Redwood Park volunteers and TCC helpers (above)



Some of the 20 active TCC helpers at Duggan Park

