

## To Mow or Not to Mow (Part 1)

**Mowing is a common suburban addiction.** We are often trying to make an environment suited to our life style, but if it involves mowing it is usually making an environment that is **not suitable for our local wildlife.**

If habitat is an important goal, native plants including grasses and other ground cover would be ideal and will not require mowing.

If you live near (or back on to) a bushland area or want to make a tangible commitment to the environment, property owners should offer their own native bushland habitat areas eventually linking up to provide larger community ecosystems and/or corridors.

Each of these community ecosystems could then help our native animals survive, move from area to area safely and as a result, thrive within secure biodiverse communities.

**Greg Lukes (FEP)**

## Supporter

We would like to thank Toxfree (formerly Wanless) for their continued support providing industrial bins for weed and rubbish removal at Echo Valley South Park. In Toowoomba and throughout Australia, Toxfree also provides other waste management services including skip bins, etc. (To contact Toxfree Toowoomba phone 07 4639 5600)

[www.toxfree.com.au](http://www.toxfree.com.au)



## 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 29<sup>th</sup> May** starting at 1pm at the TRC Parks and Gardens office SW cnr Stephen Street & Anzac Avenue.

## Wildlife Australia

### Wildlife Magazine

**Do You Believe in the Wild?** Wildlife Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that produces a great magazine. All proceeds go to support wildlife conservation projects.

[www.wildlife.org.au/magazine](http://www.wildlife.org.au/magazine)

## 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)**

**(1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month from 9am - 12)**

**(Plus 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 2pm)**

(Contact Rob Brodribb 0407 124 863)

([rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au))

### **Jubilee Park (Coventry Court)**

**(Northern end of Mackenzie Street, Mt Lofty)**

**(1st Sunday of the month 8 - 9am)**

(Contact Geoff Sharp 0427 038 055)

### **Redwood Park (Each Mon & Thu 8:30am)**

**(Plus 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@fep.org.au))

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

### **Duggan Park**

**(Each Thursday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 8:30am)**

**(Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville)**

(Contact Max Henderson 0427 866 091)

### **Hartmann Bushland Reserve**

**(Cnr Alderley St & Rowbotham St)**

**(Wednesday from 8am each week)**

**(Plus 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month from 9am)**

(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)

([glukes@bigpond.com](mailto:glukes@bigpond.com))

### **Panorama Crescent Park**

**(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:kathygouldson@bigpond.com))

### **Echo Valley South Park (Ramsay St)**

**(2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:glukes@bigpond.com))

## Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba Inc.

Newsletter Editor **Greg Lukes**

[newsletters@fep.org.au](mailto:newsletters@fep.org.au)

0428 288 077



Would you like to support FEP? Individual and family membership is \$10 per year



Friends of the Escarpment Parks  
TOOWOOMBA INC.



TOOWOOMBA  
REGIONAL  
COUNCIL

FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

The  
**Escarpment  
Park Friend**

**May – Jun 2015**

Hugh Krenske 4635 1758

[info@fep.org.au](mailto:info@fep.org.au)

[www.fep.org.au](http://www.fep.org.au)

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**Snooze Time after a Good Meal**

Max and Kevin found this impressive 3m python in the quarry at Duggan Park. The python was lying on a bed of moth vine in the sun, digesting morning tea. (Judging by the bulges, probably a good feed of lizard. Ed.)



**A large python at Duggan Park**

The moth vine (or false choko) is taking over in patches where the lantana was removed last November by a team of students from Toowoomba Christian College. If you would like to assist at Duggan Park contact Max, 0427 866 091.

**Max Henderson (FEP)**

**World Environment Day (WED)**

**Toowoomba's World Environment Day  
Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015. 9:30am – 4pm  
Lake Annand Park**

FEP will be setting up a stall to highlight our activities. Many people talk about the environment, **we do something about the environment**. If you would like to assist please contact Greg Lukes on 0428 288 077.

The well-being of humanity, the environment, and the functioning of the economy, ultimately depend upon the responsible management of the planet's natural resources.

**"Evidence is building that people are consuming far more natural resources than what the planet can sustainably provide."**

Many of the Earth's ecosystems are nearing critical tipping points of depletion or irreversible change, pushed by high population growth and economic development.

By 2050, if current consumption and production patterns remain the same and with a rising population expected to reach 9.6 billion, we will need **three planets** to sustain our ways of living and consumption.

The WED theme this year is therefore,

**Seven Billion Dreams.**

**One Planet.**

**Consume with Care.**

Living within planetary boundaries is the most promising strategy for ensuring a healthy future. Human prosperity need not cost the earth. Living sustainably is about doing more and better with less. It is about knowing that rising rates of natural resource use and the environmental impacts that occur are not a necessary by-product of economic growth.

[www.unep.org/wed/2015\\_slogan](http://www.unep.org/wed/2015_slogan)

## Weed Watch

### African Lovegrass

*Eragrostis curvula*

African lovegrass is a relatively large and tufted long-lived grass with stems growing 30-120 cm tall. Its stems and leaves are mostly upright, but are sometimes arched or slightly weeping in nature. Its leaf blades are linear and often have in-rolled margins. Its seed-head is a much-branched open panicle with a large number of greyish-green or purplish coloured flower spikelets.



**African lovegrass**

**Blue/green coloured leaves with purple colour at the base of the leaves**

African lovegrass originated from **Southern Africa**. It is very widely naturalised species that is most abundant in the southern and eastern parts of the country. It is common in eastern New South Wales, the ACT, south-eastern Queensland and south-western Western Australia and has a more scattered distribution in Victoria and the southern parts of South Australia. It is also present in other parts of Australia and overseas.

Flowering occurs throughout much of the year, but is most abundant from early summer through until early winter. When the flower spikelets are mature they break apart and release the seeds. The seeds are tiny (0.3-0.7 mm long), oval or almost rounded in shape, and can be whitish, yellow, orange, brownish or black in colour. Mature seeds are usually present during late summer and early autumn (i.e. from January to March).

This species reproduces by seed. Seeds can be dispersed in mud, soil and contaminated agricultural produce. They may

also be spread by wind, water, animals and vehicles. For example, **driving through or slashing infested roadsides is a common method of dispersal, as the seed is easily transported to new areas on the machinery.** Animals can also spread the seeds on their fur and hooves and recent studies have also shown that cattle feeding on African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) can excrete viable seed up to 10 days after eating them.

This weed was a very common garden plant in many gardens and now can be found throughout South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales. It is often seen along creek banks and roadsides. African lovegrass has already **invaded** large parts of Australia and is a major environmental weed in this country. It is currently regarded as a significant environmental weed Victoria, the ACT, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, and is also seen as an emerging environmental weed in Tasmania and South Australia.

During a recent survey it was listed as a priority environmental weed in ten Natural Resource Management regions, placing it as one of the most widespread species of concern. African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) is an early coloniser of disturbed sites, and is typically found in sandy or gravelly soils, on roadsides, along watercourses and in pastures. It can survive long dry periods, and recovers quickly after disturbance events (e.g. fires). African lovegrass grows rapidly and can form dense swards which crowd out more desirable species in pastures and natural vegetation. As well as replacing native species, it can create additional environmental impacts, such as preventing their regeneration and **increasing the intensities of bushfires through higher fuel loads.**

[weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/african-lovegrass](http://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/african-lovegrass)

This weed is hard to control. Ideal control is digging out the roots before the plant sets seed. After seeding the seed heads need to be collected and binned before digging out the roots. As long as there are no seeds the removed material can be left on the ground.

#### **Native look alike – Barbed Wire grass**

Similar looking tufts with blue/green coloured leaves. Different looking seeds. (BWG crushed leaves smell like lemon grass.)

## Species Watch

### Barbed Wire Grass

*Cymbopogon refractus*

Native Barbed Wire grass grows widely across eastern Australia with a higher occurrence along the coastal areas. It is sometimes found in drier inland locations on lighter soils and stony slopes. (It has also naturalised on many Pacific islands.)



**Australian native Barbed Wire Grass**  
*Cymbopogon refractus*

Barbed Wire grass is highly drought tolerant and is an attractive grass. In some landscaping circumstances it can be considered as an alternative to Kangaroo grass as the seedheads are equally distinctive and the plants are similar in size (in Toowoomba usually about 500mm) and form.



It is common in eucalyptus woodlands and is able to grow on a wide range of soils from sand to loam to clay often on poor soils of low fertility.

**Barbed Wire grass provides valuable fodder on poor soils and will produce reasonable quantities as long as it is not grazed continuously.**

See more at:

[www.nativeseeds.com.au/shop/grasses/barbed-wire-grass-cymbopogon-refractus/#sthsh.iYOnrGed.dpuf](http://www.nativeseeds.com.au/shop/grasses/barbed-wire-grass-cymbopogon-refractus/#sthsh.iYOnrGed.dpuf)

## Jubilee Park Update

**An update on the plantings from the tree day, August 2014 (8 months ago).**

Growth rates and survival have been good with some of the red cedars already exceeding 2 metres. The cedar tip moth has now found them so the cedar trees should grow into a dense low crown. Other strong early performers are the native frangipani, bleeding heart, strangler fig, rock fig, poison peach, deep yellowwood, beetroot and silver croton.

Slow but steady are the small leaved tuckeroo, peanut tree and teak. Rose Coogera and scrub whitewood are so slow they seem risky for sites without existing dense canopy. Direct seeded blackbeans have established on the drainage line.

The main native self introduced volunteers have been a saltbush, sedges, native wandering jew, native spinach and smartweed. There have also been a few trees turn up on their own including red kamala, poison peach and white cedar.

Supplemental plantings continue to infill areas and add diversity.



Red necked wallabies still use the area. They have browsed some trees (mainly Waterhousia and the self sown eucalypts) but prefer to eat the morning glory vines, saltbush, and wandering jew and grass regrowth. Fortunately the wallabies prefer to eat the succulent native groundcovers instead of the planted saplings.

**Contact Geoff Sharp (FEP) 0427 038 055**