

New Signage in Redwood



Celebrating the new signage in Redwood Park are Friends of the Escarpment Park members (back from left) Hugh Krenske, Oksana Muller, Coral Sharrock, Kay Krenske, Kaye Wood-Riley, (front) Jordon Riley and Billie Riley.

Photo & article Megan Masters / The Chronicle

Just a few years ago visitors to Redwood Park, a remnant dry rainforest habitat perched near the saddle of the Toowoomba Range, would have found an absolute mess. What remained of the native vegetation was being choked by madeira vine, cat's claw creeper and asparagus vine. But thanks to some incredible work by the Friends of the Escarpment Parks, the place is barely recognisable and becoming a stunning local treasure again.

Group president Hugh Krenske couldn't be prouder of the work the volunteers have carried out and celebrated the arrival of some custom-made signage pointing out some of the park's wonders. Hugh has overseen the removal of noxious weeds, the planting of local native vegetation, the installation of shelters at the picnic area and establishment of clear walking tracks.

The new signs are the icing on the cake, pointing out local wildlife, insects, birds and interesting plant specimens, making a nice walk in the forest an excellent learning opportunity as well. Visitor numbers had been slowly increasing in number as more people discovered the delightful little picnic area on the downside of the range.

More Information:

www.thechronicle.com.au/news/toowoomba-range-park-group-celebrates-signage-mile/2870654/

Bushcare Groups

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



Would you like to get involved?

Bring your gloves to:

Charmaine Ct, Kleinton (near Highfields)
(1st Saturday each month from 9am - 12)
(Contact Ian Henderson 4696 9256)

Nielsen Park (Colman Drv, off Mackenzie St)
(1st & 3rd Saturday each month 9am - 12)
(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 8am - 9am)
(Contact Geoff Sharp 0427 038 055)

Redwood Park (Each Mon & Thu 8am)
(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
(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 8:30am each week)
(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)
(glukes@bigpond.com)

Panorama Crescent Park
(4th Saturday each month from 9am - 12)
(Kathy Gouldson kathygouldson@bigpond.com)

Echo Valley South Park (Ramsay St)
(2nd & 5th Saturday each month from 9am)

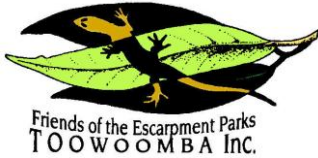
This small group is active 1 or 2 Saturdays each month from 9am - 12 noon.

(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)
(glukes@bigpond.com)

Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba Inc.

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The
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Park Friend**
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FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba Inc.

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FEP BBQ at REDWOOD

Due to the rain in December the Christmas BBQ had been postponed to Saturday the 9th January. This time the weather was perfect and we had a good turn up. The function provided a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues and we celebrated **Ray's 90th birthday**. Ray is still an **active** member in our parks & treasurer on the committee. We toured many of the areas that have now been rehabilitated by our keen Redwood crew.

Duggan Park Update

Toowoomba Christian College (TCC) students uncovering a large fallen tree in Duggan Park. They found an amazing "cave or shelter" underneath the tree which previously had lantana completely covering it up to 4 metres above the ground.



All had a lot of fun and the outcome was great for the park.

Max H.

New Signage in Redwood

New interpretive signs are now in the "Edwin Bernays Picnic Area".



Redwood Park Flora & Fauna Sign

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the development and production of these interesting, interpretive signs.



Redwood Park History & Geology Sign

The Bernays family provided the funding for the display shelter, information and the photograph of Edwin Bernays.

Weed Watch

Wild Tobacco

Solanum mauritianum (SOLANACEAE)

Solanum mauritianum is a small tree or shrub native to South America (Uruguay and south eastern Brazil) and an **invasive weed** in many other places.

Common names include tobacco weed, woolly nightshade, earleaf nightshade, flannel weed, bugweed and kerosene plant.

It is a straggly evergreen shrub or small tree to about 4m high. Large grey-green leaves, purple flowers followed by clusters of large (to 2cm) berries ripening from green to yellow. All parts of the plant are covered in velvety hairs.



Wild tobacco foliage, flower and seed
Solanum mauritianum

Image Robert Whyte SOWN

The plant has a life of up to thirty years, and can grow up to 10 m tall.

Large oval leaves are grey-green in colour and covered with felt-like hairs.

The plant can flower year round but fruiting occurs in late spring to early summer.



Flower stems turn into seeds

Wild Tobacco is tolerant of many soil types and quickly becomes established around plantations, forest margins, scrub and open land. **It has the ability to crowd out native plants if growing densely.**

In its native habitat, this is a favoured food plant of the African Olive Pigeon, *Columba arquatrix*.

All parts of this plant are poisonous to humans, especially the berries.

This plant is dispersed by birds, with the fruit being especially favoured by some species, e.g. fruit doves.

SOWN Save Our Waterways Now

www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au/01_cms/details_op.asp?ID=377

Wild Tobacco has a green, straight, upright main stem and is found locally in most bushland parks around Toowoomba.

(Leaves are tobacco appearance only. *Wild Tobacco is not suitable for smoking.*) ☺

Control Methods

Small plants may be dug out or hand-pulled. Stem inject or cut low and spray 50% glyphosate/water for mature plant stems. (Mature plants will re-sprout if cut down and not poisoned.)

CAUTION The leaves have hairs on the upper and lower surfaces. When crushed, smells like diesel or kerosene. **The 'dust' produced by the plant can be irritating to eyes and throat when disturbed.** While working in close proximity avoid looking up, shaking or disturbing the tree. Warn others about the hazards, wear glasses, keep head low and where possible, stay up wind.

Wash face and eyes if exposed to dust.

List of invasive species in Australia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_invasive_species_in_Australia

Native Species Watch

Glasswing Butterfly

Acraea andromacha



Glasswing butterfly



Possibly glasswing butterfly eggs on spade flower

Photos above Trish Gardner

toowoombaplants2008.blogspot.com.au/2010/04/butterflies-at-franke-scrub.html

The *Acraea* butterfly is native to Toowoomba and has elongate forewings and rounded hindwings.

The wings are thinly scaled to the extent that in many species they are semi-transparent. The scales tend to get rubbed off very easily so that insects more than 4 or 5 days old have a distinctly glassy or greasy appearance.

Acraea andromacha can be found in West Irian, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and Australia where it occurs in Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

This species inhabits dry lightly forested areas at elevations between sea level and about 1000m. The eggs are creamy yellow and ribbed. They are laid in loose clusters of up to 50 on the stems of the larval food plants. The caterpillars are glossy brown with long multi-branched black dorsal and

lateral spikes. They feed gregariously in the early instars but gradually split up becoming solitary by the final instar.

The principal larval food plants are *Adenia* and *Passiflora* (Passifloraceae) but they will also use *Hybanthus* (Violaceae). The pupa is white, with broad black lateral and dorsal stripes that contain a series of orange spots. The wing cases are streaked in black.

Males flutter constantly in search of females, which do not fly until after copulation has taken place. The butterflies usually roost overnight high up on twigs or foliage.

www.learnaboutbutterflies.com/Australia%20-%20Acraea%20andromacha.htm

Spade Flowers

Hybanthus stellarioides

Spade flower is a native herb to 30cm in dry eucalypt forest, flowering mostly in spring and summer but also throughout the year. Common from Illawarra region NSW to Bundaberg QLD (including Toowoomba). The leaves are alternate, green above and paler green below. It is one of the host food plants for the larvae of the glasswing butterfly.



These small flowers are spade shaped with one large lobe. The fruit is a small, ribbed capsule 4-5mm with pitted seeds.

www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au/01_cms/details_op.asp?ID=483