

Blue Mountain Heights Park Report 2023

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Local residents enjoy walking along a bush track that begins at the end of Rangeview Road and ends at Nugent Park in Hilltop Crescent. The track takes in views across the valley towards Gatton as well as the Toowoomba Bypass and the train track and the slopes are heavily wooded with various Eucalypts and Ironbark. Along the track, hidden amongst the overgrown grass and weeds, are many struggling native plants such as Kangaroo Grass, Salt bush, paper daisies and Box Trees.

About two years ago a small group of local members of Friends of the Escarpment Parks began clearing weeds, long grass, privet trees and lantana from the creek that runs through the area as well as above the designated fire trail. The group has also planted several native trees and shrubs which were mostly sourced from the Crows Nest Community Nursery. Whilst a small number of trees have died and needed to be replaced, most of the plants including a variety of Koala food trees are thriving. It can be reported that only recently a healthy Koala was seen not far from the site. Whilst the wet weather has hampered the group's efforts to meet regularly, the group plans to continue to meet monthly going forward to continue clearing Privet and Lantana and to begin planting native groundcovers.

Thanks to Rob Brodribb, Hugh and Kay Krenske for their assistance in identifying surviving native plants and showing us how to mulch the area. Thanks to Lisa and Deb from Crows Nest Community Nursery for recommending and supplying plants that are suitable and native for our Escarpment Park.