

Hartmann Reserve History

Hartmann Bushland Reserve is located in suburban Toowoomba and consists of approximately four hectares (10 acres) of remnant forest. It is a Remnant Ecosystem 12.5.6 consisting of Northern Grey Ironbark, Grey Gum, Tallowwood (Endangered), etc.. Hartmann Reserve is located at the corner of Alderley and Rowbotham Streets, Rangeville, Toowoomba. The post and rail fence around the property was constructed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers between 1983 and 1986.

Originally Carl Heinrich Hartmann purchased 4 acres of land in 1865 which he eventually extended to 42 acres. Carl established a plant nursery and arboretum which he grew many different species of plants and trees, experimenting with viable crops such as fruit trees and sectioned off part of the property as a rainforest of local trees. In and around the nursery he had natural and cultural items littered around the property, evidence of the owners many travels to exotic places including trips to collect and document plants in New Guinea. His nursery won several hundred diplomas and medals at various horticultural shows. Mr. Hartmann's Nursery on the Range continued even after Carl's death until the Depression of the 1930s.

Carl also corresponded with the most eminent botanists and naturalists of his time and gave his name to some new species of plants and insects. In the Canberra suburb of Banks, there is a street named 'Hartmann Gardens' in honour of the botanical work of Carl Hartmann. Carl made scientific collections of native plant material, notably ferns and orchids, for Baron Von Mueller of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. He also wrote a scientific treatise, a written work dealing formally and systematically with a subject, on Queensland flora for the Great Philadelphia Exhibition of 1875. He was sent as a representative for the Queensland Government for an Embassy of Peace with the indigenous population on Thursday Island. He was a foundation member of The Royal Society of Queensland. The Royal Society of Queensland was formed in Queensland in 1884 from the Queensland Philosophical Society, Queensland's oldest scientific institution, with royal patronage granted in 1885. The aim of the Society is "Progressing science in Queensland". Carl was sent by the Queensland Government on two expeditions to New Guinea in 1885 and 1887. Carl past away from a fever contracted in New Guinea at a friend's place in Brisbane soon after he returned to Australia in 1887.

The land was inherited by a number of Carl's relatives and most was eventually sold. The remaining four hectares were bequeathed to the Queensland Government by Carl Hartmann's grandson, Percy Hartmann in 1982. It was gazetted as a departmental and official Purposes Reserve under the trusteeship of the Director of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service (QNPWS) on 23 December 1982. It is reported that the former residence (now rangers office) was probably built around the 1920s and may have been relocated more than once. In the 1930s the existing house (then called "Dunvegan") was used as a "Health House" with high strung gymnastic rings and other exercise equipment located on the property. The building has also had various additions and renovations over the years.

In early March to June 1984 a lot of upgrading work was carried out funded by the state government including a new paved driveway, also plumbing, and a considerable amount of other work on the house. The house was re stumped sometime after 1984, plus many other renovations including cladding, floor coverings as well as a plumbing and electrical upgrade.

The intent of the donation of the land by the Hartmann family was to have the reserve, 'restored as far as possible to its original vegetative composition and maintained in perpetuity as a natural area' (Percy Hartmann, letter dated 11th September 1981). QPWS are carrying out the wishes of the Hartmann family by maintaining the area as native bush vegetation site to protect the important conservation values contained in this small but significant remnant bushland reserve.

The reserve is typical of the diverse habitat that once dominated the range area. Much of the surrounding areas have been cleared for urban development. A number of invasive weed species has been identified in the reserve and are currently being removed. Many of the weeds are garden escapees from seeds blown in or brought in from local gardens or other bushland areas by birds and other animals. Some of these weeds have taken over and continue to extend their impact over a large portion of the reserve.

QPWS and volunteer community groups have been carrying out an integrated effort to control weeds and return these affected areas to more of a representative of the original vegetation composition. Toowoomba's Friends of

the Escarpment Parks (FEP) volunteers have been carrying out bush rehabilitation activities since May 2013. The dedicated volunteers are still active Wednesday mornings from 9am till noon.

A New Millipede Found in Toowoomba -- Glenda Walter

In the summer of 2017 three of us, Craig Reid (FEP), Michael Rooke and myself (Glenda Walter), spent several hot, humid evenings snooping about in Hartmann Reserve (Toowoomba) with torches, and eventually captured several mature male and female millipedes which were sent to Dr Mesibov in Tasmania for study. The find proved to be a species new to science, and has now been named *Cladethosoma toowoomba*. The scientific paper by Dr Mesibov was published June 2018. Dr Mesibov says: "Glenda Walter imaged a large and strikingly patterned millipede in Hartmann Reserve last year and posted the image on the BowerBird website. Millipede specialist Bob Mesibov (Tasmania) has now described this species as *Cladethosoma toowoomba* in a paper published in Memoirs of the Queensland Museum - Nature, based on specimens collected by Glenda, Michael Rooke and Craig Reid. There are several other *Cladethosoma* species in SE Queensland, but *Cladethosoma toowoomba* is distinctive."

FEP volunteers Craig Reid and Greg Lukes stated in 2024 that so far we have only found this species in Hartmann Reserve and not any of the other local bushland parks. They seem to only be found in this reserve during hot weather conditions after rain or with high humidity.



A New Millipede *Cladethosoma toowoomba* to date have only been found in Hartmann Reserve, Toowoomba
The photos of *Cladethosoma toowoomba* are by Glenda Walter.

If you are interested to find out more about the reserve, plants and/or wildlife, we can arrange a free individual or group guided tour on Wednesdays. We are also looking for more volunteers, residents and/or groups to assist with ongoing bush regeneration activities to help protect the reserve. For more details please contact Greg Lukes (FEP) on 0428 288 077 or glukes@bigpond.com