Plants of Duggan Park, Toowoomba



Greg Spearritt



A resource developed by Amaroo Environmental Education Centre

This resource is dedicated to the many volunteers with Friends of the Escarpment Parks.

Eucalypt and corymbia species are not represented here, mainly because gum tree identification is notoriously difficult.

Species known to occur in Duggan Park include:

White Mahogany (Eucalyptus acmenoides)
Pink Bloodwood (Corymbia intermedia)
Yellow Box (Eucalyptus melliodora)
Forest Red Gum (Eucalyptus tereticornis)
Small-fruited Grey Gum (Eucalyptus propinqua)
Grey Ironbark (Eucalyptus siderophloia)
Spotted Gum (Corymbia citriodora subsp. variegata)
Blackbutt (Eucalyptus pilularis)

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About Duggan Park

Duggan Park is an eight-hectare bushland park at the corner of Leslie and Collier Streets in Toowoomba, not far from Picnic Point. It has picnic tables and a lookout with views over the eastern escarpment to Table Top.

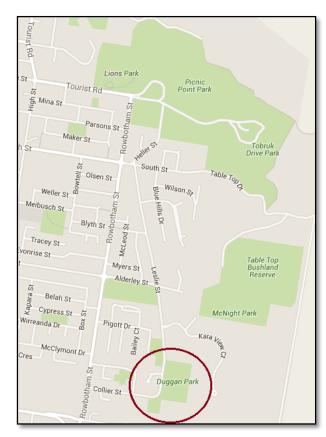
The park was named after local politician and former Queensland Opposition leader John (Jack) Edmund Duggan. It contains a plaque to Multuggerah, a leader among the Jagera people



of the Lockyer Valley in the 1830s and 40s who led resistance to European settlement. He is especially known for his part in the battle of One Tree Hill (the name at that time for Table Top) where white settlers bent on retaliation for Multuggerah's disruptive activities met with defeat.

There are short walks through forested areas, some natural and some planted to rehabilitate a former quarry area. The Millennium Forest section, first planted in 1999, includes Bunya and Hoop Pines, Red Ash and Pittosporum species as well as a range of locally-occurring understory plants.

The plants featured in this booklet are of those naturally occurring in the park. Many of them are commonly found throughout bushland areas around Toowoomba.





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BELL FRUIT TREE

(Codonocarpus attenuatus)



A medium-sized tree with soft, pendant leaves. Endemic to eastern Queensland and NSW. Female trees produce attractive bell-shaped fruits.





- Leaves alternate with tapering base and apex
- Petioles (leaf stems) up to 25mm long
- Bark on lower trunk tends to be corky; upper smooth

BRISBANE WATTLE

(Acacia fimbriata)





A tall shrub/small tree from south-east Queensland and northern NSW. Food source for Australian King Parrot (seeds) and caterpillars of the Imperial Hairstreak Butterfly (leaves).



- Weeping habit
- Leaves linear and narrow; mostly < 6cm long
- Leaf midrib fine; lateral veins few and faint

BRUSH BOX

(Lophostemon confertus)





A medium to large tree from the east coast of Queensland and NSW. Attracts many native birds and bees and is a host plant for the Eastern Dusk Flat Butterfly.



- Leaves crowded in groups/whorls at end of branches
- Leaf margins not as wavy as Sweet Pittosporum
- Trunk/lower limbs rough-barked, upper limbs smooth

CROW'S ASH

(Flindersia australis)







A large native tree from Queensland and NSW with compound leaves consisting of 5 - 9 leaflets. Host plant for the Orchard Swallowtail Butterfly.

- Leaves pinnate (usually imparipinnate, i.e. single leaflet at apex), mostly with 5 – 9 leaflets
- Leaves glossy green with paler underside
- Distinctive 5-lobed woody seed capsule

FOREST SHE-OAK

(Allocasuarina torulosa)





Small native tree with needle-like foliage and rough corky bark. Can improve fertility of soils by fixing nitrogen. An important food tree for the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and the threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo.



- Segmented needle-like foliage
- Rough corky bark
- 4 or 5 tiny 'teeth' (true leaves) where segments join

KURRAJONG

(Brachychiton populneus)





Tree to 20m, native to eastern Australia. Host plant for the Tailed Emperor Butterfly.

- Distinctive leaf, often with three pointed lobes, on immature specimens (lobes much reduced or absent in mature trees)
- Leaves shiny green with obvious midrib on each lobe
- Mature trees tend to have short bole & dense crown

MAIDEN'S WATTLE

(Acacia maidenii)







A small, nitrogen-fixing native tree. As in many wattles, the adult leaves are actually leaf stems (petioles), called phyllodes. Host plant for the Large Grass Yellow Butterfly.

- No clear midrib vein (several longitudinal veins)
- Phyllodes mostly > 6cm long
- Prominent lenticels (pores) on branchlets

OLEANDER WATTLE

(Acacia neriifolia)







A small tree from Australia's eastern states. The adult leaves are actually leaf stems (petioles), called phyllodes. The true fern-like leaves are often found on the tree until it reaches a metre or so high. Host plant for the Imperial Hairstreak Butterfly.

- Phyllodes mostly < 6cm long; often slightly twisted
- Phyllodes alternate, with distinct midrib vein
- Tree is often thin & tall with leaves well out of reach

RED ASH

(Alphitonia excelsa)











Medium-sized tree of northern and eastern Australia. The crushed leaves can be used to produce a soap-like lather and to stun fish. Food plant for the Small Greenbanded Blue & Fiery Jewel Butterflies.



Small Green-banded Blue (Psychonotis caelius)

- Leaves alternate
- Trunk pale grey and often blotchy
- Leaves discolourous (green above, whitish below)

SANDALWOOD

(Santalum lanceolatum)









Small tree with drooping branches, grey-green leaves and white star-shaped flowers. A root parasite: roots attach to other plants (not harming their host). Indigenous Australians are known to have burnt the leaves and branches as an insect repellent.

- Leaves mid-green and more or less concolourous
- Leaves opposite
- Weeping habit

BOOTLACE BUSH

(Wikstroemia indica)

Although the berries of this small shrub are a much-favoured food for the Brown Cuckoodove, both leaves and berries are toxic to humans. Bark can be stripped from the stem in long strands for rope-making.









- Leaves opposite, < 5cm long
- Leaves a mid-green colour, slightly paler below
- Leaves elliptic (widest in middle football-shaped)

CHERRY BALLART

(Exocarpos cupressiformis)







A hemiparasitic native shrub, partly depending on the roots of other plants for water and nutrients, especially when young. The stem immediately below the seed swells to become a 'cherry' popular with many bird species. A host plant for the Fiery Jewel Butterfly.

- Drooping cypress-like foliage
- Twigs not segmented
- Leaves tiny, triangular and scale-like

COFFEE BUSH

(Breynia oblongifolia)







A native shrub.
Host plant for a number of butterflies and moths and a favourite food plant for the Brown Cuckoo-Dove.

- Leaves elliptic (widest at middle)
- Leaf apex rounded
- Leaves alternate, pseudo-pinnate



Brown Cuckoo-dove (Macropygia amboinensis)

COUGH BUSH

(Cassinia laevis)



Upright native shrub to 2.5m.



- Leaves alternate
- Leaves crowded, linear, less than 2mm wide
- Leaves have curry-like/unpleasant odour

DOG'S BALLS

(Grewia latifolia)







Native shrub to 2m. Roots, stems and fruits reportedly used by Indigenous people for upset stomachs.

- Leaves broad, ovate (widest less than halfway from base), sometimes cordate (slightly heart-shaped)
- Leaf margins irregularly toothed
- Leaf veins prominent on underside

EASTER CASSIA

(Senna pendula)*





Shrub to 4m. A significant weed in Qld and NSW. Not to be confused with the rare native *Senna acclinis* which has narrower leaves and lacks the gold edge to the leaves.

- Compound leaves with 3-6 pairs of leaflets
- Leaflets broadly obovate (widest more than halfway from leaf stem) or elliptic (widest in middle, footballshaped) with a narrow gold line around the edge
- Leaf apex not pointed

LANTANA

(Lantana camara)*



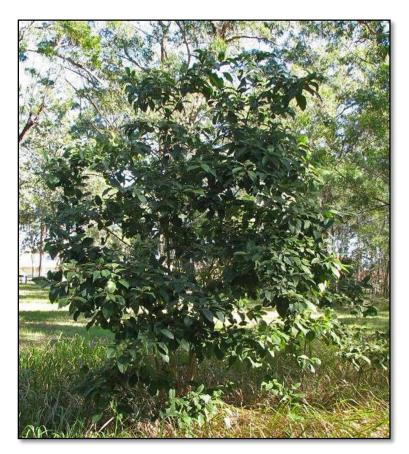
Lantana, a native of tropical America, is a declared pest in Queensland. It is considered one of Australia's worst invasive weeds because of its ability to spread and its tendency to smother native plants and heighten fire risk. It's also toxic to stock.



- Leaves ovate (widest less than half way from base)
- Leaves opposite, scabrous (rough)
- Stems more or less prickly

LOLLY BUSH

(Clerodendrum tomentosum)



Native shrub or small tree. Indigenous people are believed to have eaten the root tubers and used this shrub as an indicator of underground water.



Photo: Max Henderson



- New growth often purplish
- Leaves have soft (velvet) texture
- Leaves alternate and up to 15cm long

NARROW-LEAVED ORANGEBARK

(Denhamia silvestris)





Bushy native shrub mostly to 60cm tall, though it can grow to over 4m.



- Narrow, elongated leaves
- Leaf margins often slightly toothed towards the tip
- Leaf bases taper to short petioles (leaf stems)
- Leaves discolourous: paler below

OCHNA

(Ochna serrulata)*







A shrub native to southern Africa. A significant weed in Queensland and NSW, originally cultivated in Australia as a garden plant.

- Leaves elongated / elliptic (widest in middle)
- Leaf margins serrate
- Leaves alternate

PRICKLY BEARD HEATH

(Leucopogon trichostylus)





A prickly native shrub from south-east Queensland and north-east NSW. Leucopogon means 'white beard'; the tiny flower has woolly white 'beards' on its petals.



- Erect or sprawling shrub to 1.5m
- Alternate leaves to about 1.4cm long
- Leaves have a sharp, prickly apex

QUININE BUSH

(Alstonia constricta)







Photo: Max Henderson





A shrub or small tree to 12m. Known to have some medicinal properties. The bark has been used in dye-making.

- Leaves opposite, often narrowly lance-shaped
- Leaves, especially juvenile leaves, have soft texture
- Milky sap when leaves are pulled off stem

STIFF CANTHIUM

(Psydrax odorata subsp. buxifolium)



Native shrub or small tree. Prefers shaded position. Fragrant white flower clusters followed by small drupes (like stone fruits).



- Leaves and branches stiff; leaves opposite
- Leaves glossy green and discolourous (paler below)
- Leaf veins visible on top but not on lower surface

SWEET BURSARIA

(Bursaria spinosa)



A hardy, long-lived native shrub. Can regenerate after fire from rhizomes. The white or cream flowers are sweetly perfumed. Host plant for several ant-butterfly species.







- Leaves obovate (widest towards tip)
- Leaves small (less than 5cm long)
- Spines on stems

TREMA

(Trema tomentosa)







Also called Poison Peach, this native shrub is thought to be toxic to stock. The fruit is eaten by many birds including the Brown Cuckoo-dove and Figbird. Larval food plant for Speckled Line-blue Butterfly and the Splendid Ghost Moth.

- Stems not prickly; leaves ovate (widest towards base)
- Leaves alternate, with slightly furry texture
- Three main leaf veins radiate from base

SMOOTH SENNA

(Senna septemtrionalis)*



Shrub to 3m. An introduced weed.

- Compound leaves with 3-5 pairs of leaflets
- A few erect glands between lowest pair of leaflets
- Leaflet apex pointed

SWEET PITTOSPORUM

(Pittosporum undulatum)







Satin Bowerbird (Ptilonorhynchus violaceus)



Native shrub or small tree. Flowers have a strong, sweet scent. Silvereyes and Satin Bowerbirds are among the native creatures using this plant as a food source.

- Leaves crowded/in whorls at end of branches
- Trunk not rough-barked (unlike Brush Box)
- Leaf margins usually wavy (unlike Brush Box)

APPLE BERRY

(Billardiera scandens)



A native scrambling vine or ground cover plant. Flower nectar attracts birds and butterflies; birds feed on the berries which ripen once they drop to the ground.





Photo: Max Henderson

- Leaves narrow, alternate, veins not prominent
- Leaves < 7cm long
- Berries oblong or obovate (widest towards apex)

BARBED WIRE VINE

(Smilax australis)



A native vine with tough leaves and hooks which can catch in clothing. Host plant for the Fiery Jewel Butterfly.



Photo: Max Henderson

- Leaves tough with prominent midrib vein
- Leaves alternate
- Leaves ovate (widest less than half way from base)

COCKSPUR THORN

(Maclura cochinchinensis)





A native woody climber or straggling shrub believed to live for hundreds of years. Good nesting habitat for small birds. One specimen is known in Duggan Park.

- Leaves alternate; juvenile leaves much smaller
- Long arched stems
- Robust thorns

CORKY PASSION VINE

(Passiflora suberosa)*







An invasive exotic plant native to central and southern America. Mature plants can smother native vegetation. Seeds are spread largely by birds.

- Leaves alternate
- Leaves consisting of three pointed lobes
- Corky bark at base of mature stems

FALSE SARSAPARILLA

(Hardenbergia violacea)







A scrambling native vine or sub-shrub. A host plant for the Common Grass Blue Butterfly.

Photo: Max Henderson

- Leaves alternate
- Leaves lanceolate (like a lance: elongated, tapering)
- Has stipules (small outgrowths at base of leaf stalk);
 within the stipules are 2 very fine, secondary stipules

LOVER'S TWINE

(Glycine clandestina)



A slender, twining native vine. Host plant for the Common Grass-blue Butterfly.



- Trifoliolate leaves
- Leaf margins entire
- Mature leaflets < 10mm wide

MOTH VINE

(Araujia sericifera)*







This vine from South
America is considered a
major pest in Qld and
NSW. Its dense growth
can smother native
vegetation and transform
habitat for both plants
and animals.

- Leaves opposite
- Leaves more or less like elongated triangles
- Milky sap exuded from damaged stems/leaves

NATIVE JASMINE

(Jasminum suavissimum)









A scrambling native climber. The white flowers are sweetly scented and followed by shiny black berries.

- Leaves opposite, narrow, elliptic (widest in middle)
- Leaves glossy green and discolourous (lighter below)
- Leaves have an obvious midrib, other veins obscure

OLD MAN'S BEARD

(Clematis aristata)









A native climber with white flowers turn into fluffy 'old man's beard' seed heads.

- Some leaves trifoliolate
- Leaves often whitish colour along the main veins
- Leaf margins often more or less toothed

PINK-FLOWERED NATIVE RASPBERRY

(Rubus parvifolius)





Photo: Max Henderson

A scrambling native plant with red berries.



- Leaves compound, each with 3 (sometimes 5) leaflets
- Underside of leaflets densely white-hairy
- Leaflets toothed, stems prickly

RUSTY TICK-TREFOIL

(Desmodium rhytidophyllum)





A weak native twining or trailing plant with tiny pink or purple peaflowers and segmented seed pods.

- Trifoliolate leaves
- Terminal leaflet on a longer stem than the other two
- Leaf margins entire

SLENDER GRAPE

(Cayratia clematidea)





A scrambling native climber. A pioneer species. Host plant for Joseph's Coat Moth.



- Leaves 5-compound in a palmate arrangement
- Leaflets closest to the stem are usually smallest
- Leaflets lobed; not glossy

SNAKE VINE

(Stephania japonica)





A twining native vine. The red and yellow fruit is eaten by birds such as the Golden Whistler. Leaves and berries are reported to have been crushed to poison fish.

- Leaves peltate (stem attaches underneath leaf blade)
- Leaves cordate (heart-shaped)
- Petioles (leaf-stems) up to 10cm

WHITE PASSION FLOWER

(Passiflora subpeltata)*





A weed species native to central and tropical America.

- Pale green, rounded 3-lobed leaves
- Tendrils at the base of alternately-arranged leaves
- Has a 2-lobed leafy structure where leaves join stem

WOMBAT BERRY

(Eustrephus latifolius)



A native vine found along Australia's east coast as well as on Pacific Islands. The root tubers are said to be edible, either raw or roasted.





- Often many-branched
- Leaves alternate except for terminal pair which are opposite
- Leaf veins longitudinal, no prominent midrib

BIRD'S NEST FERN

(Asplenium australasicum)*



Native to NSW and Qld, this fern grows on rocks or as an epiphyte on trees.

- Rosette of yellow-green fronds to 80cm long
- Prominent mid-rib on underside of fronds
- Leaves have undulating margins

BASKET ASPARAGUS FERN

(Asparagus aethiopicus)*



Originally from South
Africa; a declared pest
under Queensland
legislation. It can become
a dominant ground cover,
displacing native plants.



- Long, arching, prickly stems
- Light green slender leaves
- Fibrous, sometimes tuberous roots

BLADY GRASS

(Imperata cylindrica)



A native grass which has become a significant introduced weed in America, Asia and Africa.



- Leaves wide, flat and tough with sharp margins
- Mid-vein is lighter than the rest of the leaf
- Mid-vein is closer to one side of the leaf

BLUE FLAX LILY

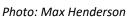
(Dianella caerulea)



A herb native to eastern Australia. Many birds eat the bright purple berries. Host plant for the Greenish Grass-dart Butterfly.









- Long strap-like leaves
- Midrib vein prominent and serrated
- Leaves fused into a sheath at base



BLUE TRUMPET

(Brunoniella australis)

Small native herb. Host plant for the Blue Argus Butterfly.







- Grows to 15cm tall (often shorter)
- Leaves opposite and finely hairy
- Leaves in each pair often unequal in size

BRACKEN FERN

(Pteridium esculentum)



Bracken Fern occurs in most Australian states. It provides food for many native insects.

- Arching branches on a firm stem
- Fronds stiff, dark green
- Roots (rhizomes) covered in dark brown hairs

COBBLER'S PEGS

(Bidens pilosa)*





An introduced weed native to the Americas.

- Stems squarish in cross-section
- Leaves ovate (widest less than halfway from base)
- Leaves toothed

COMMON SIDA

(Sida rhombifolia)*





An introduced weed native to tropical and subtropical America.

- Leaves alternate
- Leaves elliptic to rhombic (diamond-shaped)
- Margins entire at base of leaf and crenate (bluntly toothed) towards the tip

CREEPING SHADE GRASS

(Oplismenus aemulus)





Weak-stemmed trailing grass native to eastern and northern Australia. Host plant for the Lilac Grass-skipper Butterfly.

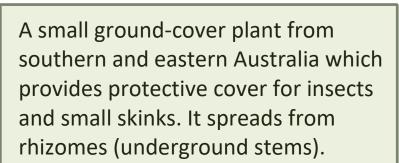
- Less than 30cm tall
- Leaves relatively broad with very narrow midrib vein
- Stems finely hairy

DICHONDRA

(Dichondra repens)









- Leaves reniform (kidney-shaped)
- Leaf margins entire
- Leaf stem (petiole) much longer than leaf blade

GOLDEN EVERLASTING DAISY

(Xerochrysum bracteatum)







The flowers of this native plant attract many native insects including hoverflies, native bees and beetles and grasshoppers.

- Grows to 80cm tall
- Erect, often many-branching
- Bright golden daisy-like flowers

KANGAROO GRASS

(Themeda triandra)



A grass species native to
Australia, Africa,
Asia and the
Pacific. Host
plant for the
Orange Ringlet
Butterfly,
among others.



- Leaves less than 5mm wide
- Distinctive nodding 'paw-like' seed head
- Tufting habit

LEAF FLOWER

(Phyllanthus gunnii)







A shrub native to eastern Australia. It can grow to 2m tall. The introduced *Phyllanthus tenellus* is very similar, but its flower has five rather than three stamens.

- Leaves alternate and more or less elliptic (widest in the middle)
- Leaves 2-ranked (in 2 rows, on either side of branch)
- Leaves mid- to lime-green

MANY-FLOWERED MAT RUSH

(Lomandra multiflora)





Tufting herb to 90cm tall. Host plant for a number of skipper butterfly species.

- Thin strap-like leaves with no midrib vein
- Leaves to 90cm long
- Flowers arranged in many-flowered balls or clusters

NATIVE MINT

(Mentha satureioides)





A perennial native herb with tiny white flowers. Native to the eastern mainland states and South Australia. The leaves have a mint-like or pennyroyal-like scent.

- Leaves opposite
- Leaves glabrous (without hairs)
- Leaves have strong mint-like smell when crushed

NATIVE WANDERING JEW

(Commelina diffusa)







A weak-stemmed creeping herb rooting at the joints (nodes) of the stem. Blue flowers occasionally attract the Blue Banded Bee, an insect which sees best in the blue range.

- Leaves have an obvious leaf sheath (base of leaf)
- Leaves fleshy and dark/glossy green
- Roots at nodes

PINK PAVONIA

(Pavonia hastata)*





An introduced weed originally from central America. Related to the hibiscus family; grows to 1.5m tall.

- Leaves hastate (arrowhead-shaped with flared basal lobes)
- Leaf margins toothed
- Petiole (leaf stem) to 3cm long

ROUGH MAIDENHAIR FERN

(Adiantum hispidulum)



A native fern found among rocks or in other protected areas.

- Clumping habit
- Mid- to dark green leaves
- Stipe (stem) very dark brown/black

PRICKLY RASP FERN

(Doodia aspera)





This native plant was the first Australian fern brought to Kew Garden, UK.

- Fronds erect, to 45cm long
- Leathery texture, margins toothed
- Bright pink new growth

ROUGH SAW-SEDGE

(Gahnia aspera)



A native sedge common in Queensland and NSW. Leaves have razor sharp edges. Seeds were pounded by Indigenous people to make a type of flour. Host plant for several butterflies, including a number of skipper species.



- Thin strap-like leaves with no prominent midrib vein
- Leaves have very sharp edges
- Seeds rusty-brown

SMOOTH FLAX LILY

(Dianella longifolia)



A tufting herb native to Queensland, NSW and the NT. Host plant for the Greenish Grass-dart Butterfly.

- Long, narrow strap-like leaves
- Midrib vein on leaf underside not serrated
- Leaf tip a fine point (not jagged)



SPADE FLOWER

(Hybanthus stellarioides)





Small annual herb to 30cm tall. Host plant for the Glasswing Butterfly.



Glasswing Butterfly (Acraea andromacha)

- Leaves linear, discolourous (different each side)
- Leaves slightly notched or toothed
- Spade-shaped solitary yellow-orange flowers

SPINY-HEADED MAT RUSH

(Lomandra longifolia)









A native plant from eastern Australia. The strong leaves were used by Indigenous people for making baskets and eel traps and for binding wounds. Host plant for many skipper butterfly species.

- Strap-like leaves with no midrib vein
- Leaves usually flat, to 1m long
- Leaf tip jagged

STINKING PENNYWORT

(Hydrocotyle laxiflora)







A native herb with creeping rhizomes (underground stems). The tiny flowers are known to have an offensive smell, giving this species the alternative (and even less flattering) name of Shitweed.

- Leaves and stems bright green
- Leaves reniform (kidney-shaped)
- Leaf margins toothed

WATTLE MAT RUSH

(Lomandra filiformis)



A herb native to eastern Australia. Host plant for many skipper butterfly species.



- Occurs in tussocks to about 20cm diameter
- Thin strap-like leaves with no midrib vein
- Flowers *not* in many-flowered balls or clusters

YELLOW BUTTONS

(Chrysocephalum apiculatum)



Small native perennial herb. Host plant for the Australian Painted Lady Butterfly.



- Erect or straggling herb to 50cm tall
- Grey-green foliage
- Yellow button-shaped flowers

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