

Charles and Mottee Rogers Bushland Reserve Report 2023

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Charles and Mottee Rogers Bushland Reserve (or Rogers Reserve) at Highfields consists of a remnant bushland reserve with walking tracks and provides excellent habitat for wildlife. We usually have 3 to 6 volunteers twice a month from 9 am with a morning tea break at 11:30 am. Unfortunately, the park weeds still contain lantana, pavonia, basket fern and climbing asparagus ferns.

Some of the wildlife include red necked wallabies, a number of bird species and the occasional koala. In the last year we have spotted a powerful owl at a couple of locations within the reserve. This may be the powerful owl that has been photographed nesting in Williams Park. The powerful owl is a species of owl native to south-eastern and eastern Australia. It is the largest owl on the continent. It is found in coastal areas and in the Great Dividing Range, rarely more than 200 km inland. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species also refers to this species as the powerful boobook.

We are currently trying to secure a commitment from Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) to help protect the existing wildlife corridor along Clarke Road that links Rogers Reserve with Williams Park. TRC own most of the block and are planning on developing much of the land to form the Highfields town centre. The existing plans have the large strip of bushland allocated as a park area but we are hoping that the bushland does not just become a mown strip effectively diminishing the existing habitat. We hope that Council will protect the land and maybe allow FEP and/or another group to start removing the extensive weeds like climbing asparagus which are well established. We will be having a meeting with Bill Cahill and other council representatives on Friday 15th September. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 541 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba.