The Escarpment Park Friend

May 2025

Committed to Escarpment Park Care since 1994

www.fep.org.au

Welcome to May 2025 newsletter.

Update from the FEP committee:

New FEP committee positions

Sue Sheppard is the FEP secretary. secretary@fep.org.au

FEP Group Co-ordinators

Eduarda van Klinken is the new co-ordinator of the Redwood Park (Toowoomba Range) group.
Dougal Johnson is the new co-ordinator for Charles and Motee Rogers Bushland Reserve, Highfields.
Karen Sams is the co-ordinator for the new FEP group at Williams Park, Highfields.
Russell Tyler is the new coordinator of Leopard Ash Park.

Recycle containers to support FEP

Friends of the Escarpment Parks has joined as a team with Containers for Change. The FEP member number C11551397 can be used at the refund point to donate your refund to FEP.
More information is on https://fep.org.au/cfc-feb-25/

Online Membership
We hope that members are enjoying our new website, https://fep.org.au . For the online member only area, members will be able to login, update their details including subscriptions, read committee meeting minutes, contribute items or comments to the website, and in the future to pay their membership online. To use this feature, members will have a user name and password. See https://fep.org.au/membership/

Weekly News Summary
FEP receives communications from various environmental and community groups with their news and events which are now being posted to the blog page of our website: https://fep.org.au/blog. We send out brief weekly updates of our blog news and events to keep members well informed. For this purpose, we are subscribing all members to our weekly news, with the option of unsubscribing at any time.

Cyclone Alfred

Sadly, FEP Open Day for Parks Week 2025 at Williams Park, Highfields had to be cancelled. Thankyou to those who were going to be involved, including; guides for plants, birds, insects, nocturnal animal

walks and the local geology talk as well as stall holders. TRC closed the local bushland parks as a safety precaution.

Members of the Condamine Country Plant Group surveyed William's Park and their findings are recorded in the table below, ordered by location.

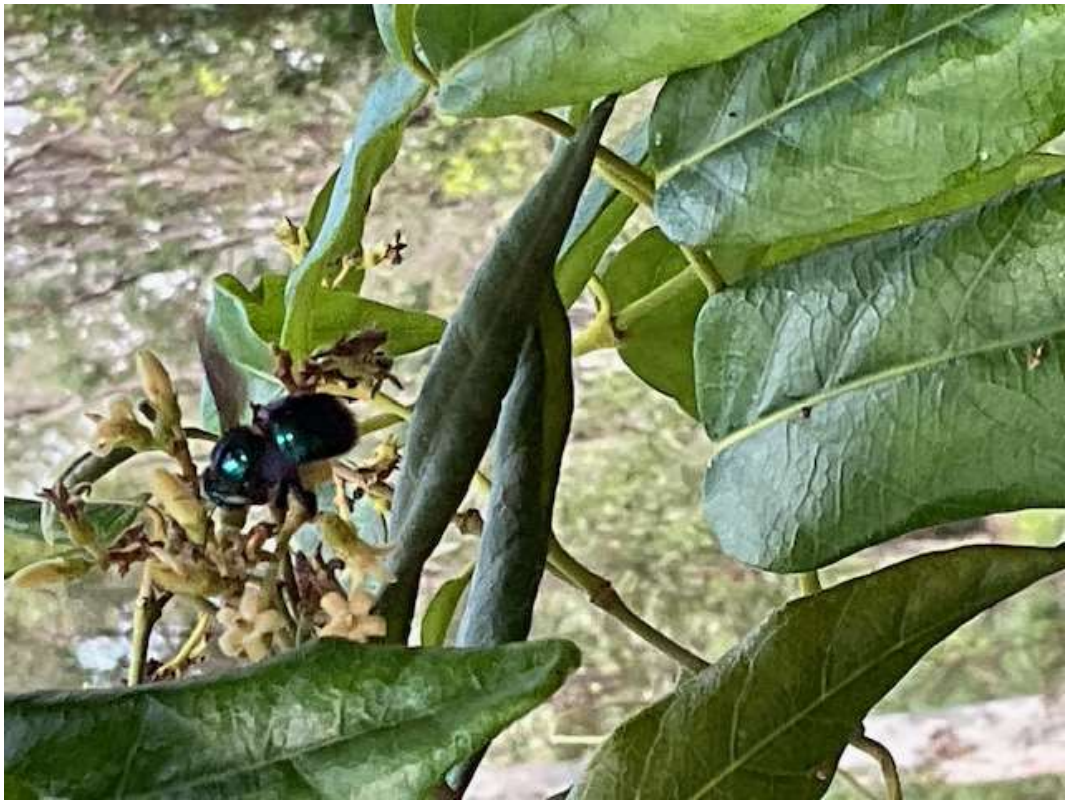
To see the table ordered by plant type, see https://fep.org.au/our-parks/williams-park/

Williams Park, Highfields. Feb 2025. List compiled by the Condamine Country Plant Group.		
SEEN FROM PARK IN CECIL CRESCENT		
Acacia pustula	POSSUM BLOSSOM WATTLE	
Eucalyptus saligna	SYDNEY BLUE GUM	
Lomandra longifolia	LONG-LEAVED MATRUSH	
Solanum stelligerum	DEVIL'S NEEDLES	
Wikstroemia indica	BOOTLACE BUSH	
Clerodendrum tomentosum	HAIRY LOLLY BUSH	
SEEN FROM STAIRS		
Pteridium esculentum	BRACKEN FERN	very common on slopes above creek
Pandorea jasminoides	BOWER VINE	
Jasminum didymum subsp. racemosum	TRIPLE-LEAF JASMINE	
Causonis clemitidea Syn: Cayratia clematidea	SLENDER GRAPE	
Melia azedarach	WHITE CEDAR	
Stephania japonica	TAPE VINE	
Clematis probably glycinoides	OLD MAN'S BEARD	
Eustrephus latifolius	WOMBAT BERRY	
Denhamia silvestris	NARROW-LEAFED ORANGEBARK	
Austrostipa verticillata	SLENDER BAMBOO GRASS	
Passiflora aurantia	NATIVE RED-FLOWERED PASSIONFRUIT	
Commelina diffusa	SPREADING DAYFLOWER	
Notelaea microcarpa	SMALL-FRUITED MOCK-OLIVE	
Phyllanthus gunnii	SHRUBBY PHYLLANTHUS	
AFTER BRIDGE		
Auranticarpa rhombifolia	GOLDEN HOLLYWOOD	
Lobelia purpurea	WHITEROOT	

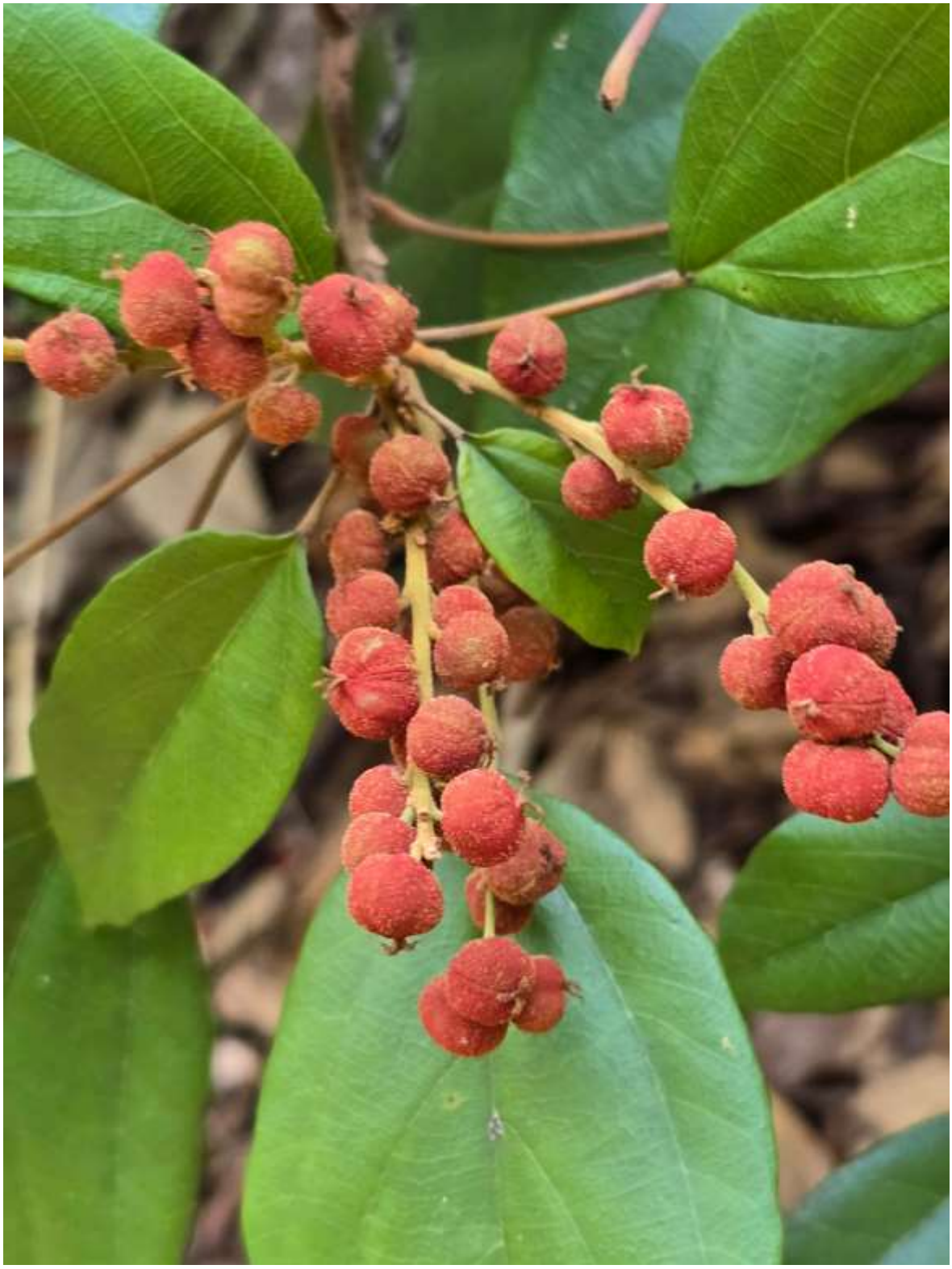
Adiantum atroviride	MAIDENHAIR FERN	
Angophora floribunda	ROUGH-BARKED APPLEGUM	
Trophis scandens?	BURNEY VINE	possible misID of Celastrus subspicata
Psydrax odorata forma australiana	SWEET SUZIE	(Ants nests with mealy bugs. Ants are Muscleman Tree Ants, *Podomyrma* sp)
Alphitonia excelsa	SOAP ASH	
Smilax australis	BARB WIRE VINE	
Ficus coronata	CREEK SANDPAPER FIG	
Austrostipa ramisissima	STOUT BAMBOO GRASS	
Pittosporum viscidum	BIRD NEST BUSH	
Pimelea neo-anglica	POISON PIMELEA	
Alectryon diversifolius	SCRUB BOONAREE	
Cupaniopsis parvifolia	SCRUB TUCKEROO	
Melicope micrococca	WHITE DOUGHWOOD	
Dichondra repens	KIDNEY PLANT	
Jasminum dianthifolium Syn Jasminum suavissimum	SWEET JASMINUM	
Trema tomentosum	TREMA	
OUT OF SIGHT OF BRIDGE		
Sphaeropteris cooperi Syn Cyathea cooperi	COIN SPOT TREEFERN	
Polyscias elegans	CELERYWOOD	
Brachychiton populneus	KURRAJONG	
Viola hederacea	IVY-LEAF NATIVE VIOLET	
Celastrus subspicatus	STAFF VINE	
Grevillea robusta	SILKY OAK	
Galium leptogonium	ROCK BEDSTRAW	
Gahnia aspera	SAW SEDGE	
Blechnum neohollandicum Syn Doodia aspera	RASP FERN	
Sigisbeckia orientalis	INDIAN WEED	
Rubus parviflolius	PINK-FLOWERED RASPBERRY	
Acacia irrorata	GREEN WATTLE	
Hymenosporum flavum	NATIVE FRANGIPANI	
Acacia implexa	LIGHTWOOD	
Toona ciliata seedlings	RED CEDAR	
Geranium solanderi	NATIVE GERANIUM	
Pandorea pandorana	WONGA VINE	

AFTER THE POOL BY MAVIS Crt STAIRS		
Zehneria cunninghamii	SLENDER CUCUMBER	
Oplismenus imbecillus	NARROW-LEAF BASKET GRASS	
Streblus brunonianus	WHALEBONE TREE	
Blechnum rupestre (?) Syn Doodia caudata	SMALL RASPFERN	
Omalanthus populifolius	BLEEDING HEART	
Parsonsia leichhardtii	LOBED SILKPOD	
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	PICCABEEN PALM	
Platycerium bifurcatum (baby)	ELKHORN	
Hydrocotyle laxiflora	STINKING PENNYWORT	
Adiantum hispidulum	FIVE-FINGERED JACK	
Pteris tremula	TENDER BRAKE	
Eucalyptus pilularis	BLACKBUTT	Only seen towards northern end of park
Proiphys cunninghamii ?	BRISBANE LILY	
Parsonsia straminea	MONKEY ROPE	
Eyrthroxylon Sp. Splityard Creek	REDWOOD BUSH	
Denhamia bilocularis	HEDGE ORANGEBARK	
Everistia vaccinifolia	EVERISTIA	
Alpinea caerulea	NATIVE GINGER	
Geijera salicifolia	SCRUB WILGA	
Eucalyptus sp	STRINGYBARK	Most likely to be *eugenioides,* but *acmenoides/helidonica* has been suggested. Ripe, opened seed capsules needed to identify firmly.
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani Syn S. validus	RIVER CLUBRUSH	
Parsonsia brisbanensis	BRISBANE SILKPOD	Specimen sent to Qld Herbarium for firmer ID
FROM REIS ROAD BRIDGE		
Christella dentata	BINUNG FERN	
Solanum linearifolium	MOUNTAIN KANGAROO APPLE	
Hypolepis muelleri	SWAMP BRACKEN FERN	Fern resembling bracken, on damp, flat ground in creek bed, best viewed from Reis Rd bridge.

TRACK ON RIGHT BANK OF CREEK, after crossing Reis Rd		
Teucrium argutum	NATIVE GERMANDER	
Ozothamnus diosmifolius	RICE FLOWER	
Breynia oblongifolia	BREYNIA	
Exocarpus cuppressiformis	CHERRY BALLART	
Mentha satureoides (Broad-leafed form).	NATIVE PENNYROYAL	This variant of *M. satureoides* as previously been widely misidentified in Qld as *M. diemenica*. True *M. diemenica*. is a southern Australian plant with hairy branches and calyces, and flowers in groups of 3-8. *Mentha satureoides* has glabrous or almost glabrous branches and outer surface of calyx, flowers in groups of 3 only, and leaves rarely wider than 7mm.
Solanum ellipticum	POTATO BUSH	



Native carpenter bee commonly known as the Peacock bee buzzing around the flowers of the Monkey Rope vine (Parsonsia straminea) in my garden. Photo, Jane Butler



Red Kamala (*Mallotus philippensis) Picnic Point bushland Photo, Supa*

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There are 12 species of Red Kamala occurring naturally in Australia. It is a shrub or small tree often 10 to 12 m high but it can reach 25 m. Leaves are simple alternate. Some mature specimens are present in Highfields Falls. https://www.botanybrisbane.com/

Redwood Park Madeira Vine Challenge

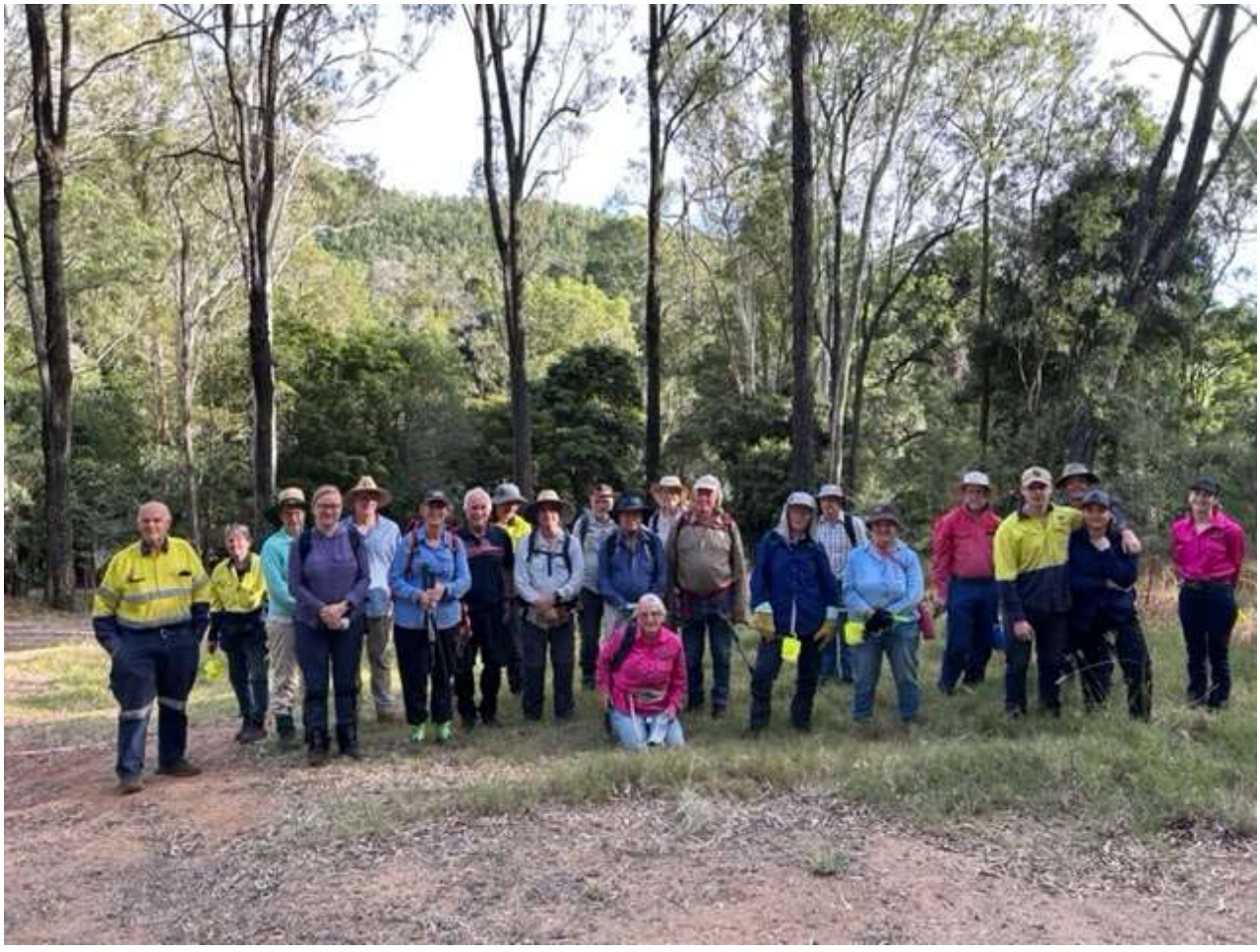
Eddy Van Klinken

Saturday 01/03/2025

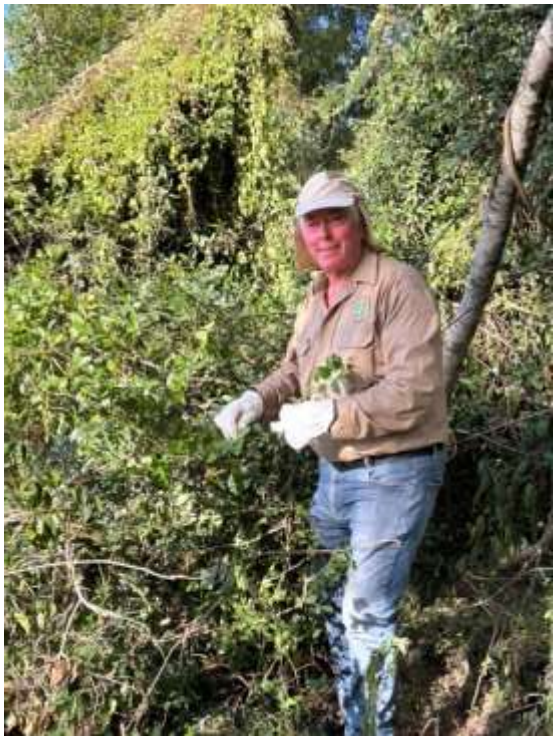
A huge thankyou to all who made it down to Redwood Park to weed on Saturday morning. In attendance were the *Trybooking* registrants for the fully subscribed Redwood Park Madeira Challenge and members of the Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club. They were ably supported by six of our regular weeding team. A total of 95 work hours were clocked for the morning – an amazing contribution.

The link for the Trybooking for the Madeira Weed Challenge WINTER is below. It's on the 31st May 8-11am. Registration https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1384879

Eduarda van Klinken is the new Redwood Park (Toowoomba Range) group Coordinator; see FEP website for more details https://fep.org.au/volunteer/park-care/.



Participants in the Redwood Park Madeira Challenge



Roger Thompson (Left)

Photo, Elizabeth Addie

Madeira vine aerial tuber showing reddish younger stems

Photo: Sheldon Navie

Madeira vine *Anredera cordifolia* biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Madeira vine is an invasive, South American vine that blankets and smothers trees, shrubs and understory species. It grows prolifically at rates of up to one metre per week and the weight of the vine can cause canopy collapse of mature native trees. It produces large numbers of subterranean and aerial reproductive tubers that persist in the environment and make effective management difficult.

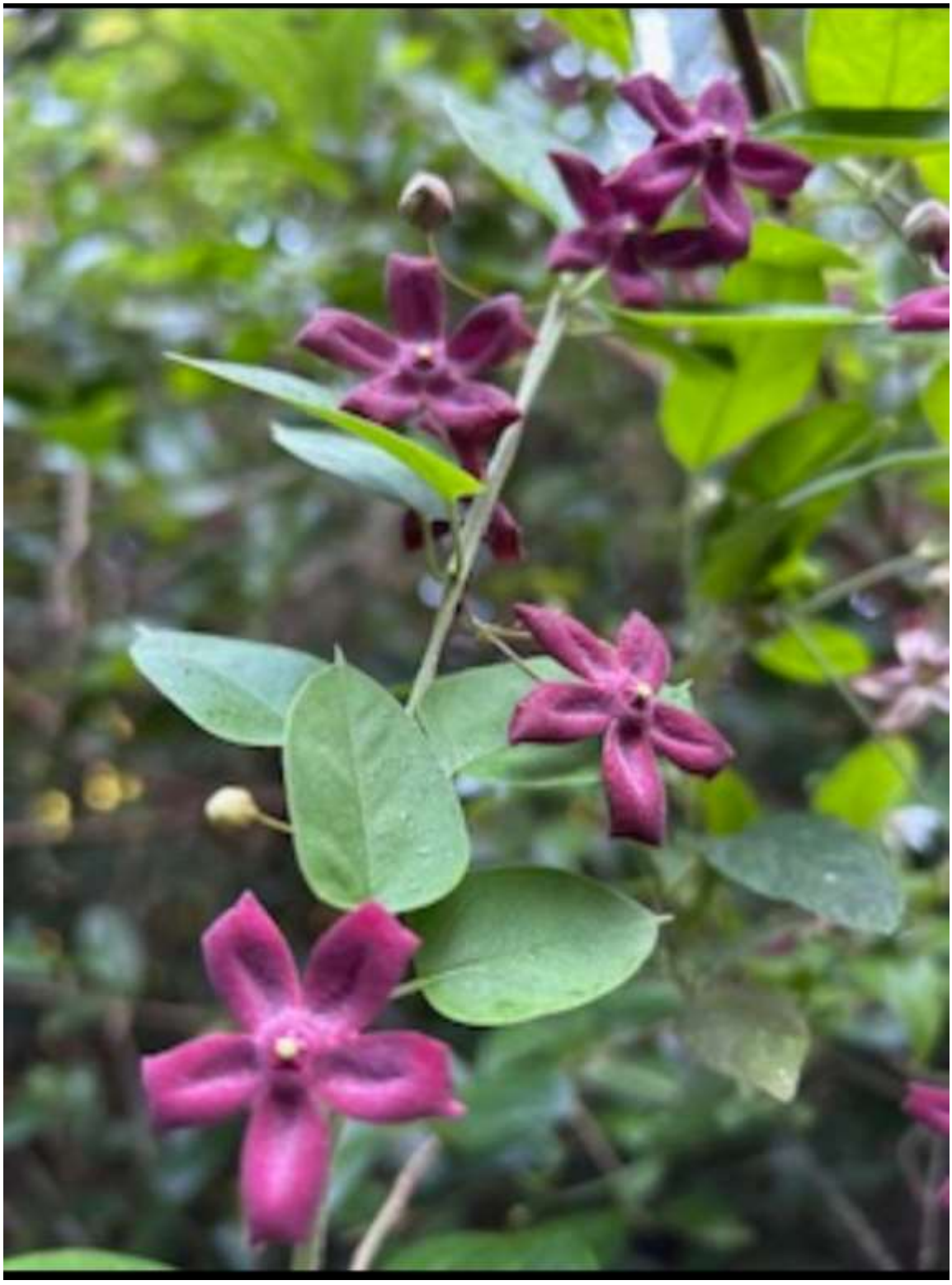
The impacts of Madeira vine can be so severe that it causes irreversible damage to the invaded ecosystem, leading to its categorisation as a transformer species. Madeira vine is considered one of Australia's worst environmental weeds and has been listed as a Weed of National Significance. Madeira vine is a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014.*

Successful management of Madeira vine requires exhaustion of the tuber bank. Its green or reddish younger stems later become rope-like in appearance and produce numerous aerial tubers. These greyish-brown or greenish warty stem tubers (normally about 2-3 cm long) are the main means of reproduction and dispersal of this species. The heart-shaped leaves (2-15 cm long and 1.5-10 cm wide) are alternately arranged and slightly fleshy in nature.

Tubers can remain viable for up to 15 years and can be easily spread through poor green waste management or via gravity and water movement from ridges and watersheds or during floods. A management plan needs to be carefully designed and include a commitment to regular, long-term follow-up control. The disturbance caused by control work stimulates particularly vigorous vine growth and if management isn't carried out appropriately, it may lead to an even greater problem.

Plan to: 1. Prevent Madeira vine spread. Identify isolated plants or sparse populations and control these first. Also consider the topography of the landscape and prioritise isolated infestations on high ground or at the top of catchments. 2. Reduce established infestations. Weed strategically, protecting the better quality native vegetation first e.g. treat Madeira vine infesting trees that are still living. Where possible, work from the edge.

Photo: Sheldon Navie https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/madeira-vine

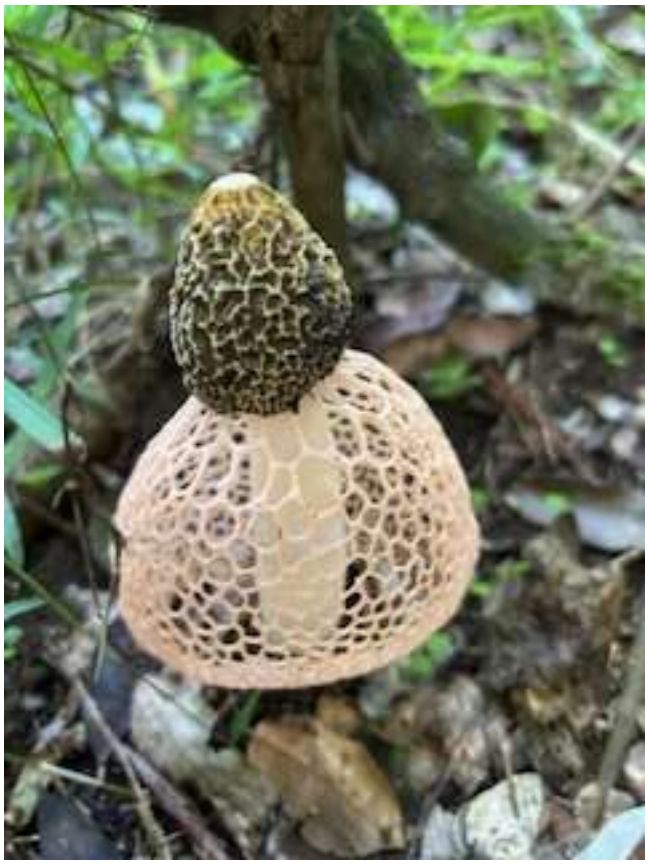


Vincetoxicum grandiflorum

Alternate names: arrow-head vine, small-leaved tylophora

Redwood Park, photo, Eddy van Klinken

For more local information about this plant, see Trish Gardner's blog
https://toowoombaplants2008.blogspot.com/2010/02/small-leaved-tylophora.html



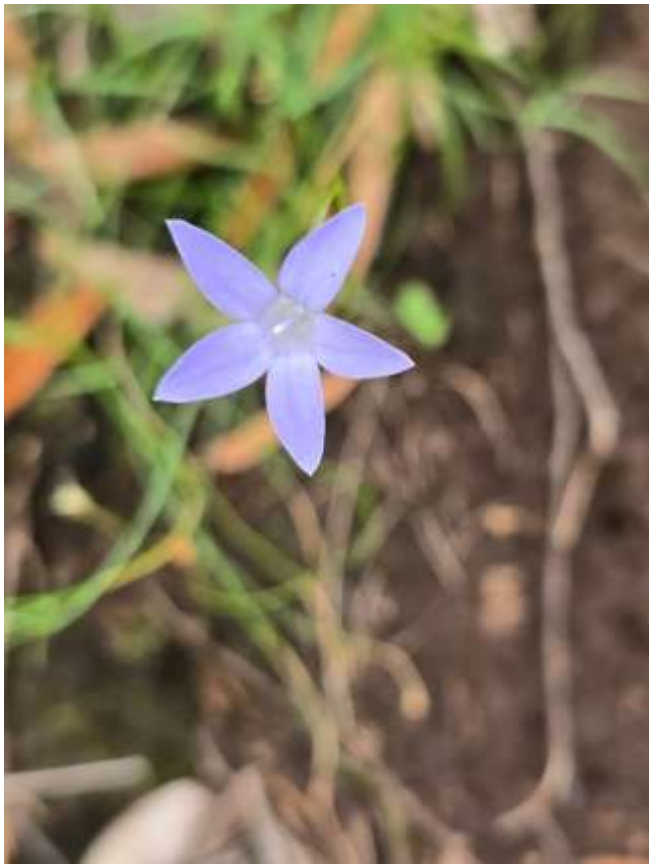
Phallus multicolor Redwood Park

Photo, Eddy van Klinken

https://qldfungi.org.au/

Garden Fungi can occur as a single fruit-body or in clusters after rain.

Fruit-body**:** Initially an “egg” or a cluster of “eggs” may be noticed. These eggs are white, up to 30 mm in diameter and have white cord-like mycelium strands (or rhizomorphs) at the base. When an egg ruptures, the fruit-body emerges. The fruit-body consists of a whitish stem which is capped by a yellowish/orange conical head (covered in the brown slimy gleba) with an apical hole. Below the gleba, the indusium (an off-white to yellow or orange netlike crinoline skirt) is suspended. The *Phallus indusium* is of variable size and disintegrates rapidly.

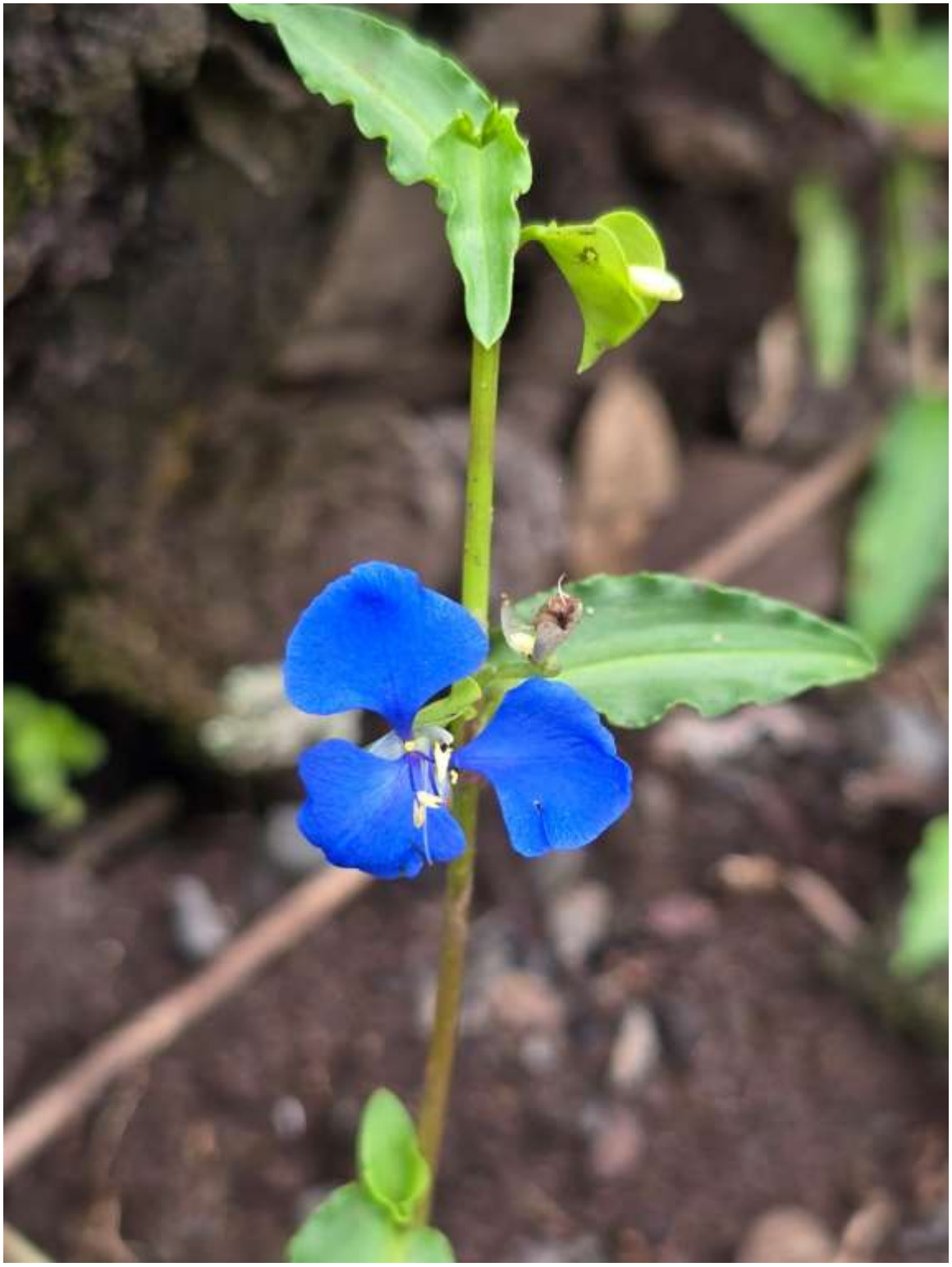


Wahlenbergia stricta Photo, Supa

The **Australian bluebell**, **tall bluebell** or **austral bluebell** is an Australian wildflower from the *Campanulaceae* family. It is considered the most commonly encountered of the Wahlenbergias. It is found in all Australian states but not the Northern Territory. It is often seen growing by the side of the road, enjoying the extra runoff.

Wahlenbergia stricta is a perennial herb flowering mainly in spring or summer with pale blue bell-like flowers.

Wikipedia



Commelina diffusa Photo, Supa.

Commelina diffusa known as Wandering Sailor spreads via stem nodes setting roots. The leaves are stem-clasping.

It is *not* a weed, unlike the similar, white-flowered *Tradescantia fluminensis* which is considered an invasive species, noxious weed, or pest plant in many places and is consequently targeted for eradication.

What Are Native, Indigenous and Endemic Plants?

Native Species

The term native species refers to plants and animals that live in particular areas purely by reason of naturally occurring phenomenon. Native plants may come to grow in specific areas due to an array of environmental factors such as their seeds being blown there by the wind, the natural process, or even being carried from region to region by animals.

Plants can be considered native to a region or several regions within a country as opposed to being confined to just one specific geographical location.

An important distinction here of this term is *locally* native.

Indigenous Species

The use of the terms 'indigenous' and 'native' for plants seems to be interchangeable. There is a slight difference in the semantics of the words.

'Native' comes from the C14 Latin word *nativus* meaning natural, via *nasci* meaning to be born.

'Indigenous' meaning occurring naturally or originating (in an area) is from C17 Latin *indi + gignere*, in + to beget, as in to procreate.

Generally, the terms native/indigenous plants/species are followed by a 'to' somewhere, e.g. native to Australia.

Endemic Species

All endemic species are native, but not all native species are endemic. An endemic plant species is one which occurs naturally in just one place, and *nowhere else*.

These species are not just 'endemic' – they are endemic *to somewhere*.

The term "endemic" is used interchangeably with "precinctive" in biology and ecology, describing species restricted to a particular area and found nowhere else, (e.g. isolated islands), either large or small in terms of area, and are at an elevated risk of suffering from the possibility of extinction. Endemic species only prosper under a certain set of specialized conditions found in particular habitats.

For example, some plant species can only reproduce with a continued interaction with a certain animal pollinator, and the pollinating animal may also be dependent on that plant species for a food source. Many species have adapted to very limited, unusual, or harsh conditions. Their survival and growth is limited because they can only flourish under a strict set of naturally occurring conditions.

Bushland Regeneration

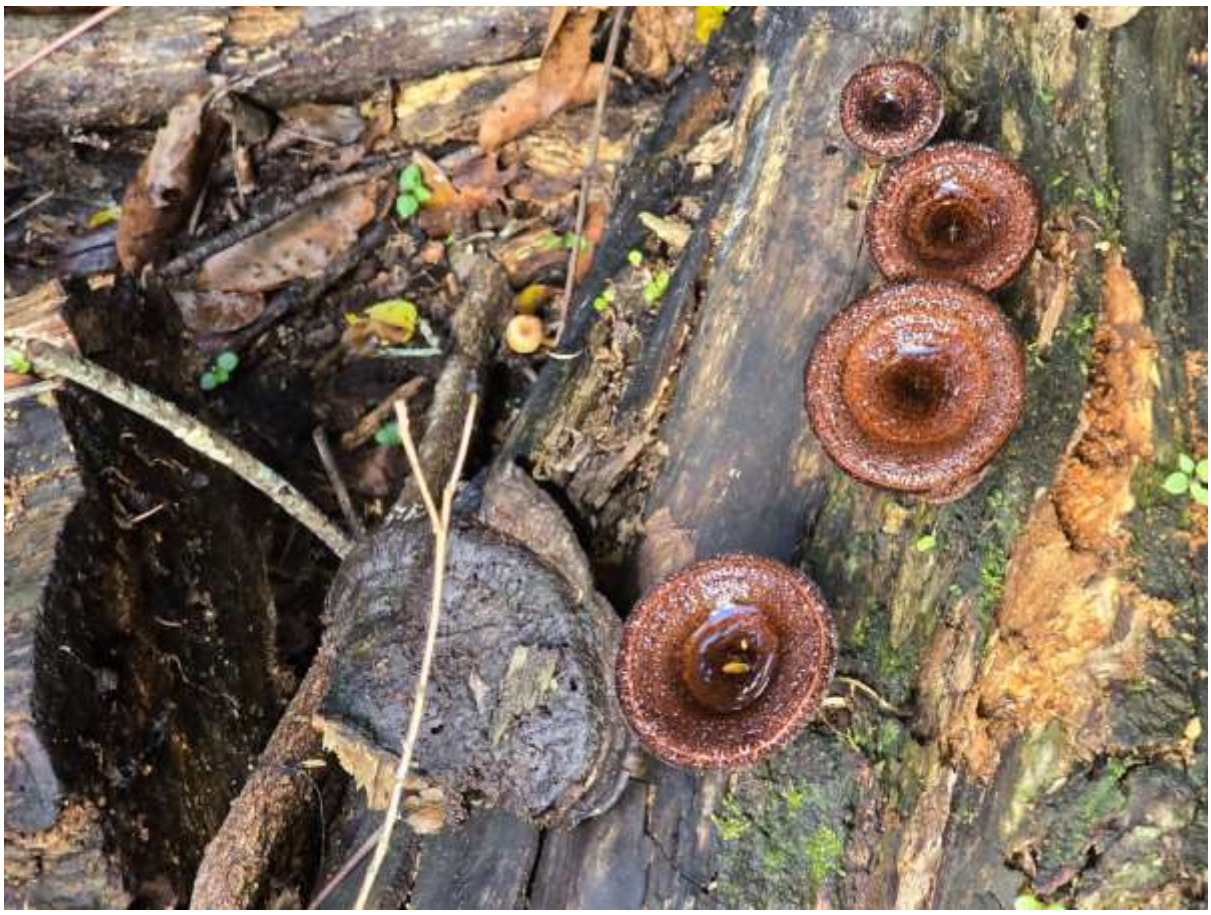
The identification of local remnant natural areas provides a basis for bushland regeneration work. A native species may occur in areas other than the one under consideration and may not be suitable to be introduced there. When ecological restoration projects are undertaken to restore a native

ecological system that has been disturbed by weed infestation, economic development or other events, attention needs to be paid to ecotype accuracy of the original system. There may be a failure to restore the original ecological system by overlooking the basics of remediation. Attention paid to the historical distribution of native species is a crucial first step to ensure the ecological integrity of the project.

C.L. Illsley September 25 2018

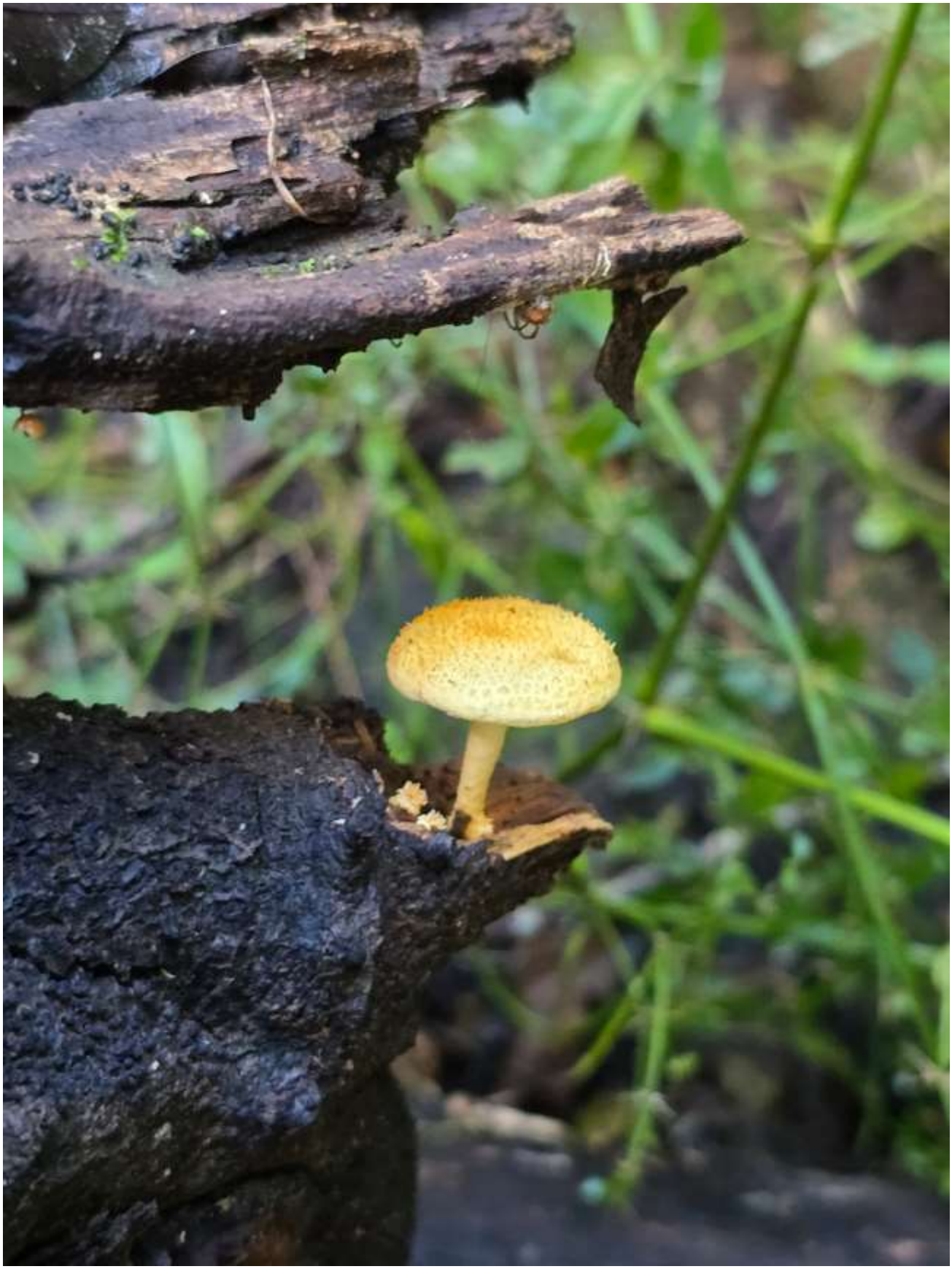
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_species

Collins Concise Dictionary



Redwood Park

Photo, Supa



Fungus Redwood Park Photo, Supa

Two Senna Weed Species

Compiled by **Greg Lukes** (FEP)
Confirmed by **Peter Macqueen**
Smooth Cassia Image by **Tom Taylor** (FEP)

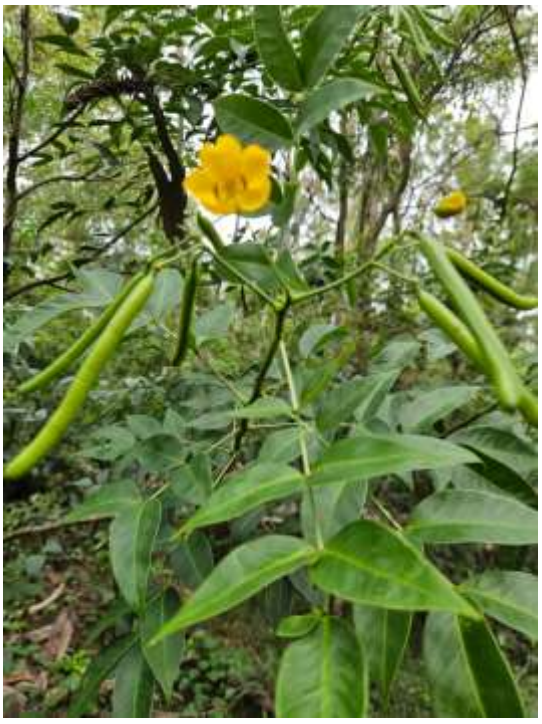
Some of our parks have one or two Senna species that are weeds.

Most FEP volunteers recognise **Easter Cassia**, scientifically known as *Senna pendula var. glabrata*, which is a vigorous, invasive shrub native to South America, now common in coastal Queensland and other parts of Australia, often found in disturbed areas and gardens. Leaves have three to six pairs of leaflets. These broad leaflets (1-5 cm long and 5-20 mm wide) have **rounded tips and prominent gold or yellowish margins** on the edge of the leaflets. It has bright yellow flowers (about 3 cm across) are in leafy clusters at the tips of the branches. Its fruit are cylindrical pods (10-20 cm long and 6-12 mm wide) that hang downwards.

Easter cassia flowers and pods

Another *Senna* is the **Smooth Cassia** or arsenic bush *Senna septemtrionalis* which is also a weed. *Senna septemtrionalis* is native to Mexico. It has been planted in Australia as an ornamental shrub in gardens. Smooth Cassia has been found in Nielsen Park and Hartmann Reserve. It is being removed by FEP volunteers when found.

Smooth Cassia *Senna septemtrionalis* stem and leaves are described as once-compound (i.e. pinnate) leaves that are hairless (i.e. glabrous) and alternately arranged along the stems. These leaves (6-10.5 cm long) are borne on stalks (i.e. petioles) 15-35 mm long and have 3-5 pairs of leaflets. The leaflets (3.5-9 cm long and 15-35 mm wide) are elongated to egg-shaped in outline (i.e. lanceolate to narrowly ovate) with **entire margins and pointed tips** (i.e. acuminate apices). They have glossy green upper surfaces and paler green undersides. See Image. https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/arsenic-bush



Smooth Cassia in Hartmann Reserve

Image by Tom Taylor (FEP)

Continuing the series from the FEP archive

The documents archived from 1993 to 1994 contain detailed reports of vegetation types, species lists, fauna (including bird) records, maps and photographs. These seem to be in response to a request from the Toowoomba City Council (TCC).

One document is the Fauna Management Proposal, prepared for Toowoomba City Council, June 1993. The authors of this material are FEP members, Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc., Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club and Department of Environment and Heritage Nature Search 2001 team. It has, as one of the objectives, 'to effectively manage sensitive areas of the escarpment parks and to understand their significance for endangered species'. At the time, the Department of Environment and Heritage did not have records of fauna of Toowoomba's escarpment parks, including amphibians, fish and reptiles. The fauna data in the document includes 153 different bird species that were recorded, 13 native animal species and 22 native amphibians, reptiles and fish species. There was no known invertebrate survey. The report advises the TCC that the lists provide a starting point within the objective of maintaining the integrity of wildlife populations within the escarpment parks.

Another document is, Management of Toowoomba's Escarpment Parks, submitted by the Toowoomba Bird Observers, 19/07/1993 to the Parks and Recreation Officer, Toowoomba City Council. The TBO had been monitoring the parks, especially Redwood Park, since the club's inception in 1975 (originally Toowoomba Bird Club) and emphasised that protection of the parks 'is of paramount importance', particularly areas of vine scrub. There is discussion of the management of exotic plants; clearing Privet and Cat's Claw creeper and working in a mosaic pattern on Lantana removal.

At the same time, a 'Vegetative Study of an area of Redwood Park' completed over a 5 month period, by Katrina Lowien, 26/11/1993 is an impressive work. Four transects of 2m wide and 20 m long were chosen in an area of 400sq m. In her introduction, Katrina mentions a hope that the data of native plants and exotics from the 2 counts 'will prove useful to replanting programs when escarpments are cleared of the exotics'. From 'Graph 1, number of exotics species in counts 1 and 2' page 12 of the document, we can see, that after initial removal of Lantana , a multiplication in quantity of nearly 16 times the first count over the 5 month period. There are a couple of hypotheses given for this stunning increase; one being that with the pulling out of Lantana, some viable roots were left from which new growth occurred.

There are copies of the Toowoomba City Council (1994) proposed project to create Toowoomba International Gardens throughout the escarpment parks. This strategy is remarkable reading and not in a good way and there are original letters to council from members of TBO and FEP questioning the advisability of this project. Details from proposed TIG will be in the next newsletter.

It is planned to have some parts of these documents scanned and copied onto the FEP website for general viewing. Please contact me for more information, Penny McGowan editorfep@gmail.com.

FEP Bush care groups are volunteers carrying out bush regeneration activities in our local bushland parks. Bring your gloves, hat and water. Other details are available on https://fep.org.au/volunteer/park-care/

FEP Bush Care Parks and Groups

Name of Park	Locality	Coordinator Contact Details	Schedule
Charles and Motee Rogers Reserve Highfields	Highfields	Dougal phone number: 0409 920 399.	9am on first and fourth Fridays of the month
Duggan Park (Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville)	Rangeville	Kaye 0402 183 087 kwoodriley@gmail.com	Second Saturday of the month From 8 am. And First Tue of month from 9am.
Echo Valley South Park (Ramsay St)	421 Ramsay St Middle Ridge	Greg 0428 288 077 glukes@bigpond.com	Second and fifth Saturday & First, third and fifth Wednesday at 9 am
Hancock St Park	Rangeville	Shirley 04 1774 0887	Every Thursday Summer: 7 am – 10:30 am Autumn – Spring: 7 am – 11 am
Hancock St Park Microforest Group	Rangeville	Elizabeth Addie president@fep.org.au	We meet as required.
Hartmann Bushland Reserve	Rangeville	Greg 0428 288 077 glukes@bigpond.com	Second and fourth Wednesday From 9 am
Highfields Falls Bushland	James Byrne Rd, Highfields	Jane 0423747169 jane.butler@westnet.com.au	Every Tuesday 9 am – 12 pm
Leopard Ash Bushland Park, Kleinton (Near Highfields)	Kleinton	Russell 04 376 11306	First Saturday 9am – 12pm Meet at container on the western side of the park.
Panorama Crescent Park	Prince Henry Heights	David panorama.crescent.park@outlook.com	Third Saturday 9 am – 12 pm

Nielsen Park	Middle Ridge Meet at Colman Drive entrance	Rob 0407 124 863	First and fourth Saturday 9 am – 11 am
Redwood Park	Toowoomba Range	Eduarda van Klinken 04 0942 1545 eduardavk@bigpond.com Turn left at 100km sign to the signposted car park area & picnic ground	Every Monday and Friday Summer: 7 am – 9:30 am. Autumn and Spring: 7:30 am – 10:30 am Winter: 8 am – 10:30 am
Redwood Park Prince Henry Drive FEP Group	Prince Henry Heights	Tom 0438 441 188 tom@tomesplin.com	Every Tuesday 7:30 am to 10:30 am
Skyline Drive Escarpment Park	Blue Mountain Height The worksite is from the end of Rangeview Rd, Blue Mountain Heights	Christel 0448 329 008	First Sunday of the month 8 am – 9 am
Stenner Street Park	Middle Ridge	Claudia Claudia.stephenson@bigpond.com	We meet as required
Williams Park	Cecil Crescent, Highfields QLD	Karen Sams samskaren31@gmail.com mob: 0419 101 555	Monday mornings 10am – 12pm. Meet at Mavis Court.

FEP Key Contacts

FEP President – Elizabeth Addie president@fep.org.au

FEP Secretary – Sue Sheppard secretary@fep.org.au

FEP Treasurer – Tom Esplin treasurer@fep.org.au

Thank you to our contributors;

Please send newsletter contributions to Penny McGowan: editorfep@gmail.com

Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba Inc. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this region, including the Jagera people, the Giabal people and the Jarowair people, whose song lines traverse this land on which we work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present