

Highfields Falls Reserve Park 2025 Report

This last year, Spring 2024 to spring 2025, has brought unprecedented rain. This has meant an explosion of weeds to deal with at the park. The 10 volunteers of the Highfields Falls' FEP team



continue to target the 3 main weeds – Privet, lantana and asparagus fern growing throughout the riparian zone of Highfields Falls Park. The area we have cleared and continue manage has grown to 9 zones. These require revegetation and regular restoration.

The other weed of concern is the Cats Claw Vine growing in a small patch away from the riparian area. Last year we were excited to be part of an experiment introducing Jewel beetles in the hope of containing the weed. Unfortunately, we saw no evidence they survived the Winter so by Summer, after all the rain that encouraged rampant growth, we reluctantly made the decision to spray before our small patch grew to a larger one.



Each year for the past 5 years the students from The Toowoomba Christian College volunteer two days of community service. This time the students put in a magnificent effort to plant out over 300+ seedlings that were donated by Crows Nest Community Nursery. We appreciated both the students' help and the Nursery's. CNCN were able to match an order and provide so many plants at the last minute. Fortunately, watering plants was not an issue.



Each year we like to organise a trip away. This year we have had a few trips. One of our trips included a visit to the Bulls Head Inn where replanting of native flora had taken place by 2 of our team Max and Ken. Many of the plants came from seeds sourced by Max from the bush above the Inn. We climbed up Mt Mee and enjoyed a morning tea while appreciating the view at the summit. Also, by invitation from Crows Nest Nursery we visited the Goombungee dump to witness the spectacular display of wildflowers in August. Our other trip to Dingo Mountain however was cut short by a hailstorm!



Essential new equipment in the shape of an electric wheelbarrow arrived this year. Every time we need to cart planting and weeding equipment up and down our steep gullies, we are incredibly grateful for this new addition. We are also grateful for Sue who organised her husband to build us a ramp for easy access to the shed.

Collecting rubbish found at the park has become a plus. Ken took the initiative after he and Max cleaned up bottles and cans after a New Year celebration. Now the bottles and cans are cashed in and over the months a good amount has been raised for charity.

2025 has been another busy year where lots have been accomplished.