

Leopard Ash Bushland Park Annual Report 2024/25

Introduction

Leopard Ash Bushland Park is in Charmaine Court, Kleinton between residences 16 and 18 and adjacent to Cabarlah – Meringandan Road. It is named after the Leopard Ash trees (*Flindersia collina*) that is growing in the park. It is an example of the dry vine rainforest that was common in the area before development.

The main problems in the park are Climbing Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus aethiopicus*) and Maderia Vine (*Anrepera cordifolia*).



We have a small group of volunteers who meet at the park on the first Saturday of each month to remove weeds.

The work of volunteers has been very successful as shown by these two photos. The top photo was taken in 2015 when work started at the park. The bottom photo was taken in 2020 at the same place.

Park Coordinator

In June this year I (Russ Tyler) took over the role of Park Coordinator from Michael McGoldrick. Mike was the instigator of having the park come under the management of the Friends of the Escarpment group in 2015. In 2020 he worked with FEP and Toowoomba Regional Council to have the name changed from Meringandan East Road Open Space to Leopard Ash Bushland Park. He has been one of the volunteer workers at the park since then (2015) and has been Park Coordinator for the past 6 or 7 years.

Thank you, Mike, for your dedication to this park.

Weeds in the park

Major weeds

- Climbing Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus aethiopicus*)
- Maderia Vine (*Anrepera cordifolia*)

Lesser weeds

- Brazilian Nightshade (*Solanum seaforthianum*)
- Corky Passionfruit (*Passiflora suberosa*)
- Green Panic (*Panicum maximum*)

- Basket Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus africanus*)
- Chinese celtis (*Celtis sinensis*)

Occasional weeds

- Lantana (*Lantana camara*)
- Privet (*Ligustrum spp*)
- Cats Claw (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*)
- African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) (around the perimeter of the park)

Wildlife



Eastern Whipbird
(*Psophodes olivaceus*)

There is one male eastern whipbird that lives in the park and surrounding backyards which we frequently hear but rarely see. It appears that he has an occasional visit from a female bird.



Black -breasted Button-quail
(*Turnix melanogaster*)

From time to time, we see evidence of this bird visiting the park.

There are a number of other animals such as bandicoots that frequent the park, mainly at night. We see evidence of their activity but rarely see them.

Volunteers

There is a small group of 6 volunteers who attend the workdays.

Activities

Workdays

We have a workday on the first Saturday of each month. Our main activity at these workdays is to remove weeds. This is usually done by manually digging out the plants with the occasional use of herbicides as appropriate.

Park Visit

A successful park visit was held on the 14th of June with approximately 15 people attending. During this visit two new plants were identified.



Satinwood
(*Vitex lignum-vitae*)



Zygocactus mistletoe
(*Korthalsella breviarticulata*)

Concerns

The spread of Maderia vine is of concern. While we have spent several days digging out the tubers and spraying with herbicide the total area where this weed occurs is steadily increasing. Reports from members who work in other parks suggest that this weed is a problem in a number of parks managed by FEP. There appears to be a need to (a) continue the current control methods and (b) to look at more effective control measures.

This year we have noticed a prefiltration of seedlings of Brazilian Nightshade and Corky Passion Fruit. We assume that this is due to favourable seasonal conditions. These seedlings are easily removed by pulling out.

Future

- Continue with monthly workdays.
- Try to recruit more volunteers.
- Continue publicity activities in local media.

Conclusion

While we are a small group we are keeping most of the weeds under control except for the Maderia vine as outlined above.

Thanks to the volunteers and to other FEP members who support our work throughout the year.

Russ Tyler
Park Coordinator