

Panorama Crescent Park – Annual Report 2025

Location – The park is located at the eastern end of the Prince Henry Heights spur, tucked between houses that front Prince Henry Drive and Panorama Crescent, and the lower/one-way section of Prince Henry Drive.

Area – The park is a small bushland park of approx. 1.73 hectares with a perimeter of approx. 850 metres.

Statistics – In the last twelve months, we held 9 recorded working bees. Some incidental sessions have also been held. The average number of volunteers attending sessions was 2.6. The volunteers worked a total of 90.5 hours in the organised sessions, and more hours were not recorded. The average hours worked per recorded session was 10.

Priorities – Bushfire management is a priority, given the proximity to houses and the dense vegetation. Fire track access is available and is mown by neighbours. The area adjoining houses is also mown, and the Council does less-frequent mowing.

In accordance with the park Annual Work Program, weed management has been the priority for volunteers. Woody weed species have been eliminated from 'The Meadow', the native regeneration area and the Central section, so ongoing weeding of smaller weeds is a focus there. Target weeds include creeping lantana, asparagus fern, cobbler pegs, nightshade, green panic, thistles and in the 'meadow' kikuyu, paspalum and Rhodes grass.

Privet, lantana and celtis are the target woody weeds in those areas that remain infested. Green panic is also a problem. Volunteers take care to not spread other weeds into those areas. Limited stem injection of the larger woody-weed species has been trialed, with the intention of leaving dead trunks in place to prevent erosion and allow native regeneration. Other areas have been 'chopped and dropped'.

Successes – It is encouraging to see native species thrive when competition from weeds is removed. The regeneration area provides an example. 'The Meadow' is also returning to native grasses as invasive grasses are progressively removed. These areas also provide seed banks for the future.

The Council helps with bushfire management by occasionally mowing and through infrequent controlled burns. Adoption of its Fire Management Strategy is likely to be a catalyst for other mitigation efforts. Neighbours also mow to maintain a fire break.

We have a Bushcare Risk Assessment and Work Safe Statement and update our Annual Work Program as required by Council. Members have attended an accredited First Aid course and renewed our first aid kit.

Panorama Crescent coordinators and volunteers have also visited several of the other escarpment parks and learned useful information that can be applied at Panorama Crescent Park.

Threats – The threats posed by invasive weeds and by uncontrolled bushfire are obvious and common across most escarpment parks, although the weed threats may vary. Panorama Crescent Park is also at risk from an unclear future role. There are differing views among neighbours, FEP and Council about how much of the area should be cleared for fire breaks, whether it should be a focus of native regeneration or turned into an urban parkland with garden areas. The park has also been subjected to inappropriate activities by some neighbours, including piling garden waste, planting exotics and moving rocks to form garden edges.

Opportunities – Volunteers attended an information session run by TRC staff on its Fire Management Strategy and the lower-level plans and procedures. Opportunities have been identified to reduce fire risk by means other than burning, such as spraying and forest mulching. TRC has also identified inappropriate results, such as those in Threats above and outlined its plan to progressively remove these.