



## The Escarpment Park Friend September 2025

Committed to Escarpment Park Care since 1994

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Welcome to September 2025 newsletter.

### News from FEP Annual General Meeting

#### The new FEP committee

Elizabeth Addie; [president@fep.org.au](mailto:president@fep.org.au)

Susan Sheppard; [secretary@fep.org.au](mailto:secretary@fep.org.au)

Tom Esplin; [treasurer@fep.org.au](mailto:treasurer@fep.org.au)

Terri Cox,  
Bev Yates,  
Peter Albion,  
Rob Brodribb,  
Warwick Easdown,  
Penelope McGowan.



### Annual Park Reports

#### **Charles and Motee Rogers Bushland Reserve Report 2025**

Charles and Motee Rogers donated the Bushland Reserve to Crows Nest Shire Council in 1993. The 6.07 hectare park consists of Remnant Dry Rainforest and Eucalypt Woodland plants as well as some species that have been planted but do not occur naturally in the park. It is classified as an Endangered Ecosystem 12.5.6 under the Vegetation Management Act and is one of the last remaining examples of its kind in Highfields <https://rogersreserve.blogspot.com/p/history.html>

Vegetation work was started by Crows Nest Council around 2000, with weeding, planting, and a controlled burn of part of the western side park.

It has over 100 native plant species local to this area of Highfields (plus a few extras planted in that grow on the range but may not be present within a few kilometres of the reserve). Both gliders and koalas are occasionally seen.

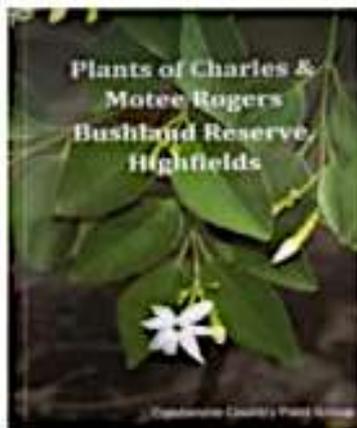
After a hiatus, Judi Gray in 2014 collected volunteers for vegetation restoration and management. The Friends of the Escarpment Parks Inc took over management of the efforts with supervision by Greg Lukes.

A lot of people have shown interest in this gem, especially after the open day and walks from the entrance by the library..



Unfortunately during the last year active working volunteer numbers have been low with only 3 to 6 most work days and there were a few days missed due to rain.

There are still books of the vegetation available.



*Plants of Charles and Motee Rogers Bushland Reserve Highfields (2021)*, was prepared by Lisa Churchward, Patricia Gardner, Peter Macqueen, Steve Plant & Greg Spearritt and published in collaboration with [Condamine Country Plant Group](#). Copies are available and will be of particular interest to residents who enjoy the park at Highfields or who are looking for suitable native plants for their gardens. Call Sue (0409 276 072) to arrange to obtain a copy.

Both Dougal Johnston and Greg Lukes have been accredited for Agricultural Chemical Distribution and Control and Dougal has since received Commercial Operator and Ground Distribution Contractor's licences.

Unfortunately TRC has not yet transferred the proposed green space along Clarke Rd to Parks and Gardens to facilitate an agreement with FEP to commence vegetation restoration to improve the one remaining connecting corridor to Rogers Reserve.

More bushland park promotion may help this and encourage more working volunteers to join us in the Charles and Motee Rogers Bushland Reserve.

We are still waiting for the TRC draft work plans for 2026.

Volunteers meet at 9 am on the 1st and 4th Fridays of each month. Please get in touch with Dougal at 04-0992-0399. The meeting place is at 22 O'Brien Road, Highfields – Entrance 3, Community Court.

### 2025 Annual Report Nielsen Park

Overall the park is looking good. The northern section is largely in a maintenance phase. After a wet year lantana is out of control in some areas of the southern section. We have also discovered small outbreaks of Cats Claw in the southern section. These are probably coming from Gabbinbah homestead. I contacted them last year but have been unable to follow up. On the "to do" list for this Spring. I am also worried about asparagus fern in the southern section So far just small isolated clumps but quite widespread. I suspect we will not eliminate it but will have a long term battle to contain it.

I was excited recently to see natural regrowth of *E montivaga* (New England blackbutt) in the southern section. This is the first time I have seen any small saplings of this species self regenerate in the park.

The neighbourhood boys returned in the June holidays to build some bike jumps but only in the outer fire break perimeter.

Averaging three volunteers with max six for any Saturday morning sessions. We said farewell to Coral Sharock earlier in the year after 10 years weeding at Nielsen Park.

#### Plans for next year

- Continue on removing lantana and pavonia.
- Neighbourhood education session to encourage more volunteers to get involved with the care of the park
- Ask TRC to provide a seat for the Tarlington St extension
- Cover some of the walking tracks with crusher dust to reduce erosion.

Thanks to Greg Lukes who leads the group when I'm not available  
Rob Brodribb



*Eutaxia myrtifolia*, commonly known as egg and bacon plant or bush pea - Goombungee

# Duggan Park

## 2024-2025

We continue to have small 3 groups working in the park every month. Two on different Saturdays and one on a Tuesday. 5 new workers have joined us this year. During the winter our work days have been a little irregular due to other commitments.

Our focus has been the usual suspects. Ochna, Pavonia, Black eyed Susan, Asparagus vine, Lantana, Ink weed. We have not found any Madiera Vine as yet. Fingers crossed.

There continues to be some vandalism in the park. The sensory walk rope is a constant repair, some new tracks through the forest appear on occasions. At present we have a wide bike track that has carved out an area on the eastern side of the park.

Council has poisoned some of the Lantana in the quarry. Council have also trimmed the trees in front of the viewing platform for Meewah.

Council have supplied 50 plants for us to plant. Most are small shrubs to provide habitat for small birds and to make the entry garden look inviting.

The bush school's kids are going to plant some of the plants and then continue to water them for a while. They enjoy connecting to country and it is a great way to build a love of the bush. Tiff, one of our workers is the director of the Bush Kids groups.



### William's Park, Highfields

Williams park currently operates with 2 members planning and weeding. The upside being the park is incredibly resilient with a quality wet sclerophyll forest predominant. Trc ranger Tim littljohn assistance in lantana removal from creek basin was really much appreciated. On going herbicide applications by rangers of lantana above path is planned before start of spring. Area manager for scouts has informed me of apex clubs commitment to some weeding of area immediately below club building. Hoping to communicate with her before their next outing. I hope to plant some *Acacia nerifolia* in the near future in this area. Crows nest has this plant available. Removal of African daisies (*osteospermum* sp.) Along North side and nightshade plants(*solanum* sp.) Track on south side.

The head of the creek. Bridge area below scout buildings has a range of exotic plants ,maybe arrived as garden refuse, to clear .

Ongoing management of asparagus vines remains a priority. With a few environmental weed trees I'm targeting with trc rangers.



## 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. We will 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.

## Hancock Park, Rangeville

"Hancock Park Rangeville has certainly enjoyed the glorious rain over the past twelve months.

The native indigenous trees, bushes and grasses have had exceptional growth and exciting regeneration continues to happen. New native species not previously seen in the park are also appearing which we get very excited about. Just in the last couple of months two self planted Red Cedars have been discovered which is pretty exciting news as they are the parks firsts.

A special mention and a huge thank you must be given to the Hancock Park team of volunteers. Our team consist of Peter Albion, Anna Michaels, Judy Radd and Gaby Addie and they are simply the best. Along with the hard work they do in the park I also want to mention their wonderful co operation and friendship they arrive with on Thursday mornings. Thank you all and because of you Thursday work mornings are so enjoyable.

Obviously with the rain comes the feral weeds in abundance and the never ending digging out of green panic, climbing /basket asparagus, African Love Grass to name just a few goes on. Madiera Vine bulbs are also regularly dug up and we find this is the best way of containing it.

Garden escapes such as Mock Orange, Chinese Elm, Camphur Laurel, Sacred Bamboo and more constantly need our attention also.

I look forward to the next 12 months observing the continued growth of this beautiful little precious park".

Shirley Dunsdon  
Coordinator



## 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 Crow's 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.

# Annual Park Care Report

## Upper Redwood Park - July 25

### Description of Park Care Area

- The territory covered by the Upper Redwood Park Care Group covers parkland adjacent to Prince Henry Drive from the Bridge Street intersection, down to the lookout known as Lovers Outlook, a distance of around 850 metres.
- The terrain is escarpment land, with relatively confined and narrow areas of gentle slope, giving way to steep embankment.
- Over 250 species of native dry rainforest plants, including ground covers, flowers, shrubs and trees, are represented in the area covered. A near-pristine area of rainforest has been uncovered in a specific area around 80m down the escarpment. This rainforest is growing on rock talus, suited for the long roots of rainforest species such as figs, giant stinging trees, bloodwoods, etc but not suitable for shallow-rooted invasive trees such as privet.
- At the time of commencement of Park Care activity in Sep 2020, severe infestation of Redwood Park adjacent to Prince Henry Drive had occurred over many decades. Privet and lantana had substantially choked off native dry rainforest vegetation, with intertwining of vines making access difficult and slow.
- Progressively work is extending up and down the length of PHD, as well as penetrating further down the escarpment.

### Vision 2030

- By 2030, a 60m wide section extending one kilometre down Prince Henry Drive from the Bridge Street intersection down past the lookout known as Lovers Outlook (roughly 6 ha):
  - will be free of privet and lantana, as well as other invasive weeds notably cobbler's pegs, blackberry nightshade, fleabane, climbing asparagus, tree pear and others,
  - will be thriving natural ecosystems, representative of the original dry rainforest margin with flourishing bird and animal life,
  - will have walking trails to enable the enjoyment and experience of the public
  - will require minimal ongoing maintenance (due to persistence in eradicating the seed bank of invasive species)

### Maintenance activities:

- Once an area is cleared of invasive privet or lantana, weeds flourish due to additional sunlight, and lack of protective ground cover.

- *Bidens pilosa* (cobblers pegs) seeds can still germinate for up to 5 years, whilst *Solanum nigrum* (blackberry nightshade) can last up to 10 years. Deeper burial in soil can extend life even further, so disturbed soil (eg bandicoots digging) will often result in a flush of weed regrowth.
- Mild winters result in year-round growth and germination of weeds.
- Heavy persistent maintenance is required for an extended period of time until the seed bank is exhausted and regrowth of weeds arrested.
- Broadleaf weeds such as cobblers pegs, blackberry nightshade, and fleabane are sprayed with Starane (fluroxypur). Woody weeds and green panic are sprayed with Glyphosate.
- The most effective control for privet and lantana is applying 50% glyphosate immediately to the stump after cutting at ground level. Both will resprout without herbicide treatment.
- In warmer months, patrolling and spraying is every 2 weeks. Frequency is vital to prevent weeds flowering and seeding.
- In cooler months, germination still occurs, particularly following rain, and patrolling periods may be extended slightly to 3 or 4 week intervals. Spraying is less effective in cooler weather and is best done mid to late morning to optimize plant absorption.
- Around 20-25% of total activity time is generally spent on weed control.

#### Detail of work undertaken to date

- Sep 2020: Work commenced
- 2021: Roughly 20m-wide strip cleared opposite 342 to 350 PHD
- 2022: Area widened and extended down to opposite 338 PHD
- 2023: Area opposite 338 and 340 cleared 80m down to rainforest
- 2024: Triangular area adjacent the exit gate cleared
- 2025 (to date): Additional 25m to 30m depth clearing from 344 to 350 PHD, plus clearing road reserve adjacent 310 to 318 PHD
- Vigilance in controlling weeds prior to flowering and seeding is yielding dividends with significant reduction in volumes of weeds in maintained areas
- Total area cleared to date is approximately 30,000m<sup>2</sup> involving 2600+ man-hours of effort
- It is pleasing that during the current year, the group has expanded to 3 regular members who are working in the road reserve near Lovers Outlook
- The group also hosted 6 students plus 2 teachers from Clifford Park Special School in May / June 25. They had a highly satisfying experience whilst aiding the clearing of the road reserve near Lovers Outlook

- The renaming of the 2000m<sup>2</sup> section of park opposite Lovers Outlook to Dr John Swarbrick Park has been approved-in-principle by the Council, who are now inviting public comment

Plans for coming 12 months:

- Clear (of invasive species) a portion of Prince Henry Drive Park and the adjacent road reserve opposite Lovers Outlook. This area totalling 0.6 ha is heavily infested with lantana, privet, climbing asparagus with patches of cat's claw creeper. Blackberry nightshade, cobblers pegs and stinking roger are also prevalent weeds which require heavy maintenance via spraying. The area is largely level to gently sloping with some loose basalt rock. A feature of this area is the multitude and diversity of mature dry rainforest trees which escaped clearing activities for farming and housing.
- Clear area opposite Robertson Crescent intersection and further up towards Bridge Street. This area is heavily infested with privet. This area is moderate to steep rocky slopes. Whilst presently covered with privet, the natural terrain is sparsely populated with eucalypt and dry rainforest trees with grasses (mainly kangaroo grass and poa).
- Overall, the aim is to clear around 0.8 ha in total of the above areas over the 12-month period.
- The triangular section adjacent to the exit gate was cleared in calendar 2024. It was heavily infested with lantana and privet which is resulting in seedling regrowth. This regrowth, along with green panic grass, requires manual pulling, as it is emerging amongst native ground covers.
- Remaining cleared sections still require vigilant maintenance to prevent flowering and seeding particularly of cobblers pegs, blackberry nightshade and fleabane.

**Tom Esplin**

**Coordinator - Upper Redwood Park**



**Ozothamnus diosmifolius**

# Leopard Ash Bushland Park

## Annual Report 2024/25

Russ Tyler,

Park Coordinator

### 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 grow in the park. It is an example of the dry vine rainforest that was common in the area before development. A list of the plants follows this report.

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



*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.*

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

### 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**

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

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.



Eastern Whipbird (*Psophodes olivaceus*)



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

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

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Madeira 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 proliferation 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 Madeira vine as outlined above.

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

## **Leopard Ash Bushland Park Plant List**

A key feature of this type of ecosystem is a great diversity of species. There are not one or several canopy trees which dominate the canopy, such as one finds in Australian woodlands or sclerophyll forests.

Smaller trees, shrubs, some herbs and grasses and vines make up the remainder of this type of ecosystem.

An intact semi-evergreen vine thicket is very dense and a superb haven for fauna. Trees and shrubs found in this ecosystem typically have hard smallish leaves and are slow growing.

## **Trees and large shrubs**

1. *Alectryon pubescens* Hairy Boonaree
2. *Alphitonia excelsa* Soap Tree
3. *Alstonia constricta* Bitter Bark
4. *Atalaya salicifolia* Weeping Whitewood

5. *Auranticarpa rhombifolia* Hollywood
6. *Capparis mitchellii* Mitchell's Bumble Tree
7. *Capparis arborea* Bumble Tree
8. *Cassine australis* = *Elaeodendron australis* Red Olive-plum
9. *Croton insularis* Silver Croton
10. *Diospyros pantamera*
11. *Elaeocarpus obovatus* Blueberry Quandong
12. *Flindersia xanthoxylon*
13. *Flindersia collina* Leopard Ash
14. *Geijera salicifolia* Scrub wilga
15. *Gossia bidwillii* Python tree
16. *Maytenus disperma* = *Denhamia silvestris* Orange-bark Tree
17. *Planchonella myrsinifolia*
18. *Psydrax odoratum* forma *buxifolium* = *Canthium odorata* Shiny Canthium
19. *Santalum lanceolatum* Sandalwood
20. *Carissa ovata* Currant bush

#### **Small shrubs**

1. *Acalypha capillipes* Spiny acalypha
2. *Acacia implexa*
3. *Alchornea ilicifolia*, Native holly
4. *Alyxia ruscifolia* Chain Fruit
5. *Breynia oblongifolia* Breynia
6. *Denhamia pittosporoides* Veiny Denhamia
7. *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*
8. *Eremophila debilis* Devil's Marbles
9. *Erythroxylum* sp. Splityard Creek Redwood Bush
10. *Everistia vacciniifolia* Small-leafed Canthium

11. *Maireana microphylla* Scrub Saltbush
12. *Maytenus bilocularis* Hedge Orange-bark
13. *Pittosporum viscidum* Black-fruited Orange-thorn
14. *Spartothamnella juncea* Bead Bush
15. *Streblus brunonianus* Whalebone
16. *Turraea pubescens* Native Witch-hazel

#### **Ground covers and herbs**

1. *Abutilon oxycarpum* Abutilon
2. *Ajuga australis* Bugle
3. *Anieleuma acuminatum*
4. *Austrostipa verticillata* Bamboo Grass
5. *Austrostipa ramosissima* Stout Bamboo Grass
6. *Hydrocotyle* sp. Pennywort
7. *Microlaena* sp. Weeping Rice Grass
8. *Nyssanthes diffusa* Barbed Wire Plant
9. *Plectranthus parvifolius* Spur Flower
10. *Sida subspicata* Sida
11. *Solanum stelligerum* Star Nightshade
12. *Solanum mitchellianum* Mitchell's nightshade

#### **Vines**

1. *Capparis sarmentosa* Scrambling Caper
2. *Cayratia clematidea* Slender Water Vine
3. *Celastrus subspicata* Staff Vine
4. *Clematis fawcettii* Fawcett's Clematis
5. *Jasminum simplicifolium* subsp. *australiense* Stiff Jasmine
6. *Jasminum suavissimum* Sweet Jasmine
7. *Pandorea pandorana* Wonga Vine

8. *Parsonsia leichhardtii* Lobed silkpod
9. *Parsonsia straminea* Monkey rope vine
10. *Smilax australis* Barbed Wire Vine

### Orchids

1. *Dendrobium cucumerinum* Cucumber orchid
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### *Flindersia collina*



*Flindersia collina*, commonly known as **broad-leaved leopard tree**, **leopard ash**, **bastard crow's ash** or **leatherwood**, is a species of tree in the family Rutaceae and is endemic to north-eastern Australia. It usually has pinnate leaves with between three and seven elliptical to spatula-shaped leaves, panicles of white flowers and fruit studded with rough points.

### Description

*Flindersia collina* is a tree that typically grows to a height of 40 m (130 ft.). Its bark is shed in oval flakes leaving shallow depressions.

Flowering occurs through the year, but mainly in spring and the fruit is a woody capsule 25–50 mm (0.98–1.97 in) long containing winged seeds 14–25 mm (0.55–0.98 in) long.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flindersia\\_collina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flindersia_collina)

Another excellent source of information about *Flindersia collina* is the <https://toowoombaplants2008.blogspot.com/2009/01/leopard-ash.html>

## Redwood Park

Eduarda van Klinken

July 2025

With the wet weather, weed growth has been enormous. Most of the team's time is taken with removing Madeira, Privet, Cats Claw and Climbing Asparagus. This year, for the first time in many years, we saw huge meadows of Madeira seedlings, presumably from a flowering/seeding event – this phenomenon was recorded by John Swarbrick in 1998.

A loyal team of 13 regulars attend when they can, splitting up into smaller groups to work in their areas of interest. Over 1000 hours of work has been logged in the past 12 months. Work is restricted to the southern end of the park, with some more distant areas sadly having to be left to their own devices. Once every three months a small team makes an excursion to the near-threatened Bailey's Cypress grove in the centre of the park, ensuring the weeds in the area are removed to encourage further natural propagation.

Hugh Krenske, after many years of expertly guiding the team at Redwood Park, has stepped down from his official duties with FEP, mentoring Eduarda van Klinken in the role. It is a rare morning when Hugh and Kay are not present for weeding sessions and their joint expertise and continuing hard work continues to be highly valued.

This year the Madeira Weeding Challenges have taken place on the first weekend of each season. This has been a wonderful way of targeting problematic areas as well as being a forum to educate the volunteers about the growing problems with weeds in our parks. As yet, there have not been any Madeira Challenge weeders who have transitioned into our twice-weekly group, although this remains the hope.

We have had several visits from school groups, varying from an hour or two to most of the day. The most effective use of their time has been in a flat area beside Gatton Creek, upstream from the Picnic Area, where Coral Berry is rampant – an easy weed to identify and remove without tools.

The Redwood Park weeders continue to enjoy each other's company, both while weeding as well as over a protracted cup of tea at the conclusion of our efforts. This is surely one of the wonderful outcomes of the team.

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## Work by FEP volunteers (1 Jan – 16 Sep 2025)

### No. Volunteers

Park	Sessions	Min	Max	Avg	Total hours
Blue Mountain Heights Parklands	8	0	3	1.6	28.00
Duggan Park	12	0	5	3.0	72.50
Echo Valley South Bushland Park	42	0	7	1.9	657.00
Hancock Street	23	2	5	3.3	167.58
Hartmann Reserve	35	0	5	1.7	216.00
Highfields Falls	32	0	9	5.3	571.77
Leopard Ash Bushland Park	8	0	5	2.6	73.25
Microforest Hancock street	3	0	6	2.0	11.75
Nielsen Park	20	1	5	2.3	184.75
Panorama Crescent	6	1	3	2.5	62.50
Redwood along Prince Henry Drive	166	0	3	1.2	762.00
Redwood Park	76	0	10	5.2	1268.75
Rogers Reserve	14	1	6	3.5	190.75
Stenner Street Park	8	0	1	0.8	8.00
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>453</b>				<b>4274.60</b>

The gross records for the last few months of 2024 after the new database was installed are below;

<b>Totals:</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>2692.02</b>
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When added together, the total number of hours for the 12 months from August 2024 to September 2025 is over 6960 hours by FEP members.



Photo, Donkey Orchid (*Diuris*) Sue Swan

## AGM Guest Speaker

A highlight of the FEP AGM was the very interesting presentation on native mistletoes by local botanist Greg Spearritt. Greg explained that there are 97 native Australian mistletoe species with approximately 30 of those occurring in the Toowoomba region, including some belonging to hemiparasitic **Santaleceae** and **Loranthaceae** families.

Greg informed us that the word mistletoe comes from a joining of 2 Old English terms for 'dung' + 'twig' and contrary to popular belief don't generally kill their host plant. Some mistletoe species are aerial while others appear to come from ground level from external runners that come from inside the host tree.

Mistletoes often mimic their host plant foliage, in Toowoomba you can see mistletoes growing in bare-limbed deciduous exotic trees. Their flowers can be very beautiful - *Amylotheca dictyophleba* , pictured below, growing in a Camphor Laurel, is a good example of this.



Photo, Margaret Donald  
Source, Wikimedia Commons

Greg Spearritt is a member of Condamine Country Plant Group, which has published several books showcasing our local native flora.

## Coming event

Hancock Street Microforest Open Day Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025

# MICROFOREST OPEN DAY



**Celebrate the success of  
the microforest and the  
community that created it.**

**Join us on:  
Saturday 4 October 2025  
from 10.00am to 2.00pm**

**At Hancock Street Park  
Microforest  
Pelican Drive Rangeville**

**Refreshments  
Guided walks  
Displays**



- 160 people
- 1500 local plants
- 3 planting days
- created a forest  
and wildlife habitat

Email: [secretaryFEP@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryFEP@gmail.com)  
[www.fep.org.au](http://www.fep.org.au)  
<https://hancockstreetpark.blogspot.com>

This project has received funding support from the Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action grant program and an Environment Grant from Toowoomba Regional Council.

Template: [www.freepick.com](http://www.freepick.com)

## What is a microforest?

A microforest is a new forest created on a site which is bare or where the original ecosystem no longer exists. Revegetating a site as a microforest restores the lost ecosystem and creates habitat for wildlife. Professor Akira Miyawaki originated the principles of microforest creation. Thousands of microforests (mini forests, pocket forests) have been created around the world. The Hancock Street Park microforest was established in two and a half years. The first planting took place in April 2023. Now it is a dense forest and wildlife corridor. The story: <https://fep.org.au/projects/microforest-project>

**Following correct principles and procedures a microforest can be established in two to three years:**

- (1) Correct plant selection: Tree, shrub, ground cover, creepers and grass species native to the site are chosen.
- (2) Careful soil preparation: A 10cm deep layer of organic matter is cultivated into the soil.
- (3) Dense planting: Plants are spaced at three plants per square metre.
- (4) Mulching: A layer of mulch is applied.
- (5) Protection and care: The plants are protected by plant guards where necessary and the area is watered and weeded as required for the first one to two years of growth. After this very little maintenance is required.

**A home microforest provides habitat and supports wildlife survival.** It can be as small as twelve square metres. For Toowoomba and Highfields local species lists, see: <https://fep.org.au/plant> Purchase plants from The Crows' Nest Community Nursery. <https://www.tr.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/parks-gardens/plant-nurseries/12314-crows-nest-community-nursery>

To learn more or participate in bushland park regeneration, look at <https://fep.org.au>

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Greg Spearritt provided the FEP Escarpment Friend newsletter this article about a local orchid, *Dockrillia cucumerina*.



Photo and text by Greg Spearritt

The Cucumber Orchid (*Dockrillia cucumerina*, called *Dendrobium cucumerinum* by botanists in NSW), has been found by FEP members in some of our bushland parks. Also called Gherkin Orchid, it occurs only in NSW and Qld. The cream-white-and-red flowers show up in spring and summer. While beautiful, they don't necessarily have a pleasant scent, presumably the better to attract pollinating insects. This orchid is an epiphyte, growing mainly in shady areas on the underside of tree branches but occasionally on rocks.

## Fungi

Jane Butler

Looking into the world of native Fungi you will discover a whole new Kingdom of diversity and colour. In Southeast Queensland alone there is reported to be thousands of species with many still to be named.

Like the plant world, Fungi is found in a myriad of habitats. You would be amazed by the diversity of this mostly hidden world. To name some; there are the Mushrooms, Stinkhorns, Corals, Discs, Jellies, Puffballs, rusts, yeast and Plypores. Like plants they even have their own exotic weeds causing havoc! Such weeds as the *Agaricus royalist* or the *Favolaschia calocerera*.

But most importantly Fungi are vital to the ecosystem. As you may know they are not plants but are spore producing organisms. There are 3 main types according to how they obtain their nutrients. There are the **Mutualists, Recyclers and the Pathogens**.

Mutualist fungi, such as the Mycorrhizas found on roots of most plants, help them with obtaining water and minerals while the Fungi benefits from the plant's photosynthesis. Other mutualists such as Endophytes are microscopic and help plants to cope better with hardships such as being attacked by insects, battling drought, or fighting disease.

Recyclers are very important to the nutrient cycle. Their job is to break down dead organic matter. Looking through my pamphlet "Fungi of Southeast Queensland", most of the fungi listed are recyclers.

Pathogens, however, are not so friendly living off plants, insects and even other fungi!

Reading an interesting article "Cairns Fungi Foragers" by Barry Muir, I learnt about the many ways we use fungi in medicine, food and other products. I also read for the first time the term "forest bathing" or Sinfín-yoku. The microscopic fungi called Endophytes that help plants to fight disease live in the leaves and stems of plants. They emit chemical vapours called phytoncides. They help to relax, improve inflammation and even glucose levels. So rather than use creams for example made of lavender leaves or specialised teas to help your health and Cognitive function you need merely to "**forest bath**". So, if feeling anxious or unwell go for a walk in the bush or better still volunteer to do a couple of hours of weeding in bush parks!

Who knew we must give such a big thanks to fungi.

References:

Queensland Mycological Society Inc.

Cairns Fungi Foragers no. 45: July '25 by Barry Muir.

The fungi below were photographed in Picnic Pont bushlands by Supa:



Image; Supa

*Hexagonia tenuis* is a Polypores meaning it has pores rather than gills. In this case many pores of hexagonal shape. It is a wood recycler, preferring old wood. It is often found on the base of trees and large logs.



Image, Supa

*Dacryopinax spathularia* is commonly known as Fan shaped Jelly fungus. This is a Jelly, a wood recycler that is often found clustered together on decaying wood in tropical or subtropical bush. This is an edible fungus that is used as an additive in food.



Image, Supa

*Panus fasciatus*, commonly known as Hairy Trumpet. It is a wood recycler often found on rotting logs and small branches. It is found in dry woodlands beneath gums, wattles and Sheoakes. It can be found in sunny positions.



Image, Supa

*Porpolomopsis lewellinae* is a Waxcap commonly known as Mauve Splitting Waxcap. It is a ground recycler and found amongst leaf litter in wet sclerophyll forest.

## THE TRAIL TO RESTORATION

### Warwick Easdown

The walking track from Bullocky's Rest to Dingo Mountain near Crow's Nest offers spectacular wildflower country as well as proof that a small group of volunteers committed to bushland protection can dramatically change a landscape for the better.



On 14 August, a group of 13 people including Jane, Max, Sue and Warwick from the Highfields Falls FEP team, Crow's Nest nursery volunteers and Toowoomba Council staff hiked together to view the biodiversity of Dingo Mountain that was in full bloom.

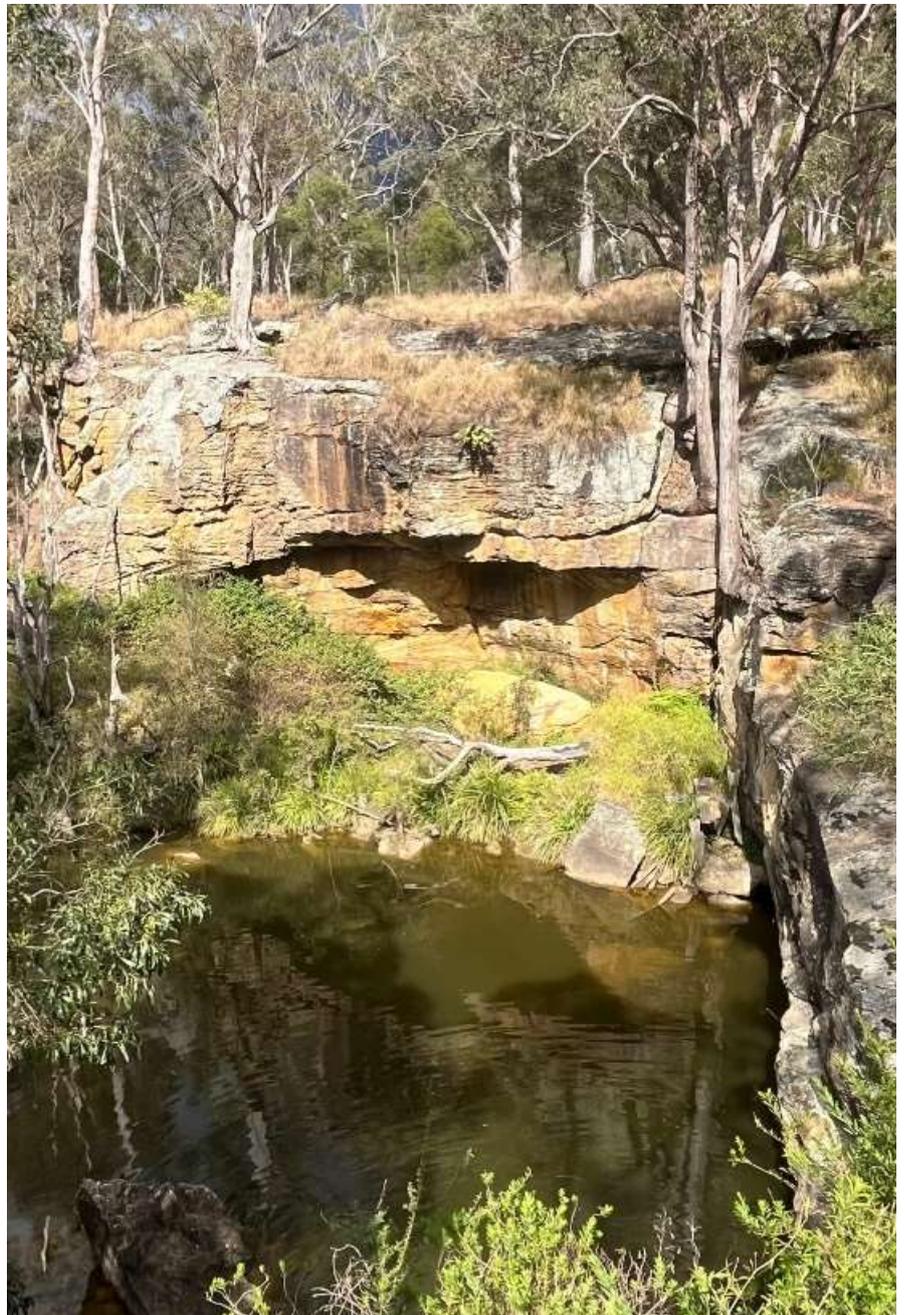
Close by Crow's Nest National Park, Dingo Mountain was threatened with subdivision and development until a group of committed volunteers convinced the local branch of Heritage Bank to purchase it for long-term protection. This investment in conservation has enormously benefited the whole Crow's Nest community.



Able led by Steve Plant who has spent decades working on bushland protection in the Crow's Nest area, the walk proceeded up the creek towards Pump Hole lookout with Steve pointing out the species and history of the landscape. Particular trees and shrubs are helpfully signposted along the way. A wide variety of acacias were in bloom along with Hardenbergias and Hoveas. Less easily seen but no less remarkable were the patches of Ground orchids.

Once a popular deep swimming spot, the Pump Hole was completely hidden and degraded by a massive overgrowth of Privet, Camphor Laurel, Lantana and other weeds by the turn of the century. A small group of volunteers worked tirelessly to remove these, and today the lookout across the restored and seemingly pristine ravine is a highlight of the walk to Dingo Mountain.

Unfortunately a hail storm brought a premature stop to our journey, which will have to be completed another day, but the walk is a great example of the long-term benefits that a community group of bushland regenerators can bring.



## From the Archives 1995

Some of these documents come from FEP members including Dr John Swarbrick, some from Toowoomba Council and some from a group called Toowoomba International Gardens Strategy (TIGS) which appears to have been part of a Draft Management Plan of the escarpment parks.

There are several documents written in this period that relate to the potential recreational, revegetating and repurposing of the escarpment and other bushland parks in Toowoomba.

The TIGS proposed the *creation of gardens within the bushland parks* and green spaces that feature plants 'representative of a specialised landscape type associated with a particular nation or world region'. Some of these nations were; Germany, United Kingdom, India, Mesopotamia, Brazil, Japan and Netherlands. There was also to be an International Comparative Garden composed of 'plants originating from similar areas and ecosystems distributed throughout the world and planted in close proximity to allow comparative study'. An Australian Theme Garden would have 'areas of parkland specifically designed and dedicated for the research and display of various appropriate Australian plant communities', to be on the escarpment at Jubilee Park and the Rifle Range.

Some of the other proposed sites were within the Toowoomba City suburbs, green corridors and escarpment spine parks, for example, along the Murrumba Road Park. 'This is a deep and steep re-entrant valley on the edge of the escarpment...The topography and microclimate of this site is ideal to establish a garden representative of Nepal and the central Asian areas. *Removal of the understory and selective clearing of the forest species will allow for massed planting of various Rhododendron and Azalea species* which will provide a very colourful focus along this section of the Escarpment corridor.'

The proposed sites within bushland areas where FEP works are listed below;

J.E. Duggan Park; 'The *Southern African region* is typified by the Proteaceae family and the many bulbs, daisy and lily plants. Madagascar should (also) be recognised in this open space system...The central element of the garden is a complex of African "wattle and daub" round huts...' Other plant species would be from South America, New Zealand and West Australia.

Redwood Park; '*Mass plantings of American conifer species* associated with the mountain areas of the Rockies and coastal ranges of the West coast together with the conifer forests of the Canadian Prairies...'

Interestingly, the Picnic Point to Tobruk Memorial Drive open forest and grassland was mentioned with regard to 3 native escarpment plants; *Doryanthus palmeri*, *Xanthorrhoea Australis* and *Bulbine bulbosa*. The TIGS highlighted the importance of this plant community and proposed an expansion of the plantings in the area although this was *in addition to establishing exotic lily plants* for appreciation 'as applied to the proposed concept'.

Obviously, the TIGS did not proceed in the form as was suggested. The archives hold letters and responses to the proposal from various individuals and environment groups including FEP and the Toowoomba Bird Observers. These responses call on the council to concentrate on preserving the natural integrity of the escarpment plant communities rather than introducing yet more weedy species.

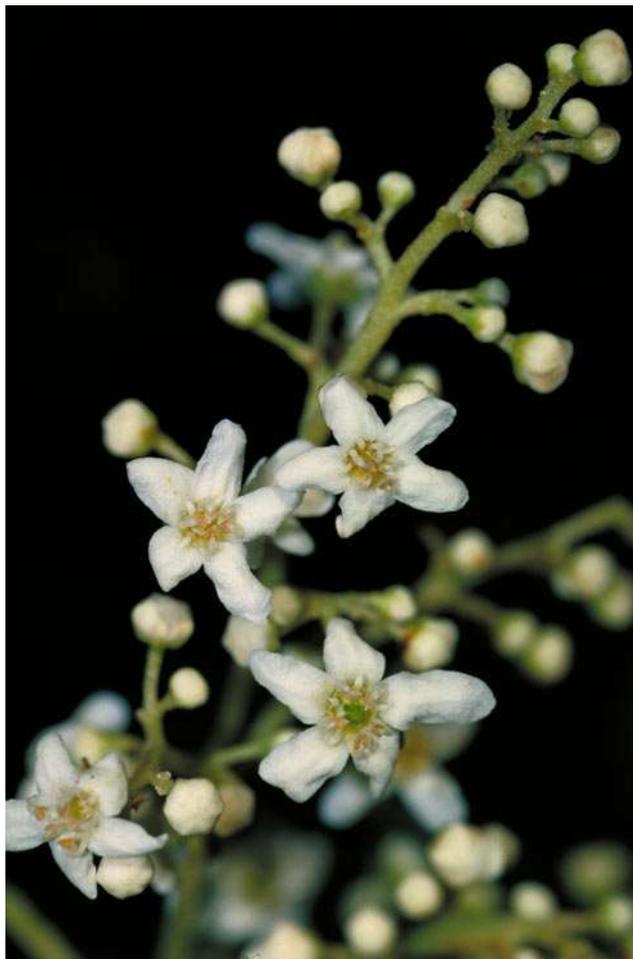
'I find the plan for the International Gardens hard to follow, namely; Redwood Park - why plant American Coniferous' species extensively throughout the (Redwood) Park after we remove the existing imported species?'

'...some elements of the gardens strategy (IGS) are incompatible with the vision statements in the management plan with explicit examples being the planting of American trees throughout Redwood Park versus the retention of natural integrity of the area.'

'The International Gardens Strategy is in total conflict with bush regeneration and the objectives of FEP.'

'International Gardens Strategy

In our opinion, the garden city would be better served by displaying Australian native plants and trees of South East Queensland. ..Comments to this club (Toowoomba Bird Observers) have always supported the importance of emphasising the beauties of Australia's native flora ...Toowoomba City Council needs to preserve the natural integrity of the parks. It would be an utter waste of time and money (spent) on bush regeneration if the IGS for the escarpment parks goes ahead in its present form.'



*Flindersia Collina* (Leopard Ash) flowers Wikipedia

# WHAT PLANT IS THAT?

Warwick Easdown

Appreciating the complex biodiversity of our escarpment parks is one thing, but being able to systematically identify the species present is quite another. Such knowledge is the key to protecting these environments. While it's not to be gained in one day there are great resources to help.

On August 21, 16 people attended a session run by Kym Sparshott from LeafTail Environmental at the Crow's Nest Community Nursery. This included five of us from Highfields Falls FEP, three from Toowoomba regional council and the nursery volunteers. Kym's team run workshops and have recently completed a major biological survey of the Mt Dingo area.

*'Between September 2022 and May 2024, LeafTail Environmental intensively surveyed a 56 hectare reserve on the eastern outskirts of Crow's Nest township, known as Dingo Mountain. Existing Regional Ecosystem mapping was also refined and amended. With over 500 flora species and almost 300 fauna species being recorded during the study period, their published scientific report showcased the area's biodiversity, while a separate internal report was produced to provide management recommendations to the Crow's Nest Environmental Board.'*

flora/fauna survey of Dingo Mountain <https://www.leafetail.au/projects>

Toowoomba region has 10 major ecological zones and is more biodiverse than our neighbouring coastal communities. To help understand and identify our local species Kym systematically reviewed the 20 major families of native plants common to the Toowoomba region in alphabetical order from the Apiaceae to the Violaceae. This was illustrated with photos and live samples of common local plants as well as discussing identification tips.

There is more biodiversity out there than you realize. That became obvious when we broke for morning tea and we'd only reached the Bignoniaceae - with the rest of the alphabet still to go!

In a fascinating morning we met the carrot family (Apiaceae) with their umbel flowers and their heavier relatives with the double umbel (or dumbbell flowers -did I hear that right?). Then there was Praxelis, the smelly villain of the daisy family (Asteraceae) and a pink lookalike to Blue Billygoat weed. Others with a sweeter smell are the Lamiaceae (think mint), but are also instantly recognizable because of flowers that in Kym's colourful description "look like a pouting two-year old."

Fortunately there are resources to help with practical plant identification, starting with the excellent reference books produced by the Condamine Country Plant group. Keybase from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Victoria provides detailed current keys for plant identification. The INaturalist app, PlantNET from the NSW herbarium and ALA (Atlas of Living Australia) allow photos to be used to identify species and provide additional useful online support services.

This was one of the first community-based plant identification workshops run by Kym and super-informative.



Kym Sparshott at the presentation.- Photos, Warwick Easdown

# TREASURE HUNTING AT THE GOOMBUNGEE DUMP

Warwick Easdown

A day trip to the Goombungee Dump hardly sounds like something to excite anyone - least of all FEP members. But tucked away in an obscure location the small area of land surrounding the dump boasts some of the most remarkable profusion of wildflowers in the Toowoomba region



On August 7 a group of four FEP members from Highfields Falls – Jane, Max, Penny and Warwick joined with members of the Crows Nest Nursery and Toowoomba Regional Council for an extended walk around the forested dump site. Located a few kilometers west of Goombungee, it has restricted access requiring special Council permission to enter.

Situated on a low ironstone ridge its shallow, stony soils were considered too poor to be developed for agriculture so it was left in bush. An area of about 50 hectares was abandoned for use as the local rubbish dump with its trees used for chainsaw practice. But neglect and restricted access have inadvertently protected one of the most biodiverse treasures of the Toowoomba region.

The floral biodiversity in this small site is simply outstanding, with a massive profusion of wildflowers at this time of the year. There are 18 species of *Acacia* present, with many profusely in flower, two species of *Hovea*, Pink and White Rice flowers (*Ozothamnus*), *Boronia* and numerous other species in open woodland of Ironbark and Spotted gum. Similar biomes are only found much further west around Chinchilla.



*Acacia*



Pink and white *Ozothamnus* and *Boronia glaba*



Photos Warwick Easdown

Over two hours were spent exploring the area with the help of Lisa from the Council, identifying the species present and seed collecting for the nursery. We so lost track of time we found ourselves locked in after the dump had closed...additional thanks to Lisa for locating the key!



Photos, Max

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

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

<b>Panorama Crescent Park</b>	Prince Henry Heights	David panorama.crescent.park@outlook.com	Third Saturday 9 am – 12 pm
<b>Nielsen Park</b>	Middle Ridge Meet at Colman Drive entrance	Rob 0407 124 863	First and fourth Saturday 9 am – 11 am
<b>Redwood Park</b>	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
<b>Redwood Park Prince Henry Drive FEP Group</b>	Prince Henry Heights	Tom 0438 441 188 tom@tomesplin.com	Every Tuesday 7:30 am to 10:30 am
<b>Skyline Drive Escarpment Park</b>	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
<b>Stenner Street Park</b>	Middle Ridge	Claudia Claudia.stephenson@bigpond.com	We meet as required
<b>Williams Park</b>	Cecil Crescent, Highfields QLD	Karen Sams samskaren31@gmail.com mob: 0419 101 555	Monday mornings 10am – 12pm. Meet at Mavis Court.

## **FEP Key Contacts**

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[editorfep@gmail.com](mailto: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*



*Hardenbergia violacea* - Goombungee