



The Escarpment Park Friend July 2026

Committed to Escarpment Park Care since 1994

www.fep.org.au

Welcome to July 2026 newsletter.

Toowoomba Regional Council has voted unanimously to rename a section of Prince Henry Drive Park, <https://www.tr.qld.gov.au/News-articles/Council-honours-Dr-John-Swarbricks-legacy>. The new name will honour the work and dedication of former UQ associate professor Doctor John Swarbrick, who was a passionate advocate for the environment.

In the mid 1980's Dr Swarbrick recognised the severe impact of Lantana growth in the Spring Bluff escarpment area - its smothering of native grasses, herbs, shrubs and tree seedlings. With a few friends, he began working in that area, then moved on to J E Duggan Park (Rangeville) and Prince Henry Drive.

Continuing the work till 1991, the group was advised to form a local friends group to attract attention at the local Council level, to increase funding from the Bushland Park Management budget and to share their knowledge and expertise with the local councils. It became an incorporated body on 1st September 1994, named the Friends of the Escarpment Parks (Toowoomba) Inc. of which Dr Swarbrick was president and an active volunteer for another 20 years (*EscarpmentFriend-July-2024.pdf*).

Dr Swarbrick passed away 6/04/2024 at 89 years of age.

The video link below is from Channel 7 news report, featuring Tom Esplin and reporter, Lillie Hull.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1766297351398696>

Rainforest Gully – Tobruk Memorial Drive Park

FEP recently started working in this bushland area. Rainforest Gully is approx. 1.5 hectares of remnant dry rainforest situated within Picnic Point Parklands, Rangeville. The park lies between Picnic Point and Tobruk Drive Lookout, along Tobruk Memorial Drive. This important park is State heritage listed as part of Picnic Point Parklands and is mapped as an Endangered Ecosystem 12.5.6 under the Vegetation Management Act.

Volunteers meet fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, 8.30 – 11am followed by morning tea. Please contact Deb on 0403 307 234 or Michael on 0407 113 249.

More information about this park can be found on <https://fep.org.au/our-parks/tobruk-md-park/>

FEP committee would like to thank Terri Cox who has stepped down from the meeting minute's secretary role and for her valuable contribution as a committee member.

FEP committee would like to thank Jane Butler for her magnificent work as the initiator, coordinator, tireless worker and friend of the Highfields Falls bushland Park group since 2020. Jane handed the reins over to Bob Harvey earlier this year.

Volunteer Workers Personal Accident

Insurance review and Safety Manual update:

FEP volunteers are covered by Volunteer Workers Personal Accident insurance provided through QWaLC. This policy should not be confused with WorkCover. Visits to your doctor or hospital, and any other costs which are presently covered under your respective public or private arrangements, continue as existing (i.e. they aren't replaced by this insurance). Beyond the acute stage, capped costs are covered for certain types of surgery, dental expenses, physiotherapy or other allied health services directed by the treating doctor. Some loss of income and other capped costs resulting from injury, such as childcare expenses, may be available, along with accidental death or disability payments and funeral expenses.

Note: This insurance covers volunteers whilst working in a group's volunteer capacity, members and non-members alike.

The recording of attendance whilst on a Bushcare site is essential to ensure coverage. Also, injuries sustained whilst working on the site must be reported and recorded as soon as possible following the injury, preferably on the day of the work injury is apparent.

Further information is available on the fep.org.au webpage via a link in the Safety Manual – far right of top menu.



FEP Annual General Meeting Saturday 12 September 2026

Guest speaker will be Mitchell Roberts from LUCI (Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc.), including the Koala Climate Corridors Initiative: Bunyas to Border (B2B) Corridor Project.

Mitchell is a photographer and film maker and has been involved in the Greater Glider and Glossy-black Cockatoo projects.

After the address, there will be an election of office bearers for the FEP committee for the next 12 months. Anyone interested in making committee nominations should contact FEP Secretary, Sue Sheppard secretary@fep.org.au.

The meeting starts at 2 pm at the Toowoomba Regional Library, 3rd floor meeting rooms, followed by refreshments.

CULTURAL BURN

Amaroo Environmental Education Centre

Join us for a day of knowledge sharing with Cultural Fire Practitioner **Robbie Williams** and his team of rangers from **Fire Lore**.

SATURDAY 1ST OF August

1:00 LEARNING SESSION

2:00 AFTERNOON TEA

2:30 CULTURAL BURN IN THE AMAROO ELBOW BUSHLAND

YOU WILL LEARN:

- how to read Country
- the "right" kind of fire
- when to burn
- how cool burning heals Country to maintain healthy ecosystems

ADDRESS: 90 Kleinton School Rd, Kleinton

ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVITED. School aged students may attend, provided they remain under constant supervision of parent/guardian and follow safety directions.

ALL ATTENDEES MUST WEAR CLOSED-IN FOOTWEAR AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.

RSVP BY 27/07/26 TO admin@amarooeec.eq.edu.au



Redwood Park Madeira Challenge - (nearly) SPRING

The Madeira Challenge (nearly) Spring event will be held on Saturday 29th August and we will be working downhill from the last challenge site - one of the last pieces of the Madeira puzzle on that particular spur.

Bookings are preferred. <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1619750>

About

Volunteers are invited to help clear rampant Madeira vine from an area in the park which the regular Friends of the Escarpment volunteers are unable to bring under control on their own. Redwood Park is home to many vulnerable species and has great biodiversity.

Registration is essential. Participants must wear a hat, gloves, long sleeved pants and a long sleeved shirt. Please bring some secateurs and a pruning saw if you have them. No chemicals will be used on the day. Bring water and morning tea. The meeting spot is at the Picnic Area of the Warrego Highway section of the park. As you descend the range from Toowoomba to Withcott, turn left just past the 100km sign. Secondary students are welcome if accompanied by an adult, but the event is not suitable for primary or preschool children.

Date

Saturday 29 August 2026, 8:00 am - 11:00 am (UTC+10)

Location

Redwood Park: Warrego Highway
Warrego Highway, Toowoomba Queensland 4350

Thank you for your support of the Madeira Challenge in the past.

Eduarda (Eddy) van Klinken eduardavk@bigpond.com. FEP Co-ordinator- Redwood Park

Xanthodes transversa

Thomas Brodribb

19 May 2026,

I recently found this moth larva chewing pavonia in Nielsen Park. Lots of plants show evidence of its chewing. Unfortunately doesn't seem to kill the host plant

"Xanthodes transversa, the transverse moth or hibiscus caterpillar, is a moth of the family Nolidae. The species was first described by Achille Guenée in 1852. It is found in India, Sri Lanka, the Andaman Islands, the Nicobar Islands, China, Hong Kong, Vanuatu, Java, New Guinea, Japan, the Ryukyu Islands, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia.

The caterpillar is a pest on several economically important crops such as Hibiscus". (Wikipedia)



Photo; Rob Brodribb



Xanthodes transversa https://www.brisbaneinsects.com/brisbane_noct/TransverseMoths.htm

Franke Scrub Park

Franke Scrub is the most recent park to join FEP and is a small area of only a few acres. It has a high bio-diversity level with 37 dry-rainforest tree species, 18 types of shrub, 14 or more climbing vines and a range of under-storey plants which are all preserved in a relatively complete ecosystem. The area is a rare remnant of what was once one of the most common vegetation types where the city of Toowoomba now stands. It is an example of the endangered regional ecosystem 12.8.21 (Semi-evergreen thicket on Cainozoic igneous rock.) A list of plants in Franke's scrub can be seen on <https://fep.org.au/wp2405/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026-Franke-Scrub-plant-list.pdf>

The original road reserve was protected from being cleared by the former Crow's Nest Council. When planning road expansion, they decided to route Franke Road around the scrub to preserve it. It takes its name from Herman Franke, one of the pioneer settlers and farmers in the Highfields District.

Volunteers meet on the last Wednesday of every month except December, and work from 8.00 to 10.30am. For more information, see <https://fep.org.au/our-parks/franke-scrub/>

Fire ant identification

The fire ant identification workshop held on 30 June at TRC Library was full with more than 40 registrants. It was an engaging session with extensive information provided on the super powers of this extraordinary species and answers given to the many questions of participants. There was also a practical component, with fake fire ant nests set up in the grounds outside to assist with identification. It is intended to hold a further workshop in the coming months. Anyone interested in attending is invited to email Elynee Tyson of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program on: Elynee.tyson@dpi.qld.gov.au

Information on fire ants is available at: <https://www.fireants.org.au>



Ficus rubiginosa or Rusty Baby fig Highfields Falls Photo: Sue Swan



Cupaniopsis anacardioides Baby Tuckeroo Duggan Park
Photo: Penelope McGowan

Asparagus africanus

A common but serious weed in our escarpment parks which smothers shrubs and trees; a class 3 declared pest plant. It is a perennial, thorny climbing vine to 12 m tall with multiple stems from its base, climbing by recurved spines 2-12 m long. Clusters of 3-5 mm wide whitish flowers in Spring/Summer followed by green to orange berries in Summer/Autumn.

Control is by digging out the crown, leaving side roots in the ground. (Hang the crown upside down above ground to dry out.) Check the area every second year to clear new and re-emerging vines.

Environmental Weeds of the Toowoomba Region,
John Swarbrick and Kristie Jenkinson

Published by FEP



Greg Spearritt holding Asparagus weed Photo Warwick Easdown



Photo Ken Smith

Asparagus africanus

Open Day 2026 at J E Duggan Park

The J E Duggan Park Open day (Carnival in the Bush) is approaching, Sunday 20th September from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, as part of the Toowoomba Regional Council's Carnival of flowers. The link to our page about this day is <https://fep.org.au/carnival-in-the-bush/>

Duggan Park is very important, being a part of remnant Endangered Ecosystem 12.5.6 under the Vegetation Management Act and yet is easily accessible to the general public in Toowoomba.

Briefly:

The vegetation across the Toowoomba Range and Escarpment is primarily classified as **Endangered Regional Ecosystem 12.5.6**. This deep-soil eucalypt forest features tree heights commonly ranging from 12 to 18 meters. It represents a highly depleted ecosystem, with over 78% of its pre-clearing extent lost to historical clearing and ongoing residential development. The defining floral canopy of this regional ecosystem typically consists of Grey Ironbark (*Eucalyptus siderophloia*), Small-fruited Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*), Tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*), and Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*).

<https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/regional-ecosystems/list/?bioregion=12&landzone=5>

These remnant canopy pockets support a rich diversity of native wildlife, functioning as essential shelter and movement corridors for koalas, gliders, and regional birdlife.

[Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS), Department of Environment, Science, and Innovation
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Species found in Duggan Park include:

- Thin-leaved Stringybark (*Eucalyptus eugenioides*)
- Pink Bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*)
- Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*)
- Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)
- Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus biturbinata*)
- Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*)
- tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*)

Eucalyptus ID - *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt) Family Myrtaceae

Tree to 70 m high; bark persistent on half to full trunk, grey-brown, shortly fibrous to stringy, smooth above, white to grey, shedding in long ribbons; often with scribbles. Juvenile leaves are opposite, broad-lanceolate, dull green. Buds clavate or fusiform, 7–10 mm long, 3–5 mm diam., Fruit globose, hemispherical or ovoid, 6–11 mm long, 7–11 mm diam.; disc depressed or flat; valves enclosed or rim-level.

For a detailed analysis and description of ***Eucalyptus pilularis*** in the field 26 Nov 2024 see the video, Arcane Botanica, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-RKNbfB3p8>

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

FEP Key Contacts

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

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

FEP Treasurer - treasurer@fep.org.au

FEP Facebook – shirdunsdon@hotmail.com

Thank you to my contributors; it has been a pleasure working in the role of newsletter editor but my tenure has come to an end with this edition. Please come along to the FEP AGM and consider putting your hand up for the job. You get to meet many interesting people, as well as having a seat at the FEP committee meeting table.

*Regards,
Penny McGowan.*



Photo; Max Henderson

Please send any communications to the FEP Secretary Sue Sheppard.

Please note that the minutes from FEP committee meetings are posted on our website on the member log-in page.

Notice

Membership fees are payable each July (except for anyone joining since 1 April). The cost remains at \$10 for an individual or family, and \$20 for an organisation. We very much appreciate your ongoing support.

Please deposit into the following account, being sure to reference your name:

Account name: Friends of the Escarpment Parks (TBA) Inc.

BSB: 638 070

Account number: 5459567

Reference: Your initial and surname



Juvenile *Alstonia constricta* (Quinine Bush) J E Duggan Park

Photo Penelope McGowan

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