



Leopard Ash Bushland Park

Annual Report 2025/26

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

The main problems in the park are Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*) and Climbing Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus africanus*).

VOLUNTEERS

We have a dedicated group of 6 volunteers who meet on the first Saturday of each month (except January). Our main work is removing weeds mainly Madeira Vine and Climbing Asparagus Fern.

PLANTS IN THE PARK

This year Peter Macqueen, Trish Gardner and others produced a comprehensive list of plants in the park.

WEEDS IN THE PARK

Major weeds

Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*)

Climbing Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus africanus*)

Lesser weeds

Corky Passionfruit (*Passiflora suberosa*)

Brazilian Nightshade (*Solanum seaforthianum*)

Basket Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus aethiopicus*)

African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) (around the perimeter of the park)

Green Panic (*Panicum maximum*)

Occasional weeds

Chinese celtis (*Celtis sinensis*)

Lantana (*Lantana camara*)

Privet (*Ligustrum spp*)

Cats Claw Creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*)

NEW PLANTS

Flat Stemmed Mistletoe (*Korthalsella breviarticlata*)



This mistletoe has been seen on a tree on the eastern edge of the park.

Plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*)



One plant of plumbago was found in the park and after identification was removed.

Cucumber Orchid (*Dockrillia cucumerina*)



The Cucumber Orchid has been identified in the park.

Dockrillia cucumerina, commonly known as cucumber orchid or gherkin orchid, is a species of orchid endemic to eastern Australia. It is an epiphytic orchid with creeping stems, gherkin-like leaves and flowering stems with up to eighteen cream-coloured, yellowish or greenish white flowers with purple stripes.

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. It is interesting how this bird follows us around while we are working but generally staying out of sight.

Black-breasted Buttonquail (*Turnix melanogaster*)

Unfortunately, we haven't seen any activity of this Quail for some time. There are many other more common birds in the park including honeyeaters, wrens and finches.

Digging native animals

There is always evidence of bandicoots and other nocturnal digging native animals' activity in the park.

ACTIVITIES FOR 2026/27

Our main activity for the next 12 months will be to continue to remove weeds in the park.

CONCERNS

Madeira Vine is now our major concern. The volunteers who dig out the tubers have done a great job in reducing the population in the major areas. The problems are (a) finding all the tubers and (b) the occurrence of isolated patches away from the main infestation that we aren't aware of.

Climbing Asparagus Fern has been the biggest concern in the park since FEP volunteers began work in 2015. It is still a major problem, but there has been a significant reduction in the plant numbers since work began. This is mainly due to the major reduction in large/older plants that have set seed. While a few plants have flowered none have set seed for some time. Obviously, this is due to the great work of volunteers.

Weeds on nearby council roads

While volunteers work to control weeds in the park there is a constant threat from uncontrolled weed infestations on roads close to the park.

There is an infestation of Climbing Asparagus Fern on the side on Meringandan Road about 20meters from the northern edge of the park. There are several plants in this area that have set seed.

Also, there is a major infestation of Cats Claw Creeper along Klein Ck at the intersection of Wirraglen and Meringandan Roads about 500m from the park.

These and other weeds infestations are a constant source of seeds to reinfest Leopard Ash Bushland Park.

Therefore, we believe that it is not unreasonable to expect that Council make every effort to keep these infestations under control.

Tracks in the park

Twice during the year we have had children making 'camps' and bike jumps in the park. Each time we have removed the camp and restored the track as best we can. On the last occasion the signs at the entrance to the track were removed and placed in front of the camp, indicating that the children making the camps and jumps have no respect for the signs.

Mowing perimeter of park

There are a few areas on the edge of the park that are mainly grass with some low growing weeds and bushes. Often when the perimeter of the park is mown the mower is driven into these grassed areas. Over time this has reduced of the 'bush' area of the park and may have mown some native plants. I have spoken to Brendan Archneil about this problem and suggested that we lay logs along these areas. He wasn't happy with this idea because people may trip over the logs causing injury. He suggested I talk to the mower operator about the problem. This is Ok, but, we don't have the same operator each time and I'm not always home when the area is mowen.

Russ Tyler

Park Coordinator