

Charles and Motee Rogers Bushland Reserve

August 2026

FEP volunteers continue to work in Rogers Reserve.

As a good condition native vegetation remnant in the centre of Highfields, with easy walking through the bush, and good shade for a summer cooling effect, it is a very valuable reserve for Highfields.



WEEDS IN AUSTRALIA

Volunteer groups are leading the field, with FEP in Toowoomba a strong contributor.

Volunteer groups are a primary source of environmental weed management in Australia. The lack of recognition of environmental weed threats in Australia by the wider community has meant that large scale programs and funding for environmental weeds is not a priority, and the responsibility has fallen largely onto volunteers.

They attempt to manage a large spectrum of environmental weeds using hand tools, physical labour, minimum disturbance, native vegetation management and Bushcare techniques.

Since the active weeding in Charles and Motee Rogers Bushland Reserve there has been a large amount of natural regeneration. Except for a couple of remaining large lantana clumps the lack of weed competition has benefited the native trees and shrubs immensely.

Sue has been very helpful with work day reminders for the volunteers.

Recently there has been a significant amount of weedy passionfruit, some garden fruit escapee, some white passionflower ((*Passiflora subpeltata*) and large amounts of corky passionflower (*Passiflora suberosa*), sometimes choking native shrubs. In some other reserves and roadsides more invasive weeds like Cats Claw Creeper totally choke **all** other vegetation.



Cats Claw Creeper



Corky Passionfruit at Rogers Reserve

Other weeds such as Japanese Honeysuckle and Creeping Lantana present different problems. They can make complete cover but often have many separate plants per square metres.



A fire started by kids has left an area about 10 by 20 metres with no under storey and grass has sprouted in the area.

The first and fourth Friday each month the FEP group is active.

During the year volunteers have managed XXX hours in the reserve.

Increasing housing development in Highfields (especially when the area between Wirraglen and Kleinton roads fills with new houses) risks isolating the reserve.

Unfortunately current planning has no dedicated zones for connecting corridors from Charles and Motee Rogers Reserve to other reserves of bushland.

Aerial view



Native small animals and especially small birds help spread weeds, but more important spread the native vegetation essential to the long term viability of Charles and Motte Rogers Bushland Reserve. For them to access the reserve they need connection to other bushland areas.



As part of the development of Highfields Centre Friends of Escarpment Parks (FEP) requests that Toowoomba Regional Council retains and regenerates the current bushland corridor along Clarke Rd. It is a significant bushland and ecological corridor providing habitat and supporting biodiversity. To effectively manage environmental weed problems, groups need to plan strategically and allow for a long term maintenance program. Groups can eliminate a weed, but without ongoing management may find that the weed has reestablished itself to similar densities over a small number of years. Monitoring the managed area is vital if the program is to be successful over the long term.

All FEP work areas need more volunteers working to keep the quality of the bushland areas, see <https://fep.org.au/volunteer/park-care/>

Perhaps the 20th September day at Duggan Park will help motivate some more volunteers. Other efforts to encourage more are also needed. Work in the reserve will continue.

Dougal