

Tool Topics.

Winch Clearing Lantana

Manual clearing of thick lantana usually involves reaching in and pulling the stems away so you can get to the main stem and/or roots, whether to dig them out with the Root Blade or exposing the stem or roots to loppers for poisoning by the cut stump method. With each of these methods the operator comes in close contact with the prickly stems and also increases the risk of tick strike.

Well the Friends have come up with a method that will lessen these risks.

Secure a hand winch to a nearby tree, run a wire rope around the patch of vegetation that you intend to pull, and connect the other end to the same tree.



Now winch in. As the winch rope tightens, it pulls the lantana vegetation off its roots, and it also makes a pathway clear of obstructions. The operator/s can now walk this cleared passage digging and/or poisoning the roots as they appear.



This area took less than 2 hours to clear

Having a join in the rope say every 5 meters will also allow the rope to be easily disconnected and rejoined to allow the passage of protected or native plants. The debris removed can then be spread over the exposed ground surface to reduce the likelihood of weeds reinfesting the area.

This method promotes teamwork as well as increases productivity, job satisfaction and initiative.

Euan McLean (FEP)

Parkcare Groups.

Parkcare groups are volunteers doing bushland rehabilitation on these days.

Would you like to get involved?

Prince Henry Heights (3rd Sunday)

This group is carrying out bush rehabilitation activities along Prince Henry Drive on the 3rd Sunday of each month.
(February to November)

Echo Valley South Park (Ramsay St) (Saturday & Monday mornings each week)

These groups are active on both Saturday and Monday each week from 9am - 12.
(Look for parked cars near the container or near the bottom gate.)

Rehabilitation may include weed removal, propagating and planting native species as well as monitoring plants and wildlife.

For more information on Parkcare groups or to confirm details, please contact –

Kristie Jenkinson (TRC)

6488 6514 or 0408 714 215

kristie.jenkinson@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au
www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au

Aussie Humour.

A truck driver slammed on his brakes when a vehicle ahead of him suddenly stopped. His big rig began to jack-knife, and rather than crash he let it have its way – across the road and out into a paddock, where it finally stopped.

He got out to check for damage and found to his amazement, right behind him was a small late model vehicle. "What are you doing here?" he asked the young lady as she climbed out of the car.

She replied, "If whatever was on the road was too big for you to hit, it was much too big for me to hit, so I figured the safest thing to do was to follow you."

The Outback City Express

**Friends of the Escarpment Parks
Toowoomba Inc.**

Newsletter Editor Greg Lukes
glukes@bigpond.com

Would you like to support FEP? Membership is only \$5 per year (\$10/Family)



The
**Escarpment
Park Friend**

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Hugh Krenske 4635 1758

info@fep.org.au

www.fep.org.au

FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

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Species Watch.

Four Barred Swordtail *protographium leosthenes*

If you are a Toowoomba resident living near the eastern escarpment, you could get a visit from this beautiful butterfly as they search for nectar in the flowers of your garden. Currently they are flying in the dry rainforest of Redwood Park. Their flight is rapid if disturbed, but you may get the opportunity to take a photograph as they feed on any flowers growing in your garden or as they rest on bushes between feeding. The sexes are similar in appearance with the females generally being bigger than the males.



Image by **Deane Lewis** <http://dl.id.au>

Their wings are white with brown-black markings. Their name describes the four brown-black bars on the upper side of the forewing and the sword-like extensions to the rear wings.



Image by **Tom Tarrant** This image is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

The female four-barred swordtail lays one or two small spherical eggs on the underside of soft new leaves. The small green larva develops into a yellowish-green pupa. The pupal stage may last from a couple of weeks to a year or more.

Why not grow a **zig zag vine** (*Melodorum leichhardtii*) at home, the host plant for the butterfly's larvae. While the plant grows as a vine scrambling over the branches in its natural rain forest habitat, it can be easily pruned and kept as a shrub.



Zig zag vine

www.brisrain.webcentral.com.au

The interesting tuber shaped pale green to yellow **bush tucker fruit** are also edible and the seeds fairly easy to grow. The plant grows slowly at first but after it becomes established, its growth speeds up. It takes its common name from the zigzag habit of the stems. Leaves dark green and alternate.

If you want to plant zig zag vine, contact info@fep.org.au, leave contact details and how many vines you would like as we will be organising a bulk purchase of vines.

Hugh Krenske (FEP)

Wildlife Rescue & Care.

Wildlife Carers and Groups

Trish LeeHong is one of our local wildlife carers. She runs the **Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation & Education Association** from her home nestled amongst the bush in the hills near Murphy's Creek.

Trish is known as the Echidna Lady in her field, has an honours degree in the spiny monotremes and is currently preparing for further research in Echidnas.

Trish is also currently caring for a large range of animals including mammals, reptiles, birds and birds of prey. She has a very majestic Wedge-tailed Eagle (one of three), two colonies of Squirrel Gliders and a Southern Boobook which are all close to being ready to release.



The Flight Aviary

The site also contains a very big aviary which allows even the large birds to fly as part of their exercise and/or rehabilitation. It is the largest of the aviary/flights and was built from donations and recycled materials where possible.

Note. Carers for birds of prey, snakes, koalas, echidna, platypus and listed endangered species require special permits.

Steve Burke (TBO)

What to do for an injured wild animal or furred joey

Always consider your safety first. If near a road, turn on your hazard lights.

In all situations, try to keep stress to the animal to a minimum.

If you do find an injured wild animal, if safe to do so, capture the animal usually by covering them with a towel or cloth.

If you are unable to capture the animal

- Watch where the animal goes
- Contact the local carer/group
- Say on site till a carer arrives

If you are able to capture the animal

- Keep covered (but avoid overheating)
- Place in a **warm, dark & quiet** location, box or pouch
- Turn off the radio, minimise talking and avoid checking on the animal as it would be stressing it each time
- Take the animal to the local vet clinic or
- May need to contact a local carer to help secure the animal or after hours.

Ideally take the native animal to the vet as soon as possible (or the next day if required). You will not be charged a fee and the vet can assess the animal and contact the appropriate wildlife carer if required. Usually the first thing that a carer would do is to take the animal to the vet for assessment.

Macropod (kangaroo, wallaby or wallaroo)

If you do come across an adult macropod who has been hit by a car or otherwise injured, it is highly unlikely the animal will be able to be saved.

If near a road turn on your hazard lights and call a wildlife carer immediately who can make arrangements for the animal to be assessed (or put down if necessary).

Cover the animal (including the head) with a blanket, towel or jumper to minimise stress. If the adult is already deceased, remove from the roadway. If it is a female, check the pouch to see if there is a joey inside and relay this information to the wildlife carer.

If the joey is pink and without fur, do not forcibly remove it from the teat as this will cause its death.

If care is not readily available for a pink joey

- Attach a safety pin to the end of the teat to stop the joey from swallowing the teat.
- Use a sharp knife or a pair of scissors to cut the teat as close as possible to the mother's pouch skin.
- Cover and wrap the joey in something warm, e.g. a blanket, towel or jumper.

Snakes

If you find an injured snake or one that you would like to have removed, contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service or now DERM 1300 130 372 and follow the prompts. There could be a cost for this service to cover expenses. Do not attempt to kill or capture the snake.

If a snake bite occurs,

- Call 000 for an ambulance,
- Apply [pressure-immobilisation technique](#),
- If possible take a photo of the snake.
- Have the patient taken immediately to the emergency department of the nearest hospital. Antivenom is available.

<http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/contactus/index.html>

Wildlife Carers

Remember that carers are volunteers so should not be expected to be able to meet your immediate request. They usually have a network of volunteers that they may have to call to find the appropriate response.

(Not all carers can handle all types of animals.)

Wildlife carer contact details

Toowoomba-Esk	0430 904 415	(ARROW)
ARROW Australian Rescue & Rehabilitation of Wildlife Association Inc		
Twba-Murphy's Creek	0407 028 540	(Trish)
Oakey/Dalby	0417 070 337	(Sonya)
Goombungee	0448 062 857	(Lyn)
Hampton	4697 9397	(Pam)
Gatton	5462 1934	(Sarah)
Stanthorpe	0418 144 073	(Paula)

www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/gbwc

Check out the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers website above for great advice on rescuing different wildlife

Please keep these details in a handy spot or the glove box of your car. Remember, a donation to your local wildlife carer or group would really help them to continue their great work.

Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld.

Wildlife Queensland have a good web site that not only identifies how to live with wildlife but also lists a number of rescue centres in Queensland.

Encounters with Wildlife

Feeding Wildlife

Wildlife Rescue and Care

Wildlife Friendly Structures

Garden Trees and Wildlife

www.wildlife.org.au/wildlife/livingwithwildlife

FEEDING WILDLIFE IN THE BACKYARD

Although not endorsed by Wildlife Queensland, debate continues about the rights and wrongs of feeding wildlife.

First, think why you would want to feed backyard wildlife. If you do decide to feed, make sure you are protecting the very wildlife you seek to attract.

If you are planning on feeding wildlife, do it responsibly. Find out about the natural diet of the wildlife species you want to attract and provide similar food. Consider planting suitable shelter, roosting and nesting species. Plant a variety of native food trees and shrubs that flower or fruit at different times. Native shrubs also attract the insects that wildlife species eat.

An outdoor light at night will attract insects and provide a food source for frogs and geckoes.

Never provide sugar, bread, milk, black sunflower seeds or processed foods.

AGAINST Feeding Wildlife

Diseases are easily passed on at feeding stations when lots of animals and/or birds get together. Some animal diseases can also be passed to humans.

Your neighbours might not appreciate flocks of birds or possums on their roof.

Predators, especially cats and dogs, target feeding wildlife.

Dropped food encourages vermin and weeds.

FOR Feeding Wildlife

Feeding promotes wildlife awareness. People who enjoy direct contact with nature are more likely to support wildlife conservation.

Wild birds and animals don't lose their natural foraging skills just because they are getting some of their food from humans. (Feed only small portions)

Birds often provide good pest control for your garden.

The last article was compiled from the Wildlife Queensland web site which also contains heaps more information about interacting with wildlife.

www.wildlife.org.au/wildlife/livingwithwildlife/feeding_wildlife.html

Compiled by **Greg Lukes (FEP)**