

Tool Topics.

We are still developing some equipment to provide our volunteers an improved advantage over the weeds. This is mainly by applying a little mechanical advantage to help lift out the lantana and smaller privet. Once out, any roots that may have snapped off from these plants will not reshoot and will eventually rot away.

If you have metal fabrication interest and/or skills and would like to get involved with this development, contact Euan.

Euan (Ian) McLean (FEP)
4630 1535

Fact or Fiction?

George Phillips, an elderly man, from Meridian, Mississippi, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light, but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" He said "No," but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me.

Then the police dispatcher said "All patrols are busy. You should lock your doors and an officer will be along when one is available." George said, "Okay."

He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then he phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I just shot them." and he hung up.

Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team, a Helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a Paramedic, and an Ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence, and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

<http://www.snopes.com/crime/safety/response.asp>

Parkcare Groups.

Parkcare groups are volunteers doing rehabilitation work on these Sundays each month.

Would you like to get involved?

Nielsen Park (To be advised)
Prince Henry Heights (3rd Sunday)
Waterbird Habitat (4th Sunday)

Nielsen Park

This park is located at the eastern end of Tarlington Street or can be accessed via Rowbotham Street and/or Nielsen Court.

Prince Henry Heights

This group is still working along Prince Henry Drive.

The Waterbird Habitat

This group is active on the 4th Sunday each month on the main land and the islands.

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

For more information on Parkcare groups and to confirm dates, please contact –

Kristie Jenkinson

4688 6514 or 0408 714 215

kristie.jenkinson@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au

FEP News.

The Saturday morning FEP group at Echo Valley South Park has started (currently with only two volunteers). This park is located at the southern end of Ramsay Street, Toowoomba. The group meets each Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12. More volunteers are welcome to join the crew. For more information contact Greg on 0428 288 077.

The Monday FEP group also meets each week from 9:00am at Echo Valley South Park. For more information contact John on 4632 5859

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

FEP Membership is only \$5 per year

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



The
**Escarpment
Park Friend**
Mar – Apr 2010

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FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

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Clean Up Australia.

Clean Up Australia Day 7th March

Friends of the Escarpment Parks and the Toowoomba Motocross Club will join forces to assist with a clean up of the area around Ramsay Street, Echo Valley as part of Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 7th March 2010.



Volunteers will be cleaning up areas along the southern end of Ramsay Street, **Echo Valley**, Toowoomba. Parking is available near Echo Valley Race Track.

Please bring a hat, sun glasses, gloves and rubbish bag (if available). (Some bags and gloves can be provided at the site.)

Start time will be Sunday 7th March 9am till 11.30am. A free BBQ will be provided for volunteers and their families from 11.30am.

Volunteers can either register [online](#) or on the day. Download [Volunteer Registration](#).



All residents and members are welcome to come along and help...

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA.

Site- Echo Valley, Coordinator- Greg Lukes

Weed Watch.

Madeira Vine *Anredera cordifolia*

Madeira vine also known as potato vine or lambs tail vine is a vigorous climber which can produce thousands of aerial tubers along its stem.



Madeira vine blankets and smothers trees and shrubs and can lead to their death. It is very heavy on the tree canopy and will collapse small trees. Madeira vine is a garden escapee and is native to South America. Madeira vine has light green, wide heart shaped, fleshy 4-5 cm leaves.

It produces dense blankets of creamy flower spikes from December to April. The flower spikes are 10 cm long and each spike is made up of many individual small flowers. These flower spikes resemble a lamb's tails. At its worst, Madeira vine can produce thousands of small light brown or green potato-like tubers which fall to the ground and sprout new vines.

The vine has a vigorous root and tuber system, and this adds to the difficulties of controlling the weed.

When small out breaks occur the underground root system can be carefully hand pulled and hooked up where the ground tubers cannot re-root. This will cause death of the root system in the

following months. Aerial tubers have been observed to be still attached to vine stems two years after they were pulled from the ground.

Some aerial tubers dry out after exhibiting vegetative 'sprouts'. The more immature the aerial tubers, the quicker they will dry. Large heavy clusters seem to have the capacity to fragment freely. Vines sprouting on the ground surface from fallen aerial tubers may be either:

- placed in the freezer, which is the surest way of killing the tubers quickly;
- treated with foliar applied herbicides; or
- hand pulled, bagged and put into the sun and then disposed of to prevent regeneration.

(All herbicides must be applied strictly in accordance with the directions on the label)

[Toowoomba Regional Council Bushcare](#)
www.toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au/bushcare
[Toowoomba Bushcare Facebook Site](#)



Revegetation.

Longstem Planting

Long stem tube stock is an exciting and innovative method of preparing, planting and growing native (and other) vegetation. Plants are grown with an extra long stem and planted deeply into the ground. New roots sprout from the leaf nodes that are now below the surface, giving the plant a much better chance of survival with this stronger root system. This method produces a strong, healthy plant that will not need further watering after planting.

Bill Hicks, who developed this method of planting in Laguna NSW, identified a need to find an alternative to the willows (*Salix* sp.) that have been used to rehabilitate Australian waterways. The willows have become a serious problem as they are displacing the natural vegetation by colonising river and stream banks.

What is long stem tube stock?

A seedling plant grown in a small tube placed on a wire rack off the ground. It is ready for planting when the plant has reached a height of approximately 1 metre. This usually takes 12-18 months.

What type of vegetation is suitable?

Most plant species with firm bark that will produce a long stem including trees and large shrubs.

Advantages

This growing method produces a more mature and hardier plant. Deep planting protects the roots from a hostile ground surface in extreme weather conditions of heat and cold. A stronger, deeper root system will also help the plant to withstand flooding. Further watering is not required as the roots are below the evaporation level of the soil. The roots remain moist and do not dry out as often happens with traditional planting. Plantings are also not subject to root competition from other plants & multiple roots eventually develop.

The long stem tube stock method has also been successful for rehabilitation areas other than waterways such as rainforests, sand dunes, areas of high

salinity, on slopes and where ongoing maintenance is difficult.

Nursery Techniques

Forestry tubes are best, use only square cornered tubes with ridges down the inside of the tube. A larger forestry tube 6.5cm may be needed for plants with very large leaves. Pots are placed into racks off the ground to allow for air pruning any roots that grow through the bottom of the pot. This ensures that the roots are contained in the pot. Good quality potting mix is used with slow release fertilizer added when the seedling is placed in the tube and watered regularly. This ensures that the plant does not become root bound.

Planting

Tools required are a post-hole digger, soil sampler, auger, water probe or long handled shovel and a pair of secateurs.

The depth of the hole is determined by the height of the plant.

Roughen the edges of the hole if it has been made smooth by power driven tools.

Trim off the lower layer of branches.

Check the depth of the hole so bottom layer of branch stems are about 50mm below the surface. Mound the soil in the bottom of the hole to support the roots.

Wet the tube and allow the water to soak into the hole.

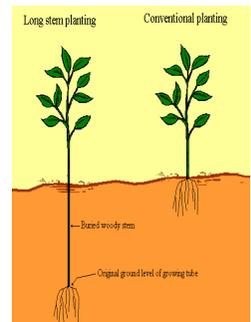
Remove tube & centre the plant in hole.

Backfill the hole pressing down the fill to remove all air pockets.

Make a U shape in the surface of the soil around the plant to catch any rain water.

Water in well (about 2 litres).

No further watering is required.



Bill Hicks

(DVD also available \$20) **02 4998 8387**

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www.norkhiltechnologies.com

<http://www.australianplants.org/fsztwentyeight.htm>