

## Committee Meetings

FEP members are invited to attend the committee meetings. Meetings are held on the last Friday of every second month. The **next meeting is scheduled for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November** from 1pm at the TRC Parks and Gardens office cnr Stephen Street & Anzac Avenue.

## Rebuilding a Shelter



Work has started on relocating and rebuilding a shelter at Redwood Park.

If you are a registered draftsman or builder or can design footings your assistance would be greatly appreciated.



Now you see it



Now you don't

We also have a couple of painting projects in the pipeline. Contact Hugh [info@fep.org.au](mailto:info@fep.org.au)



## Parkcare Groups

**Parkcare groups** are volunteers carrying out bush rehabilitation in our local bushland parks.

Would you like to get involved?



### Duggan Park

(Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville)

(Schedule is to be advised)

(Contact Rod Spalding 0418 710 232)

### Redwood Park (Each Monday 8:30am)

(Plus 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month)

(Warrego Highway below the saddle)

This group is active each Monday & every second Saturday from 8:30am.

Access to the park is through the bottom car park on the down section of the Toowoomba range crossing, on the left just after the 100km speed sign.



(Contact Hugh Krenske [info@fep.org.au](mailto:info@fep.org.au))

(or call Hugh 0418 748 282 or 07 4635 1758)

### Hartmann Bushland Reserve

(Cnr Alderley St & Rowbotham St)

(Wednesday from 7:30am each week)

(NEW 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 9am each month)

(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)

([glukes@bigpond.com](mailto:glukes@bigpond.com))

### Panorama Crescent Park

(1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month now from 3pm)

We would like to get more Prince Henry Heights residents active carrying out bush rehabilitation activities each month.

Pedestrian access is down the laneway between 4 & 8 Panorama Cr, Prince Henry Heights.

(Kathy Gouldson 4613 0195 or 0437 920 936)

### Nielsen Park (Tarlington St off Ramsay St)

(1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month from 9am - 12)

(Plus 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 2pm)

(Contact Rob Brodribb 0407 124 863)

([rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au))

### Echo Valley South Park (Ramsay St)

(2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month from 9am)

This small group is active 2 or 3 Saturdays each month from 9am – 12 noon.

(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)

## Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba Inc.

Newsletter Editor Greg Lukes

[glukes@bigpond.com](mailto:glukes@bigpond.com)

0428 288 077



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



The  
**Escarpment  
Park Friend**

**Nov – Dec 2013**

Hugh Krenske 4635 1758

[info@fep.org.au](mailto:info@fep.org.au)

[www.fep.org.au](http://www.fep.org.au)

*FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands*

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**FEP Christmas PARTY**

*FREE EVENT & BBQ*

**Redwood Park  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2013  
9am Wildlife Tour  
to see the Cliff Face  
Plus  
BBQ Lunch Provided**



**ALL welcome  
(Soft Drinks \$1)**

**Please RSVP for catering to  
[info@fep.org.au](mailto:info@fep.org.au)**

**Redwood Park Update**

Early September site meetings with Toowoomba Regional Council were held to discuss the proposed fire access track.

“Our Dry Rainforest is an endangered ecosystem and there are very few remnants of this type remaining in Australia. We should preserve it in as pristine a state as possible.”

Thanks to all who attended the meetings or made comments to assist with a response to the TRC.

- Work has started with our Conservation Volunteers Australia in the park and progress is pleasing.
- Grant application for **Open Day 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014** has been approved. This will be a significant event for the environment and heritage groups in the Toowoomba region.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Sept – involved in discussions about the Toowoomba Range works revegetation. Biggest changes will be to the down section.
- Stunning Cliff Face – When looking for an alternative creek crossing that would be suitable for a fire access track we came across a quite stunning cliff face. About 150 metres below the current crossing the northern bank of the creek widened out to a large tree covered and weed infested flat bounded on the north side by a steep slope that merged into cliffs about 20m high further down the creek.

We invite you to have a look for yourself.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzjDGGqmFY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzjDGGqmFY)

**Hugh Krenske (FEP)**



## Holy Habitat

Thousands of flying-foxes have established their colony (or day time roost) in the Kearney Springs Historical Park on Spring Street where the Toowoomba Live Steamers (TLS) have operated their miniature railway for the past 40 years. The club hosts public running days on the 3rd Sunday of each month and caters for private parties or functions, where groups can make use of BBQ facilities in the centre of the rail network along with train rides for their group members.



The native flying-foxes have moved into the area within the past 4 years and are now roosting in the trees above this public accessible area. The problem with these natives roosting where people are is the noise, smell, spray and droppings in the area. TLS club members would like to see the council "move on" the bat colony.



A colony of grey-headed flying-foxes (photo: Wikimedia)

Flying-foxes are essential in maintaining ecosystems because they can move pollen and seeds over long distances and across cleared ground, linking patches of native vegetation. The clearing of native vegetation in the last two centuries has removed much vegetation and has left the remainder scattered in isolated patches. Birds and insects often don't fly the long distances required to transfer pollen or seeds between vegetation patches. Flying-foxes carry pollen on their fur between flowering trees that can be many kilometres apart. Many Australian trees, especially eucalypts, need pollen from another tree of the same species to make fertile seed. Rainforest seeds are also carried away from parent trees which give them a chance to grow.

[www.dse.vic.gov.au/plants-and-animals/flying-foxes-home-page/flying-fox-faqs](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/plants-and-animals/flying-foxes-home-page/flying-fox-faqs)

(See also) [www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/environment-and-waste/wildlife/7176-bat-colonies](http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/environment-and-waste/wildlife/7176-bat-colonies)

Persistent noise and smell from flying-foxes are a real concern for many parts of the community, especially where flying-fox roosts form in urban areas.

The Queensland Government is currently developing a new approach for roost management which will put the health and wellbeing of the community as the central consideration and make it easier for councils to manage flying-fox roosts in their local government area, particularly those roosts in urban areas.

While the health and wellbeing of people will be central to the new approach, the sustainability of Queensland's flying-fox species will not be put at risk. [More information](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/roost-management.html)

New Queensland legislation has not taken effect yet and councils across the state are waiting to see details of the proposed Code of Practice to determine exactly what action is permitted and/or processes required.

Toowoomba Regional Council have set up a bat coordination centre (nicknamed the '**Bat Cave**') to consider the problem of flying foxes roosting in or close to residential areas.



## Myrtle Rust

Myrtle rust is a serious fungal disease that affects plants in the Myrtaceae family, including natives such as bottle brush (*Callistemon* spp.), tea tree (*Melaleuca* spp.) and eucalypts (*Eucalyptus* spp.).



Myrtle rust is distinctive in that it produces masses of powdery bright yellow or orange-yellow spores on infected plant parts. As myrtle rust is a new disease to Australia, its full host range is unknown. Myrtle rust cannot be eradicated and will continue to spread as it produces thousands of spores which are highly mobile. Although we cannot eradicate the disease, we can limit its spread, manage its impact and carry out research to discover its full host range and seek long-term solutions.

Myrtle rust can spread through the movement of:

- infected or contaminated plant material, nursery stock, plant cuttings, flowers and germ plasma;
- animals such as bees, birds, bats and possums that have been in contact with rust spores;
- contaminated plant waste, timber, wood packaging and dunnage; contaminated equipment and tools used on or around plants (e.g. chainsaws, secateurs);
- and contaminated clothing, shoes and other personal effects.

Myrtle rust is likely to infect plants in wet and humid conditions and rust pustules can mature to release spores in as little as 10–12 days. Spores can survive for up to three months in the environment.

If you suspect Myrtle rust please report any detection to Biosecurity Queensland by calling 13 25 23 or visiting-

[www.daiff.qld.gov.au/4790\\_20842.htm](http://www.daiff.qld.gov.au/4790_20842.htm)

## Species Watch

### Northern Brown Bandicoot

*Isoodon macrourus*

The Northern Brown Bandicoot has a head body length of up to 40 cm, a shorter tail up to 17 cm and can weigh up to 2.1 kg. Males are larger than females, often up to double the size. The fur is speckled brown-black above and whitish below. Their ears are short and rounded and they possess an elongated snout. Forelimbs are shorter than hind limbs and are used when foraging to dig conical holes, which they explore with their snout. This species is a common resident of bushland north of Sydney, extending northwards to Cape York in Queensland, across the top of the Northern Territory and into the north of Western Australia.



Photo [www.diannehausler.com/page0052.html](http://www.diannehausler.com/page0052.html)

**Australian Wildlife Conservancy protects the Northern Brown Bandicoot at its sanctuaries across northern Australia.**

This bandicoot prefers areas dominated by grass and dense shrubbery and in more northerly areas may be found in more open country with sparse groundcover.

These bandicoots generally construct a nest of ground litter over a shallow depression in the soil with a loose entrance and exit at either end. Like other bandicoots they tend to be solitary animals. Their home range is up to six hectares. They have an omnivorous diet, foraging at night for invertebrates, berries, grass seeds, plant fibre and subterranean fungi.

Breeding may occur throughout the year if environmental conditions are good. A short gestation period of 12.5 days is followed by about 48 days in the pouch with a litter size of 1-7. Young reach independence by 60 days.

**Australian Wildlife Conservancy** [www.australianwildlife.org](http://www.australianwildlife.org)  
[www.australianwildlife.org/wildlife-and-ecosystems/wildlife-profiles/mammals/northern-brown-bandicoot.aspx](http://www.australianwildlife.org/wildlife-and-ecosystems/wildlife-profiles/mammals/northern-brown-bandicoot.aspx)

