

Bushland Reserve (NOT a DUMP)

Our surrounding bushland areas and bush reserves appear (to some people) to be ideal dumping areas for their waste.

Problems that we are experiencing

- **Lawn and grass clippings** often contain weed seeds which can germinate, quickly spreading out of control in bushland and/or creeks in the region.
- **Soft stem or succulent plant material** that has been dumped is likely to regenerate once it comes in contact with the soil and can also spread throughout the area.
- **Dumped litter, plastics or rubbish** can be washed away into our streams or left to be picked up by someone else (often a passerby, a volunteer or a council employee).
- **FIRE** is a threat that we are all keen to reduce or avoid but if there is one in the bush, any rubber, plastics, etc dumped produce toxic gasses when burnt. **Heaped** branches, leaves and/or other dry material are likely to create an intense, hot burn sending flames metres into the upper canopy of nearby trees which can cause a **crown fire**. Hot air currents can also send smoldering or burning embers high into the air which can be blown many metres or even kilometres ahead of an existing fire causing other spot fires to start and spread.

The intensity of a bushfire dictates the effect on the environment and wildlife

Severe bushfires may destroy all of a vegetation type in a region and possibly spread into urban areas threatening life, damaging or destroying housing and other infrastructure. A **crown fire** is an intense, bushfire which causes significant damage as it quickly spreads from tree top to tree top. Crown fires are difficult to extinguish as they move rapidly and are dangerous for wildlife, firefighters and others nearby.

A small to moderate surface fire will generally be less intense, easier to control & cause less damage to the environment.

Toowoomba Regional Council can supply a green waste bin to residents and now also offer **FREE household waste disposal** at our local rubbish or waste management facilities.

Toowoomba also has great recycling facilities.

St Vincent de Paul Society

Lifeline Toowoomba

Action Metal Recyclers (Cash for scrap)

Parkcare Groups

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



Would you like to get involved?

Jubilee Park (Coventry Court)

(Northern end of Mackenzie Street, Mt Lofty)

(1st Sunday of the month 8-9am) (New)

(Contact Geoff Sharp 0427 038 055)

Redwood Park (Each Mon & Thu 8:30am)

(Plus 2nd & 4th Saturday each month)

(Warrego Highway below the saddle)

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 first 100km speed sign. 

(Contact Hugh Krenske info@fep.org.au)

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

Duggan Park

(Each Thursday & 1st Saturday from 8:30am)

(Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville)

(Contact Rod Spalding 0418 710 232)

Hartmann Bushland Reserve

(Cnr Alderley St & Rowbotham St)

(Wednesday from 7:30am each week)

(Plus 3rd Saturday each month from 9am)

(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)

(glukes@bigpond.com)

Nielsen Park (Colman Drv, off Mackenzie St)

(1st Saturday each month from 9am - 12)

(Plus 3rd Sunday of the month from 2pm)

Please note that the container has been relocated from Tarlington St to Colman Drv.

(Contact Rob Brodribb 0407 124 863)

(rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au)

Panorama Crescent Park

(1st & 3rd Saturday each month from 3pm)

Local residents are actively carrying out bush rehabilitation activities each month.

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

(Kathy Gouldson kathygouldson@bigpond.com)

Echo Valley South Park (Ramsay St)

(2nd, 4th & 5th Saturday each month from 9am)

This group is active from 9am – 12 noon.

(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)

Friends of the Escarpment Parks

Toowoomba Inc.

Newsletter Editor **Greg Lukes**

newsletters@fep.org.au

0428 288 077



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



Friends of the Escarpment Parks
TOOWOOMBA INC.



The
**Escarpment
Park Friend**

Nov – Dec 2014

Hugh Krenske 4635 1758

info@fep.org.au

www.fep.org.au

FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

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FEP Christmas PARTY

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A XMAS BBQ

Redwood Park (See back page)

Saturday 29th November 2014

9am start (Please BYO meat)

Enjoy the get together, facilities and/or
tour the fantastic sights in this bushland area

BBQ, drinks and salads are available

ALL members and guests are welcome

Please RSVP by 27th Nov to info@fep.org.au

Koala Count Redwood Park

You are invited to help conduct a koala count in Redwood Park **Saturday 15th November commencing at 8am** from the picnic ground. The group will be divided into smaller teams to cover a larger area.

To register please email info@fep.org.au.



We hope to spot a few koalas

Species Watch

Caper White Butterfly

Belenois java

Currently there are thousands of caper white butterflies flying through the rainforest in Redwood Park.



Female caper white butterfly

Redwood has a large number of thorny caper bushes, in particular *Capparis arborea*, which is the host plant for the caper white butterfly larvae.

A close inspection of the underside of the *capparis* leaves may find numbers of small orange eggs almost laid in a neat pattern.

The larvae can appear to demolish the host plant, but despite this, the bushes come back stronger than ever.

You can check out this website for more information.

lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/pier/java.html



Caper white eggs & caterpillar

Hugh Krenske (FEP)

Weed Watch

Mossman River Grass

Cenchrus echinatus

This weed species is thought to be native to Central America and tropical North America (i.e. Mexico and southern USA), though it is now widespread throughout the tropical regions of the world (i.e. a *pan-tropical weed*).



A weed of tropical, sub-tropical, warmer temperate, semi-arid and arid climates that infests footpaths, urban parks, lawns, roadsides, disturbed sites, waste areas, coastal environs, estuarine areas, grasslands, open woodlands, waterways, wetlands, pastures and crops. It is very widespread species that is naturalised throughout the northern and central parts of Australia (i.e. **throughout Queensland** and the Northern Territory, in the south-western, western and northern parts of Western Australia, in some parts of northern and eastern NSW and in the north-western parts of South Australia).

Distinguishing Features

A slightly-tufted, short-lived grass usually growing 25-60 cm tall. Its stem bases and lower leaf sheaths often have a reddish or purplish-coloured tinge. Seed-heads are spike-like with numerous, almost stalkless, burr -like structures (4-10 mm in size). These 'burrs' contain several flower spikelets enclosed in numerous spine-tipped bracts and hairy bristles. The 'burrs' are reddish or purplish-green when young, but turn straw-coloured or dark brown as they mature.

Reproduction and Dispersal

This plant reproduces by seed, which are mostly spread when the spiny 'burrs' that are contained within become attached to animals, vehicles and clothing. These 'burrs' may also be dispersed by water and in contaminated

agricultural produce (e.g. pasture seeds and wool).

Impacts

Mossman River grass (*Cenchrus echinatus*) is mainly regarded as an environmental weed in northern Queensland, the Northern Territory, and the northern parts of Western Australia. This species was also recently listed as a priority environmental weed in at least one Natural Resource Management region. It is an aggressive competitor that colonises sandy soils, particularly along the coast, and can have a significant impact on coastal sand dune communities. For example, Mossman River grass (*Cenchrus echinatus*) is listed among the top ten environmental weeds in the Kimberley and Pilbara coastal regions of Western Australia. It is also regarded as an environmental weed in the New South Wales north coast region and in south-eastern Queensland, where it appears on the list of the top 200 invasive plants.

Though this species can provide good grazing when young, **it quickly becomes a pest in pastures if it is allowed to mature. The spiny burrs can penetrate the hides of livestock causing injury** and are also a problem in recreation areas.



Mossman River grass is also an important weed affecting many summer crops in the tropical and sub-tropical regions of northern Australia. This weed was a very common garden plant in many gardens and now can be found throughout South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales. It is often seen along creek banks and roadsides.

keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/03030800-0b07-490a-8d04-0605030c0f01/media/Html/Cenchrus_echinatus.htm

Locally found in Panorama Crescent Park and Rogers Reserve, Highfields.

Compiled by **Greg Lukes (FEP)**

Native Bush Treat Plants

Blue Flax-Lily

Dianella caerulea

(Other names include blueberry lily or paroos lily)

Dianella caerulea grows to about 1 metre (3 ft) high and is a perennial herb. It is a herbaceous strappy perennial plant with dark green blade-like leaves up to 70 cm long. It has blue flowers in spring and summer (August to January) followed by bright blue or indigo-coloured berries. **The plump, deep blue fruit of the *Dianella* can be eaten raw.** They have a sweet flavour, which becomes nutty once the seeds are chewed. Its leaves can also be used to make a strong fibre.

Distribution is throughout the eastern states of Australia including Tasmania. It adapts readily to cultivation and is commonly seen in Australian gardens and amenities plantings.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dianella_caerulea



Image 1

Image 2

Image 1:

www.impactgrasses.com.au/product.php?productid=118

Image 2: Robert Whyte (sown)

Dianella is a clumping plant of erect strap like leaves. It can tolerate damp conditions but prefers a dry environment.

Dianella is very hardy and long-lived once it is established. It grows in full sun and well drained soil up to a height of 1m and a width of up to 2.5m.

***Dianella* can die if mulched, it prefers unmulched sites.**

In the wild it is an occasional plant in complex grassy and rocky vine scrubs or dry eucalypt forests, although it will also do well in the upper sections of the riparian (creek) areas.



Blue star shaped flowers produced on long stems in spring followed by green then attractive blue berries.

Image: Mark Crocker (sown)



Image: Robert Whyte (sown)

The name *Dianella* is the diminutive of (expressing affection for) *Diana*, the Roman goddess of hunting and queen of the woods. The original species was found in the woods of a French province. *Caerulea* is a Latin name (feminine, singular) for the deep blue of the Mediterranean sky at midday, referring to the deep blue berries.

Save Our Waterways Now SOWN

saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au/01_cms/details_pop.asp?ID=147

Editors Notes

Dianella can be identified by smooth surface leaves with a course **hacksaw-like texture** when you rub your finger along the underside mid rib of the leaf.

This summer fruit is ripe when it is in full colour and fully rounded shape. To help distribute the seeds, suck the fruit then cast out the seeds back into the bush.

Caution - If you are not 100% sure about any species do not try them.

Compiled by Greg Lukes (FEP)