

## Conservation Volunteers

Nine volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia assisted FEP in Redwood Park for a week in October.



*Conservation Volunteers Australia at Redwood*

These eager young people from a variety of countries spent much of their time during the week, tirelessly cutting the stems of large cats claw creeper vines from an area of the rainforest in Redwood Park. We are very thankful to get their help.

Cats claw creeper vines, originally garden escapees, have the potential to kill the rainforest by smothering the forest canopy preventing photo synthesis and by using the sheer weight of the vine over the canopy, brings the tree crashing to the ground.

Unfortunately Cats Claw creeper with its large, bright yellow flowers is still being grown in a number of our suburban Toowoomba gardens. Classified as a class 3 weed and a weed of National Significance, cats claw creeper can no longer be sold by nurseries and should be removed from properties especially those that border bushland parks and other endangered ecosystems.

Members of the group:

Front Row from left: Louisa Peters (Germany), Katie Cier (USA), Daniel Eimertenbrink (Germany), Victoria Vincent (Belgium) Back Row from left: Jean Baptiste (France), Theo Cosier (France), Je Young Min (Korea), Da Eun Woo (Korea), and Yebin Lee (Korea). Behind the group in orange is the leader: Brett Coghlan (USA).

## Parkcare Groups

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



*Would you like to get involved?*

**Charmaine Ct, Kleinton (near Highfields)**  
**(1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month from 9am - 12)**  
(Contact Michael McGoldrick)  
(4635 7371 or 0417 802 817)

**Nielsen Park (Colman Drv off Mackenzie 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)

**Jubilee Park (Coventry Court)**  
**(Northern end of Mackenzie Street, Mt Lofty)**  
**(1st Sunday of the month 8 - 9am)**  
(Contact Geoff Sharp 0427 038 055)

**Redwood Park (Each Mon & Thu 8am)**  
**(Plus 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@fep.org.au))  
(or call Hugh 0418 748 282 or 07 4635 1758)

**Duggan Park**  
**(Each Thursday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 8:30am)**  
**(Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville)**  
(Contact Max Henderson 0427 866 091)

**Hartmann Bushland Reserve**  
**(Cnr Alderley St & Rowbotham St)**  
**(Wednesday from 8am each week)**  
**(Plus 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month from 9am)**  
(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)  
([glukes@bigpond.com](mailto:glukes@bigpond.com))

**Panorama Crescent Park**  
**(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month from 3pm)**  
(Kathy Gouldson [kathygouldson@bigpond.com](mailto:kathygouldson@bigpond.com))

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

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## Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba Inc.

Newsletter Editor **Greg Lukes**  
[newsletters@fep.org.au](mailto:newsletters@fep.org.au)  
**0428 288 077**



**Volunteers required to assist with conservation activities in bushland environments!!!**



Friends of the Escarpment Parks  
TOOWOOMBA INC.



The  
**Escarpment  
Park Friend**  
Nov – Dec 2015



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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### Redwood Park Update

#### Night Survey in Redwood Park

The last photo of a koala in Redwood Park was taken in 2011. Since then we have been keeping an eye out for them without any luck. In October we did another night survey and eventually found two of them. They were about 100 metres before the junction of the grass tree track and the little diversion that goes up to the gate below the saddle. Everyone that attended was pleasantly surprised.

Other animals that were found included a brush tailed possum (near the shelter), a kookaburra, an echidna, the 2 koalas (in different trees), an owl and numerous spiders.



*A koala high in a gum tree in Redwood Park  
Photo by Hugh Krenske*

### FEP Christmas PARTY

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THE XMAS BBQ  
Redwood Park** (See back page)

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 10am start**

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

FEP will supply the BBQ, gluten free sausages, onions, cold slaw, sliced bread, coffee and tea.

You are invited to bring a plate to share.

ALL members and guests are welcome.

For catering, please RSVP by 9<sup>th</sup> Dec to

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

or phone Hugh 0418 748 282.

*(Keep an eye out for 6 white boomers! Merry Christmas)*



*The echidna in Redwood Park*

Photo by Coral Sharrock



## Native Species Watch

### Warrigal Greens (or NZ Spinach)

#### *Tetragonia tetragonioides*

*Tetragonia tetragonioides* (previously *T. expansa*) is a leafy groundcover also known as Botany Bay spinach, Cook's cabbage, sea spinach, tetragon, New Zealand spinach and kōkihi (in Māori).

Native to Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile, and Japan.

Its Australian names of warrigal greens and warrigal cabbage come from the local use of warrigal to describe plants that are wild (not farmed originally).

The species, rarely used by indigenous people as a leaf vegetable, was first mentioned by Captain Cook. It was immediately picked, cooked, and pickled to



help fight scurvy, and taken with the crew of the Endeavour. It spread when the explorer and botanist Joseph Banks took seeds back to Kew Gardens during the latter half of the 18th century.

For two centuries, *Tetragonia tetragonioides* was the only cultivated vegetable to have originated from Australia and New Zealand.

The species prefers a moist environment for growth. The plant has a trailing habit, and will form a thick carpet on the ground or climb through other vegetation and hang downwards.

The leaves of the plant are 3–15 cm long, triangular in shape, and bright green. The leaves are thick, and covered with tiny papillae that look like water drops on the top and bottom of the leaves. The flowers of the plant are yellow and the fruit is a small, hard pod covered with small horns.

The plant is a halophyte (grows well in saline ground). It is grown for the edible leaves and can be used as food or an

ornamental plant for ground cover. As some of its names signify, it has similar flavour and texture properties to spinach, and is cooked like spinach. Like spinach, it contains oxalates; its medium to low levels of oxalates (bitter organic acids) need to be removed by blanching the leaves in hot water for one minute, then rinsing in cold water before cooking.

*Tetragonia tetragonioides* thrives in hot weather and will continue to produce greens through the summer. Few insects will bother it, even slugs and snails do not seem to eat it.

It can be found as an invasive plant in North and South America, and has been cultivated along the East Asian rim.

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetragonia\\_tetragonioides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetragonia_tetragonioides)



*Tetragonia tetragonioides*

[www.terrain.net.nz/friends-of-te-henui-group/plants-native-botanical-names-r-to-z/tetragonia-tetragonioides-n-z-spinach.html](http://www.terrain.net.nz/friends-of-te-henui-group/plants-native-botanical-names-r-to-z/tetragonia-tetragonioides-n-z-spinach.html)

*Tetragonia tetragonioides* can be found locally at a number of bushland parks around Toowoomba including Nielsen Park and Echo Valley South Park. (Park coordinators can identify specific locations.)

## 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. (Edible weed)



*Madeira vine lambs tails*

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.

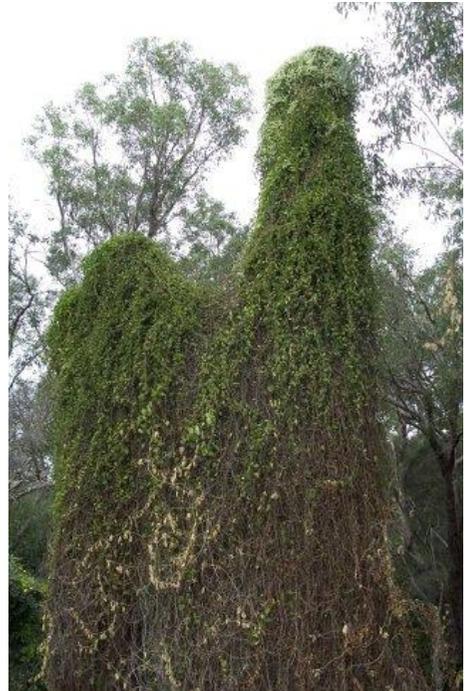
Preferred treatment for vines sprouting on the ground surface is with foliar applied herbicides. Less effective is digging and hand pulling to remove all the underground tubers. This requires more follow up monitoring and removal before the results can be achieved.

All plant material should be placed in the freezer, which is the surest way of killing the tubers quickly. Alternatively bagging the material and leave in the sun to dry then binned to prevent regeneration.

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

#### More Information

[www.fep.org.au/weedbook\\_pdfs/16656\\_994%20FEP%20A5%20Booklet%2061.pdf](http://www.fep.org.au/weedbook_pdfs/16656_994%20FEP%20A5%20Booklet%2061.pdf)



*Madeira vine smothering trees*