



Friends of the Escarpment Park
(Toowoomba) Inc.
Duggan Park Picnic Area

Agenda

General Meeting
Tuesday 2nd June, 10:00 am, 2020

1 Declare a Quorum, Welcome and Open Meeting, Apologies

Present: Hugh Krenske, Bev Yates, Michael McGoldrick, Rob Brodribb, Ray Addison, Max Henderson, Kaye Wood-Riley

Apologies: Greg lukes, Taryn D'Arcy, Kay Krenske

2 Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held 10th March 2020

Accepted as true record.

Moved: Ray Addison

Seconded: Hugh Krenske

3 Business Arising from Previous General Meeting.

3.1 Intrepid Landcare cancelled due to COVID

3.2 Charmaine Court name change appears to be going ahead. Tim McMahon says there was no objections. He wants a public announcement. Michael and Ray will be the FEP representative but would like Greg Kidd to be the official face of FEP. No date yet.

3.3 Grant for Bench and Notice Boards. Taryn and Rob have finalised design of notice boards and they are under construction. Nothing happening re: bench seat yet.

3.4 Mistake at Redwood. Just hand weeding at the moment.

3.5 Stenner St Bike Park weed control. AROCHA lead by Roger Janesch are working here. Roger is still sorting out how it works under council/FEP/ Anglican/St Barts bureaucracy.

4 Correspondence received since the previous General Meeting – inward and outward

Attachment 1.

Correspondence Inward and outward accepted

Moved: Kaye Wood-Riley

Seconded: Bev Yates

5 Business arising from the Correspondence

5.1 MOU

Park Coordinators send comments back to secretary in 4 weeks. Comments will then go to council. Ray asked what authority do we have? Process is in MOU.

5.2 Wires Landcare Grants Program

5.3 Duggan Park work letter from Dominic Doyle

Duggan Park Container to go to Stenner St when toilet block is built

5.4 **World Environment Day** meeting June 7. At a standstill due to COVID. No meeting in May

5.5 **Landcare photo competition**

5.6 **Chris Meibusch** looking for letter from FEP supporting bushfire preparation project.

Letter sent

5.7 **Burns in the Parks**

Rogers Reserve...Dean happy with Greg's suggestion to burn between 25 and 50 %

Hartmann Park...Did a burn last Thursday, good outcome.

Echo Valley...want a small burn

Neilson Park...Want a small burn

6 **Treasurer's Report and business arising from Treasurer's report**

Treasurers report accepted

Moved: Ray Addison

Seconded: Bev Yates

Summary...Spent about 1/3 of the grant.

Sent 14 letters about membership...So far 3 replies

Money spent on...tools and equipment, quite a bit on herbicide for Redwood and labour at Eagles Nest.

7 **President's Report.**

See Attached

8 **Park Coordinators Reports**

Hancock St

As a result of the Council Nursery shifting, we were able to get about 40 plants including Breyntia, Eucalypts, Pittosporum and Casuarinas. We are still removing large amounts of Green Panic re-growth. Shirley has been planting flowering natives on a grassed area, outside the forest.

Duggan Park

Nursery Volunteers

We have changed the Duggan Park days to Tuesday mornings and five former volunteers from the Toowoomba/Crows Nest Nursery have joined in. All are keenly interested and excited to be involved. So far we have had a weeding day in the quarry, and put up some Sugar Glider nest boxes. My thought was to settle and establish them in Duggan for a couple of months, and then explore the possibilities of rotating them to help in Hancock and Nielsen parks as well. We will only have them until the nursery is re-established elsewhere in Toowoomba.

Mulberry Group – Koala Habitat Project

Louise Noble has been talking to us about involving the Mulberry Group in FEP activities. The Mulberry Group participants are refugee and migrants from all parts of the world. We have come up with a concept of the Koala Habitat Project, which will essentially plant about 20 Koala food trees in the main forest area of Duggan Park (there has been no regeneration of Eucalyptus trees in there for many years and planting will help). Will also involve them researching what Koalas need, possibly propagating the trees, planting in the main forest area, watering will need to be carried in buckets, and also weeding and keeping the area

around them weed free. But probably the main objective is to get them accustomed, familiar and interested in our Australian environment and bushland. Can also include some night spotlighting visits. This could be repeated once or twice a year with new people. There are large areas of the Main forest with no young Eucalypts at all, and I think this could be ongoing for several years. And there is the possibility that some may stay and join in with the serious part of FEP's activities.

I haven't spoken with Council yet but had planned to contact Mark Ready about it. Cost will only be a few trees. Louise is very excited to give it a try and thinks they will love it.

Weeding

The main forest area around the sensory trail is completed. Work is needed in the quarry and Millennium forests, and around the eastern and northern escarpment slopes.

Front Planting

The recently planted areas at the front of the park and around the carpark have established well. The plan is to maintain the carpark borders and pathway areas as gardens. Our local plants respond well to regular watering and a little care and will attract visitors to take some notice of them. the Xerochrysm bracteatum Golden Everlasting Daisy has been spectacular in flower and has already produced a lot of self sown seedlings. The Themeda triandra Kangaroo Grass has also been spectacular for the past few months.

Lookout

The planting at the lookout has not succeeded as well. We have some Lomandra longifolia now and will get that planted soon. It will hopefully be a bit tougher. Daniel at the Council has been good at keeping the tank full of water for us.

Council Plans

Council recently provided us with plans for Stage 3 of the universal trails development (attached). The major component is the toilets and FEP storage shed. Other work are additional tables, barbecue, bins and move the notice board. I have just noted a couple of issues which I will send on to Dominic Doyle. The plan shows a path to be built through the plot of Kangaroo Grass and Grass Trees which FEP has just planted. This path is unnecessary. The bins are located near the shelter and barbecue in the middle of the park. I fear that this will lead to the rubbish collection truck wearing a dusty track through the prime area of the park to empty them. Would rather have the bins near the front gate. Regarding the previous stages – the pathway edging is continuing to break away and is not being repaired. Council are looking at other options.

Kara View Court Entrance

Can FEP ask Council to carry out new planting in the Kara View Ct entrance plot to Duggan Park. This was originally planted by the old Toowoomba City Council (probably Veronica) when Kara View was developed about 20 years ago. 5 years ago it was thick and healthy and we could barely get through it. Some have been lost through age since. And neighbour chooks over 5 years or so have completely sterilised the ground from scratching and picking out all seed insects and worms etc so that ground is now completely bare. And recently the neighbour has come in with chainsaw and cut about 30 trees out for a huge fire wood stockpile for his outdoor fire pit. It is now very open, bare and degraded. Can we ask Council to replant it all and include some large canopy trees, and further extend the planting through the Kikuya out to the street? This will provide a better link to the bottom of the range through the Griffiths and McKnight Parks. It would be a big job for us, and I don't think FEP

should be involved in any way with these neighbours.

Redwood

See attached

9 General Business

9.1 Duggan Park

Toilets out to tender, Shelter not this financial year

No plans to change paths. Fit wheel chair users can use the paths but not wheelie walkers.

Bin at toilet block will work.

Max will continue to follow up.

9.2 Rotational park Care proposal

Greg suggested we begin rotational park with willing volunteers at Duggan and Neilson St Parks.

It is to compliment work already happening. Not necessarily same day as work now. Greg

available Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays. Max will work with the Tuesday morning

Nursery group and Mulberry Group. Greg Lukes will coordinate and organise access to tools.

Idea is to try this new form of working in the existing parks and then review before thinking about starting new groups in new parks.

9.3 Suggested that **AGM speaker** be Paul Dawson from BPAC. Hugh to follow up.

9.4 Mountain Bike Plan

At this stage Council is going ahead with the plan.

* A meeting will be organised with all environmental groups to discuss the plan. In 6 weeks, on a Thursday morning.

* *What is our (FEP) position?*

Bridle Trail and Grass Tree tracks, bikes are already allowed.

Problem is once open, bikes create own tracks.

Their motivation for Redwood is access and getting back up to the top as quickly as possible.

Final Position is... Other side of eagles Nest and Southern side of Toll Bar. Come out at saddle.

* Proposal...Meeting with all the conservation groups and mountain bike club at Redwood

* Geoff needs to do an environmental study.

* Hugh has sent a detailed letter to Cr McMahon re the issues regarding a mountain bike trail expansion in Redwood. (In correspondence)

10 Next meeting

AGM 8th August Library Civic Rooms

11 Close meeting

FEP Secretary

Kaye Wood-Riley

FEP President

Rob Brodribb

