

MEPA NEWS

PROTECTING THE MT NEBO & MT GLORIOUS ENVIRONMENT - PROMOTING AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYMENT THROUGH EDUCATION, DISCUSSION, AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to the Autumn 2024 edition of MEPA News. Since the last issue the MEPA committee has been working across several areas in the community:

The research project for the *Euastacus setosus* (Mt Glorious Spiny Crayfish) continues, with ecologists • and volunteers taking on some extremely steep creeklines to gather valuable data. MEPA has officially completed the research grant project, and the official listing application for endangered status • has been submitted.

MBRC Biodiversity Stakeholder Reference group - Council has created the Biodiversity Stakeholder Reference Group for advice and feedback on their developing Biodiversity Plan.

MEPA, along with two other locals represent our

environmentally rich Mountain area. MEPA's aim has been to make Council aware of biodiversity values, threats, and local government opportunities for protection in the Plan.

Like all plans, the proof is in the pudding, as they say, but we can help by trying to ensure some of the necessary ingredients. A draft of the Plan will be released this year for public comment.

Getting to know problem weeds - If you haven't checked out our list of some of the problem weeds encountered on the Mountain, with links to fact sheets with photos and control methods, head over to the weeds section of our website [here](#) to learn more.

FIRE FUTURES & BUSHFIRE RISK MODELING PROJECT

Members of MEPA have been working with both the Mount Glorious Community Association and the Mount Nebo Residents Association, and with the Fire Futures group to support the joint Bushfire Risk modeling project. This research work will provide our communities with region specific fire risk information for the large bush areas surrounding the villages that could be sources of future fire threats. Future community fire plans would be able to draw on this information.

Information generated by the Bushfire Risk assessment will also form the basis of dialogue with the relevant agencies and all levels of government to coordinate an appropriate response in terms of mitigation and bushfire preparedness. Preservation of the natural beauty of the flora and fauna in our community will be enhanced by an improved understanding of the risk and the opportunity to act to reduce it.

The Mount Nebo Residents Association is currently fundraising to cover the costs of its inclusion in the study area. To support this, you can donate using this [link](#) or the QR Code to the right. We hope to see you at the Community Feast, where you can enjoy some delicious Bunya Nut food and ask questions about the project.

Saturday 23rd March

4-7pm at Mt Nebo Hall

Music. Food. Bar. Tea & Coffee.

BUNYA NUT COMMUNITY FEAST & FUNDRAISER

The Bunya Nuts are plentiful on the mountain this year so we want to get the community together for a fundraising feast!

All food and drinks will be sold in support of our fundraising efforts for the Mt Nebo Bushfire Project.

Do you have a Bunya Nut dish to donate? We can give you the nuts - shelled and ready to cook with.

Sweet, Savoury or Snack

Any dish that includes Bunya Nuts!

Not a cook? Never tried Bunya Nuts?

Come along for a relaxed afternoon to sample the many treats or get a takeaway.

Have questions about the Bushfire Project? Come and chat to us.

CAN'T MAKE IT? Scan QR code to make your donation today.



KAHILI GINGER FLOWERING SEASON

Kahili Ginger

(*Hedychium gardnerianum*)

It's that time of year when Kahili Ginger comes into flower, making it easy to spot. This invasive plant displaces native vegetation and is cited internationally as one of the 100 worst weeds in the world. It is best to remove it (see our MEPA Fact Sheet [here](#)), or at least, cut the flowers off before the seed is set, this at least contains it.

Sightings can also be reported to Moreton Bay Regional Council via [this web page](#)



BUSH TALES

Summer can produce some nights on the Mountain that are so quiet that you can hear a gumnut drop from a kilometer away, or so it seems. Standing outside in the silence is a delight many people these days have to live without. Most cities are pretty noisy places one way or another.

A few months ago, on just such a night, I stepped out to enjoy the calm. The warm weather had coated the night in a stillness that was, at first, only broken by the snuffling of a bandicoot somewhere nearby. But as I stood there enjoying the nothingness there was a thin, faint popping sound like a distant marsh-frog declaring its position. Then another, and then another. As the faint noises followed one another they started coming from all over the forest, left and right, high and low. Now, the only local frogs I knew of weren't that evenly distributed, and I was also pretty sure that marsh-frogs didn't engage in extreme sports like tree-climbing. They supposedly like marshes (after all, they're marsh-frogs), and that kinda keeps them on the ground! So, I stood there quietly wondering what was making this weird sound.

As it happened, it was the sound of the forest itself growing. The tall bluegums, smooth and pale for most of the year, were shedding their bark, which had darkened and was peeling from the tree in short strips. The night

was unusually dry, and the moist sea-air hadn't yet made it inland. As the bark dried in the night air it peeled away from the tree, scratching against the trunk as the strips curled into tubes, there to hang from the tree another few days before falling. The effect of the curling and scratching was a slight sound as the tree and its shedding skin rubbed one another. From all over the forest came this scratching and popping, high and low, as the forest shed its skin. It was the first time I stood there and heard the sound of trees growing.

The curling bark turned out be of interest to other forest dwellers too. Spiders find the housing opportunities too good to ignore and set up home in the temporary shelter the curled up bark provides. And the birds come after them. Currawongs, Treecreepers, Whipbirds and Shrike tits all take the opportunity to forage for a feed of juicy spiders, with the night sound of peeling bark now accompanied by the daytime sound of bark being crushed in birds beaks.

Eventually the annual shedding of skin comes to an end, the forest continues to grow in silence, and the birds move on to other seasonal meals.

bushtales@hotmail.com



DO YOUR BLOCK! Free bush care service.

Would you like some assistance managing bushland on your block? Advice on weeds or advice on planting local native plants in your garden? MEPA has a free service offering advice and information (supported by MBRC) Contact Maggie - 3289 8175 or Dominic - 3289 0093 or send us an mail: mepa.enquiries@gmail.com