

MEPA NEWS

Volume 3, Number 1

www.mepainc.org.au

Protecting the Mt Nebo & Mt Glorious environment - Promoting awareness, understanding and enjoyment through education, discussion and community activities.

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WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to MEPA NEWS! MEPA is the Mount Nebo and Mount Glorious Environmental Protection Association. In this issue we are covering a few of the commonly found weeds in and around our gardens this season, with helpful tips on how you can identify what they are, and how to keep them at bay. We have also highlighted a few of our favourite native plants that you might like to add to your block. Then, after all that hard work you deserve to put your feet up and make yourself a cuppa while you enjoy a quick read of our Bushtales, full of poetic observations and musings on the beauty of nature around us.

If you'd like to become a member of MEPA, or send us in a submission for the next issue, or organise for us to come and Do Your Block, you can email us at mepa.enquiries@gmail.com

You can also keep up with all the latest from MEPA between issues over on Instagram, where you'll find us sharing info on weeds and insights into our environment - www.instagram.com/mepa_inc

Happy weeding!

THIS SEASON'S FOCUS ON WEEDS

If you've noticed plants growing and blooming on your block, and you think they could be weeds, read on! These are the ones you could work on removing this season.

Easter Cassia

(*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*)



Remove small plants and roots by hand (much easier when the ground is wet after rain!). Larger plants can be cut at the base and swabbed with herbicide.

Tip - Break/bend the Easter Cassia stems close to the ground and the wallabies will eat the leaves - From S via Instagram

Spotted Dog / Polka Dot Plant

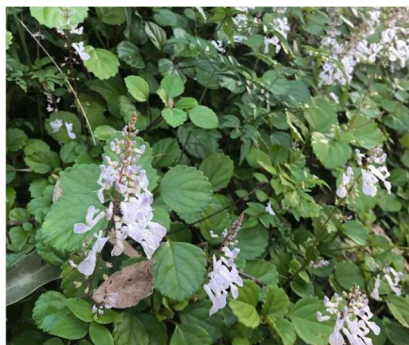
(*Hypoestes phyllostachya*)



This persistent perennial has spotted leaves on a woody stem, and small purple flowers.

Creeping Charlie

(*Plectranthus verticillatus*)



Aim for complete removal as this

ground cover will regenerate from roots and stems left on the ground.

Black Eyed Susan / Clockvine

(*Thunbergia alata*)



Note the distinct bright yellow or orange flower with a circular black dot in the centre or throat. Leaves along the vine are spade shaped and a few centimetres long.

For more information on weed management you can visit our Strategic Weed Management Project page on the website - <https://www.mepainc.org.au/weeds>



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THIS SEASON’S FOCUS ON NATIVE PLANTS

Now that you have rid your block of a few weeds, you might be thinking of adding some native plants. Some of our favourite places to find them include Paton Park nursery at the Gap and Kumbartcho Sanctuary at Eatons Hill. You might even notice some of these already on your block.

Creeping Shade Grass

(*Oplismenus aemulus*)



(Photo - www.kumbartcho.org.au/nursery)

Low ground cover suitable for shady areas, butterfly attracting.



BUSHTALES

Perhaps the most notable thing in the bush the last year or three has been the big-dry and its effects. After months that seemed to barely challenge the rain-gauge at all, recent rains seem to have eased the severe conditions and the bush is responding. Beautiful new growth has exploded everywhere as if the forest has been busting to get out of its skin. Kurrajongs have broken out in magnificent, claret-coloured, new growth that shivers in the gentle breeze. Grasses almost forgotten on the forest floor have exploded in growth, now heavy with seed. After moulting like a cat in summer, the forest is coming back. The birds too seem to be enjoying the improved conditions. Variegated wrens, their striking blue plumage luminescent in the sun, seem to linger in the warmth after a passing shower has given them a chance at a refreshing bath.

Not so long ago baths were hard to come by, for humans and birds, with water a scarce commodity. One day during the viciously dry spring of 2019, with the drought biting hard, I sat watching a large, gregarious group of satin bowerbirds. They were doing what satin bowerbirds and teenagers do when

Kangaroo Grass

(*Themeda triandra*)



(Photo - www.kumbartcho.org.au/nursery)

Grassy tussock plant that suits full sun.

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

Email: mepa.enquiries@gmail.com

they get together in large social groups — they were carrying on, having the time of their lives with raucous delight. It was a hot afternoon and a rare, light shower swept quickly over the ridge. Barely touching the ground, the only trace it left was high in the canopy, dousing the outer foliage with moisture. The bowerbirds reacted by jumping into the thick outer clumps of vegetation. Looking up, it seemed they were dashing about in hot pursuit of something. And watching them further it became clear just what they were after ... a free bath. By rustling about in the clumps of wet leaves they managed to liberally coat themselves in the refreshing moisture left by the rain. After diving in a couple of times, they came out onto a branch — the bowerbird equivalent of a bathmat forty meters above the ground — where they had a good old shake-down and some preening ... followed by another round of “aerial bathing” and preening.

Summer rains now mean baths are to be had by just standing around on a perch somewhere, but they’ll no doubt be telling their grandchildren of the season when the only baths to be had were in the treetops for all the eagles to see.

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