

MEPA NEWS

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www.mepainc.org.au

PO BOX 29 Mount Nebo QLD 4520
Email: mepa.enquiries@gmail.com

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

WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to the third edition of MEPA News, and to autumn 2022. Since the last issue we have held our AGM and elected a new committee, and we are pleased to welcome all new members. MEPA is now leading a project to list the Mt Glorious Spiny Crayfish as "critically endangered" in Qld – to match its international listing – with a grant application to determine species' range and other biological aspects. And, as always, MEPA is working on our Strategic Weed Management project, with details shared on our website at www.mepainc.org.au/weeds

This issue we are also pleased to share with you some of our favourite local fauna courtesy of our vice president

Jarrah Wills, and below we have also highlighted a couple of weeds you might be seeing in our area.

If you'd like to become a member of MEPA, get one of our recent back issues of the news sent to you, 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, native plants that are local to the mountains, and insights into our environment - www.instagram.com/mepa_inc

Happy weeding!



THIS SEASON'S FOCUS ON WEEDS

Remove weeds by digging out completely, then bag with rubbish for landfill, NOT in with garden waste.

If the plant is too large for this, cut stems 5 - 10 cm from ground, immediately spray or swab stump carefully with undiluted glyphosate.

Tip – If you aren't sure about a plant, you can send a photo to us, and we will ID it for you! Just email mepa.enquiries@gmail.com



Photo – by Jarrah Wills

Squirrel Glider taking cover from recent weather events.

Cat's Claw Creeper
(*Macfadyena unguis-cati*)



This invasive climber is a current problem plant in our area. It tends to climb over fences and up trees. Look for the yellow bell-shaped flowers, and the distinctive three clawed tendril (the 'cat's claw'). MEPA are working in the wider area on biological controls for targeting Cat's Claw, which we will report on in an upcoming issue.

Broad Leafed Paspalum
(*Paspalum mandiocanum*)



This grass produces a large number of seeds and has a high germination rate and will be growing quickly at this point in the season after rain. It will spread horizontally too and can out-compete native grasses. The paspalum can grow in more shade than other exotic grasses, which means it can grow further into the bush/creeks.

MOUNT GLORIOUS MACADAMIA AVENUE

THE OLDEST AVENUE IN OUR SHIRE?

At a recent meeting with Council, MEPA was delighted to see the enthusiasm shown by Council Officers for the recently rediscovered Avenue of Macadamias planted in Mt Glorious Village by Main Roads in 1927.



Photo – Supplied by Elwyn Hegarty

Nuts collected in May 2019, one with a hole made by rats in a maturing nut.

Former resident and botanist Dr Elwyn Hegarty (nee Carter) unearthed the fascinating history of some 35 *Macadamia tetraphylla* trees lining the road in the Village and sought MEPA's help in restoring the avenue to health and prominence. Early resident, Mr. Ted Gibbons, recorded that the original Macadamia trees were planted as seedlings in 1927 by the Main Roads Department for a trial. He recollected that *"the Mt Glorious Progress Association had persuaded the Main Roads Dept to assist in planting an avenue of trees from the foot of Harden's Hill to Maiala National Park. In spite of protests, the only trees forthcoming were Queensland Nut Trees – planted because the Main Roads man was interested in their culture, and wanted to see how they would do on Mt Glorious"* [Ted Gibbons, Reminiscences, unpublished family notes, 1970]. This was at a time when their possible horticultural uses were largely unknown.

After Elwyn unearthed the significance of the avenue –

for years, a source of good nuts for residents and visitors alike – MEPA successfully sought a grant from TMR to fund an arborist's report and undertake immediate work to clear weeds, invasive vines and some of the abundant mistletoe that were putting stress on the trees (with another Carter, Alan, undertaking the work – making it something of a family project!).

The trees are now listed on their Important Trees Register, with annual inspections by Council arborists and an ongoing maintenance plan. They are also slated for inclusion on the MBRC Planning Scheme Heritage listing. Already, Council is planning additional work by a professional arborist, some soil and root zone improvements and protection from roadside mowing.

The Council officer in charge seemed justifiably proud of this historic avenue on his "turf", going so far as to recount his debate with other Council officers as to whether this was indeed their "oldest avenue". As it happens, the Anzac Avenue planting for WW1 soldiers predates our avenue by just 2 years, but "our historic avenue" is now, thanks to Elwyn, recognized and protected as part of our collective history.



Photo – Supplied by Elwyn Hegarty

Views of some of at least 35 roadside macadamia trees and the street-scape, Mount Glorious.

See - www.royalsocietyqld.org/2020/04/macadamias-at-mt-glorious-elwyn-hegarty/ for Elwyn's full report.

By Dominic Hyde

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
Email: mepa.enquiries@gmail.com