

MEPA NEWS



Volume 2, Number 8

November 2011

MEPA AGM

followed by a barbecue.
Saturday, 12 November
12 midday
at the Mt Nebo Hall.

With another warm season upon us, and the kingfishers and drongos back in our forests for the summer, MEPA wishes everyone a

Happy Festive Season. And with another year's work in the southern D'Aguilar Ranges we would like to thank all our supporters, volunteers and our hard-working contractors - Alan Carter, Gary Pattemore, Jarrah Wills and Dave Colbert. And Ruth Lowe and Wendy Lees deserve special thanks for the production of MEPA News itself.

Thank you everyone, and have a good Christmas.

Dominic Hyde

Footpath Vegetation

The footpath in front of your property, or nature strip as it is sometimes called, is an area of land that is often 'interpreted' in many different ways by our community. For some of us, it is just the area in front of our property that is used to access the roadway, while for others it is a precious piece of land that we think of as 'our footpath'.

In fact, all of the roadways and footpath areas back to the property boundaries, legally referred to as "Road Reserve", are owned by the State Government and are freely accessible to all members of the public. Local councils usually maintain residential streets whereas State Government departments maintain major roads and various services and other infrastructure therein.

Unfortunately with all this activity and maintenance, road reserves passing through sensitive environments like ours can become 'super-highways' for invasive pest plants and weedy vegetation.

Despite this the extra width beyond the pavement can be vital to protect us, and the surrounding environment, from these threats and others such as bushfires, car crashes etc.

MEPA actively encourages householders to take an interest in footpath vegetation, bearing in mind the constraints that this area of land carries.

For example, if someone were to plant some shrubs in road reserve, they then automatically become public property. Conversely, Council permission is required to remove native vegetation from road reserve also. Therefore it is best to check what is appropriate for your particular location.

Some points to consider are -

- Is the plant a declared or invasive weed under Council's Pest Management Plan?
- Could it force pedestrians to walk out into the traffic to pass your property?
- Will it impede visibility for motorists, especially if you live inside a bend?
- Will it grow into overhead wires or branch out too close to high vehicles passing?
- Will it give sufficient privacy or perhaps even shade out your lawn or other desirable plants?

MEPA are working to reduce the burden and considerable expense that Council and State government carry to maintain the road reserves on the mountains as well as reducing the spread of serious weeds. Sometimes this means that MEPA contractors may be required to prune or remove certain plants, even native species in some cases.

MEPA works in close co-operation with government agencies who are also our funding partners to do this. All our contractors are highly trained, with excellent botanical knowledge/instruction and all work is covered by the necessary approvals. In some cases we may contact landholders to discuss footpath vegetation before working in a particular area. If you have any concerns about vegetation in the road reserve please contact MEPA for advise or assistance

So if you see a MEPA contractor working in your area, come out and say hello. We are always interested to hear your story and answer any questions you might have about property maintenance in general.

Alan Carter

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Dear Resident

MEPA is your local non-profit environment group. With your help and support, we undertake volunteer on-ground activities to protect our local environment.

HELP US HELP YOU HELP OUR LOCAL AREA!

We offer the following services:

- “Do Your Block” (free on-site advice to residents including weed identification, native plant identification, and advice on weed control and bush-friendly planting)
- “Ask MEPA” (an email service where we do our best to answer relevant questions you may have – email: askmepa@yahoo.com.au)

We also work with agencies to improve management practices, and develop funding opportunities with local government, state agencies, and NGOs operating in the area to employ local weed workers in the ongoing work to protect our outstanding native flora and fauna. (We currently undertake weed management in the power and road corridors from The Gap to Mt Glorious with funding partners MBRC, BCC, SEQC, DMR, Powerlink, Energex, Telstra and QPWS.)

For all this we need your support. Membership numbers count. Please see the attached membership form for details on how to join and pay, and send to:

MEPA
PO Box 29, Mt Nebo, QLD 4520

Thank you
Dominic Hyde, MEPA. (Ph: 32890093)



**Mt Nebo & Mt Glorious Environment Protection Assoc.
MEMBERSHIP 2011 – 2012
\$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family**

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE.....

EMAIL.....

To join:

1. *post this form* & payment to PO Box 29; or
2. *post this form* to PO Box 29 & pay by electronic transfer:

BSB No.: 064145 Account Number: 00903153

Name of the Account: MEPA

Please make sure you enter your name so that it will appear on the account statement.