

## President's note

As another wet summer continues, Pacific Bazaas wheel over the valley tops calling to one another, and MEPA hits the height of the annual work-cycle.

The weeds run. But it is also when regenerating sections of forest are most vigorous and explode in new protective cover. Our beautiful native grasses grow seed and multiply. The eucalypts cast off old leaves to make way for new.

In this issue, we too have a new guest spot. Enjoy.

Dominic Hyde

## Guest column, by Joe Wilde of Greening Australia, The Gap

### What we do

The Greening Australia nursery in The Gap was born out of the need to protect and promote the flora and fauna of South-East Queensland. Staff and volunteers collect local seed, propagate, grow on and sell to the public at an affordable price. Every year Greening Australia Gap nursery moves approximately 80,000 young seedlings, endemic to South-East Queensland, into the broader environment via the general public.

As they grow the seedlings perform a variety of functions: they purify air, water and soil; they provide habitat for a myriad of creatures; they repair, bind and improve degraded landscapes; they feed and are fed by soil bacteria to grow, blossom and bloom; they add beauty and colour to our daily panorama and they become a lifetime source of wonder for young children and adults alike.

However, to process 80,000 seedlings each year we rely heavily on all our wonderful volunteers who attend during our opening hours every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

Why not come and discover some of the joys of volunteering at the Greening Australia nursery.

For more information contact:

Greening Australia Nursery, Ph: 3300 6304, or visit our comprehensive website for plant information, at <http://gapnursery.greeningaustralia.org.au>

## Flowering now – Native Mountain Hickory Wattle

*(Acacia penninervis var: longiracemosa)*

Down the Range Road almost to The Gap you can see this beautiful wattle still flowering although most of the plants were at their best around Christmas.

It grows up to 8 metres but most of the plants along the road are 2-3 metres. If you look closely at the phyllodes (the green structures that look like leaves) you will see a gland on the top side where the edge of the phyllode is indented. The glands on wattles produce a sugary substance which attracts ants. The flowers which have been so prominent are creamy-white heads in racemes. There are flowering specimens here and there along the road mostly at the lower altitude below McAfees Lookout.



*Acacia penninervis*

They are the host plant for the larvae of the common imperial blue butterfly and also a very small butterfly called the double-spotted line blue. The larvae of both these butterflies are attended by small black ants which protect them while probably collecting substances that the larvae produce.

Penninervis means 'veins like a feather'.

Maggie Scattini

## Flowering now – Weed *Hedychium gardnerianum*

Kahili ginger has been enjoying a wonderful season this summer. After a prolific flowering, plants are now setting seed and will soon be displaying the red fruits that are so attractive to some of our local birds. It may provide food for some but . . . the

birds spread the seeds of this yellow ginger all around the forest, resulting in new seedlings appearing in remote parts of the National Park. Depending on where a bird is standing when it defecates, new plants can strike anywhere, even high in a tree, providing an extra problem for anyone trying to eliminate the plant.

There is a high number of new seedlings appearing while the established plants flower and fruit. We could be looking at a serious upturn in the numbers of Kahili ginger around the mountain – not desirable in a National Park. Sadly, Springbrook NP is highly infested now from surrounding privately-owned properties where plants were not controlled over many years.

*Hedychium gardnerianum* was declared a weed in Queensland about 15 months ago, with two other species (*H. coronarium* and *H. flavescens*) included in the declaration. Check out the website of DPI: [http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790\\_18824.htm](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_18824.htm)

Kahili ginger is a Class 3 weed. It is an offence to grow a Class 3 weed near a National Park.

Help keep our park clean: *eradicate this pest*.

Best practice is to dig out roots and bag them, together with flower/seed heads, after cutting off stalks for mulch.

Get rid of bags of roots and seeds in the waste bin, not in the garden waste area.

Brian Phillips

Or, if you are comfortable with herbicides:

Cut and dab with 100% Glyphosate on every stem, this usually gives pretty good results.

Other problem plants that are flowering and seeding now are:

*Duranta* ('Geisha Girl')

*Murraya* (Mock Orange) and

*Crocasmia* (Montbretia)

These also need to be removed.

Previous and continuing efforts by residents with Easter cassia have begun to show positive results.

Eradication of weeds from properties adjoining bushland is now being enforced by some councils, including Brisbane City Council.

It is only a matter of time before all councils enforce control and it will be more costly to hire a contractor than eliminate the weeds at an earlier stage.

## Gardening in the Mountains

Usually at this time of the year and particularly after the rains of the last two summers, we are always a little bit 'over' the garden. However, if we give up, the weeds will take over and we, or someone else, will have an even bigger job in the future. MEPA is spending thousands of dollars eradicating weeds that are garden 'escapees' and with more responsible weeding and planting we could prevent this cost escalating in the future.

Autumn is almost here and this is the best time for planting in south east Queensland. The warm, moist soils encourage the new roots to establish easily giving the plants a good start ready to grow vigorously in spring.

## Have you heard of a Stumpery!

Why not appreciate our climate and local plants and make a 'Stumpery' in some old mossy tree stumps which are also good habitat for local wildlife. (Google for details.) These are becoming very popular in Britain and taking over from the Fernery. Make use of ferns etc. that are now appearing in your yards. However, please do not remove ferns from the surrounding bush. If you need more, call in to see Joe at Greening Australia where local species may be obtained.

With the creative talents of our locals, I am sure that we could come up with some very original designs which would make great features in future newsletter editions.

Keep us informed, and happy gardening.

Wendy Lees.

## 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: [askmepa@yahoo.com.au](mailto:askmepa@yahoo.com.au)