

# MEPA NEWS



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## President's note

Some residents may recall the long-standing matter of what used to be known as "the Ogle Development", the 200+ housing development, originally proposed in 2003 for the House Mountain Range above the Samford Valley (effectively 3km east down the ridge, off the end of Harland Rd). After several years, the 1000 acre property and development application (DA) was sold on to the Tendiris company, who continued to pursue the DA and variations to it. The DA was rejected by Council a decade ago (June 2003), with huge community support at the time, but this decision was immediately taken to the Planning and Environment Court by the developer. For a decade now, the Council (with MEPA as co-defendant, represented by Darryl Honor) have defended Council's rejection of the proposal in the Court. Finally, this part of the saga has now ended. The Court rejected the appeal, and the property is now in receivership, and looking for a buyer. So if you'd like a large slab of the House Mountain Range, now is your chance.

Dominic Hyde

## Weed Spotters' Network Queensland

Did you know you can send specimens of potential, new and emerging weeds to the Queensland Herbarium for free identification?

The Herbarium hosts the Weed Spotters' Network, a state-wide community-based weed alert program. Network participants help to find, identify and document new occurrences of potential and existing weeds at an early stage, so that appropriate action can be taken. Specimens, along with location information, help us better understand how far and how quickly weeds are spreading. Such information is crucial for developing early response strategies and for the ongoing control and containment of established weeds.

There are currently 1280 species of 'weed' in Queensland, with an average of 12 new weeds becoming established each year, largely as a result of garden ornamentals jumping the fence into bushland. Almost ten per cent of these are declared 'pest plants', which means that landowners have a



One to watch out for is the kudzu vine (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*), a Class 2 declared species. Specimens have been collected from Springbrook. Photo: DAFF

responsibility to manage them on their properties. A full list of declared plants can be found on the Biosecurity Queensland web site:

[http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/4790\\_7005.htm](http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/4790_7005.htm)

As a Weed Spotter, you'll have the opportunity to be trained in weed recognition and plant collecting techniques. You'll also receive a monthly bulletin highlighting species to keep an eye out for each season. If you would like to become a member of the Weed Spotters' Network, please e-mail Melinda at the Queensland Herbarium,

[Melinda.Laidlaw@science.dsitia.qld.gov.au](mailto:Melinda.Laidlaw@science.dsitia.qld.gov.au)

for an application form.

Melinda Laidlaw

**Reminder** Become a MEPA member  
(\$5 per person, \$10 per family).

Membership form available at:

<http://www.gloriousnebo.org.au/MEPA/membership>

## Gardening in the Mountains

### Rain - Seeds - Weeds, Weeds, Weeds

#### *Now is the time to Attack*

With the onset of cooler weather, growth will slow down and the moist soils will enable weeds to be pulled out more easily. For larger areas you may need to resort to 'sheet mulching' which will smother and weaken growth until the plants die. Layers of wet newspaper covered with any garden clippings (without seeds,) mulch or compost will suffice. If using lawn clippings, sprinkle in thin layers to prevent matting. Solarising plants with a temporary layer of plastic will also kill weeds in strong sunlight. If you need to resort to something stronger and you don't like the idea of some herbicides, you may like to try the following suggestions by Phil Dudman in an article in the 'Organic Gardener' magazine. Organix Weed Blitz (Amgrow) or Go Natural Organic Herbicide.

### Herbaceous Weeds

Now that herb and vegetable gardens are so popular, are you beginning to recognise some of those herbaceous weeds that you have been fighting for years? Yes, that is right, they are the same plants that were introduced many years ago for culinary or medicinal purposes. Be vigilant with seed removal to prevent any plants becoming future problems.

### Grasses

These are very popular to use in landscaping but using species that are not native to the mountains will not be the best for our environment. It is the introduced grasses that are changing the environment and smothering local grasses that wildlife rely on. For sourcing local species, visit Greening Australia at The Gap.

### Shrubs

Easter Cassia has flowered prolifically this year and this will result in lots of seeds. At least the bright yellow flowers help us to identify where they are and now is a good time to remove them completely before the seeds spread further.

*Duranta* spp. ('Geisha Girl' etc) This plant was used on outback properties years ago as it was hardy and formed dense, thorny thickets which became useful barriers. Imagine what will become of them in our climate where they are already becoming a bushland

weed! Some people who are trying to eradicate them are finding removal difficult so it is best to remove them while they are at a manageable size or better still not plant them at all.

*N.B. Leaves, fruit and bark of *Duranta erecta* are poisonous to people and pets and no doubt many bushland animals as well.*

Don't forget to mulch your weeded gardens now to keep soils warm and moist for the Winter.

Happy Gardening

Wendy Lees

## Flowering Native (Spring-Summer)

Amongst the ground layer flora in the semi-shade of our wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest is a little herbaceous gem ideally suited to similar situations in our own gardens. It is also attractive in pots and hanging baskets.



*Tripladenia cunninghamii*, a type of lily, forms a low dense ground cover and is extremely hardy. It has slender, wiry, zigzag stems, dark green leaves and 6-petalled pale pink flowers to 25mm in spring and summer. In our garden it grows above a timber retaining wall where it tumbles softly down. Its seeds often germinate in the cracks between the brick paving below.

Sue Phillips

## 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)