

MEPA NEWS



Volume 2, Number 1

February 2010

President's Note

MEPA is a non-profit volunteer community group based in the Mt Nebo, Mt Glorious and Jolly's Lookout area, working along with other members of the community for the protection of our spectacular local environment.

Our current activities focus on *weed management* (working with partners: Moreton Bay Regional Council, Brisbane City Council, SEQ Catchments, Powerlink, Energex and Telstra, Department of Main Roads and QPWS) and *bush regeneration* (especially along the Tourist Drive, Mt Nebo and Mt Glorious roads).

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; and

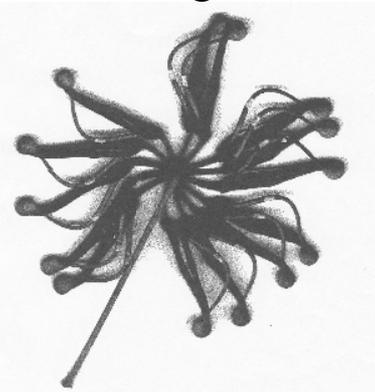
"Ask MEPA"

an email service where we do our best to answer relevant questions you may have.
email: askmepa@yahoo.com.au.

Always on the lookout for ideas, we welcome your input.

Dominic Hyde
President - askmepa@yahoo.com.au

Flowering now



Stenocarpus sinuatus Wheel of Fire
Tall tree, red flowers. Local native

Vegetation Management

*... I cut out some weeds
but they all just grew back !*

This is a remarkably common problem amongst gardeners. In the first of a series I will be looking at how to reduce time and effort keeping your garden clear of weeds or unwanted regrowth. The MEPA website will soon be updated with some fact sheets giving more detail.

Essentially if we "lop off" the top of a plant it will usually regrow from the roots in the ground. After all it grew from a tiny seed, so all those roots will come back soon enough. Hand weeding or repeated slashing will sometimes get rid of some woody plants but treating the stump and roots will ensure it does not come back to wreak its revenge.

Although other methods are sometimes promoted, MEPA only endorses the "Cut and Dab" method, as it is the safest and most reliable. First remove most of the plant with secateurs or chainsaw down to about a foot high or far enough above the surrounding vegetation to be clearly visible so as not to trip over it or forget to come back to it.

Then cut as flat and as close as possible to the ground and immediately apply an undiluted dose of Glyphosate (eg Roundup 360) to the top edges of the stump. This will travel down the sapwood on the outside of the trunk to all of the roots. Try to stack or dispose of the green waste so as not to cover smaller weeds that you also intend to treat.

MEPA can supply herbicide and specialised trigger bottles at cost, as well as some practical instruction.

Alan Carter

If you have ideas for articles you would like included in the newsletter, speak to Wendy on 3289 0280, or email: askmepa@yahoo.com.au

Gardening in the Mountains

Sick of fighting weeds? Why plant more?

At this time of year we are all reminded how well the weeds grow and how difficult they are to eradicate. Unfortunately, the vast array of plants now available to us tempts us to unwittingly plant more. Just because a plant is sold at a nursery doesn't make it safe to plant, particularly in our area.

Most 'natives' sold in nurseries are not native to our area (i.e. 'indigenous') and therefore may have weed potential or have a significant impact on local ecosystems. Some examples, plants such as Silky Oak and Flame Trees — planted extensively last century — have now 'naturalized' here. Also, plants with berries were planted 'for the birds' by well-intentioned gardeners and are now causing some of our biggest problems. Plants of this type, if not local natives, are best not used in gardens, even lillypillies.

Most of us have been attracted to the mountains because of the unique environment and it would be a pity to see it change through the introduction of non-indigenous plants. Therefore it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that we try to prevent any of our plants from going beyond our boundaries. This may be achieved in various ways such as: informed plant selection, netting (fruit & veg.), dead-heading before seed sets, preventing the spread of bulbs and also informing new owners of potential problems. The easiest way of course is to remove them altogether or not plant them in the first place.

Current design trends are recognising the need to aim for more environmentally friendly gardens and also to create an Australian identity. As a result, there is increased recognition of the value of using local natives. By using these plants, which have adapted to local conditions over a long period of time, not only do we preserve our local environment but gardening becomes easier.

We are lucky to be able to live in such a wonderful mountain environment with a large variety of plant shapes and textures available to us, so why not use your creative talents and develop your own unique garden. By doing this you will help preserve what actually attracted you to the place initially.

Contact MEPA for advice or obtain suitable plants from:

- Greening Australia, 57 Paten Road, The Gap, (www.greeningaustralia.org.au/GA/QLD to view)
- Pine Rivers Community Nursery, 15 Bunya Pine Court, Eatons Hill.

Wendy Lees.

Some Bushland Weeds

(Common names)

Trees

Crepe Myrtle	Jacaranda
Brazilian Cherry	Chinese Tallow
Cadaghi	Umbrella
Weeping Fig	African Tulip
Golden Rain Tree	Mulberry
Broad Leaf Pepper	Yellow Guava

Shrubs

'Geisha Girl'	Coral Berry
Easter Cassia	Indian Hawthorne
Mock Orange	Mickey Mouse Plant

Other plant types

Queen Palm	Asparagus fern
Alexandra Palm	Fishbone Fern
Tree Bird of Paradise	Singapore Daisy
Yukka	Seaside Daisy
Canna	Honeysuckle

Also be careful of planting many exotic grasses.

Flowering now



Duranta sp. "Geisha Girl"

Purple flowers, yellow poisonous berries, thorns.

Bushland weed growing along the creek at Samford.