

## Looking after Life on the Mountains – ask MEPA

MEPA (Mt Nebo/Mt Glorious Environment Protection Association) is a not-for-profit association concerned with environmental issues in our mountain communities. MEPA answers your questions about bush regeneration, weeds, local plants etc!

Email questions to [askmepa@yahoo.com.au](mailto:askmepa@yahoo.com.au) or write to ASKMEPA, PO Box 29, Mt Nebo, QLD 4520.

Q. After the recent rains I've noticed quite a few mushrooms popping up and I'm wondering how I can find out more about them.

A. Well, it's funny you should ask. The Cubberla Witton Catchment Network around Kenmore and Chapel Hill in Brisbane recently hosted a Fungi Conference to try to stimulate interest in fungi and to promote more dedicated research into this important but neglected area of our biodiversity. Current estimates are that there may be some 250,000 species of fungi in Australia. Perhaps 10,000 or 20,000 of these are fungi that put up fruiting bodies that are large enough for us to see mushrooms and toadstools. (Most fungi are microscopic and thus require special study.) In terms of our biodiversity then, fungi make up a significant proportion of the biomass, yet we know very little about them.

It is known that many of them work in symbiosis with native trees and other plants to promote healthy growth, yet little or no attention is paid to them when people try to restore the native flora in an area.

They remain something of a mystery, particularly here in Queensland, yet play a significant role in the maintenance of our bushlands.

Many animals also appear to feed on native "truffles", the below-ground fruiting-bodies of particular fungi. (Yes, we have many species of truffles in Australia, it seems, many of which appear to be edible but fairly tasteless.) Bush rats, wallabies, bandicoots, antechinus, and possums studied in the Gibraltar Range in NSW were all found to feed on these truffles. They then spread the fungi spores around the forest through their droppings, thus ensuring the healthy growth of fungi and healthy forest systems. "All very interesting" I hear you say "but how can I find out about the ones in my garden?" Well, very little is known about most of our fungi, but some research has been done. (It is estimated that even with reasonable funding for research it may take another 500 years to come to grips with Australia's fungi.)

Perhaps the best thing you can do is get a copy of the recently released Field Guide to the Fungi of Australia, by A.M. Young and K. Smith (UNSW Press, 2005). There are also some very good websites that have recently been launched:

<http://www.fungibank.csiro.au> and

[http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap/\\_welcome](http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap/_welcome)

The second site listed is part of a growing project to map our fungi (the Fungimap Project). You can also help by contributing to fungi research. With so much unknown about species, their distribution and ecological role, you could help with reports from "the field" (i.e. your garden or local patch of bush).



The Qld Herbarium is keen to learn more and they can be contacted for advice on how collect specimens (some websites also describe collection methods.)

So, dear reader, just as you may want to know more about your local fungi, so too does the rest of the world. There's material out there to help with the most obvious ones but there is still so much to be discovered. Why not start your own D'Aguilar Fungi Study Group?

PS: MEPA will be hosting a talk early next year by Queensland Herbarium "fungi man" Dr Tony Young who has studied some of the fungi in the Mt Glorious area. (We'll keep you posted.)

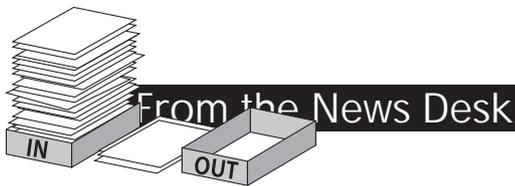
The opinions and viewpoints expressed in these articles are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily represent those of MEPA members.

Dominic Hyde MEPA

## Congratulations!



Congratulations to John and Kate on the birth of their son Baden Henry Keith Rush. His first name is his Great Grandfather's name, the other 2 names are both his Grandfather's names) DOB: 22nd Nov 2005. Weight at birth: 8lb 6oz or 3790g. Length at birth: 53cm long. Best wishes to you all!



Happy New Year Everybody!!

Well we're off to another year of the Mountain News. Let's keep those articles and photos coming to keep this great community newspaper alive. Many thanks to the regular contributors and if you've never written something for the MTN how about making this your year to contribute!! Talking about contributing, responses to my plea for ideas and help for a March/April fundraiser for the "News" were conspicuous by their absence. I know it's a hectic time of year and I'm sure you all just forgot. So please put your thinking caps on and send ideas to me at PH: 3289 8309 or diclark1@bigpond.com. I've got one idea - a dress-up sing-along film night (with bar and other accoutrements of course). Perhaps 'The Sound of Music' or 'Grease' or (If I can get a copy) 'Rocky Horror Picture Show'. We could all dress up in character and sing-along while the movie plays! Would be lots of fun - I know people who've been to these nights and they have a ball!! Feedback please on whether you think it's a goer.

Cheers

Di

## OUT OF THE SHOWER AND INTO THE SPOTLIGHT.....

Many people secretly long to experience the joy of singing their hearts out with a group of like-minded people, but are unable or unwilling to commit to weekly rehearsals with a choir.

Local choristers "Peace 'n' Choir" are offering the opportunity for residents of the mountain and surrounding communities to learn some new songs and perform them in front of an audience at a workshop to be held on Saturday, March 18.

An accomplished choir conductor (name yet to be confirmed) will visit the mountain for the day to lead the workshop, catering not only to beginners having their first taste of performance, but also to experienced singers keen on expanding their skills.

Separate sessions will be available for children and adults. The adult's workshop will include a morning and an afternoon session at the Mt Nebo community hall, while a children's workshop, conducted by Ann Bermingham, will be held in the After-School Care building in the afternoon. Both groups will come together for a free concert to be held in the early part of the evening, followed by a barbecue dinner.

The cost of the workshops will be \$25 per adult and \$10 per child, with concessions available for families. Entry to the evening concert will be free and all are welcome. For further details check your mailbox for a flyer to be distributed shortly, or contact Paula on 3289 8203 or Lyn on 3289 0157

**REMEMBER IN CASE OF FIRE:**

Telephone **000** then

**Terry Bradford: 3289 8181**

or **Bob Snowdon: 3289 0150**



The Mt Nebo Transfer Station survived the Xmas break due to the very hot weather and many residents leaving for holidays. All the bins arrived and left full on time, especially the cardboard and paper collection which was filled twice over. But this did not surpass the efforts of those 'left behind' on the mountain over Christmas in their supreme attempt to fill every bottle container I could muster!

And how about the increased police presence on the mountain. They were even seen booking residents who had requested the increased police presence!! Well, somebody has to pay for their overtime and working during the holiday break.

It was good to see the rain filling the tanks and bringing trees into bloom. Many residents gave the Tip a miss when it was raining, but returned in force the next sunny day, like one resident who tipped three wheelie bins full of something that had been fermenting since 1956. I'm sure any following tippers will recall that festive aroma.

And of course, with the rain comes the lawn mowing fanatics. As the grass moves, out comes the super-turbo charged whipper-snippers (which they can't hear because of the earmuffs) followed by high revving mowing and then leaf blowing. And have you noticed it all always happens in the cool of the day? You grab a cup of tea and some scotch, find a shady mozzie-free spot, reach for your book and ... POW! I wonder if it's a city trait or just boredom.

Talking boredom, somebody's little darlings slipped their leashes and headed for the Tip over Xmas (7-9 Jan) and smashed up Treasure Island. Shelving was pulled down and crockery thrown around the Tip site. I think maybe a word with the Mt Nebo School's Principal may help. This was followed by the dumping of 20 4WD tyres and rims into the Cleanaway bin, thereby causing the bin to fill prematurely. I did spend quite some time pulling the rims out and restacking the rest.

I'm pleased to report that all the native plants are doing well, and not one has been stolen! Each time I planted any geraniums or colourful plants, I found cuttings taken etc, but with native plants, nobody's interested. Keep sortin' yer piles.

Vic xxx

*Working with our local community*

**Geoff WILSON MP**

**State Member for Ferny Grove**



**ELECTORATE OFFICE:**  
Nepean Centre  
Unit3/6 Nepean Ave  
Arana Hills

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm**  
Tuesday night by appointment

**Tel: 3851 1570 Fax: 3851 1261**  
**Email: ferny.grove@parliament.qld.gov.au**

## Cane Toads and Quolls

Anyone keeping track of the advance of cane toads across Northern Australia will have noticed the huge efforts people are going to try to lessen their effects and slow their advance. As a pest in such a reptile- and frog-rich environment, a major concern is the impact the toads will have on reptilian and frog populations, especially in wetland areas like Kakadu and in other wilderness areas like the Kimberley. A recent Top End competition was held to find the most effective cane toad trap, with numerous entries.

People are also very worried about the impact that toads will have on the Northern Quoll. A number of animals have been trapped and shipped to offshore islands as a measure to ensure their survival irrespective of the advance of toads. Their larger cousin, the Spotted Quoll, can still be found in South East Queensland though its range is now greatly reduced. It seems to be surviving in high-altitude areas like the Lamington Plateau and one reason seems to be the lack of toads in these areas. Requiring warmer temperatures, the toads don't yet seem to have evolved a cold-tolerant strain capable of surviving at such high altitudes. Spotted Quolls used to be a regular feature of forests and gullies here in the D'Aguilar Range. A carnivorous marsupial up to 7kg in weight and over a metre from nose to tail, this formidable hunter seems to have last been officially recorded in the area in the 1950s. Their disappearance coincided with the arrival of cane toads in these elevated areas and it is commonly thought that the toads were a major contributing factor to the decline of the Quoll. These beautiful fawn-coloured, white-spotted, cat-like hunters would probably have preyed upon toads and, like our local goannas and pythons, would die from eating these toxic pests.

Curiously, like the Tasmanian Tiger, there are regular reports of quoll sightings despite their supposedly being extinct (the quoll being thought locally extinct, the Tiger being thought to be extinct full-stop). The most recent sighting was made by two Park Rangers who claimed to have seen a Spotted Quoll crossing a fire-line during a burn off a year or so ago. It is tantalising to think that such a magnificent creature may yet remain in small numbers in remote gullies in the area. If they did persist in the area then control of cane toads would be an important part of maintaining and possibly even building their numbers. But it isn't just the quolls at risk. As many have seen, snakes and goannas fall victim these pests too. So, I was curious to see a recent CSIRO report that even small-scale attempts at trapping can greatly reduce local toad numbers with consequent benefits to local wildlife. Recent trapping trials by FrogWatch seems to confirm this. After extensive trials they have found that even a single trap can have a significant effect in an area. "The trials have shown that, during the dry season, traps can catch all the toads in an area around a house or block in a few weeks and that once the toads have been removed any new toads moving into the area seem to be quickly caught in the traps. Test sites have been kept relatively toad free by a single cage trap. Landowners have commented that they never see toads around the house anymore, except for those in the trap.

Keeping toad numbers suppressed in areas where the blocks of land are small and there is a reasonable density of people would seem to be achievable". FrogWatch trap trials report, <http://www.frogwatch.org.au/>. Traps can be purchased by following a link from the FrogWatch website above. About \$40 will get you a species-specific, humane cane toad trap that will produce huge benefits for your local wildlife. On the other hand, the good old method of wandering around outside your house at night near lights and catching them by hand and freezing them will have similar effects. Do your environment a favour, kill a toad tonight.

Dominic

## Traffic Consultation Group

With increasing population in the Greater Brisbane Region and urban sprawl swallowing "breathing spaces", much pressure is bearing down on those natural spaces that still remain. Proximity to Brisbane and abundance of natural features make Nebo/Glorious a fast growing tourist region. Tourists should be able to enjoy their escape from the strains of city life however an increase in tourism comes at a price. As more and more people visit this region the accident rate and deaths on the Nebo/Glorious road continue to climb.

A traffic calming campaign in the area has had limited success. Following a community meeting on 28 September 2005, attended by Pine Rivers council and police, it was agreed to establish a Community Traffic Consultation Group.

What is the Traffic Consultation Group?

The Traffic Consultation Group is made up of local residents. Its primary purpose is road safety through gathering information and making recommendations to councils and police based on community feedback. Local knowledge and feedback is a valuable tool in assisting police and councils in decision-making relevant to the Nebo/Glorious region. Anyone who lives in the region is welcome to join, assist or attend the meetings. The group meets every 4-6 weeks usually at Boombana Cafe. It has met twice and is finalising its first report to Council in the next month.

Who is in the group?

This group is currently made up of a spread of people from across the area. They are Rob Lachowicz and Iain Anderson from Mt Nebo village, Ann Bateson and Les Austin from Jolly's Lookout, Patricia Solomon from near The Goat Track and Bernie Chapman from Mt Glorious.

What can I do to help?

Residents can give information to the group personally, by phone or through the Incident/Hazard Reporting Form which is being distributed to the community and is available from our community website:

<http://www.gloriousnebo.org.au/CG/reportingform.pdf> Any comments or suggestions are most welcome. For further information ring

**Rob Lachowicz 3289 8250 or Ann Bateson 3289 3939**

## WORKERS WANTED

The Mt Nebo & Mt Glorious Environment Protection Association (MEPA) has limited funds available for specific weed-eradication projects in the local area. We are therefore calling for expressions of interest from members of the community who may be interested in undertaking such work on a casual basis. Volunteers are also sought to join existing volunteers with on-going projects (training supplied where necessary).

Email: [askmepa@yahoo.com.au](mailto:askmepa@yahoo.com.au) or phone **32890093**

## MEPA now targeting Morning Glory

The Mt Nebo & Mt Glorious Environment Protection Association (MEPA) is currently targeting the weed Morning Glory in local public areas. Residents are encouraged to join in and target the plant on private land (hand pulling is simplest). This vigorous twining climber is currently quite noticeable with its violet-blue trumpet-shaped flowers and large light-green leaves with a heart-shaped base (good specimens behind the bus shelter at Mt Nebo roundabout).

For more information or advice, Email: [askmepa@yahoo.com.au](mailto:askmepa@yahoo.com.au) or phone **32890093**

# Pine Rivers Greens

This is a must see movie length feature about the plight of asylum seekers and the treatment they receive from the Federal Government and the Detention Centre guards.

Presents

## 'ANTHEM'

Friday 10th February

Movie commences at 7PM

MT NEBO HALL

\$5.00 per head

(no charge for children but the film is not really suitable for young ones).

Tea, Coffee and cakes for sale.

Please come along and bring your friends.



## Plumbing Solutions

For quality work at competitive rates.  
Phone Trevor 3289 2980 or  
0408 884 345

New work - Maintenance  
Renovations - Hot water systems  
Gas fitting - Drain laying  
Blocked drains machine cleared  
Gold Card No: 618888

All Areas

Bernies Computer Help



- WebSites built / maintained
- New / Used Systems
- Repairs and Upgrades
- Virus Spyware Experts
- Flash / Photos / Tuition
- BroadBand / Networking

WE COME TO YOU

Friendly and simple PC talk

3325-0428 0419-797367

## Submission details

Di Clark - 3289 8309

Steve Reinthal - 3289 8281 (after 10.00am)

Please submit all articles by the 15th of the month to the Mt News Box located at the Post Office at Mt Nebo, or, if e-mail, by the 20th of the month to [mountain\\_news@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mountain_news@yahoo.com.au)

## "Entanglements"

An exhibition of new art by **Teone Reinthal**

on show February & March

@ MTA (More Than a Cafe)...

the all-new organic foods restaurant and artspace

28 Samford Rd. Alderley 3352 7225

Poetry and storytelling every Sunday 10-2

[www.teone.com.au](http://www.teone.com.au)

## Classifieds

**FOR SALE** - Cordless Phone & Answering Machine. Nice colour. \$50 Enquire Post Office.

**FOR SALE** - Washing Machine. Simpson 5kg Top Loader. Washes Clothes. \$75 Enquire Post Office.

**PUPPY SITTING** - I am looking for someone or a couple of people to look after our pup - Jack Russel x Foxie while we take a holiday. If interested ph: 3289 8319

### Samford Performer's Cafe

features new music from

**Dale Jones & Steve Reinthal**

featuring **Judy Sunman - Piano/Violin,**

**David Quinn - percussion.**

Fri Feb 3rd - 7.30pm. Old Catholic Church Samford



**1st. Wednesday** of the month - Mt Nebo Residents' Association meeting at the Hall. 7:30pm

**Every Wednesday** - Playgroup every Wednesday, 10am-noon at Mt Nebo Hall, \$2 per family, babies, toddlers, preschoolers welcome, please bring a plate to share.

## Paul's Collect-a Cap

Please collect all your milk bottle caps off Paul's Milk bottles. Each cap is worth 10cents to the school. Please drop them into the box in the school office, or leave with a child that attends the school so they can bring them in. Thank you for your help in our fundraising efforts.

## Bob Millar

**Councillor - Division 1  
Pine Rivers Shire Council**



*Working with the Community*

Council Services: **3480 6666** Fax: **3205 7305**

Mobile: 0409 890 203 A/H: 3289 5560

Email: [bob.millar@pinerivers.qld.gov.au](mailto:bob.millar@pinerivers.qld.gov.au)

Website: [www.pinerivers.qld.gov.au](http://www.pinerivers.qld.gov.au)

PO Box 5070, Strathpine Qld 4500

