

November 2008

Mountain

News

Community news from Mt Nebo and Mt Glorious

<http://gloriousnebo.org.au/MTN/>

No trees were harmed by the sending of this newsletter
however a lot of electrons were slightly inconvenienced.



*Do Your
Block!*

FREE BUSHCARE 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 PRSC)
(Contact Maggie - 3289 8175 or Dominic - 3289 0093)

BUSH FIRE
WARNING SIREN
TESTING

1ST WEDNESDAY
EACH MONTH
7.00 - 7.30PM

WILDLIFE CARE AND RESCUE
CALL PENELOPE ON 3289 0085

MICHELE HOBART

B.A., Dip. RM

REMEDIAL & SPORTS MASSAGE CENTRE
RELAXATION - SEATED CHAIR MASSAGE
DEEP TISSUE - FOOT REFLEXOLOGY
LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE

To relieve:

STRESS, NECK & BACK PAIN, HEADACHES
SPORTS & JOB RELATED INJURIES

0407 662 044

1863 Mt Nebo Road, Mt Nebo 4520

(Next to Boombana Café)

Health Fund Rebates - ATMS Member

Moreton Bay Regional Council

Notice of public
meeting

The Goat Track

At 7.30 pm on Wednesday 19 November
Moreton Bay Regional Council will hold a
public meeting at Mt Nebo Hall,
View Street, Mt Nebo.

The meeting will give council an
opportunity to brief residents on
a recent report about the Goat Track
and to discuss future options.

The meeting will allow residents to raise
any issues or concerns about the Goat
Track with council.

www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

LOCAL
TOP QUALITY
FIREWOOD

Phone: 32890156

REMEMBER IN CASE OF FIRE:

Telephone **000**

then **Terry Bradford: 3289 8181** or

Bob Snowdon: 3289 0150

D'Aguilar Range National Park News

Preparing for wildfire season

With summer fast approaching, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rangers have been hard at work preparing the park for this year's wildfire season. A bulldozer and a mulcher were used to clear forest fuel from the double fire break directly west of Mt Nemo township, from Fernlands Rd to Forestry Rd, reducing the ability of fire to move from one area to another. This fire break maintenance follows on from planned burns which were recently carried out throughout the D'Aguilar Range to reduce fuel loads, further minimising the chance of wildfire passing through the area, and providing protection to lives and local properties.

To ensure your own home is properly prepared in the event of a wildfire before the fire season begins;

- * ensure that gutters are cleared of leaves, and overhanging branches are removed from your roof,
- * mow grass and clear leaves and bark from around your house,
- * remove or cut bushes and weeds around sheds, fences and gates and
- * decide on a plan to either stay and defend your home or leave early if a wildfire threatens, and make sure you are familiar with the implications of either option.

For further information on preparing your home against a wildfire, visit www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au or drop in to the D'Aguilar Range information centre for a copy of the Rural Fire Service brochure.

Meeting between EPA and volunteer groups

In September, representatives from the Mount Nemo/Mount Glorious Environment Protection Association (MEPA) and the National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) met with EPA rangers to share ideas and knowledge relating to environmental weed control. The meeting provided an opportunity for all groups to support one another better, through planning for coordinated activities to deal with priority weed issues across the D'Aguilar Range. Similar meetings will now be held annually, and will give EPA rangers and volunteers working within the D'Aguilar Range an opportunity to focus their efforts in weed control even more productively.

Ian Witheyman, EPA

Minister Andrew McNamara thanks EPA volunteers

Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation Minister Andrew McNamara recently visited Ironbark Gully in Samford State Forest to thank EPA natural resource volunteers for the many hours they have devoted to removing environmental weeds from this area. Twelve volunteers contributed on the day, removing 1.2 tonnes of asparagus fern and mother-of-millions, and poisoning 200 square metres of Ochna plants. This dedicated group of volunteers, led by EPA rangers, meets every six weeks in various locations around the D'Aguilar Range and surrounding parks. They help to control weed populations and also attend to other natural resource management duties. To join the natural resource volunteers in the D'Aguilar Range, contact the EPA on 1300 130 372.

Justin Lee, Senior Ranger, EPA.

For more information about any of the topics in this column, please contact the EPA Customer Service Centre on 1300 130 372.



Weed 'em out and whip 'em in

WHY and HOW weeds invade.

Part II - in a series of MEPA's (Mt Glorious/Mt Nebo Environment Protection Association) monthly weed column.

The D'Aguilar Range is a beautiful natural region, and is a very important reservoir of a particular type of biodiversity: subtropical rainforests and wet and dry eucalypt forests - as well as many other different types of vegetation. But there are certain well-recognised threats to the area, and one is invasion by weeds.

Why and how do plants become "invasive" and categorised as "weeds"?

Plants have evolved different ways to make their living. Some, like trees, spend years investing energy into tall, thick trunks - but their reward is a leafy canopy with a permanent place in the sun, so the trees can spend the rest of their years reproducing. Vines invest in long tendrils or hooks, and stems that can move and seek supporting surfaces. They exploit the long-lived trees as supports, but they risk attaching to bark which falls off, or losing their position if their host tree falls down.

Most species that become weeds are fast-growing "pioneer" species, whose strategy is to rush in, grow, reproduce and die - as quickly as possible. These types of plants, in their native habitat, are usually controlled by a host of "natural enemies", i.e. insects and pathogens that eat or weaken them. But when plants are moved to new areas, their natural enemies are usually not taken along. So with nothing to hinder them, and with their inherent ability to colonise meaning that they are tolerant of a wide range of environmental conditions (ie they are not fussy about where they grow), then the scene is set for a take-over. Such new "invasions" may affect native vegetation in several ways: by smothering it, or taking up too many nutrients; or in more complex and subtle ways, such as overwhelming another plant that was the host for an insect that pollinates other plants...

Weeds may be spread by natural processes, or by human activity. In terms of managing human activity, researchers have identified three main ways that we spread weeds: intentionally (either authorised, or unauthorised) and accidentally. The following are only a few examples:

- garden escapes (accidental result of intentional human activity)
- garden dumping (intentional and unauthorised human activity)
- stormwater (rainwater behaving badly, as a result of human habitat change)
- wind and birds moving seeds (natural)

In addition, there are myriad wonderful stories that illustrate the complexity of ecological relationships. The Moreton Bay fig tree is native to our region. It has been grown in New Zealand since the earliest European visitations, but the small green "fruit" always dropped off without ripening. In 1993, for the first time, the fig's tiny pollinating wasps were recorded in Auckland - and researchers don't know whether they were introduced on purpose or they had blown across the Tasman from Australia. Wikipedia succinctly explains the vital relationship: "figs are only pollinated by wasps and fig wasps can only reproduce in figs". Since the arrival of its pollinator, these figs have fruited prolifically - and the birds have loved it. They spread its seeds. This large banyan is becoming a problem in New Zealand. It was also introduced to Hawaii early last century and is difficult to control because (a) it grows as an epiphyte perched in a tree and (b) it often invades steep terrain.

Garden escapes

Many plants that are sold in garden centres and planted in our gardens can become weeds during normal, natural process of reproduction. When birds eat their fruits and fly away, they deposit the seeds elsewhere surrounded by a little packet of bird fertiliser. Or the winds blow their seeds around. Or we do the gardening and get seeds stuck in our boots and transport them down the road... If there are disturbed areas of bare earth and sunlight, then there is a place for them to get established. A researcher in New Zealand once asked some hikers at the start of a trail if he could have their socks (and he gave them all a new pair). He took the "clean" socks back to the lab, and laid them on some soil and watered them. Apparently plants grew! This may be something to try at home.

Garden dumping

Gardeners may dump pruned plant parts, or mown grass, leaf litter or soil over the fence into the bush. We may also bring in garden materials for mulch, for example, and put these in our garden: if they contain plant seeds, these are likely to grow. Dumped soil risks introducing weed seeds, and it also buries native plants and their seeds.

Stormwater

Each time it rains, falling water is either caught by natural vegetation and filtered down into the soil, or it falls on human-made hard surfaces such as concrete. "Rain" becomes "stormwater" when it flows freely off roads, rooves, car parks, factories and driveways. In towns and cities, we have stormwater drains that catch and channel all this water - usually in untreated form (full of cigarette butts and car oil) out to sea. But it also flows along roads and into forests and fields.

Weed 'em out and whip 'em in (con't)

Stormwater does two things: it flushes and transports fertilisers and organic materials with it to change surrounding soil chemistry, and it also carries seeds. Some of the materials washed off our hard surfaces include car oil, dust, garden pesticides and herbicides, animal faeces, cigarette butts and fertilisers. Many of these materials get deposited and so increase the nutrient level of the soil: it is interesting to think that all our waste products containing nutrients, but they do, amongst the pollutants. It is a paradoxical, but very interesting, fact that in many places in the kingdom of vegetation diversity arises from adversity. Many of Australia's interesting native plants grow in low-nutrient conditions. Australia is known for its generally old, infertile soils. In heathlands (for example) all over the country, low-nutrient sandy soils are home to a great diversity of plants. Any plant that grows here has had to evolve to deal with the low nutrient situation, and so greater numbers of species are present, but in lower numbers of individuals. The only advantage these plants have over others (for example from areas of higher soil nutrient level) is their ability to thrive in low-nutrient conditions, so as soon as the nutrient level rises, other plants can grow more vigorously and monopolise the space. When stormwater brings nutrients (effectively "fertilising" the soil) then conditions are created which suit the plants from other countries. And so weedy species take over from the local, native ones. In addition, fast-flowing stormwater may erode the ground and provide new, bare earth surfaces where weed seeds can become established.

We can help alleviate the problem by doing the following:

- § learning to recognise weeds with books, free Council booklets and posters, website information and the help of MEPA
- § understanding how and why weeds spread
- § removing bush-invading plants from our gardens
- § choosing only bush-friendly garden species
- § composting and mulching green waste
- § disposing of other waste at the tip
- § keeping our gardens within their boundaries
- § retaining car wash and garden water on our blocks
- § choosing to use phosphorous-free detergents
- § using only organic slow-release fertilisers
- § mulching to improve water absorption and retention
- § keeping garden wastes out of the road gutters
- § picking up pet wastes and disposing of them responsibly
- § always keeping to authorised bushland tracks
- § encouraging our friends and neighbours to follow these principles
- § and joining a local bushcare group, or MEPA.

I'd like to acknowledge the excellent website http://www.weedsbluemountains.org.au/weed_invasion.asp that I've used as a template for this month's article.

For more detailed information see also the IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss caused by Alien Invasive Species http://www.issg.org/infpaper_invasive.pdf which I compiled and was a large part of my work during the late 1990s.

Sarah Lowe

From the Fossa archives



Image of the Mt. Nebo Garage and Service Centre as it was in the 1980s. Car repairs and Servicing were done here. The business was re-established by then local man Greg Fox after the site lay silent for many years.

SCHOOL BUSHLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT - WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?

The Mt Nemo State School grounds include a large bushland area known as 'The Gully'. Access to The Gully was closed in 2007 due to a large number of dead or dying trees. The area cannot currently be used due to the threat of falling branches from those trees.

Earlier this year the P & C Association was successful in obtaining a grant from the Pine Rivers Shire Council to remove some of the dead trees from a small part of the area so that it could be re-opened for use by the students. The wood from the trees was used for seating and also for some totem poles. An application is being made to the Moreton Regional Council for a further grant to re-open another small area (Stage 2), however there is still a very large area that will remain closed for use even if Stage 2 is successfully completed.

The School administration and P & C Association, in consultation with the wider Mt Nemo community, would like to develop a master plan for removal of the remaining dead trees and replanting of the area. It is thought that the master plan would provide for this to occur in stages and would encompass a vision for the use of the area as the stages are complete. It is hoped that the area would eventually become self-sustaining by becoming a resource that can be used by the wider community and possible other schools and community groups (for example, the vision might include part of the area being offered for use as a camp ground or part of the area containing an outdoor amphitheatre).

If you would like to be involved in the development of the master plan, then please email your details (and any thoughts you have) to Kirrily Greatrex (kirrily@mtneboalestate.com.au).

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland
Annual Report 2007-2008 has been published
and is now available online at

http://www.wildlife.org.au/ebulletin/annualreports/wpsq2008_web.pdf

If you would like to receive a paper copy of this Annual
Report,
please email wpsq@wildlife.org.au

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland
95 William Street Brisbane
QLD 4000
Publishers of Wildlife Australia
Magazine since 1962.



All Areas
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Road Raves

The death of another motor cyclist on the Mt Nebo Road near the Gap a few weekends back is another sad reminder of the danger on our roads. Our thoughts and prayers go to those affected by this terrible tragedy.

On the same week a truck went over the edge on the Mt Glorious (PEI) road.

Crashes happen at alarming regularity. Most are not reported.

Remember to drive safely, under the speed limit, don't tailgate and pull over safely if you're driving slowly. If you see hoon cars or speeding motorbikes, please keep complaining to police and Council. The more we do this, the more likely there will be action to slow people down.

The Mountain Traffic Group meets every few weeks to discuss issues on the road. Some of our members are very busy and have had to cut back on participation in the group. We're seeking more people from Glorious Nemo to be involved..

Please contact Robert Lachowicz (3289 8250)

Hoon Line

If you see hoons or other dangerous road users call the police (The Gap 3511 0077, or Ferny Grove 3851 4499).

If it's possible and safe, get a description of the vehicle and number plates.

If they have resources available at the time, police should respond.

The Mountainfolk Bulletin Board...

Older, fatter, poorer and more fun than ever before.

Join us...it's all free and provides instant communication with locals.

If you want to chat about anything or just lurk - reading what everyone else is saying.....then what are you waiting for? *Join up!*

email us at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mountainfolk>

(Say hello and tell us who you are in your email)

Qld Art Gallery

Although the headline grabbing exhibitions have finished for a time at Queensland Art Gallery, there is a small jewel of an exhibition on display in GoMA. "Placemakers: Contemporary Queensland Architecture" has drawn a surprising amount of interest for a relatively small budget exhibition.

Of natural interest to the vibrant population of architects who practice in this city, the exhibition is also drawing a considerable interest from the general public. Many award winning designs are on show and although we may not all understand the intricacies of architecture, we certainly appreciate homes interestingly designed for our sub-tropical style of living. Familiar architecture firms such as Donovan Hill, Architectus and John Mainwaring are represented, as well as a variety of large and very small firms. The collection of large visual images, small 3D models, and video footage reveals the extraordinary diversity of architecture being produced in Queensland. It is interesting to see how the traditional Australian building materials such as timber and tin are being translated into a contemporary language.

The heroes of Queensland architecture are being recognized for their work which, with its own distinctive flavour, is making its mark around Australia, and the world.

Keep painting, printing and playing

Janette

Moreton Bay Regional Council



Bob Millar
Councillor Div 11

*Working with
the Community*

Council Services: 3480 6666

Councillors Office: 3480 6455

Mobile: 0409 890 203

E: bob.millar@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

W: www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

The Wilson Report

\$90 Million Maintenance Boost for Local Schools

I am pleased to announce that six state schools in the Ferny Grove electorate, including Samford State School, will benefit from the Bligh Government's commitment to spend an extra \$90 million over two years on state school maintenance. \$45 million would be spent this financial year under the State Schools of Tomorrow- external finishes upgrade program in 895 schools throughout the state. This funding has been set aside for maintenance at state schools and Environmental and Outdoor Education Centres. Ferny Grove State High School and Samford, Ferny Grove, Ferny Hills, Mitchelton and Patricks Road State Schools will share a total budget of \$234,791 through this program.

New Zoning for Moreton Bay Marine Park

Premier Bligh recently announced the new zoning plan for Moreton Bay Marine Park. The new zoning plan will come into effect on 1 March 2009 and over the coming months, the EPA will be installing signs and markers, and distributing a range of information including maps and brochures to help you navigate the marine park and identify the new zones. Moreton Bay Marine Park has four zone types which provide varying levels of protection and allow a range of uses in different parts of the marine park. The new zoning plan also includes a series of designated areas where special management requirements apply. These areas, which are just as important as an area's zoning, provide an additional level of protection for species, habitats or values, or are used to manage specific areas in the marine park. Designated areas include 'Go Slow' and 'No Anchoring' areas. Marine reserves are important for preserving the biodiversity of marine areas. They protect rare and threatened species, important natural habitats and provide benefits for fisheries species. For more information visit www.epa.qld.gov.au/moretonbay Or Freecall 1800 105 789.

Miners Memorial Day

As Minister for Mines and Energy I attended the State Government's first Miner's Memorial Day on 19 September at the Roma Street Parklands. The inaugural Service was held on the anniversary of the worst mining disaster in Queensland's history. On the 19th September, 1921, 75 miners lost their lives in a coal dust explosion at Mount Mulligan in far north Queensland.

On this day we remembered not only the Mount Mulligan miners, we also remembered the miners of Box Flat, Kianga, Collinsville and Moura, and all miners who have lost their lives since mining began in Queensland in the 1800s. Mining has helped forge our strong economy. From the early gold rush days, it has become a multi-billion dollar industry that is powering the state. And while we enjoy the benefits of the resources boom, we should reflect on how we got here and at what price - that's what Miners Memorial Day is all about. In the following years this service will be held in regional centres around the state.

Out & About

I held regular mobile offices on Saturday 25 October at the Ferny Way Shops and the Samford Shopping Centre. This was a great chance to catch up. Next month I will be hosting a mobile office at Bunya. Watch this space for more information.

I recently attended the West Arana Hills Football Club's Trophy Day. It was a great morning with our young football players. Congratulations to all on an outstanding season.

In closing, I welcome people contacting me with their views and seeking information or help with any State Government matter. Telephone me on 3851 1570, fax me on 3851 1261, email me on fernyp.grove@parliament.qld.gov.au, or check out my website, www.geoffwilsonmp.com. My Electorate Office is at 3/6 Nepean Avenue, Arana Hills - next to the Caltex Service Station (office hours 9:00 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 5:00 pm week days).

a3 full colour posters \$1.10
a4 colour prints \$0.55
cheap flyers and postcards too!
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Working with our local community

Geoff WILSON MP



**State Member for
Ferny Grove**

ELECTORATE OFFICE:
Nepean Centre
Unit 3/6 Nepean Ave
Arana Hills

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

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

Classifieds

YOGA IS STILL ON at the Mt. Nebo Hall

Monday's at 7- 8.30 pm and Friday's at 10am -11.30.

All ages welcome. For more info phone Jeanne on **32890235**

FOR SALE - STRAINER POSTS, recycled house stumps, good solid timber, \$20.00 each. Can deliver. phone **3289 0020**

CHILDREN'S CAR SEAT FOR SALE - Safe-n-Sound maxi rider \$70 phone Sue **3289 0098**

FOR SALE - 1 x Cedar PVC EcoBlinds 180cm wide x 137cm drop \$60; 1 x working Upright Small Chest Freezer \$25; 1 x 3 seater SofaBed,VGC, \$140; 3 x handbags VGC \$5 each; Black Suede Jkt with a little mark on it, hardly worn \$40; Size 12 Wedding outfit (dress, wrap, veil, tiara, bag) \$300; Retro 1970s ski outfits, 1 male, 1 female \$80 for both. Can email photos katerush@minilease.com.au or Tel **3289 8228 Kate Rush.**

CHILDRENS DRUMMING CIRCLE - 9th November 4pm - 5.30pm. Children of all ages welcome. Come have Fun!! Drums and Rattles supplied. Bookings essential. \$5.00 per child. For more info. Ph. Maureen Lyell Deer Farm. **3289 4270**

NATIVE AMERICAN CEREMONIAL FULL MOON DRUMMING CIRCLE - Thursday 13th. November 7.30 - 9.30 pm.All Welcome. Adults \$10.00 N/C for Children.Ph. Maureen for more information **3289 4270**

REMEDIAL MASSAGE & release for chronic pain, and associated stress. 25 years experience, last seven years in Samford Valley, and now here in Mt. Glorious. Available weekdays, and evenings. Mobile massage also available, on request. Ph. Anne **0412 099 091**

PAINTING CLASSES - Beginner's watercolour classes by artist Janette Bailey. Easy, fun, creative. For more information please call Janette on **3289 8251**

Mt Nebo Community Exchange System (CES) is a non-profit community exchange system for sharing skills & is based on the idea that all people have valuable skills to share with their community, whether they are under-employed, unemployed or retired. HOW to make use of the communities true wealth - the skills & services of the people, without the use of money. Join CES \$FREE at www.community-exchange.org
e: nebo@community-exchange.org

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Diary
Dates

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

2nd. Monday of the month - Mt Nebo P&C Assoc meeting at 7pm ASC Bldg. (No meetings in School Holidays)

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

2nd Saturday of the month - Working Bee at the Community Hall 10 am - 12 midday. Please come along and help maintain the hall & gardens - jobs for everyone to help with.



Town & Country

Pumps & Pipes

- * Water tanks & installations
- * Pump sales & advice
- * Pump repairs & installations
- * Irrigation supplies
- * Plumbing sales & service
- * Water saving showers
- * Water filtration systems

Samford Central Shopping Centre 07 32891888

Submission details

Di Clark - 3289 8309

Steve Reinthal - mountain_news@yahoo.com.au

Please submit all articles by the **20th of the month** to the Mt News Box located at the Post Office at Mt Nebo or e-mail, by the **23rd of the month** to mountain_news@yahoo.com.au. Please supply your e-mail article with MTN in the Subject . Put articles in the body of the e-mail, as attachments can be messy. Pictures should be in JPEG or TIFF format, with a minimum resolution of 300dpi, copy in TEXT. **Please** don't send us MSWord ".doc" attachments or even worse, fancy schmancy things done in MSPublisher. How did that software ever get allowed out?? And now, there's .docx!! WTF is that? We really mean this bit. We *hate* Microsoft Word because it should be hated, we want to hate it, and we can, oh look, now you've got us started agin on Microsoft! PLEASE just don't do it, but you are probably going to totally ignore that request anyway aren't you? Why not? Everyone else does. You aren't actually even reading this are you? We're just muttering to ourselves...The articles in the Mt News reflect the views of the contributing authors and not necessarily those of the Mt News Committee (except the bit about hating MS Word). If you are actually reading this, you're actually the third person to ever do so, or else your the 1st or 2nd reading it again!! but hey, what's up? Either you need to get a library card or you really do care. Thank you. Crochet is good too but like a song you need a good hook, especially for doing sharp hospital corners on lamingtons

We use advertising as a service to the community and as a way to cover costs.

We have two levels of advertising—classified and display. Classifieds are by donation. Display advertising is still charged at the following ridiculously low rates:

1/8 page:	\$15.00 per issue	\$135 per year
1/6 page	\$20.00 per issue	\$180 per year
1/4 page	\$30.00 per issue	\$270 per year
1/2 page	\$60.00 per issue	\$540 per year

Classified ads by donation.

Date: 5 October, 2008

Botanic garden review

MORETON Bay Regional Council will investigate further its options in relation to botanical gardens and horticultural values for the region.

This follows a request to council from the Queensland division of the Society for Growing Australian Plants for a regional botanic garden to be established in the area.

The society said amalgamation of the former councils of Pine Rivers, Caboolture and Redcliffe brought together a logical grouping of natural environments covering the catchments of rivers and streams that flowed into Moreton Bay.

The organisation said there now was a significant opportunity to research and assess the diverse eco-systems of the related plant communities under the control of one local government agency.

Parks committee chairman, Cr Gary Parsons, said council's investigations would include examining areas of significant botanic and horticultural values under its control or under the control of a state government agency.

He said the society had also suggested the council adopt a floral emblem for the region and this would be considered when a logo was selected for the Moreton Bay Regional Council.

ENDS

John Shears
Media, Marketing and Communications Unit
Tel: 3283 0209
Fax: 5420 0388

21 October, 2008

Goat Track future discussed

From 7.30pm on Wednesday 19 November, 2008 council will hold a public meeting at Mt Nebo Hall, View Street, Mt Nebo to discuss the Goat Track.

Division 11 Councillor Bob Millar said the meeting would give representatives of council and the local community an opportunity to discuss a recent report concerning the road.

"I encourage members of the local community to come along and share their views about this part of Mt Nebo," Cr Millar said.

ENDS

Matthew Hendry
Media, Marketing and Communications
Tel: 3283 0423

Date: 10 October 2008

Council bids to highlight war sites

MORETON Bay Regional Council will apply for State Government grants to highlight significant World War 2 sites in the region.

Mayor Allan Sutherland said while some World War 2 sites had been audited and well documented, others had not.

He said the council would seek to research and develop an inventory of World War 2 sites for inclusion on the council's website. These would include their condition, GPS co-ordinates as well as site and aerial photographs.

"The council would also like to develop a visitor trail or visitor interpretive centre or perhaps put in place conservation and protection measures for some of the remnant structures of Fort Bribie and the Bribie Island bunkers," Cr Sutherland said.

"The Moreton Bay region was a significant training area for pilots as well as being a rest and recreation area for both American and Australian troops. There are also significant fortification sites around the region.

"All of these areas are of historical importance and will become even more so in the future," he said.

The grants are available under the State Government's "World War Two Markers Project" as part of its "Celebrating Our History" policy which was released in 2006.

ENDS

John Shears
Media, Marketing and Communications Unit
Tel: 3283 0209
Fax: 5420 0388

24 October, 2008

Staff awarded for South-East disaster strategy

Two Moreton Bay Regional Council staff have been recognised for helping to make South-East Queensland a safer place in times of emergency.

Peter Marsh and Eleanor Davidson both played vital roles in helping guide the South-East Queensland Disaster Management Advisory Group (SEQDMAG) to a win at the 2008 Australian Safer Community Awards.

The group was recently awarded the Local Government Award Category for Regional Standard Operating Procedures for Event Coordination Centres.

Mayor Allan Sutherland said the group, made-up of representatives from South-East Queensland councils and Noetic Consultants, had achieved major advances in disaster management.

He said the project had developed a set of standard operating procedures and a guide-to-action handbook for local government Event Coordination Centres.

“Standardising disaster management procedures will help to ensure all South-East Queensland councils have steps in-place to facilitate a rapid and effective disaster management response,” Cr Sutherland said.

“Better yet, it will allow neighbouring councils to provide a consistent level of disaster management support in the rare case of an overwhelming event.

“The guide-to-action handbook will also give individuals access to vital information including key appointments, checklists and points of contact.”

Cr Sutherland thanked all SEQDMAG members for their involvement in the project.

“It’s really good to see council staff achieving great things for the South-East Queensland community,” he said.

“It’s also a reminder of the many highly-skilled council employees working behind the scenes to drive our Moreton Bay region forward.”

ENDS

Matthew Hendry
Media, Marketing and Communications
Tel: 3283 0423

DATE: October 22, 2008

Tickets selling fast to Mayor's Chaplaincy Support Breakfast

Time is running out to get your tickets to the Mayor's Chaplaincy Support Breakfast, with special guest speaker Australian rugby union legend Tim Horan.

The annual charity breakfast will be held at Morayfield Community Hall on November 7.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from Richardson and Wrench, 87 Morayfield Road, Caboolture South.

More than 350 people are expected to attend this year's breakfast, so get in early as tickets are selling fast.

Moreton Bay Regional Council Mayor Allan Sutherland said the fantastic community event offered good food, great entertainment and also helped raise funds for the vital school chaplaincy program.

"School chaplains provide a vital service to our kids and play a major role in ensuring they lead fulfilling lives after school," Councillor Sutherland said.

"The chaplaincy breakfast is a way for community members and businesses to support this worthwhile program."

In addition to hearing guest speaker Tim Horan, chaplaincy breakfast attendees will have the chance to bid for a host of auction items including a framed 2008 Beijing Olympics jumper signed by local Olympic athletes including swimming star Jessicah Schipper and a Tim McAulay painting.

Major sponsors for the event are National Australia Bank Caboolture and Queensland Hire. Other sponsors include Crediflex, Richardson & Wrench, Club Caboolture, McDonald's Restaurants, Caboolture Sports Club, Stockade Nursery, John Page Motors and Radio 101.5FM.

ENDS

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Council discovers new aquatic species

THIRTEEN species of macroinvertebrates – tiny marine creatures without a backbone – which were collected from Moreton Bay waterways are new to science.

They were collected during regular monitoring of freshwater streams and have added to the council's reputation as leader in aquatic science.

Sustainability committee chair, Cr Rae Frawley, said council had expert knowledge of freshwater macroinvertebrates which lived in waterways and helped determine the health of the system by reacting to pollutants within the water.

She said systematic monitoring of some of the region's waterways had led to 557 species of macroinvertebrates being recorded and 212 of these were yet to be formally described by scientists.

"Many of these species had been collected before and were included in official museum collections with preliminary code names," Cr Frawley said.

"However, 13 species found in streams in the Pine Rivers district were collected for the first time and are new to science.

"The first findings about their habitat requirements and ecological preferences were recently published. It was pioneering work for Queensland mainly based on council's database.

"Council's stream monitoring program is ground-breaking and significantly contributes to the knowledge of Queensland's fauna and biodiversity," Cr Frawley said.

Stream monitoring has been taking place in parts of the region for the past 11 years.

ENDS

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30 October, 2008

Council backs blood-drain

While the average person has around five and a half litres of blood in their body, division 7 Councillor David Dwyer has already donated more than 11 times that amount.

He recently made his 125th donation, equivalent to more than 62 litres of blood.

Cr Dwyer said it was crucial members of the community, especially those with type O blood, regularly donated.

“Blood saves lives,” Cr Dwyer said.

“Around 20,000 Australians need blood each week – so it’s important people regularly donate to keep blood stocks high.”

Cr Dwyer said he also encouraged people to donate platelet and plasma cells.

He said while these cells could only currently be donated at the blood bank in the city, a new blood bank facility was planned for Chermside in early 2009.

“Platelet and plasma cells assist children and adults undergoing major cancer treatments for illnesses such as leukaemia,” Cr Dwyer said.

“Currently only around 3.5 per cent of eligible blood donors actually donate blood.

“Donating blood is free, takes around an hour and can help save the lives of up to three people,” he said.

“When you actually realise how many people will require blood in their lifetime – pregnant women, the sick and injured – it makes you realise how vital this cause really is.

“Although 2009 is the year of the blood donor, I would like to encourage people from across the Moreton Bay Region to get head start before the New Year.”

For more information about donating blood, or to book an appointment, contact the Australian Red Cross Blood Service on 13 14 95 or visit www.donateblood.com.au

ENDS



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