

April 2005

Mountain

News

Community news from Mt Nebo and Mt Glorious
www.gloriousnebo.org.au/MTN/

Residents' Association Report

Road Safety

Last month's meeting on road safety was attended not only by locals, but also three people from The Gap who's car had been run off the mountain road and written off. We discussed some issues and the meeting agreed to contact police and Council about: Signs encouraging slower cars to pull over; making more pull over places for cars; entrances to the village; indications of residential areas; effective and appropriate policing; making a 50k zone through the village; reducing Goat Track speed limit; campaigns to educate drivers and cyclists.

There are groups of night drivers and car clubs that come up intermittently and drive dangerously. One idea is to set up a phone tree from outside the village to alert us when a group come up so we can try to photograph them as they come through the village. There's also a police Hoon Line **3364 3399**(w/h) or **3364 6464** where police gather info and plan ways to respond.

If anyone has energy and ideas for making the roads safer please contact us. At the very least – please drive responsibly. We locals travel the road most days and need to drive within the speed limit, pull over safely if we're going too slow and care for injured wildlife. Please also take time to remove any dead animals that may have been left by irresponsible or unaware drivers.

On the subject of traffic calming, beware of very large things lurking around Mt Nebo around 30 April!!

Welcome to Mt Nebo

The village entrance project is starting – start thinking of what an entrance to this wonderful paradise could be. More info later.

Fire and rain

Hopefully when you read this we would have had huge Easter rains. Whatever happens we need to continually remind ourselves of the dangers of fire and need to reduce fire hazards around our homes.

Our meetings are on the first Wednesdays of each month at 7:30pm. The Association aims to support a safe and healthy community life and environment.

Cheers.

Robert Lachowicz, President. Phone 3289 8337



At the AGM on February 14, we were pleased to welcome our State AMLA Geoff Wilson and our PRSC Councillor Bob Millar, both of whom spoke after the brief formal AGM business was completed. We appreciate their generous giving up of the evening.

One outcome is that Bob Millar acted very promptly and Lindsay Road now has PRSC street addressing, but not the type provided for other roads in Mt Glorious based on distance in metres from Mt Glorious Road. The latter facilitates finding houses in emergencies and there may be sound reasons why we do not have it. Half Lindsay road has now been given block numbers, but not the unformed half which crosses Maiala Creek and goes up an impossibly steep gradient, then past the Brown's property and ends at the Joffe's. The latter two properties' only access is through the National Park via Browns Road. The official responsible many years ago obviously had never seen the area, and/or perhaps had had a long liquid lunch. Nevertheless despite a formed Lindsay Road never reaching them, I understand that the Electoral Commission still has Lindsay Road as the Browns' official address. We sometimes have visitors coming down Lindsay Road looking for David Joffe. Another anomaly is that the Teakles, now assigned 11 Lindsay Road, have to do their own road maintenance despite paying full rates. The workings of government are sometimes obscure.

The committee for 2005 was elected as follows: Darryl Honor, President; John Hillcoat, Vice-President; Bob MacLennan, Secretary; Dierdre Macfee, Treasurer; Yvonne Mills and Bob Wills, Committee Members. Michael Phillips was appointed as Auditor.

Bob MacLennan, Secretary

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. Email questions to askmepa@yahoo.com.au or write to ASKMEPA, PO Box 29, Mt Nebo Q 4520.

Q I have been told that there are two types of Ginger plant growing on the mountain and only one is a native. Is this true?

I have been told that there are two types of Ginger plant growing on the mountain and only one is a native. Is this true?

A Yes The Native Ginger is common but another Indian variety is also commonly grown. It is grown mainly for its showy yellow flowers (the Native Ginger has smaller white flowers) and this is the most obvious difference. Its leaves are also proportionately broader, and often thicker and darker, with more wavy edges. There are more fine-grained differences but the flowers are the obvious giveaway. (If you're wondering give us a call, x0093)

There is now some concern that the Indian Ginger may be going walkabout. (Experiences abroad suggest it could become a significant weed.) At present several large flowering clumps are growing on the steep, shady, rocky escarpment above the Western Track (between 'The Window' and Lawton Road) at Mt Glorious. It's also been seen in one of the tributaries of Love Creek, along Lawton Road and Joyners Ridge Road and of course the Northbrook Parkway and Mt Glorious Road. Sadly, almost all ginger seedlings popping up in The Summit area (and there are many) are the Indian variety. The plant does not seem to need a disturbed site with sun in order to establish so can germinate and grow to maturity in shady, off-the-track, parts of the forest.

Some great work is under way at The Summit to get rid of roadside and bush plants. For big clumps you can use the cut-and-dab method with a 1:2 solution of glyphosate (i.e. Roundup or similar) to water. It takes very little time when working as a pair, one cutting the stems and the other dabbing the cuts immediately with solution (via paintbrush or small bottle). Small plants can be dug out, the tuberous rhizomes cut off and dumped in the bin and the leaves and stalks left to mulch. It sometimes takes several 'goes' to kill a clump.

The Native Ginger is not as showy but for most of the year when not flowering it looks similar to the exotic one. Its flowers are white and the fruits are an attractive dark slate-blue and much-loved by the local birds. A point of interest for native food samplers: when the thin blue shells of the fruit ripen and crack, brown seeds enclosed in small amounts of pulp are exposed and these have a pleasant flavour. It has been reported that in some areas aboriginal paths could be detected by the trail of spat-out ginger seeds they left in their wake.

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

Bush Tales

Summer can produce some nights on the Mountain that are so quiet that you can hear a gumnut drop from a kilometre away, or so it seems. Standing outside in the silence is a delight many people these days have to live without. Most cities are pretty noisy places one way or another.

A few months ago, on just such a night, I stepped out to enjoy the calm. The warm weather had coated the night in a stillness that was, at first, only broken by the snuffling of a bandicoot somewhere nearby. But as I stood there enjoying the nothingness there was a thin, faint popping sound like a distant marsh-frog declaring its position. Then another, and then another.

As the faint noises followed one another they started coming from all over the forest, left and right, high and low. Now, the only local frogs I knew of weren't that evenly distributed and I was also pretty sure that marsh-frogs didn't engage in extreme sports like tree-climbing. They supposedly like marshes (after all, they're *marsh* frogs), and that kinda keeps them on the ground! So I stood there quietly wondering what was making this weird sound.

As it happened, it was the sound of the forest itself growing. The tall bluegums, smooth and pale for most of the year, were shedding their bark, which had darkened and was peeling from the tree in short strips. The night was unusually dry and the moist sea-air hadn't yet made it inland. As the bark dried in the night air it peeled away from the tree, scratching against the trunk as the strips curled into tubes, there to hang from the tree another few days before falling. The effect of the curling and scratching was a slight sound as the tree and its shedding skin rubbed one another.

From all over the forest came this scratching and popping, high and low, as the forest shed its skin. It was the first time I stood there and heard the sound of trees growing.

The curling bark turned out to be of interest to other forest dwellers too. Spiders find the housing opportunities too good to ignore and set up home in the temporary shelter the curled up bark provides. And the birds come after them. Currawongs, Treecreepers, Whipbirds and Shriketits all take the opportunity to forage for a feed of juicy spiders, with the night sound of peeling bark now accompanied by the daytime sound of bark being crushed in birds beaks.

Eventually the annual shedding of skin comes to an end, the forest continues to grow in silence, and the birds move on to other seasonal meals.

bushtales@hotmail.com

Mt Glorious
Roadside Revegetation
Working Bee
10am - 12pm Saturday, April 16th
@ Bryce's Rd gate, Mt Glorious
(opposite Camp Constable)
Join in! LEARN! Have some fun!
Bring hat, gloves & water for some local weeding



Councillor's column

TENDIRIS PTY LTD PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COURT APPEAL

The original submitters to the development application in June 2002 on what has for a long time been referred to as the Ogle land at Highvale (now owned by Tendiris Pty Ltd) and previously refused by Council, will have received in early March, a letter from Tendiris' lawyers advising that the letter enclosing Notice of Appeal BD4569 received in the days around Christmas 2004 neglected to inform the submitters of their right to become a Co-Respondent to that Appeal. This re-opened the opportunity for those original submitters to become co-respondents to the appeal, but these had to be filed with the Court within ten (10) days of the most recent letter/notice (dated 2 March 2005) being given to the submitters. Hopefully, with a little more time to have contemplated this issue and away from the distractions of Christmas, more of these submitters will have been able to give thought to their preferred course of action.

MOUNT NEBO TRANSFER STATION

Some concern has been expressed at the risk of weed infestation around the Transfer Station. This is entirely understandable and given the efforts that so many people put into keeping the Mountain areas as clean as possible, it is important that Council does its bit around this facility. A high level of contact is maintained with Qld Parks Officers and I am aware that Dave Kington has been providing advice on the management of the transfer station as it relates to animal and weed control. Council officers from Pine Waste are currently putting in place arrangements that will hopefully provide more effective control of the weed problems.

WILD DOGS = TROUBLE

Residents around the Shire, and particularly those in the forest fringe areas are reminded that the latest litters of wild dogs are now about 6/7 months old and are honing their hunting techniques as they search for food. Reports have again been received in recent weeks of some horrific encounters between domestic pets and the wild dogs and whilst Council officers have been undertaking active trapping programmes across the Shire, the cunning of these animals presents great challenge. The young dogs also show a level of aggression and boldness that can see them come into contact with residents and domestic pets. It is imperative that residents do not feed or encourage the dogs onto their properties. Please also ensure that all domestic animals under your care are kept as secure as possible, particularly at night. Council's Community Response Department is interested in receiving information regarding sightings of hybrid dogs and/or recent attacks on domestic animals and livestock. Although wild dogs are a part of our semi-rural environment and there is no specific obligation on Council to deal with them, an additional officer was recruited last year to help the community manage these pest animals. This additional resourcing will enable the implementation of even more targetted management programs in effected areas. I am aware of some specific problems on the Mountain and Council officers have been working with Queensland Parks and Wildlife officers to respond to some of these specific enquiries. Please contact Council on 3480 6666 with any information.

PINE RIVERS COMMUNITY NURSERY (KUMBARTCHO)

For some years, Councils Community Nursery at Bunya Pine Court, Eatons Hill which is staffed mostly by volunteers has conducted workshops for interested residents. The next in the 2005 series of workshops which are held between 8am and 10.30am on Saturdays is on Seed Sowing and Pricking Out and will be held on April 9th. This workshop will be followed on April 16th with one on Site Preparation, Planting Out and Weed Identification. The workshops are free and details can be obtained by calling Geoff on 3264 3953 or mobile 0418 195 807 during business hours. Places on these workshops are limited.

BROADBAND ON THE MOUNTAIN

I have for the last year or two been working with the Federal member, Peter Dutton to improve access to Broadband in the western parts of Pine Rivers Shire. Whilst Telstra seems to have lifted its game in recent times, it is clear that many areas of the Samford and Dayboro Valleys will be without access to hard wired broadband services for a long time. This particularly appears to include the Mountain area and whilst it is not my role to be recommending commercial enterprises, the lack of broadband service to my many constituents, is a matter of concern and I am keen to do whatever I can to help residents gain access to this service. I have also been working closely with a local company called Techsus Pty Ltd who have now established themselves as an experienced and professional supplier of wireless broadband to much of the Samford Valley and are supplying service to many satisfied residents on the Mountain. I mention this as a community service and interested residents might make any enquiries to Techsus on 3289 1414 or mobile 0414 639 638.

Dangerous Drivers?

Call the Hoon Line

3364 3399 (w/h)

OR

3364 6464

Police gather info and then plan responses.



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News from MEPA

A working bee was held recently along the main road at Mt Glorious to remove weeds from the revegetation work that has been carried out there last year. It was great to see that many of the young trees have at least doubled in size. Also, the Department of Main Roads has been removing weeds, such as Privet, from the road reserve.

Thank you to everyone who sent in letters urging Pine Rivers Shire Council to stand by their decision regarding the Tendiris application for material change of use of Lot 3 on RP 208443 (re – the Ogle development). We are now awaiting a hearing in the Environment and Planning Court. We will keep you all updated on further developments.

Finally, there has been some wonderful work undertaken clearing Lantana and Indian Ginger at the end of Alex Road by some of the local residents. If you are up that way at any time it is well worth the look!

Secretary MEPA

REMEMBER IN CASE OF FIRE:

Telephone **000** then

Terry Bradford: 3289 8181
or **Bob Snowdon: 3289 0150**

MT NEBO -

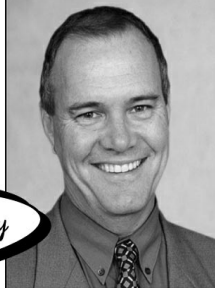
SATURDAY 30 APRIL!!

BEWARE OF THE VERY LARGE
TRAFFIC-CALMING MONSTER

Bob Millar

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

Working with the Community



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A funny thing happened....

One night a couple of weeks ago I went to the loo at about 10.30pm. Nothing funny about that considering I had to stagger down 2 flights of stairs, into the great outdoors & through the workshop under the house before finally reaching it. (I believe most houses these days have 3 1/2 bathrooms. Unfortunately we only got the 1/2! Bought one of those "renovators delights" at the summit.) Anyway, on my way back out of the workshop I heard a noise in the dirt under the stairs, within inches of my foot. It was a snake about a foot long, on it's back with it's mouth agape and tail writhing in the air. Now this is the "funny" bit. Standing right beside it, and me, calmly grooming itself was my mate 'Ol' One Eye', the bush rat. It has no left eye & a chunk of flesh missing from its head in front of its left ear. Apparently it had used a quick immobilisation technique on the snake with a bite directly behind the head. The rat continued grooming for a minute or two before disappearing behind a short length of downpipe that lay in the dirt, then stuck its head back out, grabbed the snake & pulled it behind the pipe. As I continued to watch from less than a metre away, the rat began grooming again until the snake ceased all movement. At this point dinner was ready. The rat picked up the snake and began eating it just below the head.

Tempted as I was to steal its dinner for a positive ID on the victim, I didn't interfere. The next morning I found a section of the snakes skin and the head. Under instruction from QLD Museum I hosed the dirt and pebbles from the remains and packaged and froze them. Next was to humanely trap Ol' One Eye' which was easily done.

So with predator and prey in hand I motored off the the museum for professional opinion. Excitedly the friendly experts confirmed that my furry mate is indeed a Native Bush Rat (*Rattus Fuscipes*) and its victim was a Rough Scaled snake (*Tropedichis Carinatus*) described as "much respected, vicious, irritable & aggressive....extremely potent venom...."

The staff asked if they could keep the snake remains, to which I agreed, but before any mention of the rats future was discussed, we were out the door and mountain bound. Ol' One Eye' was respectfully released back under the stairs with a cool drink (it had been a long hot day!)

Legend.. Did Ol' One Eye' save my foot from a potentially fatal snake bite, and if so where the heck was it the night I stepped outside the front door and straight onto a coiled Death Adder?? Lucky I had my thongs on!

Barbara Chamberlin

Working with our local community

Geoff WILSON MP

**State Member for
Ferny Grove**



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