



D'Aguiar Biosphere Proposal

(“Mimburi Biosphere”)

For a number of years now MEPA has been driving a proposal to seek UNESCO recognition and support for community efforts at improved regional sustainability in the Greater Brisbane Region by listing 340,000ha centred on the D'Aguiar Range as an international Biosphere. Why?

- To improve conservation outcomes: e.g. MEPA has built and manages a sophisticated weed-control partnership (worth about \$375K), involving all significant land managers in the area and helping protect our National Park estate. With recognition and support, more such projects can be extended across the Biosphere in urban and rural areas.

- To improve environmental research and monitoring: e.g. discussions are underway with professors from the University of Queensland to develop a \$1M research and monitoring program to improve natural area management in the Biosphere area. Achieving Biosphere listing is crucial for achieving this outcome.

- To enhance rural sustainability: e.g. beef and wine producers in the north and west of the proposed Biosphere area are seeking to develop a value-adding “sustainable produce label”

- Biospheres abroad have implemented such Biosphere labelling ... we can too.

- To enhance urban sustainability: e.g. the Samford community on Brisbane's outskirts has initiated the largest solar neighbourhood program in Australia to date, fitting some 150 houses with solar power. With recognition and support, considerably more initiatives can be developed.

Biosphere projects are voluntary, based on available opportunities. UNESCO listing brings no legislation or new laws, but listing will provide important recognition, focus and marketability for sustainability and other Biosphere initiatives. Many agencies, local governments, NGOs and local community groups within the proposed Biosphere area are now backing MEPA's call for this international support. After much discussion the State government has also agreed to allow the nomination to proceed. The listing case is all but ready to go forward to UNESCO. Only Brisbane City Council remains to be convinced of the benefits.

Dominic Hyde

For more information go to:

<http://www.gloriousnebo.org.au/biosphere>

Help Remove Chinese-Elms

MEPA Working Bee

Please come to a working bee to remove Chinese Elm seedlings from Manorina National Park.

Chinese Elm is a declared weed in Queensland.

Date: 20th December at 10.00am.

Meet at the entrance of the National Park. Bring gloves and secateurs.

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NATIVE
DECIDUOUS
FIG

(*Ficus superba* var. *henniana*)

This is truly a superb tree. It is a strangling fig and is often deciduous. A good example is growing beside Mount Nebo Road near 'The Goat Track' turn-off.

The leaves have a joint at the base of the leaf blade and the fruit is yellow turning purple with spots on maturity. The fruit are attractive to birds such as the beautiful, plump and colourful Wompoo Pigeons. Some people say they sometimes eat so much ripe fruit that they get drunk.



Ficus superba beside Mount Nebo Road near 'The Goat Track' turn-off.

NATIVE
Barklya
syringifolia
Crown of Gold Tree

tropical rainforest trees as its common name implies. It is flowering now and a fine example can be seen about one third of the way up the Goat Track. The beautiful golden canopy of flowers is easily spotted. It is quite rare in the bush but easy to grow. We have one at home if anyone would like a closer look or to take some seeds.

CATS

We have a niece who at the time of writing is in hospital under observation for Cat Scratch Disease. The cause of this disease is a bacterium (*Bartonella henselae*) which lives in the saliva of cats. Although the symptoms are usually reasonably benign, in our niece's case the disease caused rapid and painful swelling in the joint of her finger. She has been hospitalised for the last three days and has been put on a course of serious antibiotics for the next two weeks at least.

I notice in the most recent edition of 'The Understorey', the newsletter for the Pine Rivers Bushcare Volunteers that cats can be a vital link in the life cycle of the toxoplasmosis organism which causes internal formation of cysts and can affect almost any internal organ. It is particularly harmful for pregnant women who may experience abortion, still births and birth defects. (The Understorey, Issue No 5 - November 2008, Moreton Bay Regional Council P.7)

The devastating effect that cats have on the wildlife of the bushland has been well noted and documented. It would seem wise to carefully consider the possible consequences before bringing a cat into the home or the environment.

Incidentally, the reason our niece had the cat in the first place was that she was minding it because it gave asthma to the child of her friend, the previous owner.

Maggie Scattini

The leaves are the same shape as the lilac of the N.Hemisphere the genus of which is *Syringa* meaning a tube - to do with the immature leaf shape.

This is one of the most spectacular of our sub-