

TREC News

Jan- Feb 2005

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Toowoomba & Region Environment Council Inc

PO Box 1306
Toowoomba Qld 4350
Laurel Bank Park Hall
Hill St, Toowoomba

Phone: (07) 4632 1505
Fax: (07) 4638 2891
Email: info@trec.org.au
Web: www.trec.org.au

G. N. O. C. Funding More Funding Fun-n-Games

TREC has applied for a grant of \$17,600, (\$16,000 plus G.S.T.), through the Queensland Government's Conservation Grants for Non-Government Organisations program. Our previous requests for funding under G.N.O.C. have been successful with cheques usually arriving in January of the year following the application.

This program provides funding to organisations like TREC in support of their ongoing operations to create an awareness of and promote involvement of the community in environmental matters. Funds are intended to cover the day-to-day costs of running the organisation, rather than fund specific, high-profile initiatives.

The State election late last year, and the subsequent appointment of a new Minister for Environment, delayed implementation of the 2004-05 round of grants by several weeks. In an effort to ensure that funds would be available as early as possible in 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency reduced the lead time for preparation of submissions, so we had five or six working days to prepare our application. A similar problem has arisen with the Commonwealth Government's G.V.E.H.O. program which has been stalled since before the recent Federal election.

The E.P.A. has informed TREC that our application has been received and processed, and is now awaiting final approval which should be granted before the end of January. Hopefully the bank account will receive a healthy boost in the next few weeks.

World Environment Day Celebration

The TREC Committee has tentatively set the date for our World Environment Day celebrations for Sunday, June 5, (the weekend before the Queen's Birthday Holiday).

It is proposed that the event be held at Laurel Bank Park. The Environment Centre will be open to the public, and we will welcome the general public to have a look at what we are doing and where we plan to go. Other environmental groups will be invited to set up stalls in the park, and eateries like the Oxygen Café and the Dancing Bear will be welcome to provide coffee and other goodies. TREC will keep you informed of progress.

WaterWise Communities Project

In the lead-up to the recent Federal election, the government announced its intention to introduce the WaterWise Communities Initiative. Under this program community groups may apply for funding of up to \$50,000 to help implement practical projects which will help to save water.

The TREC Committee has been very concerned about the vast quantities of water needed to prepare the city for the annual Carnival of Flowers. It has been tentatively proposed that we should try to enhance the Carnival by turning it into a major WaterWise event. This would be an enormous project which would take some years to fully introduce. Like the old "Life Be In It" campaign, this initiative would progress over many years, and eventually change public attitudes to water usage.

Currently the Carnival tends to favour European style

gardens with lots of beautiful annuals. While this format continues to attract thousands of tourists, it is a very "thirsty" way of temporarily beautifying our already magnificent city.

The project would see a shift toward public and private gardens which require much less water. The use of efficient irrigation systems and the reuse of greywater could also play a major roll redefining the Carnival. After fine-tuning, our project could then be offered to any local authority keen to reduce domestic water use while enhancing parks and gardens.

TREC has made initial contact with the office of the Federal Minister for Environment to determine how the WaterWise Communities project will operate, and to see if our proposed project is eligible for funding.

OZONE- DEPLETING GASSES AND DUMPS

TREC has been investigating the release of ozone-depleting gasses from domestic appliances which are left at council dumps and recycling centres.

After many phone calls and e-mails to both State and Federal authorities we have been advised that it is illegal for anyone, local authorities included, to release ozone-depleting gasses from old refrigerators, freezers and other appliances which have been dumped. These items must be correctly decommissioned before they are recycled or put into

landfill. The fine for not complying with this law may be as high as \$3,500 for each appliance.

Toowoomba City Council decommissions all appliances before sending them for recycling, and could be a model for other local authorities.

Currently the law is ambiguous about who is legally responsible for decommissioning when a council contracts a metals recycler to remove old appliances. Perhaps it's the council; perhaps it's the contractor. We have formally asked the new State Minister for Environment to clarify where the responsibility lies.



Toowoomba and Region Environment Council Inc



Management Committee: Executive:

President: Laraine Acfield
Vice-president: Jenny Sharpe
Acting Secretary: Clare Paterson
Treasurer: Trevor Acfield

Committee Members:

Chris Walpole; Bob Fuller;
David Allworth.
Committee meetings are usually held monthly at Laurel Bank Park Hall on a Saturday afternoon early in the month.

Staff:

Greg Hawthorne office admin).

TREC Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 9.00am – 1.00pm. (The office is sometimes unattended, or attended at other times – please phone first)

Contact TREC:

Office: Laurel Bank Park Hall,
Hill St, Toowoomba.

Postal: P.O. Box 1306,
Toowoomba Qld 4350.

Phone: (07) 4632 1505.

Fax: (07) 4638 2891.

Email: info@trec.org.au

Website: www.trec.org.au

Contributions to TREC News are welcomed. Please send copy (electronic preferred) to Editor, TREC News, PO Box 1306, Toowoomba Q 4350; fax: (07)464638 2891; email:

news@trec.org.au

The views expressed in TREC News do not necessarily represent

TREC policy or the views of the TREC Management Committee or staff.

TREC acknowledges the support of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environment and Heritage.

Membership of TREC

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone/Fax.....

Email.....

Membership Category (please tick appropriate box):

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-wage earner	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Children under 15 (no voting rights)	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Group (less than 15 members)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Group (more than 15 members)	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> School	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life memberships – individual	\$230.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life membership – family	\$280.00

This is a new membership a renewal Signature..... Date.....

Please send with cheque to TREC, PO Box 1306, Toowoomba Q 4350

Welcome to new members:

And special thanks to all those who have renewed their membership this month!

Who, what, where & when ...

Conservation and naturalist group meetings & contacts

Condamine Uplands Protection Society (CUPS) - c/- Helen Lewis. Ph/fax: 4667 4810.

Crow's Nest Friends of Waste Management – contact Lin Hill-ton. Ph: 4698 1772.

Darling Downs Natural Growers Group – PO Box 6153, Toowoomba West Q 4350. Meets 7:30pm first Wednesday of the month – Toowoomba Legacy Club, 57 Water St. Contact Terry ph: 4630 8256.

Friends of the Escarpment Parks (Toowoomba) - Greg Lukes. Ph: 4634 2299. 9.30 – 11.30 every Monday morning in Neilsen Park at the end of Tarlington St., at the south end of Ramsay St.

Greening Australia – Bushcare Support – Lyn Pullen, PO Box 6243, Toowoomba West Q 4350. Ph: 4637 6222. Corner Campbell and Bellevue St.

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Toowoomba – Frank Ondrus Ph: 4639 2135

Land for Wildlife - *Voluntary Wildlife Conservation* – Sandy Robertson, Extension Officer, Toowoomba City and Gatton Shire
Toowoomba: ph: 4688 6564
Gatton: ph: 5462 0355
Email: sandy@vtown.com.au
Mobile: 0415 277 145

Lockyer Catchment Centre – Andrew Davidson. Ph: 5465 4400.

Toowoomba Bird Observers – PO Box 4730, Toowoomba Q 4350. Contact Ken ph: 4630 3774.

Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club – 7:30pm every 2nd Wednesday of the month – Education Centre, Baker St. Contact Greg Rawkins ph: 4636 5798.

Toowoomba Field Naturalists – first Friday of the month – Education Centre, Baker St 7:30p.m. Contact Barry ph: 4638 5494

Toowoomba Landcare Group – Web: www.tlg.org.au Email: info@tlg.org.au Phone: 4637 6285.

TREC – committee meetings monthly – Laurel Bank Park Hall. General meetings quarterly. Ph: 4632 1505 Email: info@trec.org.au Web: www.trec.org.au

Wildlife Carers Darling Downs – Marcia Arnott ph: 4698 2096, Clare Glover ph: 4696 9860.

Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld (Dalby) - PO Box 338, Dalby Q 4405.

Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld (Taroom) - Jo Wearing Ph: 4627 4951.

Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld (Toowoomba) - Geoff Anderson Ph: 0438 628 802.

World Wide Fund for Nature – Alison Goodland, PO Box 6243, Toowoomba West Q 4350 Ph: 4637 6286.



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Waterbird Habitat Meeting

A meeting to determine the future of Toowoomba's Waterbird Habitat has been scheduled for 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, February 26. The main issue for discussion will be the future management of the facility which some believe is becoming little more than a duck pond. The meeting will be held inside the Mackenzie Street entrance to the habitat.

General Meeting

The next TREC event will be a meeting held on the evening of Friday, February 11 from 5.30 at Laurel Bank Park Hall. The evening will begin with an address by CSIRO entomologist Dr. Nancy Schellhorn who is seeking our assistance with a major project she is currently planning. She is currently researching biological control of exotic pests, native flora re-vegetation, and the concept of green fire breaks. The Committee is actively considering how we can provide Nancy with help in areas such as determining appropriate areas for re-vegetation; sourcing quality seed for local flora; holding workshops for volunteers; and planting experimental areas. We are currently looking for funding from several sources and would like to develop a major, on-going project which will run parallel with Nancy's project. This research could have national and international applications.

Please give Greg a call on 4632 1505 if you plan to attend.

CSIRO Project

Nancy Schellhorn, an entomologist with the CSIRO, visited TREC recently to discuss the possibility of a co-operative effort to assist with her research into biological control of introduced pests. Nancy is researching the use of local plant species which will provide the best habitat for parasitic wasps which can be used to control infestation by the exotic White Fly. Following discussions with TREC, Nancy is looking to broaden her research to include re-introduction of native flora and fauna, and the possibility of using native plants which may have fire-retardant qualities. This broader approach should make it easier for us to find grant funding from a number of sources. We are currently considering putting a proposal to EnviroFund which could provide up-to \$50,000; however we have a lead time of only a few weeks to prepare a submis-

Goodbye, for a while, to the Allworths

David Allworth, Heather Drew and son Jack, are heading over to Chile for a year from early February. Heather plans to teach English, and David plans to teach Jack, (home school).

David's tree planting business will be in hibernation until their return. He will remain on the TREC Committee and will keep in touch by e-mail.

We wish them a safe and enjoyable time, and can't wait to hear about environmental issues in South America on their return.