



Nature Trail

Enjoy the wonders of nature on the Teddington Weir Vineforest Trail

Getting to Teddington Weir. Take the signposted “Teddington Weir” turnoff near Kelly’s Roadhouse (just look for the giant Ned Kelly) on the southern side of Maryborough. Follow this road for 11.5 km and you will come to the Teddington Weir picnic area (picnic tables, toilets, barbeques). Follow the road across the creek for a further 800 metres to a signposted carpark on the left. The Vineforest Trail starts on the opposite side of the bitumen road.

The Vineforest Trail. This trail takes you through some of the interesting features in a patch of remnant vineforest scrub. Points of interest are highlighted with numbered posts. The Teddington Weir Vineforest Trail is a joint project of World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF), Wide Bay Burnett Electricity Corporation (WBSEC), Queensland Department of Environment, Maryborough City Council, Maryborough Environment Group, and Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV).

The Vineforest Trail has been constructed through the generous sponsorship of the Wide Bay Burnett Electricity Corporation, together with in-kind support from the Queensland Department of Environment and Maryborough City Council.

Site 1: A Sea of Green. Pause to compare the scenery in front of you to the scenery behind. Behind is open eucalypt forest with a grassy understory, in front is a mass of dense dark green vegetation, tangled with snaking vines. How many different plants can you see in the eucalypt forest? Walk forward into the vineforest. How many different plants do you see here? The vineforest here has high diversity, with over 200 plant species present.

Site 2: The Melon Holes. The small depressions in the ground a short distance into the scrub are called “gilgais” or “melon-holes”. They are a natural feature caused by the expansion and contraction of the soil structure. Just as you leave Site 2 notice the plants that look a bit like large tufts of grass. These plants are *Gahnia aspera*, which is commonly known as “razor grass”. Don’t be tempted to grab hold of it, or you might find out how it got its name!

Site 3: Smells Nice But... Notice the succulent plant growing all over the ground on the right hand side of the track. Crush some leaves and note the strong aromatic smell. It might smell interesting, but it doesn’t belong here! It is actually a garden plant that is “exotic”, that is, it is from outside Australia. Garden waste is often carelessly dumped in bushland areas. What you see here is the result!

Site 4: Corky Climber and Co. Trees support themselves with their own trunks. Other plants like the many scrub vines use the trees to help them struggle towards the sunlight. The corky milk vine (*Secamone elliptica*) is one such vine. The much furrowed corky bark contrasts with the smooth green younger stems twining through the upper parts of the supporting tree. If you now turn completely around you will see a tall tree with a straight trunk and many branches all the way up. This plant is another example of one plant helping another. This vineforest tree, *Exocarpus latifolius*, commonly called “sandalwood”, is actually a root parasite. That is, it is living off the roots of another plant!

Site 5: New Power to the Vineforest. Years ago, this powerline easement was cut through the vineforest. Look at the ground in the middle of the easement. Is it in the same condition as it would have been when the vineforest scrub was still here? Small animals would once have moved freely to the creek through the scrub. Now they must run the gauntlet of an open easement - a hawk's dream! However, the vineforest will soon be making a return. The Wide Bay Burnett Electricity Corporation has demonstrated a strong commitment to the environment by replacing the powerline with insulated cable in this section of the easement. This means that the vineforest can safely grow back in the easement. Extensive plantings are helping it on its way.

Site 6: On the Streets. The big tree about 1 metre to the left of the post is the tulipwood, *Harpullia pendula*. In the vineforest it stands tall, competing with its neighbours to reach the light. But if planted out in the open it forms an attractive canopy, enhanced by impressive flowering, making it sought after for street tree plantings. One of many useful vineforest plants, it is also used as a cabinet timber.

Site 7: Can a Rainforest be Dry? Pause to look around you. Look at the tree trunks. How many different types of bark can you see? Many of the trunks are covered with mottled lichens and mosses. Look at the leaves of the trees. You will notice that most of the trees have small leaves. Smaller leaves mean that the plant loses less moisture, and is an adaptation to drier climatic conditions. Vineforest is actually a type of rainforest, called "dry rainforest". As you head towards Site 8, relax on the seat for a while and take in the sounds of the scrub. How many different birds can you hear? After resting a while, you will probably notice that birds are not the only sort of winged creatures found in the scrub!

Site 8: Billions Down the Drain. There is an opening in the forest canopy here, probably caused by a falling tree. A serious problem weed has taken advantage of the increased light to the forest floor. This is lantana, the mass of slender woody stems in front of you. You would also have noticed it down both sides of the powerline easement. Lantana is a noxious weed that has invaded both bushland areas and productive farmland. Weeds cost the Australian economy an estimated \$3.5 billion a year in lost production and clean-up costs. Immediately behind you is a plant about 4 metres high with three small trunks coming from the ground. This is *Mallotus philippensis*. Also called the red kamala, it was first discovered in the Philippines, and grows in the rainforests from Australia to India. Its red seeds are used to make a dye for silks and clothing in India.

Site 9: Tasty Currants. The many branched twiggy shrub to the right of the post is the "Currant Bush", *Carissa ovata*. The purplish-black berries that ripen in March-April are edible and have a pleasant sweet taste. Good bush tucker! But watch it! The stems are armed with strong slender spines! Bush foods like this are now becoming sought after by Brisbane restaurants. Farmers in some parts of Queensland are starting to grow bush foods commercially. Vineforest plants are also being investigated for potential medicines. Compounds found in some vineforest plants are also showing promising signs as cures for serious diseases like cancer and AIDS.

Site 10: The Paper Bark. The paper-barked trees to the right of the post are *Melaleuca styphelioides* var. *Squamophloia*. This paperbark tree is common through the Teddington Weir vineforest, as is the hoop pine *Araucaria cunninghamii*, which can be seen across the road.

Thank-you for walking the Teddington Weir Vineforest Trail. If you are not keeping this leaflet, please place it in the box at the end of the trail so that it can be used again. For more information on vineforest conservation, please contact the World Wide Fund for Nature on (07) 3835 9976.

This brochure is based on the excellent "Touch of Paradise" vineforest trail booklet produced by Trudy Townson and Max Roberts for the Lockyer Watershed Management Association (LWMA) - Lockyer Landcare Group. Ph/Fax Trudy on 07 5466 1818 for LWMA tours information.