Blurring the Boundaries

Wildlife does not recognise human created boundaries.
Habitat consolidation and linking requires blurring of those boundaries.

Michael Fox
Co-ordinator - Fox Gully Bushcare
President - Mt Gravatt Environment Group
Mt Gravatt Environment Group
Bringing birds and butterflies back to suburbia.

Strategic Vision

- Mountain heart of our community
- Ecological and cultural landmark
- Strong Indigenous and European links
- Amazing plant and animal diversity
- Headwaters of Bulimba Creek Catchment

Actively engage whole community in consolidating healthy habitat areas and reducing habitat isolation with wildlife links.

In July 1893 ... in recognition of the resolve of the settlers ... ‘Mt Gravatt Mountain Recreational Reserve’ [was established by the State Government].

Mt Gravatt Then and Now – Vol 1
What difference can one person make?
Communities are simply groups of individuals working together.

Productivity is based on
- Individual motivation
- Individual fitness, skill and experience
- Work unit organisational structure

Plus
- How well we engage nature.
- Nature works 24/7 to build on our work.
Mimosa Creek Precinct Landscape Plan
Blurring the Boundaries - Presenting an Alternative Future

People are wildlife too
- they are just disengaged with their habitat

Precinct is local habitat
• Live, walk, drive, play
• Neighbours, friends
Not limited by boundaries
• Private property
• Local/state government
• Schools/community
• Property developments
Provides focus for action
• My property is important
• Wildlife corridors
• Place in catchment
Mimosa Creek Precinct Landscape Plan
Blurring the Boundaries Education for Behaviour Change

Koalas thriving on Mt Gravatt

By Michael Fox
Fox Gully Bushcare – www.
foxgully.wordpress.com

"WHAT is that scratching sound
outside? Do you think it is a
possum?"

It is almost midnight but my wife
knows I will wake up straight
away if she mentions wildlife.
Our visitor was a healthy young
male koala climbing the stainless
steel fence to reach the cat where
he settled for photos.
Unfortunately koalas seem to be
good at climbing into trouble with
man-made structures such as fences
and roofs, but not so good at
finding their way out again.
After a couple of sleepless hours,
I had to rescue this youngster
before he injured himself.

So, thick jumper and heavy coat
to protect my knees, then thick
leather bushcare gloves to protect
my hands. Koala love their
cucumbers but they must be 85%
smooth, 15% bits and 2%
filth.

Thus protected I scooped our
visitor up, giving him a
scratching, carried him through
the house out to the backyard where
it was through the fence, straight
up the Eucalyptus grandis and we
were all able to get some sleep.

An increasing number of koala
sightings on Mt Gravatt, healthy
young males like our visitor and
mothers carrying young, provides
evidence that the population is
getting stronger.

This year koalas have been
regular visitors at our Rover Street
Bushcare site, photographed by
walkers on the Summit Track and
I recently found koala scats in the
western gullies.

Mt Gravatt supports a range
of koala food trees such as
Tallowoods, Eucalyptus
cryptomeroides, Scribbly Gum,
Eucalyptus racemosa and their
favourite, the Queensland or
Gum Eucalyptus lehmanniana.

Look for distinctive scratches on
the bark as clues to help you
find koalas high in the trees.

July to November in the
Koalas move around in search
of mates. In particular, young
males the previous year will be
leaving their mothers’ home
range in search of new areas.
Remember to keep dogs on-leash
and carry bags for dog droppings.

The Brisbane City Council call
centre 3823 8888 can provide
24/7 Animal Ambulance help
with sick and injured koalas or
provide reboots if you need
help relocating a koala.

Motivation
- Wake up to a Koala visitor

Individual fitness, skill, experience
- Don’t dump your garden waste

Organisational structure
- Working to community plan
Mimosa Creek Precinct Landscape Plan
Blurring the Boundaries – Engaging Community

Community Planting – Oct 2009

Men’s Shed – May 2011

Mt Gravatt Environment Group
"It was a great afternoon."

Mike Duggan, Managing Director of FWR Group, was commenting on his team’s afternoon re-planting re-planting bushland at Mount Gravatt.

FWR Group, a local sustainability consultancy, is a long-standing supporter of Fox Gully Bushcare, the whole team to the regular Wednesday afternoons.  Mike, Tessa, Luke, Virginia, Aréla and Michael joined Tasmin Michael, Roger and Cindy to strip invasive Mahirona från from the gully.

With the weed removed, indigenous ferns, bush fern, rap,

The power of the hands-on and hands-on experience, bushcare, a beautiful bushcare, and an annual event, showed its being part of the happy energetic group was an amazing experience. Of course, Margaret’s clawed turtle and bush-luger Dendroba plant jar for afternoon tea may have contributed to the smiles.

Michael Pat
Mimosa Creek Precinct Landscape Plan
Blurring the Boundaries – Research

BAAM – Flora & Fauna Assessment
• Dept of Environment Grant
• Mimosa Creek Precinct
• Field research starts next week
• Base-line for future
• Faunal habitats & movement corridors
• Impacts of road network
• Potential fauna movement solutions

Nest Hollows – Fox Gully Bushcare
• Forest logged in late 1800’s
• Mapping tree size & hollows
• Working with BCC Habitat Brisbane
• Assessing potential for nest-boxes
Flora & Fauna of Mt Gravatt Reserve
• Sue Jones & Michael Fox
• Action research project
• Mt Gravatt Reserve – 66ha
  • 373 plant species
  • 254 native plant species
  • 10% of plant species diversity in 32 million hectares of UK
• 45 butterfly species

Wildlife Corridor Restoration Guide
• Ann Moran & Michael Fox
• Fox Gully & Firefly Gully properties
• Plant list
  • Reduced choice more greater action
  • 36 tree, shrubs, vines, grasses
• Draws on local data and Regional Ecosystems
• Include best practice information
  • Minimum disturbance to mulch on gully floors - Fireflies
  • Natural regeneration
Mimosa Creek Precinct Landscape Plan
Blurring the Boundaries – Important?
Mt Gravatt Environment Group
Bringing birds and butterflies back to suburbia.

- Our unique flora and fauna is worth protecting.
- Building stewardship of our unique Reserve will create positive change.
- Strong partnerships create strong communities.

Information about MEG – [www.megoutlook.wordpress.com](http://www.megoutlook.wordpress.com)

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