

NEWS FROM PEACEHAVEN

April 2022

MARCH PLANNING MEETING

As foreshadowed in the previous edition of this newsletter, the March general meeting was mainly dedicated to a planning discussion, and took an objective look at who we are and what we want to achieve. Matters covered included:

- what people are looking for when they join the Friends
- our obligations as an organisation
- how well we currently meet those obligations
- areas in which there could be improvement
- projects and activities for future planning.

Discussion ranged over issues arising from the move to the new nursery, to the multiple effects of the Covid pandemic. Future plans included extension of the carpark; new nursery hothouse; bridges, new entry pillars, and plant labelling in the park; and a book about the history of Peacehaven.

A GIFT FOR THE PARK

Towards the end of last year, the Friends of Peacehaven received a donation for the park from John Swarbrick, botanical expert and retired UQ professor. His gift was a young specimen of Queensland black pine, *Prumnopitys amara*.

Black pine is a rainforest tree, native to North Queensland, New Guinea and Indonesia, fairly common in its natural range but rarely seen in cultivation. But in the past several were planted in Toowoomba, and it was a seedling from one of these that John Swarbrick raised at his home and donated to Peacehaven (see picture below).



Queensland black pine in the Mothers' Memorial Park, Toowoomba

As its common name suggests, *Prumnopitys amara* is a conifer. It isn't a true pine, but a member of the family Podocarpaceae. Male and female cones develop on separate trees, so it is only the female trees that produce fruits. In Toowoomba the fruits ripen and fall to the ground at around this time of year.

John Swarbrick's gift is currently in the care of TRC staff, and when it has grown on sufficiently it will be planted out in the 'Dinosaur' area.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Come to Peacehaven this coming Sunday to be entertained by Brisbane-based band Bubblefry. They'll play all the hits you know and love: Pop, Rock, Funk, Soul, everything from Frank Sinatra to Bruno Mars.

Date: Sunday 10 April

Time: 1 pm to 3 pm

TAVERN TALK

A reminder about next month's Tavern Talk, 'Making and Using Compost'. The presenter will be soil microbiologist Dr Nikki Seymour from the Queensland Department of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Date: Thursday 12 May

Time: 6 pm for a 7 pm presentation

Place: Highfields Tavern

Bookings: peacehaven56@gmail.com

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Friends of Peacehaven will again be held in the early evening.

Date: Wednesday 13 April

Time: 5.30 pm (straight after the Management Committee meeting, which will begin at 5.00 pm)

Place: Nursery Shed

All are welcome.