

Recovering Rainforest: 2007 QLD Rainforest Forum

Program

Griffith University | Brisbane
25 - 27 June 2007



Australian Government



Griffith UNIVERSITY

*Centre for Innovative
Conservation Strategies*



Welcome to the 2007 Queensland Rainforest Forum

On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to welcome you to the 2007 QLD Rainforest Forum. The theme of this Forum is "Recovering Rainforest", inspired by the 1998 WWF SEQ Rainforest Recovery Conference and the SEQ Rainforest Recovery Cross Regional Implementation Program (SEQRRCRIP). Ten years on from the WWF Conference, what have we achieved and where should our current efforts be focussed? Having read the abstracts from our amazing speakers and poster presentations, I know we have made significant gains in understanding and conserving our precious rainforest systems. This work is both inspiring and innovative, and reinforces my belief in the power of community and rigorous science. However, we are constantly faced with a wave of threats, including habitat fragmentation and removal, increasing weeds and inappropriate fire regimes. It is sometimes hard to see the rainforest for the trees and Forums such as ours provide us with the opportunity to recharge our commitment and belief in what we can achieve together.

We have brought together a diverse range of presenters from government, research institutions and volunteer community groups. Due to generous support, we were able to offer very low registration costs (a rare event), in reach of important community attendees. We have made available the proceedings from the WWF Conference and I would encourage you to take a look at: www.landcare.org.au/RRforum07.htm. As mentioned, our Forum is also part of the SEQRRCRIP, a great example of community, research and government working together for rainforest conservation. Project coordinator, Mike Gregory gives an overview of this terrific project on pg 25.

There is a long list of people and organisations who generously gave of their time, skills and funding to bring together this Forum. It is very hard to adequately thank people for their involvement in an event such as this, but their efforts are very much appreciated as we would not be here without them! Please read about these committed people on pg 24, where I have done my best to express our enormous thanks. I would like to make special note of our organising committee: Annie Keys, Dr Carla Catterall, Kay Montgomery, Liz Gould and Mike Gregory, who have all worked above and beyond the call of duty to get us here today, demonstrating their commitment and passion for rainforest recovery. A special thanks also to Kerri Woodcock, of QLD Landcare, who worked tirelessly to bring together speakers, registrations, the program and other vital parts of the Forum!

I hope you enjoy our Forum and thank-you for your support!

Kind regards,

Sam Lloyd

Dr Samantha Lloyd
Chair of the 2007 QLD Rainforest Forum Organising Committee
SEQ Catchments Ltd.

slloyd@seqcatchments.com.au



The Queensland Rainforest Forum organising committee:
Annie Keys (QLD NRM Facilitator, Biodiversity, Australian Government NRM Team); Dr Carla Catterall (Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies, Griffith University); Kay Montgomery (Science & Education Coordination, SEQ Catchments); Liz Gould (Environment Sector Partnerships Manager, SEQ Catchments Ltd); Mike Gregory (SEQ Rainforest Recovery Cross Regional Implementation Program Coordinator, WWF Australia) & Dr Sam Lloyd (Environment Sector Partnerships Manager, SEQ Catchments).

Queensland Rainforest Forum | Program overview

Monday 25 June 2007

7.30am	Registrations Open	
9:00am	<p>Welcome to Country: Edward Ruska - Jagera, Yuggera & Yurrapul Groups</p> <p>Official Opening: Dr Geoff Dyne - Assistant Director, QLD Section, Australian Government NRM Team and Simon Warner - CEO, SEQ Catchments</p> <p>MC and housekeeping: Dr Marc Hero - Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies, Griffith University Central Theatres Complex, CT1, Building N18</p>	
9:40am	Keynote presentation: The Science and Politics of Rainforest Conservation by <i>Cr Mike Berwick</i> (Mayor, Douglas Shire Council)	
10:20am	Keynote presentation: The 1998 Rainforest Conference: what has been achieved since, and what do we still need to do? by <i>Bruce Boyes</i> (Land and Water Australia)	
11:00am	<i>Morning tea</i>	
11:45am	Session 1 (Rainforest, Rescue and Recovery)	Session 2 (Rainforest Ecology and Management)
	<p>Springbrook Rescue Project by <i>Dr Aila Keto</i> (Australian Rainforest Conservation Society)</p> <p>A preliminary assessment of the environmental impacts of Cyclone Larry on the forest landscapes of northeast Queensland, with reference to responses to natural resource management issues in the aftermath by <i>Prof. Steve Turton</i> (CSIRO; James Cook University)</p> <p>Rainforest recovery from <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> infection, Queensland, Australia by <i>Dr Daniel Metcalfe</i> (CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems)</p>	<p>Distribution and status of the rainforests of south east Queensland by <i>Dr Bill McDonald</i> (Queensland Herbarium)</p> <p>Rainforest Recovery - Evolution and growth in south east Queensland by <i>Mike Gregory</i> (WWF Australia)</p> <p>The management of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia World Heritage Area by <i>Craig Wall</i> (NSW Dept of Environment and Climate Change)</p>
12:45pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
1:45pm	Session 3 (Weed Ecology and Management)	Session 4 (Recovery Processes)
	<p>Recruitment dynamics of native and invasive species in rainforest habitats following Cyclone Larry by <i>Dr Helen Murphy</i> (CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems and Weeds CRC)</p> <p>Saving our rainforests on the Blackall Range by <i>Jeanette Nobes</i> (Boorobin Bushcare)</p> <p>Managing camphor laurel regrowth to promote rainforest recovery by <i>Dr John Kanowski</i> (Griffith University, Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies- CICS)</p>	<p>Defining plant functional groups for use in resource-limited multi-species recovery planning and implementation scenarios by <i>Robert Kooyman</i> (National Herbarium of NSW; Macquarie University)</p> <p>Rainforest species recovery - documenting extinction or empowered action by <i>Paul Donatui</i> (PMG Eco-Professional)</p> <p>The Border Ranges Rainforest Biodiversity Management Plan: an innovative approach to regional recovery planning by <i>Andrew Steed</i> (NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change)</p>
2:45pm	Session 5 (Data, Dispersal and Defragmentation)	Session 6 (Onground Rainforest Conservation)
	<p>Program for Planned Biodiversity Studies in Australasia: A research platform for collecting, storing and sharing biological information for long-term ecosystem condition assessment by <i>Dr Jean-Marc Hero</i> (CICS, Griffith University)</p> <p>Seed dispersal and the ecological diversity of regeneration in secondary rainforests of the Wet Tropics by <i>Jessie Wells</i> (Ecology Centre, University of Queensland)</p> <p>Defragmentation and connectivity across the north Queensland rainforest landscape by <i>Nigel Tucker</i> (Biotropica Australia)</p>	<p>The rainforest conservation and management practices of the Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group by <i>Marianne Logan</i> (Big Scrub Landcare Group)</p> <p>TREAT's Peterson Creek Corridor by <i>Barbara Lanskey</i> (Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands Inc)</p> <p>C4 - Helping a Rainforest Community Recover by <i>Sally Moroney</i> (Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation Inc)</p>
3:45pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
4:15pm - 5.30pm	Forum 1: Climate Change and Rainforest Conservation N18, CT1 (refer page 6 for details)	
6:00pm	BBQ (Located adjacent to the Goanna Lounge, follow the signs from N18)	

Tuesday 26 June 2007

8:00am	Registrations open	
9:00am	Welcome: Mike Gregory - WWF MC and housekeeping: Dr Sam Lloyd - SEQ Catchments Central Theatres Complex, CT1, Building N18	
9:15am	Keynote presentation: Rainforest Biodiversity and Climate Change - the Lamington IBISCA project by <i>Prof Roger Kitching</i> (Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies, Griffith University)	
10:00am	Keynote presentation: Ensuring onground success and functionality by <i>Brendan Stephen & Jolyon Froude</i> (Barung Landcare) Keynote presentation: Integration of government agencies, community groups and the general public in rainforest recovery in south east Queensland by <i>Phil Moran</i> (Noosa and District Landcare)	
10:40am	<i>Morning tea</i>	
11:15am	Session 7 (Monitoring Change and Regeneration)	Session 8 (Wet Tropics)
	Monitoring the outcomes of rainforest restoration activities by <i>Dr Carla Catterall</i> (CICS, Griffith University)	Development of a culturally appropriate Cultural Heritage Information Management System for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area by <i>Chantal Roder</i> (Aboriginal Rainforest Council)
	Potential climate change impacts in Australian tropical rainforests by <i>Dr David Hilbert</i> (CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems)	Why did the Cassowary cross the road? by <i>David C. Cook</i> (Rainforest Rescue)
12:15pm	Forum 2: Rainforest Conservation on Private land N18, CT1 (refer page 6 for details)	Forum 3: Weed Management in Rainforest Systems N18, CT2 (refer page 6 for details)
1:15pm	<i>Lunch (ESA lunch get-together)</i>	
2:00pm	Session 9 (Regional Body Conservation)	Session 10 (Fire, Fungi and Fragmentation)
	Bringing Back the Beach Scrub: Conservation and management of Microphyll / Notophyll vine forest on coastal dunes between Thuringowa and Rockhampton by <i>Matt Bloor</i> (Mackay Whitsunday Natural Resource Management Group)	Fire ecology of rainforest ecosystems - defending the indefensible? by <i>Cuong Tran</i> (The Southeast Queensland Fire & Biodiversity Consortium; Griffith University)
	Landholder engagement in scrub recovery - some issues from the Boyne/Calliope region by <i>Graham Lightbody and Vanessa Wood</i> (Fitzroy Basin Association)	Fungal Conservation in a Remnant Gallery Rainforest: A Case Study by <i>Nigel Fechner</i> (Queensland Mycological Society)
3:00pm	Session 11 (Local Conservation Action)	Session 12 (Threatened Rainforest Species)
Session 11: N18, CT1 Session 12: N18, CT2	Semgreen's Road, Kingaroy Shire - an important fragment in the rainforest mosaic of the South Burnett by <i>Caroline Haskard</i> (Kingaroy & Districts Branch Society for Growing Australian Plants)	Can the Richmond Birdwing Survive Climate Change? Challenges, actions and progress towards its recovery by <i>Dr Don Sands</i> (Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network)
	Community Engagement in the Kin Kin Catchment by <i>Don Maskall</i> (Noosa & District Landcare)	Managing and recovering threatened rainforest species and ecosystems in north Queensland by <i>Peter Latch</i> (Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service)
	The Queensland Glider Network by <i>Ben Holmes</i> (Wildlife Preservation Society)	Conservation of Threatened Rainforest Plants by <i>Dr Alison Shapcott</i> (Genetics, Ecology & Physiology Research Group, University of Sunshine Coast)
4:00pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
4:30pm-5:30pm	Forum 4: Rainforest Wrap Up N18, CT1 (refer page 6 for details)	
6:00pm	Poster presentations	

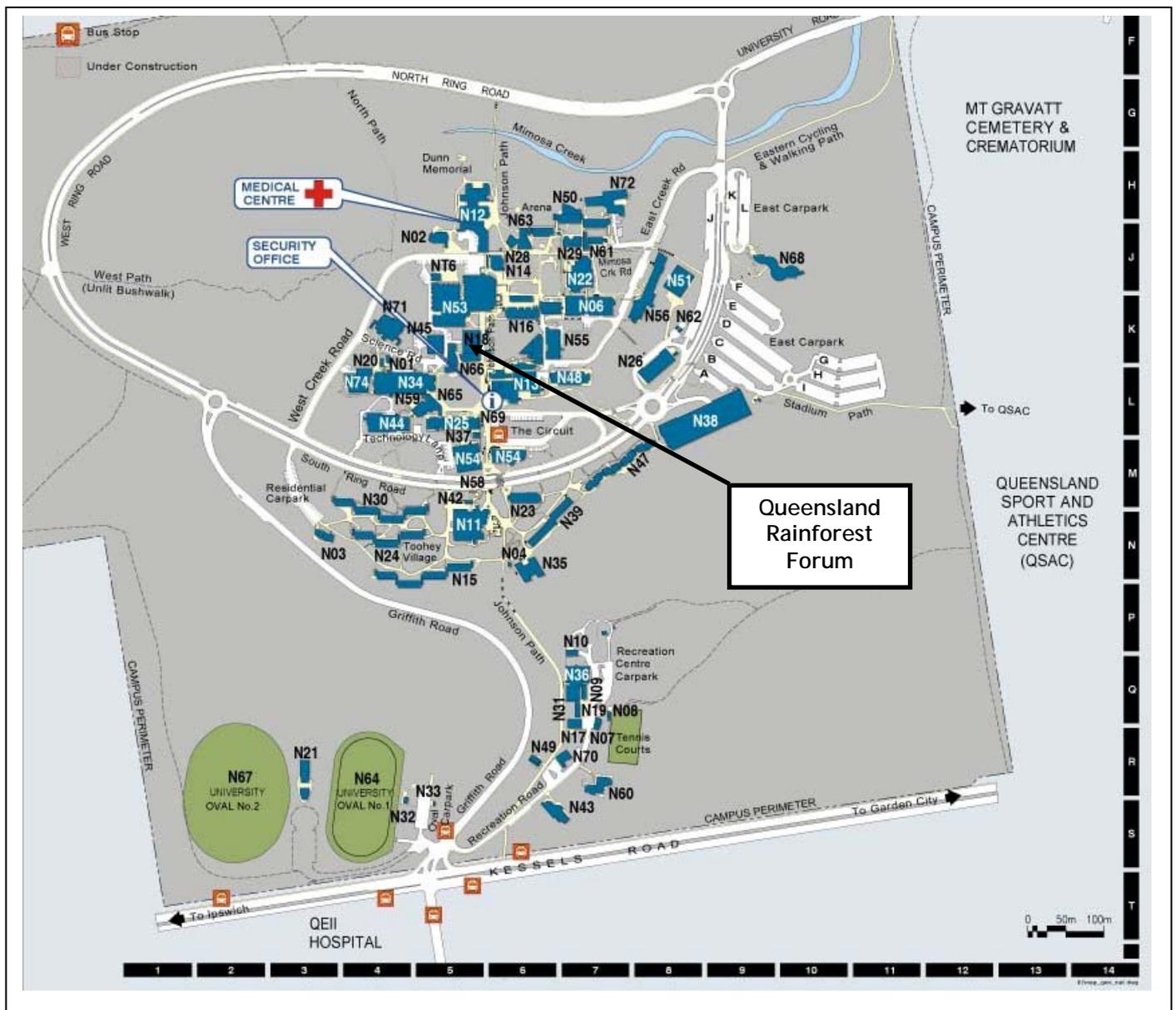
All Forum sessions will be held in the Central Theatres Complex, Building N18 (reference K5) on the map below.

The Forum BBQ will be held adjacent to the Goanna Lounge. Please follow the signs from building N18 on Monday evening.

Poster presentations will be on display throughout the Forum in the foyer area outside of Central Theatres 1 and 2.

Field trips will depart from the bus loading zone near East carpark (reference K10) on the map below.

If you are driving to the Forum, park in the East Carpark (reference K10). Be sure to pay for and display your parking ticket on the dash board of your car. Parking costs \$5 per day and tickets can be purchased from the automatic machines located on University Rd (before the roundabout), Griffith Rd or the end of aisle B in the East carpark.



Forum 1: Climate Change and Rainforest Conservation

What will be the impacts of climate change on rainforest ecosystems and biodiversity? Whilst the extent of these impacts have been difficult to quantify, the evidence for climate change effecting biodiversity is becoming increasingly apparent. The panel members and audience will be asked to consider a range of topics including, whether current conservation boundaries and off-reserve policies will be effective given increasing warming and other climate changes? Can predictive tools be practically applied to enable conservation planning for the continued preservation of unique biota and ecosystems?

Facilitator: Annie Keys - QLD NRM Facilitator, Biodiversity, Australian Government NRM Team

Panellists: Dr Brett Robinson - Senior Scientist, QLD Climate Change Centre of Excellence
Dr David Hilbert - Principal Research Scientist, Tropical Forest Research Centre, CSIRO
Dr Don Sands - Honorary Fellow, CSIRO
Kelly Caught - Policy Manager, Sustainable Landscapes, WWF Australia
Roger Phillips - CEO, Australian Rainforest Foundation

Forum 2: Rainforest Conservation on Private Land

The primary aim of conservation extension is to educate and motivate landholders and land managers to conserve examples of priority ecosystems, through voluntary management programs and sometimes binding management agreements. It has been widely recognised that many landholders will require financial assistance in order to actively manage remnants for conservation and biodiversity values. It is also recognised that the broader community should assist with the cost of these public good activities on "private land". This Forum will explore advantages and disadvantages of these approaches and discuss other complimentary approaches to support conservation agreements and stewardship payments.

Facilitator: Mike Gregory - SEQ Rainforest Recovery Cross Regional Implementation Program (SEORRCRIP) Coordinator, WWF Australia

Panellists: Darren Phillips - Nature Refuge Officer, Environmental Protection Agency
Deborah Metters - Land for Wildlife Regional Coordinator, SEQ Catchments Ltd.
Ian Herbert - Nature Refuge property owner, near Mt Morgan, Central QLD
Kylie Freebody - Eacham Shire Community Revegetation Project, Eacham Shire Council
Russell Butler - Chairman, Aboriginal Rainforest Council, Wet Tropics QLD

Forum 3: Weed Management in Rainforest Systems

Invasive plant species continue to be one of the greatest threats to our rainforest ecosystems. This Forum will explore innovative approaches to weed management, including best practice control methods and successful community education and engagement projects. In addition, this Forum will discuss how research into the ecology and dispersal of weeds can provide us with vital clues in the fight against these ferals. Strategies for containment, rather than the eradication, and of existing infestations will also be examined. Please come prepared to share your stories!

Facilitator: Kay Montgomery - Science & Education Officer, SEQ Catchments Ltd.

Panellists: Dr Daniel Stock - Project Officer, Lantana Best Practice Management, Biosecurity QLD
Dr Gabrielle Vivianne-Smith - Assistant Director, Science Strategy & Integration, Department of Natural Resources & Water
Joanne Kelly - Project Officer, Weed Warriors & Schools Education, Biosecurity QLD
Keryn McDonald - Consultant, Ladybird Environment Services
Moni Carlisle - Education Officer, Far North QLD NRM Ltd.

Forum 4: Rainforest Wrap Up

What has been achieved, where are the gaps and where do we go from here? After two days of inspiring and informative talks and poster presentations we will meet together to recognise what has been achieved in rainforest conservation in the past ten years and what still remains to be done. Join us with your thoughts and ideas and be prepared for another energised panel of speakers!

Facilitator: Bruce Boyes - Regional Liaison Officer, Land & Water Australia

Panellists: Dr Aila Keto - President, Australian Rainforest Conservation Society
Dr Carla Catterall - Associate Professor, Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies, Griffith University
Liz Gould - Environment Sector Partnerships Manager, SEQ Catchments Ltd.
Mike Gregory - SEORRCRIP Coordinator, WWF Australia
Nick Heath - Program Leader, Water, WWF Australia

Social events

BBQ | 6:00pm Monday 25 June

We have over 100 delegates coming to our terrific BBQ on Monday evening. We hope that the evening will provide Forum attendees with a chance to catch up with old friends, meet new people and of course talk about all things rainforest! Having paid for the BBQ, you will receive two drink tickets entitling you to two alcoholic drinks from the bar (wine or beer only). Alcoholic drinks thereafter need to be paid for. We hope you enjoy an evening of food and friends!

Poster Presentations | 6:00pm Tuesday 26 June

We are very pleased to have a number of posters on display at our Forum (see page 17 for details). Posters provide a unique opportunity for people to tell a story and gain feedback on their work in a relaxed and open environment. We will have cocktail food available (provided as part of your Forum registration) and drinks will also be available to purchase. We hope that you find the posters both informative and inspiring, and don't forget to have a chat with the poster authors!

Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) lunch gathering | 1:30pm Tuesday 26 June

Calling all ESA members to join us for a lunchtime gathering on Tuesday at 1:30pm. Please get yourself some lunch and then join us for a lively lunch break meeting new people or catching up with old friends! We will announce the location for the lunch at the Forum during the morning sessions.

Field Trips Wednesday 27 June

Both field trips will depart from the bus loading zone near the East Carpark (reference K10 on map, page 3), Griffith University, Nathan Campus. If you intend on leaving your car at the University during the day, please remember to park in the East carpark and leave your parking ticket on the dash board of your car.

Delegates are asked to bring the following with them on the field trips:

- Solid, closed-in walking shoes;
- Hat and sun glasses;
- Suncream and insect repellent;
- Water bottle;
- Camera!

Field trip 1: Gold Coast Hinterland | 7:45am - 5:30pm

The Gold Coast hinterland incorporates the magnificent Border Ranges landscape, a nationally recognised biodiversity hotspot. As part of our field trip, we will be visiting both Springbrook and Lamington National Parks, which form part of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (CERRA) World Heritage Area. The tour will look at rainforest conservation from both an "on" and "off park" reserve perspective. Conservation gains through formal processes such as the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) and community extension will be highlighted. The tour will also examine efforts to protect and conserve the high proportion of threatened species and communities in the region through projects such as the Border Ranges Cross Regional biodiversity project.

Field trip 2: Sunshine Coast / Kin Kin | 8:00am - 5:45pm

This field trip will take us on a tour of the rainforests of the Mary River catchment, including visits to the picturesque hinterland towns of Maleny and Kin Kin. A number of project sites will be examined with an emphasis on linkages to the SEQ Rainforest Recovery Cross Regional Implementation Program. The tour will focus on conservation partnerships, landholder and community engagement, as well as opportunities to discuss strategies for site management and rehabilitation. Landcare and local community representatives will provide interpretation at site visits throughout the day. Don't forget to enjoy the view!

Keynote presenter: Cr Mike Berwick
Organisation: Douglas Shire Council
Email: mayor@dsc.qld.gov.au
Biography: Councillor Mike Berwick has been Chair of FNQ NRM Ltd (Wet Tropics Regional NRM Board) since 2004 and Mayor of Douglas Shire Council since 1991. Most recently Councillor Berwick has joined and Chairs the Tropical Joint Landscape Venture committee through James Cook University, and is the Queensland representative on the National Sea Change Taskforce (established in 2004). Councillor Berwick presents 5-10 papers a year at seminars, workshops and conferences at regional, state and national levels.
Presentation Title: **The Science and Politics of Rainforest Conservation**
Abstract: The conservation battles over Queensland's rainforests go back a long way, at least to the thirties, maybe earlier but gained momentum in the 70's and 80's and continues today. Sometimes it is a true battle as in the days of blockades, protests, civil disobedience and arrests. While the public remember the public confrontations there is the science without which we would have gone nowhere, there is the politics both at the three levels of government and among the sector groups like tourism and logging. There is the ongoing management both inside and outside the reserve areas, the bureaucracy, the legislation, the incentives, the public engagement. Finally there is the monitoring - is all this working? In a world driven by the free market, characterized by overpopulation and resource consumption but with no market value on biodiversity, the conservation battle never stops, it just changes form and needs constant energy as people find new and innovative ways to exploit. If there were a bottom line message from this assessment it is that as long as we live in a market driven economic system then we have to put a market value on biodiversity and everyone has to pay their way.

Keynote presenter: Bruce Boyes
Organisation: Land and Water Australia
Email: bruce.boyes@lwa.gov.au
Biography: Bruce Boyes has worked in the natural resource management field for over 15 years, after a career change from earlier employment as an electronics technician with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). He convened the 1998 WWF South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Conference, initiated the South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project, and also convened the 2000, 2001 and 2002 Southern Queensland Biodiversity Conferences. Bruce has worked extensively in Landcare and Catchment Management in the Lockyer Catchment, with an emphasis on biodiversity conservation and land planning, and has also carried out a diverse range of natural resource management projects for South East Queensland local governments and QLD and NSW State Government agencies and universities. In 2004 he moved from South East Queensland to Sydney, and last year moved to Canberra to work on the Land & Water Australia Knowledge for Regional NRM Program, where he is the Regional Liaison Officer and Project Leader for the Regional Knowledge Resource Kit and training package component of the Program. Bruce is also the coordinator of the Australian Urban NRM Network.
Presentation title: **The 1998 Rainforest Conference: what has been achieved since, and what do we still need to do?**
Abstract: The 1998 South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Conference, titled *Rainforest Recovery for the New Millennium*, brought together landholders, government bodies, scientists and Landcare and conservation groups to share their knowledge of rainforest conservation issues and the range of recovery work underway. Organised by World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF), it was a unique event, with the purpose of advancing recovery plans for whole ecosystems, rather than just individual plant and animal species. One of Australia's first multi-species recovery planning projects, the South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project, was subsequently initiated. This presentation will review the outcomes and recommendations of the 1998 South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Conference, explore what has been achieved since, and provide some perspectives on what we still need to do. It will also profile the Land & Water Australia Knowledge for Regional NRM Program, which has the aim of helping Australia's 56 regional NRM bodies find, use and share information and knowledge, including information and knowledge relevant to rainforest recovery.

Keynote presenter: Prof Roger Kitching
Organisation: Griffith University, Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies
Email: r.kitching@griffith.edu.au
Biography: Roger Kitching holds the Chair of Ecology at Griffith University. He is graduate of Imperial College London, holds a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Oxford, and a doctorate in Science from Griffith. He is an insect ecologist with particular research interests in conservation, biodiversity and rainforests. Recent projects have involved work in North Queensland, New Guinea, south-western China, Panama and Vanuatu. Over the last three years he has devised and led the IBISCA-Queensland Project, establishing baselines for the monitoring of biodiversity responses to climate change. Kitching has published over 190 papers and books including 'Foodwebs and Container Habitats' (CUP 2000), 'Systems Ecology' (QUP 1983), 'Biology of Australian Butterflies' (CSIRO 1999) and 'Arthropods of Tropical Forests' (CUP 2003). He was the inaugural chair of the National Biodiversity Council (1996-2000); currently chairs the Scientific Advisory Committee for the CERRA Rainforests World Heritage Area; and, is a member of the Australian Greenhouse Office's High Level Expert Panel on Biodiversity and Climate Change.
Presentation title: Rainforest Biodiversity and Climate Change - the Lamington IBISCA project
Abstract: The IBISCA-Queensland Project (also sometimes called the BATH Project) is a major international collaborative effort which is surveying the animal, plant and fungal diversity along an altitudinal gradient from 300 to 1100 m above sea-level in south-east Queensland's Lamington National Park. This transect is of undisturbed continuous subtropical rainforest incorporating a gradual transition from the highly diverse mixed broad-leaved forests at the lower elevations to the almost monocultural Southern beech forests at the highest levels. The purpose of this study is to identify, through intensive study of the widest possible range of organisms, which groups or species are responding with greatest sensitivity to the climatic changes currently associated with the different altitudes. In turn, this will provide us with a powerful 'predictor set' of ecologically contrasting taxa which can be used for effective monitoring of the impact of climate change on biodiversity. Parallel studies on ecological processes such as pollination, herbivory and decomposition give understanding of what the consequences of these responses might be on the 'ecosystem services' the forest derives from this biodiversity.

Keynote presenters: Brendan Stephen & Jolyon Froude
Organisation: Barung Landcare
Emails: Brendan@barunglandcare.org.au, barungcontract@big.net.au
Biographies: Brendan Stephen has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Protected Area Management) and is Coordinator of Barung Contracting Services. He has five years on-ground experience and is a father of three. Jolyon Froude is the former coordinator of Barung Contracting Services. He has a Diploma of Nature Conservation and ten years on-ground experience.
Presentation title: Ensuring onground success and functionality
Abstract: This presentation will discuss the complexities involved in ensuring that onground regeneration and revegetation works are successful (reaching desired project and/or environmental outcomes) and functional (longterm system processes). Every project site displays varied constraints that must be identified and dealt with during the project. Through the control of associated threatening processes, onground works can be strategically directed to ensure success.

Keynote presenter: Phil Moran
Organisation: Noosa and District Landcare
Email: futurescentre@spiderweb.com.au
Biography: Phil Moran has lived in the Sunshine Coast hinterland for 16 years. He joined Noosa Landcare in 1991, and has been involved in bush regeneration during this time. He is Past Chairman of the Noosa Council Environment Sector Board, currently Vice President of the National Aquatic Weeds Management Group, Member of Noosa Council's Biosphere Working Group and winner of Council's Australia Day Environment award in 2005. He lives on 33 acres of land, which was the first Nature Refuge declared in Noosa Shire. He is passionate about protecting what remains of our valuable bushland.
Presentation title: Integration of government agencies, community groups and the general public in rainforest recovery in south east Queensland
Abstract: Our Rainforests are in trouble. Governments can only be part of the solution. We have to involve community groups and private landowners in recovering our dwindling rainforest communities. Programs such as Land for Wildlife, Nature Refuges and the new round of Rainforest Recovery will all have to play their part in this process.

Forum abstracts (Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 June)

Abstracts are listed alphabetically by presenter surnames.

Presenter: Matt Bloor
Organisation: Mackay Whitsunday Natural Resource Management Group
Email: matt@mwnrm.org.au
Title: Bringing back the beach scrub: Conservation and management of microphyll/notophyll vine forest on coastal dunes between Thuringowa and Rockhampton
Abstract: 'Bringing Back the Beach Scrub' involves assessment of the distribution, condition and conservation significance of Microphyll/Notophyll vine forest on coastal dunes in Central Queensland. The project aims to account for and make a planning response to the cumulative impacts of population growth and coastal development and to implement on-ground rehabilitation priorities at selected sites. The project is led by the Mackay Whitsunday Natural Resource Management Group across the Burdekin Dry Tropics, Mackay Whitsunday and Fitzroy Basin Natural Resource Management regions in partnership with State and local government and the wider community.

Presenter: Peter Boyd
Organisation: Northern Rivers Catchments Management Authority
Email: peter.boyd@cma.nsw.gov.au
Title: Border Ranges cross regional biodiversity project - achievements and lessons learnt
Abstract: The Border Ranges Cross Regional Biodiversity project is unique and is achieving great outcomes. This 3 year project was very ambitious being 'cross border' and involving many partners. This presentation describes the project, its outputs, benefits and lessons learnt.

Presenter: Dr Carla Catterall
Organisation: Griffith University, Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies
Email: c.catterall@griffith.edu.au
Title: Monitoring the outcomes of rainforest restoration activities
Abstract: The past two decades have seen a shift in the focus of rainforest conservation activities in Australia: large intact areas have been increasingly protected, but small remnants in over-cleared landscapes may be degrading, and strategic revegetation is needed to increase the area under forest. Government initiatives have encouraged local communities and landowners to plant trees, but revegetation plans often make untested assumptions. For example, it may be assumed that a farm forestry planting using rainforest tree species will encourage rainforest-dependent wildlife, or that planting a corridor connection between remnants is the best way to restore or conserve biodiversity. In fact, such recommendations are usually educated guesswork, which may be incorrect. A better knowledge base can be built by adopting an "experimental management" approach: (1) systematically try a range of methods, and (2) monitor the outcomes. I will illustrate these issues with examples from recent research, and discuss approaches to monitoring.

Presenter: David Cook
Organisation: Rainforest Rescue
Email: david@rainforestrescue.org.au
Title: Why did the Cassowary cross the road?
Abstract: David will present a view of the Daintree lowland rainforests from a private sector, conservationist perspective introducing the talk with a series of stunning aerial photographs. These illustrate just how little lowland rainforest there is left in the 24 km coastal strip between the Daintree estuary and Cape Tribulation. With reference to the essential habitat for the endangered Cassowary, the local boundary of the World Heritage Wet Tropics, the various precincts defined in the new Shire Planning Scheme, regional plans and regional ecosystem mapping, David will show why Cassowaries are having to cross roads and the steps Rainforest Rescue are taking to help reduce rainforest fragmentation and assist in safer crossings.

Presenter: Paul Donatui
Organisation: PMG Eco-Professional
Email: pdonatui@iprimus.com.au
Title: Rainforest species recovery - documenting extinction or empowered action
Abstract: Species recovery is as much about harnessing community capacity, as it is about the science of protection and conservation. This presentation will explore the parallels between community development practice and what is required to recover rare species. It will provide examples of successful community-based recovery programs and examine some of the stages and mechanisms that are crucial to the success of these programs.

Forum abstracts (Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 June)

Abstracts are listed alphabetically by presenter surnames.

Presenter: Nigel Fechner
Organisation: Queensland Mycological Society
Email: nigel.fechner@epa.qld.gov.au
Title: Fungal Conservation in a Remnant Gallery Rainforest: A Case Study
Abstract: Traditionally, fungi had not been considered in Australian conservation processes up until recently. The first such instance of macrofungal conservation, which resulted in the establishment of a nature reserve in a remnant gallery rainforest, occurred in Lane Cove, NSW. What are the ramifications of this at a larger scale?

Presenter: Kylie Freebody
Organisation: Eacham Shire Council, Community Revegetation Unit
Email: tablelandsreveg@bigpond.com
Title: Local government and rainforest establishment and management in north Queensland - where are we now?
Abstract: In the 1998 Rainforest Recovery Conference presenters Sue Vize and Kylie Freebody outlined the role of local government in the establishment and management of rainforest in North Queensland. The Wet Tropics Tree Planting Scheme (WTTPS), administered by the NQ Joint Board, operated across 10 local shires. Up to 1998 the WTTPS had revegetated more than 500ha of rainforest across the Wet Tropics region. This presentation provides an update on how local government in North Queensland continues to play a major role in rainforest establishment and management despite the demise of both the WTTPS and the NQ Joint Board.

Presenter: Mike Gregory
Organisation: WWF Australia
Email: mgregory@wwf.org.au
Title: Rainforest Recovery - Evolution and growth in South East Queensland
Abstract: The South East Queensland (SEQ) Rainforest Recovery Plan is an innovative multi-ecosystem recovery plan that encompasses 21 threatened rainforest ecosystems. Community support for the actions within the SEQ Rainforest Recovery Plan has been gained through three and a half years of on-ground works, liaising with SEQ rainforest recovery groups and landholders. The development of the current implementation program has provided for a cross regional framework that enables regional natural resource management bodies to identify complimentary actions being undertaken in each region that also achieve the actions within the SEQ Rainforest Recovery Plan. The current program is being delivered through management incentives to private landholders, stewardship payments, education and strategic research in order to improve the condition of over 4000 hectares of currently endangered rainforest. The program will also facilitate the production of landholder information kits on threatening processes and current best management practices for grazing, fire and pest management. Challenges, opportunities and future directions for the program will be covered in the presentation as well as showcasing achievements to date.

Presenter: Caroline Haskard
Organisation: Kingaroy and Districts Branch Society for Growing Australian Plants
Email: c_haskard@bigpond.com
Title: Semgreen's Road, Kingaroy Shire - an important fragment in the rainforest mosaic of the South Burnett
Abstract: This project was the genesis of an annual 'live' celebration of National Threatened Species Day, showcasing threatened species and ecosystems in the South Burnett. Since then, the project has resulted in multiple workshops and field days, the development of nature refuges in the Kingaroy Shire, and other recovery projects in the district. SGAP had three aims to conservation; hands-on restoration works to assist natural regeneration, education and awareness raising, and protection of the remnant through rezoning. An extensive community network has now developed between community, tertiary students, industry, local government, WWF and state agencies. Additionally, 2ha of roadside remnant of dry vine forest has been gazetted as a 'Reserve for Environmental Purposes', and a new plant species *Solanum lateens* was confirmed by the Queensland Herbarium in November 2001. Tried and tested revegetation methods were used with local provenance species donated by SGAP members. Despite no on-site water and on-going drought, planting success rates remain above 80%. Outcomes of this project include the South Burnett region now being on the conservation map in a strongly conservative region; increased community capacity; integration of local government planning documents and on-ground works; and a massive increase in botanical survey works.

Forum abstracts (Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 June)

Abstracts are listed alphabetically by presenter surnames.

Presenter: Dr Jean-Marc Hero
Organisation: Griffith University, Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies
Email: m.hero@griffith.edu.au
Title: Program for Planned Biodiversity Studies in Australasia: A research platform for collecting, storing and sharing biological information for long-term ecosystem condition assessment

Abstract: The Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies (CICS) at Griffith University has initiated a new "Program for Planned Biodiversity Studies" (PPBio) in Australasia. The program was developed in Brazil to facilitate long-term regional biodiversity monitoring and condition assessment. PPBio involves integrated, standardised long-term ecological plots based on a 5km x 5km grid of trails, with 30 permanent terrestrial plots (250m long) and any number of permanent aquatic plots (depending on available water courses, etc.). The modular design allows for modifications of the standard grid and in 2006 the first Australian grid was established at Karawatha Forest within the peri-urban zone of outer Brisbane, south-east Queensland. This presentation will present data on the variation in density and species composition of woody stems (> 1cm DBH) among 36, 1ha plots evenly spaced at 500m intervals across the landscape. We also examine condition assessment at each of the plots. Species abundance and composition and weed abundance varied greatly among plots demonstrating the spatial heterogeneity of eucalypt woodlands and the importance of meso-scale biodiversity research for condition assessments. These data provide an essential baseline for reserve managers to monitor colonisation and extinction patterns in response to threats such as fire, human disturbance and climate change.

Presenter: Dr David Hilbert
Organisation: CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems
Email: david.hilbert@csiro.au
Title: Potential climate change impacts in Australian tropical rainforests

Abstract: Several studies suggest that climate change is a particularly significant threat to the long-term preservation of the biota in Australia's unique rainforests. Warming can have a particularly strong impact on mountainous regions like the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The mountain tops and higher tablelands can be thought of as cool islands in a sea of warmer climates. These islands are separated from each other by the warmer valleys and form a scattered archipelago of habitat for organisms that are unable to survive and reproduce in warmer climates. Most of the endemic plants and animals occur in these cooler, upland rainforests. Studies in the Wet Tropics also have demonstrate the extensive biogeographic changes that occurred as a result of past climate change. This talk will review the published projections for climate impacts on biodiversity in these ecosystems and briefly present new research that is in progress.

Presenter: Ben Holmes
Organisation: Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland
Email: benholmes@wildlife.org.au
Title: The Queensland Glider Network

Abstract: The Queensland Glider Network (QGN) was established to help raise awareness of gliders; their presence in bushland areas and their habitat needs. The feature program of QGN, *Gliders in the Spotlight* is a training workshop developed for community groups to help develop their capacity to monitor glider populations in a scientifically rigorous and repeatable manner. The workshops have been trialed in 5 locations over 10 months and continue with demand. Ben will present on the program, detail results and highlight the successes and challenges of implementation.

Presenter: Dr John Kanowski
Organisation: Griffith University, Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies
Email: j.kanowski@griffith.edu.au
Title: Managing camphor laurel regrowth to promote rainforest recovery

Abstract: Extensive areas of former rainforest land in northern NSW and south east Queensland have been colonised by the exotic tree, camphor laurel. Over the past two decades, a range of approaches have been developed for converting stands of camphor laurel to rainforest regrowth. In this forum, I will be joined by Ralph Woodford (Rous Water) and other practitioners to discuss the key elements of their approaches.

Forum abstracts (Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 June)

Abstracts are listed alphabetically by presenter surnames.

Presenter: Dr Aila Keto AO
Organisation: Australian Rainforest Conservation Society
Email: aila.keto@rainforest.org.au
Title: Springbrook Rescue Project
Abstract: Springbrook Rescue is a multi-faceted program to protect and restore the World Heritage rainforests of the Springbrook region. This is a biogeographically isolated remnant of the Mt Warning shield volcano, with extremely compressed environmental gradients and a 100-year history of clearing and fragmentation. Global warming, invasives and fragmentation seriously threaten its ancient wildlife lineages with extinction. The Rescue Plan involves seven imperatives including acquisition of key parcels of land and ecological restoration, with scientific research and monitoring fundamentally underpinning the entire strategy.

Presenter: Robert Kooyman
Organisation: National Herbarium of NSW, Botanic Gardens Trust; & Macquarie University
Email: Robert@ecodingo.com.au
Title: Defining plant functional groups for use in resource-limited multi-species recovery planning and implementation scenarios
Abstract: We describe an approach to multi-species recovery planning that uses trait-based plant functional groups as the basis for developing threat / risk assessments for rare, threatened and 'of concern' species. Multi-variate methods were used to extract and test emergent groups, and additional information fields related to species life history and distributional data were added to develop a species-level information assessment matrix in spreadsheet format. Phylogeny was shown to significantly affect the clustering of character states for nearly all the traits studied, however, these groups were not found to be useful for management purposes. Data rich samples were used to test the methods in one (rainforest) community type, and several species from one of our emergent groups were chosen from that sample to provide an example of the function of the assessment matrix. Relating emergent trait-based plant functional groups to habitat was found to be the most informative approach for the development of management recommendations and recovery planning related to landscape scale threat / risk categories.

Presenter: Barbara Lanskey
Organisation: Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands Inc
Email: barbaralanskey@conxx.com
Title: TREAT's Peterson Creek Corridor
Abstract: TREAT (Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands) has been replanting rainforest along Peterson Creek since 1997 to build a wildlife corridor between 2 isolated rainforest fragments on the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland. The challenges confronting the community group for this project are many and varied, but the 5 km corridor is now heading towards completion.

Presenter: Peter Latch
Organisation: Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Email: peter.latch@epa.qld.gov.au
Title: Managing and recovering threatened rainforest species and ecosystems in north Queensland
Abstract: North Queensland rainforests support a rich diversity of species yet human activities have placed many of these at threat of extinction. In response, recovery plans are in place for key species and ecosystems. These plans incorporate a mix of habitat protection and enhancement initiatives as well as threat mitigation, research and community engagement actions. Recovery of the endangered southern cassowary and the critically endangered ecosystem 'Mabi Forest' are presented as examples of effort currently underway. Challenges to the successful long-term recovery of rainforest systems remain and will be discussed.

Presenters: Graham Lightbody & Vanessa Wood
Organisation: Fitzroy Basin Association
Emails: graham.lightbody@fba.org.au; Vanessa.wood@fba.org.au
Title: Landholder Engagement in Scrub Recovery - some issues from the Boyne Calliope
Abstract: The catchments of the Boyne and Calliope Rivers and Curtis Island form the most northern parts of the SEQ Bioregion. The Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) is the NRM Regional Group for this region. FBA has some experience in delivering a biodiversity incentives scheme to landholders in other parts of the Basin, mainly involving larger areas of remnant Brigalow. This presentation will outline some of the successes and challenges involved in providing landholder incentives in the context of generally smaller and more fragmented areas of dry rainforest and a diversity of land management and social issues.

Forum abstracts (Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 June)

Abstracts are listed alphabetically by presenter surnames.

Presenter: Marianne Logan
Organisation: Big Scrub Landcare Group
Email: mlogan@advatel.biz
Title: The Rainforest Conservation and Management practices of the Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group

Abstract: The remaining remnants of the Big Scrub Rainforest are situated in North Eastern NSW and have very high conservation value of local, national and international significance. The Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group (BSRLG) rehabilitates and cares for these existing remnants and facilitates the restoration of Big Scrub rainforest by revegetation of land from which the rainforest was cleared. The BSRLG was incorporated in 1995 and is now the largest and most active landcare group in the region. This presentation will give an overview of how the BSRLG engage in rainforest conservation and management.

Presenter: Don Maskall
Organisation: Noosa and District Landcare
Email: Po1@futurescentre.spiderweb.com.au
Title: Community Engagement in the Kin Kin Catchment

Abstract: Kin Kin Catchment has a tremendous potential for recovery, due to the proximity of Woondum State Forest which provides a diverse seed source, the areas' high rainfall and a changing demographic. Through the network of Land for Wildlife properties within the catchment, the project has been able to bolster a huge ground swell of activity already taking place in restoring native vegetation for wildlife habitat. Of particular note is Coreen Schnitzerling's property, under her and her late husband Herb's guiding hand and with assistance from many great friends, this property which was once bare is now, more than twenty years on recovering beautifully. But as with so much environmental work it is an on going process, and Coreen is currently developing another forestry plot, and has fenced off water courses and is regenerating these.

Presenter: Dr Bill McDonald
Organisation: Queensland Herbarium
Email: bill.mcdonald@epa.qld.gov.au
Title: Distribution and status of the rainforests of Southeast Queensland

Abstract: At the time of European settlement, rainforests covered approximately 720 00 ha (11.3%) of the Southeast Queensland Biogeographic Region (SEQ). Their present extent, based on 2003 LANDSAT imagery, is estimated to be 293 000 ha, approximately 40.7% of their estimated pre-European area.

Results are presented of vegetation mapping of SEQ undertaken at 1:100 000 scale by the Queensland Herbarium. The 33 rainforest-dominated map units have been amalgamated into five broad vegetation groups:

- (a) Upland (cool) complex notophyll vine forest and microphyll fern forest to thicket [23989 ha pre-settlement, 19517 ha (81.4%) remaining in 2003] [4 regional ecosystems]
- (b) Lowland (warm) complex notophyll vine forest and araucarian notophyll vine forest on basic and intermediate volcanics and alluvia [207625 ha, 98003 ha (47.2%)] [5 regional ecosystems]
- (c) Notophyll and notophyll feather palm vine forest (often with sclerophyll and /or araucarian emergents) on coastal sandmasses and in moist situations on sediments, metasediments and intermediate / acid volcanics [84209 ha, 57213 ha (67.9%)] [8 regional ecosystems]
- (d) Araucarian notophyll / microphyll and microphyll vine forests, occasionally with eucalypt emergents, on remnant Tertiary surfaces, fine - grained sediments, metasediments and basic to intermediate (to acid) volcanics [262893 ha, 93547 ha (35.6%)] [6 regional ecosystems]
- (e) Semi-evergreen microphyll vine thicket ± *Acacia harpophylla* (brigalow) on sediments, metasediments and volcanics [141696 ha, 24646 ha (17.4%)] [10 regional ecosystems].

Apart from the higher altitude rainforests along the Main and McPherson Ranges (group a), the rainforests of Southeast Queensland have been extensively affected by logging and/or clearing for agricultural, pastoral and plantation development. This impact has been particularly severe in the drier rainforest types, the araucarian microphyll vine forests and thickets (group d) and the semi-evergreen vine thickets and associated *Acacia harpophylla* communities (group e). These types are estimated to have covered more than 400 000 ha, more than half the pre-clearing extent of rainforest within the region. Most remaining areas are heavily fragmented and are threatened by weed invasion and fire damage on their margins.

Forum abstracts (Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 June)

Abstracts are listed alphabetically by presenter surnames.

Presenter: Dr Daniel Metcalfe
Organisation: CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems
Email: dan.metcalfe@csiro.au
Title: Rainforest recovery from *Phytophthora cinnamomi* infection, Queensland, Australia
Abstract: We present the first detailed account of a *Phytophthora cinnamomi*-related dieback episode in tropical rain forest. The dieback took place within a long-term monitoring plot between 1977-1989, with the plot being monitored between 1975 - 2005. The results of successive surveys document the progression of the patch death from infection until disappearance, and the subsequent recovery of the forest. The impacts of the infection and the community's subsequent recovery are considered in terms of changes in stem number and size, and floristic composition. We discuss our findings with reference to the potential long-term impact of *P. cinnamomi* on the species and community structure of the rain forests of the Wet Tropics bioregion.

Presenter: Catherine Moran
Organisation: Griffith University, Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies
Email: c.moran@griffith.edu.au
Title: The importance of seed dispersal by birds and bats for regeneration
Abstract: In subtropical Australia, the majority of native rainforest plant species are spread by fruit-eating (frugivorous) birds or bats. However, because different frugivore species may disperse different plant species, and because numbers of certain frugivore species may decline in fragmented forest landscapes, dispersal of certain plant species may be substantially reduced in fragmented rainforest. This may limit the regenerative potential of these plant species in rainforest remnants, regrowth and restoration sites. In this presentation, I will talk about the plant taxa that we have identified as being likely to be susceptible to reduced dispersal in subtropical Australia, and potential implications for on ground management.

Presenter: Sally Moroney
Organisation: Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation Inc
Email: salad@spiderweb.com.au
Title: C4 - Helping a Rainforest Community Recover
Abstract: Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4) is an environment group in a rainforest community. I will be discussing how we operate to both preserve and enhance the forests through education, revegetation and political lobbying work, which have become more critical following the devastating effects of Cyclone Larry.

Presenter: Dr Helen Murphy
Organisation: CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems and Weeds CRC
Email: Helen.murphy@csiro.au
Title: Recruitment dynamics of native and invasive species in rainforest habitats following cyclone Larry
Abstract: Cyclones cause extensive defoliation, loss of major branches and multiple treefalls resulting in a significantly more open canopy and increased light and heat levels in the understorey. The widespread and severe disturbance caused by cyclones provides ideal conditions for rapid recruitment and spread of invasive species. Category 5 Cyclone Larry crossed the North Queensland coast in March 2006 causing major disturbance to rainforest habitats from Tully to Cairns and west to the Atherton Tablelands. We established 10 plots, each with nine 2x2m quadrats, in an area extensively damaged by this cyclone near El Arish in North Queensland. We have monitored recruitment, growth and mortality of all native and invasive species in the 90 quadrats every three months since the cyclone. Here we present the recruitment dynamics of invasive species across the study area in relation to the level of disturbance and the abundance and diversity of the native recruiting flora. Our results suggest that invasive species will mostly comprise a transient component of the flora in the early stages of the recovery process, however, some species may go on to have longer-term effects on the successional trajectory of the rainforest and future forest composition and structure.

Forum abstracts (Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 June)

Abstracts are listed alphabetically by presenter surnames.

Presenter: Jeanette Nobes
Organisation: Booroobin Bushcare
Email: thebirdhide@bigpond.com
Title: Saving our Rainforests on the Blackall Range
Abstract: Five years after the first Forum, the rainforests of the Blackall Range were struggling to survive, predominantly from invasive weeds and suburban style development. This became all too evident when visiting properties in Booroobin about the Coxen's fig-parrot. I realized then, that we had to do things differently. I had been promoting the conservation of our Rainforests for the previous 25 years through education and was left in no doubt that the 80 property owners in Booroobin needed assistance in understanding why where they lived was extremely special and deserving of their care, to repair the total landscape of our area. Booroobin Bushcare was born in 2003, and it offers a system where all residents receive free, relevant information on Rainforest Conservation through a quarterly newsletter. In the newsletter I try to engage the residents to fall in love with their properties and that the rewards for repairing it were immense. In the newsletter are articles on weed management, fauna and flora issues, growing their own endemic plants, and much more. I run free workshops for them to learn how to work smart not hard. 90% of residents are from city or overseas and most have never lived in a rural area let alone a Rainforest area such as ours. After a survey, I discovered that only 2 families moved here because they wanted to live in rainforest. I am fortunate to have 80% participation from residents, residents who are time rich but knowledge poor, but so very keen to learn. Our successes have been many.

Presenter: Catherine Pohlman
Organisation: James Cook University
Email: Catherine.pohlman2@jcu.edu.au
Title: Internal fragmentation in the rainforest: the effects of clearings for highways and powerlines on tropical rainforest plant communities
Abstract: Human activities have led to the loss and fragmentation of tropical rainforest around the world. Linear clearings for human infrastructure, including roads and powerlines, may further subdivide remaining areas of forest. Such clearings are widespread within the rainforests of north-eastern Queensland and the edge effects (alterations in the physical environment and biological community of the forest near the forest edge) of these clearings have the potential to substantially increase the disturbed area within existing tracts of rainforest. I will present the results of a study on the impacts of linear infrastructure clearings on the ecology of tropical rainforest plant communities near the edges of anthropogenic linear clearings (powerlines and highways) and natural linear canopy openings (watercourses) in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area of north-eastern Queensland.

Presenter: Chantal Roder
Organisation: Aboriginal Rainforest Council
Email: Chantal@arc-inc.org.au
Title: Development of a culturally appropriate Cultural Heritage Information Management System for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
Abstract: Through NHT funding, the Aboriginal Rainforest Council are coordinating a Cultural Heritage Mapping Project, which includes the development of a culturally appropriate Cultural Heritage Information Management System. This project is supporting Rainforest Aboriginal groups to record, manage and apply their cultural heritage knowledge at a local country based level, and collectively pull this information together to nominate the area for National Heritage Listing and to re-list the World Heritage Area for its cultural landscape values (currently the area listed for its natural and scenic values only).

Presenter: Dr Don Sands
Organisation: Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network
Email: dsands@bigpond.net.au
Title: Can the Richmond Birdwing Survive Climate change? Challenges, Actions and Progress towards its recovery
Abstract: The Richmond Birdwing butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*) is threatened in Queensland by loss and fragmentation of habitat between the Mary River and NSW Border Ranges. Its survival is dependent on healthy growth and adequate densities of the rainforest vine *Pararistolochia praevenosa*. As part of the recovery plan for the butterfly, the *Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network Inc.* is coordinating mapping and conserving natural stands of the vine, and replanting bushlands and gardens with the food plant. However, prolonged drought and climate change are having a devastating effect on restoration of the food plant vines and hence recovery of the butterfly. The mechanisms for the impacts of drought on the butterfly and its food plant are discussed, with ways this increasing threat might be addressed.

Forum abstracts (Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 June)

Abstracts are listed alphabetically by presenter surnames.

Presenter: Dr Alison Shapcott
Organisation: Genetics, Ecology and Physiology Research Group, University of Sunshine Coast
Email: ashapcot@usc.edu.au
Title: Conservation of Threatened Rainforest Plants
Abstract: Frequently conservation actions are aimed at sites or blocs of vegetation or perhaps the habitat of an iconic animal. A different approach is required for the conservation of threatened plant species that requires a landscape perspective. The rainforests in this region contain many threatened plant species with little know about most of them. Some case studies will highlight some of the lessons learnt and profile some of our threatened plants.

Presenter: Andrew Steed
Organisation: New South Wales Department of Environment and Climate Change
Email: shane.ruming@environment.nsw.gov.au
Title: The Border Ranges Rainforest Biodiversity Management Plan: an innovative approach to regional recovery planning
Abstract: The Border Ranges Rainforest Biodiversity Management Plan is a regional threatened species recovery plan covering the Australian Government Border Ranges (Qld and NSW) Hotspot. The Plan considers biodiversity (including threatened species) within the rainforest and adjacent wet forests through a tiered threats-based approach from landscape to site specific scales. The Plan has been the collaborative effort of the DECC, QEPA, NRCMA, SEQC, DEWR and a range of other agencies, experts and interested parties. New approaches to engaging the Indigenous and broader community in the preparation of the Plan have been trialed. The Plan delivers a prioritised, cost effective and efficient approach.

Presenter: Cuong Tran
Organisation: Griffith University and the Southeast Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium
Email: c.tran@griffith.edu.au
Title: Fire ecology of rainforest ecosystems - defending the indefensible?
Abstract: Fire exhibits a prominent role in many of Australia's terrestrial ecosystems. Fire management through the purposeful application of fire into some landscapes can assist in maintaining and preserving biodiversity. However, too frequent or too infrequent interfire intervals can lead to a degradation of biodiversity... this is a complex balance to achieve. Rainforest ecosystems are recognised as fire-sensitive and recovery of these ecosystems to this type of disturbance is poor. We are working on managing the risks to fire in/around these ecosystems, aiming to reduce the impact of higher intensity fires. Some novel experiments, community liaison and long-term monitoring are key objectives of this project.

Presenter: Nigel Tucker
Organisation: Biotropica Australia P/L
Email: nigeltucker@qiotropica.com.au
Title: De-fragmentation and connectivity across the north Queensland rainforest landscape
Abstract: Our knowledge of the role and effect of habitat connectivity in the Wet Tropics has expanded considerably in the past two decades, very much in parallel with our understanding of the isolating effect of fragmentation. The restoration of habitat connectivity, or de-fragmentation, has been a significant driver of this knowledge, and has involved a number of approaches ranging from ecological restoration at key sites, to hard and soft engineering. A feature of some projects has been a strong focus on monitoring and ongoing research, resulting in data which continues to provide a stronger empirical basis for decision making. This presentation provides some examples of monitored projects, and discusses some of the key outcomes and observations. In this context, the presentation also discusses new priorities for action and suggests funding options that may assist the implementation of these priority actions.

Forum abstracts (Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 June)

Abstracts are listed alphabetically by presenter surnames.

Presenter: Prof Steve Turton
Organisation: CSIROJames Cook University
Email: steve.turton@jcu.edu.au
Title: A preliminary assessment of the environmental impacts of Cyclone Larry on the forest landscapes of northeast Queensland, with reference to responses to natural resource management issues in the aftermath

Abstract: In March 2006 Cyclone Larry (Cat. 4) caused significant environmental impacts across far north Queensland, including coastal landscapes between Cairns and Tully and inland areas of the southern Atherton Tablelands. Rainforest remnants and riparian vegetation were severely disturbed with many areas still struggling to recover due to infestation by weeds and vines, and ongoing threats from fire. This talk focuses on these impacts and what we have learnt from the most severe cyclone to impact Queensland since 1918. Securing landscape resilience to future cyclonic events in eastern Queensland means focusing future natural resource management investments in the following areas: landscape connectivity, river repair, protecting coastal assets, cyclone resilient farms, education for the future and avoiding climate change.

Presenter: Craig Wall
Organisation: NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
Email: cerra@environment.nsw.gov.au
Title: The management of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia World Heritage Area

Abstract: The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia) (CERRA) World Heritage Area, initially inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 and with major additions in 1994 mainly from Queensland, faces many challenges over the coming years to conserve its rainforest values of international significance. While as recently as seven years ago the spectre of climate change was considered a uncontrollable outside influence by management agencies, it is now recognised that climate change will be the single biggest threat to the natural values of CERRA in the coming centuries and that it will magnify the effects of other threats such as pest species, fire and fragmentation. Managing for resilience is likely to be one of the most effective strategies available. This will include providing land managers with the information and tools which enable them to build resilience into the ecosystems of CERRA to deal with the impacts from these threats.

Presenter: Jessie Wells
Organisation: University of Queensland
Email: Jessie.wells@uq.edu.au
Title: Seed dispersal and the ecological diversity of regeneration in secondary rainforests of the Wet Tropics

Abstract: Understanding the possibilities and limitations of natural regeneration is essential for efficiently directing conservation efforts in fragmented landscapes. This project relates the diversity and distribution of regeneration in adjacent intact and secondary rainforests to the distance to rainforest sources, dispersal interactions with birds and mammals, and the ecological traits of plant species (e.g. seed size, light responses, lifespan). Seed dispersal is a key factor in how plant species richness and ecological diversity changes with distance from intact rainforest, due to dramatic changes in the densities and representation of plants that are dispersed by alternative sets of animals, and concurrent declines in diversity of plant and seed traits.

Posters are listed alphabetically by author surnames.

Author: Corinna Byrne
Organisation: Strategic & Environmental Planning & Policy, Gold Coast City Council
Email: cbyrne@goldcoast.qld.gov.au
Title: Surfers Paradise Rainforest Report
Abstract: Gold Coast City Council's Environment Planning and Conservation Section recently prepared the *Surfers Paradise Rainforest History and Future Report*, describing historical and contemporary littoral rainforest vegetation in the Surfers Paradise area. Historical records confirm that Surfers Paradise originally supported possibly the most extensive and diverse rainforest on beach sand in the exposed ocean coast in subtropical Australia. The report recommended that remaining rainforest vegetation on public land in Surfers Paradise be protected and managed wherever possible, that private landholders be rewarded for retaining rainforest vegetation and that indigenous rainforest species be used in future landscaping.

Author: Michele Dale
Organisation: FNQ NRM Ltd (Far North Queensland Natural Resource Management)
Email: micheled@fnqnrm.com.au
Title: Education for Sustainable Rainforest Management
Abstract: FNQ NRM Ltd is working with community members, school teachers and other educators to produce sustainable resource managers for tomorrow. In the Wet Tropics, three education resource officers provide a communications corridor between community contacts ("Community in the Classroom") and educators through the delivery of professional development workshops. These workshops facilitate the incorporation of educational themes around natural assets such as biodiversity and water into school curricula by providing teachers with networking opportunities and locally relevant educational resources.

Author: Sam Dawson
Organisation: Eungella Landcare and The Caldera Environment Centre
Email: sdawson@better.net.au
Title: Daming the Rainforests of the Tweed Valley to quench the thirst of the Gold-Coast
Abstract: South East Queensland is feeling the water crisis more keenly than most other areas of Australia. Dams and reservoirs are drying up and water restrictions are now a permanent part of daily life. In response, the Federal Government commissioned a report titled *Integrated Water Supply Options for SEQ and NE NSW*. This report examined forty options which it boiled down to the top-five most promising options based on cost, reliability and speed of delivery. All these options involved the construction of a dam on rivers in Northern NSW and then piping the water to Queensland. The option at the top of the list, the option which is believed to be 'the cheapest and can deliver water with the greatest rapidity,' is a dam at Rocky Cutting on the Oxley River in the Tweed Valley. This poster examines the effects that the proposed dam will have on Rocky Cutting, a highly significant remnant rainforest pocket.

Author: Hubert Géraux
Organisation: WWF-France (New Caledonia Office)
Email: hgeraux@wwf.nc
Title: Participatory Process of Forest Recovery on Tribal Land in New Caledonia
Abstract: With 10,000 ha and 2,500 mm of precipitation, the Aoupinié mountain is the largest patch of medium altitude tropical forest on non ultrabasic soil in New Caledonia. Shared among 2 districts and 3 tribes, its exceptional fauna and flora are threatened by logging, uncontrolled fires and introduced species. Since 2003, the WWF has been involved in an ambitious participatory project which aims to support sustainable development by promoting the value of and conserving the natural resources of the Aoupinié. The three main actions are: improving environmental education for future generations, supporting ecotourism development and ensuring forest recovery by fire control and active restoration. This is achieved through the implementation of a synergetic web of individual and collective interests for environmental conservation.

Posters are listed alphabetically by author surnames.

Author: Liz Gould
Organisation: SEQ Catchments
Email: lgould@seqcatchments.com.au
Title: Recovering the Border Ranges Rainforest - it's everyone's business
Abstract: The Border Ranges region of north east New South Wales and the Scenic Rim of south east Queensland is extraordinarily diverse and under immediate threat - it is a Biodiversity Hotspot. The rainforests of this unique area are currently the subject of a multi-species recovery plan, being developed by the NSW Department of Conservation and Climate Change and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency. The "Border Ranges Rainforest Hotspot (NSW and Qld) Biodiversity Management Plan (A National Regional Recovery Plan)" is in its final stages of development. The first phase of consultation on the plan's scope and content was undertaken in late 2006. The second phase is currently underway and will extend until late July; the final phase will be public exhibition of the draft Plan.

Author: ^{1,2}Melinda Laidlaw, ¹ Bill McDonald, ³Roger Kitching, ⁴John Hunter, ²Yvonne Buckley and ³David Putland
Organisation: ¹Queensland Herbarium, Environmental Protection Agency; ²School of Integrative Biology, University of Queensland; ³School of Australian Environmental Studies, Griffith University; ⁴New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service
Email: Melinda.Laidlaw@epa.qld.gov.au
Title: Altitudinal variation and climate change in Australian subtropical rainforest
Abstract: The distribution of many of the rainforest communities of Lamington National Park are closely linked with the environmental correlates of altitude. Microphyll Fern Forest and cool Complex Notophyll Vine Forest occur at higher altitudes where cloud cover contributes significantly to annual moisture budgets. As cloud cap is expected to rise with the advent of climate change, the forests at and above 900m may be the first to undergo floristic changes due to increasing water stress. This may be detectable by way of increasing Bray-Curtis dissimilarity between the understorey and overstorey floristics within a single site.

Author: Barbara Lanskey and Bronwyn Robertson
Organisation: TREAT (Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands)
Email: barbaralanskey@conxx.com
Title: Peterson Creek Corridor
Abstract: This five kilometre wildlife corridor is being created between Lake Eacham Crater Lakes National Park and Curtain Fig National Park on the Atherton Tablelands in the Wet Tropics. It is in an area previously covered by Mabi Forest, an endangered ecosystem as only 2% now remains. TREAT (Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands) has been working on this project with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service since 1997 and with the cooperation of the landholders and the community have now completed over half of it.

Author: Darryl Larsen
Organisation: Strategic & Environmental Planning & Policy, Gold Coast City Council
Email: DLarsen@goldcoast.qld.gov.au
Title: Conservation and recovery of rainforest on private land in Gold Coast City. A partnership of Gold Coast City Council, Land for Wildlife and Gold Coast landholders
Abstract: Extensive but sometimes fragmented tracts of rainforest within the City are located on private land. In addition, much land in the Gold Coast hinterland previously cleared for farming or grazing and now subdivided into acreage residential properties is suitable for rainforest restoration. The benefits of rainforest restoration on private land, including biodiversity conservation, catchment protection and improved scenic amenity are enjoyed by the whole community but the financial cost to landholders and the amount of time and labour they put into projects sometimes goes unrecognised. Some landholders relish the challenge but the size and complexity of the task deters many. Around 300 Gold Coast landholders participate in the Land for Wildlife program through a non-binding agreement to protect and enhance native vegetation and fauna habitat on their properties. Participation in the program provides a range of benefits to landholders undertaking conservation management or restoration of rainforest.

Posters are listed alphabetically by author surnames.

Author: Bede MacKenzie
Organisation: Private Landowner; Barung Landcare
Email: bede.mackenzie@people.net.au
Title: *Paspalum mandiocanum*
Abstract: *Paspalum mandiocanum* is totally unpalatable to all grazing stock, native and feral animals. *Paspalum mandiocanum* suppresses and kills all other grasses including Kikuyu, Signal and Blady Grasses. *Paspalum mandiocanum* grows in full sun to nearly complete darkness, wet or dry, good or bad country, open, timbered to rainforest country.

Author: Wal Mayr
Organisation: Austinville Landcare
Email: wal.mayr@terranean.com.au
Title: Long term Weed Management in a Coastal Catchment - Is it possible?
Abstract: In two years Austinville Landcare has made dramatic progress towards invasive weed (Madeira/Morning Glory) eradication from the entire Upper Mudgeeraba Creek Catchment - but long term it is about changing land owner behaviour - is it possible? The poster session will elaborate on our actions to date and our strategy for the future. Experiences from other groups who have successfully changed landowner behaviour in whole communities would be most appreciated.

Author: Gerard McCormick
Organisation: S.P.L.A.T
Email: GMcCormick@splat.net.au
Title: How do temporal factors influence the success of restoration projects?
Abstract: Ecological restoration defines the practice of repairing degraded natural systems. The three established tiers of ecological restoration: (assisted natural regeneration, reconstruction and type conversion) define and respond to the level of disturbance and the ability of the degraded system to return to its original state. Each plays its own role and has its limitations in ecological restoration, *i.e.* where the system has capacity to recover with the assistance of human interventions or where more drastic revegetation interventions are required. External disturbance alters the periodicity of the "adaptive cycle", resulting in changes to the vegetation community by favouring certain species and limiting others. In order to repair degraded natural systems, the reinstatement of the original periodicity of the adaptive cycle for that particular vegetation community is required. The timing of interventions as part of restoration work needs to coincide with the correct phase of the adaptive cycle for maximum success. This poster shows two restoration case studies to compare and contrast the response of different plant communities to disturbance, and their recovery following restoration interventions.

Author: Sam Morris
Organisation: Landcare Queensland
Email: conference@landcare.org.au
Title: 2007 Queensland Landcare Conference | Making a Difference
Abstract: The 2007 Queensland Landcare Conference, being held in Mackay 22 - 25 August is the 18th annual Landcare Conference in Queensland. Expected to attract more than 300 delegates the event will feature a diverse range of community, agency and industry speakers discussing how they've made a difference to the landscape and to behavioural change. This poster provides a snapshot of some of the highlights of the four day event which is being hosted by Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group with support from Landcare Queensland. Further information is available from www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm

Author: Roger Phillips
Organisation: Australian Rainforest Foundation
Email: roger.phillips@arf.net.au
Title: Help Australia's Rainforests Fight Climate Change - Become a Hero₂
Abstract: Hero₂ is an opportunity for all Australians to fight climate change and protect and extend Australia's ancient rainforests. The Hero₂ payroll giving program encourages employers and employees to stand side-by-side to make a significant long term investment in our environment and the planet's future. Contributions to Hero₂ go to:

- Protecting old growth forests;
- Extending our rainforests by planting new mixed species rainforest trees;
- Recovering rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

To find out more go to www.hero2.net.au or call the Australian Rainforest Foundation on 07 4051 2000.

Posters are listed alphabetically by author surnames.

Author: Glenda Pickersgill
Organisation: Save the Mary River Coordinating Group
Email: pickerg@tpg.com.au (Save the Mary River Coordinating Group email)
Title: Riparian rainforest restorations in the Mary River Catchment
Abstract: Over the past decade, millions of dollars in government funding for river restoration has helped landholders and other interested community members to establish programs for riparian rainforest restoration of the Mary River catchment. Now the demand of water for urban use, place these successful restoration activities and the community that has participated since 1995 at risk. This poster describes restoration works conducted in the Mary Catchment, and outlines the present and future impacts of the Traveston Crossing Dam proposal on the catchment, the restoration projects and communities.

Author: Ruth Read
Organisation: Parks Association of Queensland Inc.
Email: ruthread@iprimus.com.au
Title: NPAQ Supporting and Preserving National Parks and Protected Areas through Volunteer Programmes
Abstract: The volunteer programmes include weed removal and revegetation, currently within sections of the D'Aguilar National Park, "Clean Up Australia Day" in a variety of Protected Areas and Track Work at Sundown National Park. Although, some of these may not include true rain forest, the same principles apply.

Author: Ian R. Smith
Organisation: Pine Rivers Catchment Association and School of Integrative Biology, University of Queensland
Email: iansmith@ozemail.com.au
Title: The Past and Future of the Ancient Pine Trees of the Rainforests of the Pine Rivers
Abstract: In 1842, Robert Dixon and Andrew Petrie found a small area of bunya trees (which has now disappeared) in the Pine River. The bunya was important to the Aboriginal people. The bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and the hoop pine (*A. cunninghamii*) are ancient trees of the genus *Araucaria*. *A. bidwillii* is limited because of poor dispersal, while the hoop pine disperses the seed by wind. Since the Oligocene-Miocene there has been rainforest contraction and re-expansion. Glaciations caused shrinkage of rainforest, although there has been expansion of rainforest in the Holocene. On the Pine River there is one remnant rainforest site that survived the ice-age containing coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) and red carabeen (*Geissois benthamii*) and hoop pine. It then re-expanded after wet conditions after the ice-age. The rainforests of the Pine Rivers only survive as scattered or protected areas. With climate change, will rainforests disappear or become re-established under active management?

Author: Emma Trigg
Organisation: Landcare Queensland
Email: emma@landcare.org.au
Title: Helping the less advantaged get their hands dirty
Abstract: In May 2007, Landcare Queensland took a busload of Brisbane personalities on a trip to the Gold Coast Hinterland to help Austinville Landcare Group eradicate lantana from some remnant rainforest. What was unique about this field trip is that the volunteers came from a range of social service providers in Brisbane and most have been affected by homelessness. Working in partnership with West End Community House and the New Farm Neighbourhood Centre, Landcare Queensland recruited a team of volunteers who wouldn't usually have the means or capacity to get involved in Landcare activities. This poster looks at the motivations behind the project, the highlights of the day and the outcomes achieved for participants.

Author: Bill Tweedie
Organisation: Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare Group & Country Energy
Email: subill@bigpond.net.au
Title: Best Practice Vegetation Management in Power Easements-Model Easement In High Conservation Value Subtropical Rainforest Recovery Plan
Abstract: Wilsons Creek is traversed by a network of degraded power easements in an area containing the bulk of Byron Shire's high conservation value rainforest forming part of the Border Ranges Biodiversity Recovery Plan. The project will seek to demonstrate that selective bush regeneration in the model easement can play a vital role in recovery planning and implementation. The poster will highlight the project's key issues and features including, partnering arrangements, connectivity, canopy suppression techniques, education, research and easement management cost effectiveness.

Posters are listed alphabetically by author surnames.

Author: Maarten van Strien, Arnon Accad and Ignas M.A. Heitkönig
Organisation: Environmental Protection Agency of Queensland & Wageningen University, The Netherlands
Email: maarten.vanstrien@epa.qld.gov.au, arnon.accad@epa.qld.gov.au
Title: Are the Rainforest Vegetation Communities of Southeast Queensland Adequately Protected?
Abstract: The effects climate change will have on the extent and location of rainforest communities in Southeast Queensland is still uncertain. In this study vegetation response to climate change is modeled using current climate and projected climate change scenarios. The methodological framework for the ecological modeling integrates a data, an ecological and a statistical model. Predictor variables were selected from a dataset of 98 climatic, soil property and topographic variables. Response variables presence and absence data were sampled from Queensland Herbarium's regional ecosystems maps. The applied statistical modeling techniques are Generalized Additive Models, Generalized Linear Models and Classification and Regression Trees.

Australian Government: Department of the Environment and Water Resources and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The National Heritage Trust is the Australian Government's principle program for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and community capacity building and institutional change. The National Heritage Trust was established by the Australian Government in 1997 to help restore and conserve Australia's environment and natural resources. It represents the largest environmental rescue effort since Federation, with governments working with communities and individuals to find local solutions to local problems.

For more information visit: www.nht.gov.au.



Australian Government

SEQ Catchments Ltd.

SEQ Catchments Ltd. is the recognised natural resource management (NRM) regional body for South East Queensland. Our vision is to secure a sustainable future for our natural resources through community involvement, government and industry partnerships and innovative on-ground delivery.

In partnership with the community, SEQ Catchments focuses on targeted on-ground works to achieve resource condition improvements. We also seek to coordinate and support relevant scientific research, planning and monitoring. SEQ Catchments is recognised by both the Australian and Queensland Governments as the accredited regional body for the delivery of Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Water Quality and Salinity funds. Through coordinated funding bids and cooperative projects, SEQ Catchments seeks to increase the overall amount of investment available for the management of natural resource assets and provide integrated outcomes at a landscape scale.

SEQ Catchments - Brisbane

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WWF

WWF-Australia is part of the WWF International Network, the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organisation. It has close to five million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries. Our mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by: conserving the world's biological diversity; ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

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The Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies (CICS)

The Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies (CICS) was established in 2005 to facilitate scientific research and practical conservation outcomes centred around four major themes: Biodiversity Research, Human Impacts, Global Challenges and Finding Solutions. CICS brings together leading researchers and scientists from a broad range of fields and disciplines, such as: ecology, conservation biology, wildlife management, genetics, planning and the social sciences. Our researchers are actively engaged in cooperative partnerships: locally, nationally and internationally. The Centre's goal is to assist with collaborative and engagement strategies that bring together researchers, policy makers, government agencies and the community to develop innovative ways to achieve biodiversity conservation.



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Landcare Queensland

To ensure vibrant towns and cities of the future, with clean air; healthy soils and landscapes; and clean and abundant water, we need to learn to live and work differently. To really look after the environment, people need information, support and financial assistance to make the right choices.

Landcare Queensland provides training, resources and funding for more than 30,000 people involved in Landcare throughout the state. Visit www.landcare.org.au for more information or contact our office on 07 3211 4413.



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Ecological Society of Australia

The aim of the Ecological Society of Australia is "*to promote the ecological discipline in all its forms, to support the application of the principles developed in ecology to protect and conserve the biosphere, and to promote the exchange of ecological knowledge for educational purposes and cultural development.*"

For more information contact our Queensland regional councilor - Dr Andrew Hayes via email: r.hayes@imb.uq.edu.au or ph: 07 3346 2980 or visit our website at: www.ecolsoc.org.au



With thanks to the people who made it happen...

Organising committee: Annie Keys, Dr Carla Catterall, Kay Montgomery, Liz Gould and Mike Gregory. As previously mentioned, these people have done an enormous amount of hard work to ensure we have funding, a venue, speakers, bus trips and ultimately a terrific Forum! There is no way we would be here today without them and they deserve huge thanks!

Australian Government: Generous support was provided for the Forum through the National Heritage Trust Program. This support ensured that registration costs remained very low, travel subsidies were available for some community members and therefore, high attendance by community volunteers. A special thanks to Annie Keys for organising this support.

Griffith University, Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies (CICS): The CICS generously hosted this Forum, saving us significant venue costs and ensuring the Forum remained at an extremely reasonable cost. A big thanks to Gail Spina, Mikalah Malone and Dr Carla Catterall from the CICS for their fantastic help organising rooms, equipment and catering. Thanks also to Dr Marc Hero for doing a super job as MC on Monday morning!

Kerri Woodcock from Landcare Queensland: We commissioned Landcare Queensland to look after the registrations, media, program and other tasks for us for the Forum. Kerri has worked above and beyond the call of duty, organising all our speakers, registrations and putting together a terrific program, among other important tasks. Thanks also to Sam Morris for her valuable help.

Speakers, poster authors and panel members: There would be no Forum without our speakers, poster authors and panel members. They have all generously given of their time and funds to join us here and we greatly appreciate it. I am sure we have all gained significantly from the knowledge and experiences they have shared with us.

SEQ Catchments: SEQ Catchments have made significant inkind contributions to this Forum, via staff on the organising committee, staff assisting at the Forum, printing and administrative support. We would not be here today without the commitment, support and enthusiasm of these people. Huge thanks to Simon Warner, for officially opening the Forum on Monday morning and to Bina Viegas for looking after the financial side of registrations, which was an enormous task and one we greatly appreciate! Thanks also to the following people who helped at the Forum in various ways: Sarah Castle, Deborah Metters, Susie Chapman, Dave Clark, Darren McPherson, Steve Lyngcoln and Bruce Lord. Thanks also to Natasha Wright for help with media and organising some of the goodies in the Forum bags.

Ecological Society of Australia: A huge thanks to ESA for providing funding for the printing of the notepads in the forum bags. This was made possible thanks to Carla Catterall, Andrew Hayes and Larelle McMillan.

Session chairs and panel facilitators: Thanks to Kay Montgomery, Dr Carla Catterall, Annie Keys, Liz Gould, Mike Gregory, Dr Bill McDonald, Dr John Kanowski, Dr Steve Turton, Bruce Boyes and Susie Chapman for their fantastic chairing and facilitation skills!

Jagera, Yuggera and Yurrapyul groups: Thank-you to Edward Ruska for his Welcome to Country on Monday morning and some valuable insight into the indigenous people of the area.

Field trip helpers: A huge thanks to Mike Gregory for doing a terrific job organising the two field trips! Thanks also to Dr Bill McDonald, Sarah Castle, Steve Lyngcoln, Keryn McDonald, Liz Gould, Kay Montgomery, QPWS/EPA staff, Barung Landcare, Noosa Landcare and Friends of Kin Kin Creek.

IT Assistants: A huge thanks to our IT experts Miriam Paul and Jenny Sanger from the CICS, Griffith University. Their skill and patience ensured that all the presentations were loaded on time and opened smoothly.

Bruce Boyes: Bruce kindly supplied us with an electronic version of the proceedings from the WWF 1998 SEQ Rainforest Recovery Conference (after much searching), which we have made available electronically (www.landcare.org.au/RRforum07.htm) and in CD form at the Forum. Thanks Bruce!

Tiaro Landcare: Thanks to Lyn Klupsel and Marilyn Connell from Tiaro Landcare for making us 250 chocolate turtles...they were delicious.

South East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project

The South East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Cross Regional Implementation Program (SEQRRCRIP) is currently being implemented throughout the SEQ bio-region. This region is one of the most biodiverse in Australia, containing 32 rainforest ecosystems (Sattler and Williams, 1999), of which, 22 are threatened (McDonald 2001). Approximately 60% of rainforest in SEQ has been lost through extensive clearing, reducing the original extent of rainforest from 665,000ha to 276,000ha (McDonald, 1998).

In 2005, a Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) application prepared by the Burnett-Mary Regional Group (BMRG) was successful in securing 1.7 million dollars, over 3 years, to undertake critical recovery actions in the region. The funding has been provided to five partnering organisations, including three Regional NRM Bodies, the Fitzroy Basin Association, SEQ Catchments and BMRG. The remaining two partners are the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The project is being managed by SEQ Catchments, with the Project Coordinator (Michael Gregory) employed by WWF. Significant support is also being provided by staff from the Federal Government and from the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency.

This project aims to improve the management and protection of rainforest ecosystems within the SEQ bioregion by working collaboratively with the community and key stakeholders to implement actions from the SEQ Rainforest Recovery Plan.

The SEQ Rainforest Recovery Plan is an innovative multi-ecosystem recovery plan that has been developed by WWF in partnership with a number of key stakeholders. Strong community support for the actions within the SEQ Rainforest Recovery Plan have been gained through three and a half years of on-ground works, liaising with SEQ rainforest recovery groups and landholders.

Through the current project, the SEQRRCRIP will improve the condition of over 4000 hectares of endangered rainforest through the strategic rehabilitation of remnants, education, strategic research, and the provision of management incentives and stewardship payments. The project will also facilitate the production of landholder information kits on threatening processes and current best management practices for grazing, fire and pest management. For further information on the project, please contact Michael Gregory via email on: mgregory@wwf.org.au

Literature Cited:

Sattler, P. and Williams, R. (1999). The Conservation Status of Queensland's Bioregional Ecosystems. Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane.

McDonald, W.J.F (2001) unpublished data "Distribution and Status of the Rainforest Communities of SouthEast Queensland " Queensland Herbarium/Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane.



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