WWF

World Wide Fund for Nature Australia

South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News

Issue No. 1
September - October 1997

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This edition of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* has been compiled by Siobhan Bland and Bruce Boyes. Many thanks to Wayne Martin from the Department of Environment Wildnet Project for scanning the photographs and newspaper articles.

Contributions

Contributions to *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* are very welcome. As well as articles, photographs, and newspaper clippings, keep us informed of your coming rainforest events for the events calendar. Articles should preferably be sent on disk in Microsoft Word 6.0.

Mailing List

South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News is distributed free of charge to our mailing list. To add your name to, or remove your name from, the mailing list please complete and return the form on page 15.

Contact Information

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Recovering the Rainforests of South-East Queensland

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News*, the newsletter of the WWF South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project. *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* will be published every two months, keeping you up to date with the progress of this major conservation project.

The rainforests of South-East Queensland have an alarming number of threatened plants, animals, and habitats. Without urgent conservation action, numerous extinctions will result and a rich biodiversity will disappear forever.

Bringing our rainforests back from the brink is what the WWF South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery project is all about.

The 1996 WWF South-East Queensland Vineforests Project : A Firm Foundation

In 1991, WWF funded a Queensland Herbarium study of South-East Queensland vineforests. 232 sites were studied, 63 of which were found to have high conservation value. The study culminated in the publication of *The Vineforest Plant Atlas for South-East Queensland*, co-authored by Paul Forster, Peter Bostock, Lloyd Bird and Tony Bean.

In 1996, WWF implemented a follow-up Project, using the findings of the 1991 study to promote the conservation and management of the high conservation value sites identified in the Vineforest Atlas and subsequent surveys.

A job well done: Rainforest recovery officer Bruce Boyes (left) looks over Teddington Weir's newly opened nature trail. Belgium's Alex De Saint Marco and Parisian photographer Dominique McKenzie were among those who worked on the project. Photo: JOHN MILLER

Taking trail to conservation

MARYBOROUGH'S Teddington Weir Vineforest Trail was officially opened on Saturday by Hervey Bay mayor Bill Brennan.

The trail takes visitors through some of the interesting features in a patch of remnant vineforest scrub about 800 m from the reservoir's picnic area.

A World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF) initiative, the project encourages the conservation of vineforest remnants in the lower Mary River catchment.

WWF rainforest recovery officer Bruce Boyes said the project demonstrated how positive conservation outcomes could be achieved when the community, government and industry worked together.

Organisations supporting the project include the Wide Bay Burnett Electricity Corporation, Maryborough City Council, Maryborough Environment Group and the Department of Environment.

A Federal 'Save the Bush' grant provided the funding for the 1996 WWF South-East Queensland Vineforest Project, carried out by then WWF Vineforest Liaison Officer Bruce Boyes under the direction of an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the Qld. Dept. of Environment (DoE), Qld. Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), and the conservation movement.

Proposals for the conservation and management of 12 high-priority sites (out of the 71 significant sites identified in the 1991 study and subsequent surveys) are currently being implemented. These twelve sites feature nine of Queensland's endangered plants. Other successes of the 1996 Vineforest Project include an extensive public education and awareness campaign, increased community involvement in vineforest conservation, and progress on solutions to the difficulties that landholders face in trying to protect remnant vineforest.

The final report for the 1996 project, *Conservation of Vineforests in South-East Queensland,* (WWF Australia, May 1997) covers the project in its entirety. Copies of the report are available from WWF Officer Bruce Boyes (see inside front cover).

An expanded role in 1997

The 1996 project gained considerable government, landholder and community support for the conservation and active management of vineforests and threatened vineforest plant species in the South-East Queensland Bioregion.

This led the Queensland Department of Environment to invite WWF Officer Bruce Boyes to initiate plant and ecosystem recovery for the new Threatened Species and Ecosystems unit, in conjunction with continued work on vineforests.

The 1997 phase of the project has been made possible by a successful funding application to the Rothwells Trust. The Queensland Department of Environment has generously granted $10,000 of additional funding to facilitate the partnership between WWF and the DoE Threatened Species and Ecosystems Unit.

The partnership that has been developed between WWF and the Queensland Department of Environment is a key factor in the success of the project. WWF thanks the Department of Environment for its excellent ongoing support and cooperation.

The New Project

Late in 1997 the Project will undergo its next metamorphis, evolving into the WWF/Qld. Dept. of Environment South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project, with associated Nature Refuges and Threatened Species and Ecosystems work.

Rainforests are rare in Australia, covering less than 0.3 percent of the continent. Rainforests are among the world's richest ecosystems for the range of plants and animals for which they provide a home.

The rainforests of South-East Queensland have a high concentration of threatened rainforest plants and animals, particularly plants. Indeed, more than one-third of all of Queensland's endangered plants are found in the South-East Queensland rainforests. A number of threatened fauna species depend on these threatened rainforest habitats: the Black-breasted Button-quail, Coxen's Fig Parrot, the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, the Nangur Skink, and several rainforest frogs.

Unless we take decisive and immediate action to conserve the rainforests of South-East Queensland a large number of threatened species will disappear forever. Some species and ecosystems are already in critical danger: Coxen's Fig Parrot is now very rarely seen, a *Rhodamnia* plant species has only three plants known with a recent fire burning to the edge of this population...

Species and Ecosystem Recovery: A Planned Approach

A very effective way of bringing species and ecosystems back from the brink of extinction is through the preparation and implementation of Recovery Plans. Recovery Plans operate under the Commonwealth *Endangered Species Protection Act* 1992.

A Recovery Plan is a detailed plan that sets out the research and management needed to

ensure the long term survival of a species or ecological community in the wild. The Recovery Plan aims to re-establish viable populations and includes the removal of threats such as invasive weeds or fire.

All too often conservation actions fail because they are ad hoc. A Recovery Plan, by setting out exactly what needs to be done to save the species or ecosystem, minimises this problem.

Recovery Plans are overseen by Recovery Teams. The Recovery Team brings together a range of people and groups interested in the species or ecosystem and its recovery.

So far, most Recovery Plans have focused on single species. However, due to both the need to rationalise costs as well as an increased understanding of ecosystem dynamics and types, there has been a paradigm shift in the approach to threatened species and ecosystem Recovery Planning. There has been a shift away from primarily a species approach towards a habitat or ecosystem oriented approach. The latter acknowledges the need to protect the delicate balances and interactions between biota and ecosystems, represents the wiser use of resources, and renders Recovery Planning a locally owned and controlled process.

A paper looking at *Commonwealth and State Government Frameworks for Recovery Planning for Threatened Species and Communities* (Papps, in Stephens and Maxwell, 1996) identified that "more effort should go into threatened species conservation across bioregions...exclusive focus on single species is not cost-effective".

Visiting project officer Ms Maureen Schmitt and students of Binjour Plateau State School inspect a rare plant species, Bertya pedicellata, at Site 63 on Gleneden Range.

Binjour students inspect endangered plant species

Binjour State School students recently revisited rare and endangered plant site No 63 on Gleneden Range.

Two plants identified at the site were Bertya pedicellata and the endangered Pomaderris clivicola.

The site was entrusted to their care under a joint project between World Wide Fund for Nature and the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Accompanying them was project officer Ms Maureen Schmitt of Bundaberg and visitor Mr Ray Jansen.

The latter gave the students a talk on Macadamia jansenii, a new species of Macadamia nut tree which he discovered in Bulburrin State Forest near Monto in 1982.

Ms Schmitt said the excursion gave the continuing students a chance to look for any changes which may have occurred since their first visit in November last year.

This included weed numbers, soil erosion, impacts from fire or rubbish dumped on the site.

She said it also provided new students an opportunity to learn about dry vine scrub and how to protect areas which contained rare and threatened plants.

Ipswich Leads the Way

A bioregional ecosystem approach is being taken with the South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project. The Project will recover threatened rainforest species and ecosystems right across the South-East Queensland bioregion. To ensure that the process is locally owned, Recovery Plans will be prepared for smaller, geographically and socially cohesive Subregions.

Leading the way is the Ipswich City Subregion, thanks to the excellent cooperation of Ipswich City Council. The Recovery Team is currently being formed, and research for the Recovery Plan is well underway. The Plan is being written by Siobhan Bland, a Gatton College student on industrial placement with the Department of Environment. Look for the feature article on the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Plan in the next issue of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News.*

For more information on threatened species and ecosystem conservation, including Recovery Planning, the Threatened Species Network's *Threatened Species Guide for Action - A guide to conserving threatened species and their habitats* is highly recommended. Copies are available at $10 each from the Threatened Species Network Queensland Coordinator Maria Vandergragt, phone (07) 3221 0573.

Restoring threatened species and ecological communities to a secure status in the wild offers one of the greatest challenges in biodiversity conservation. Co-operative endeavour between the community and conservation agencies and across political boundaries, built on rigorous, critical and continuing review of policy and programs, is essential to success.

(Papps, in Stephens and Maxwell, 1996)

Rainforest Types of South-East Queensland

Mention the word "rainforest" and most people think of lush, moist vegetation with tall trees and palms. The idea of a "dry" rainforest, with low, dense, prickly, thorny vegetation is therefore somewhat puzzling. There are actually several different types of rainforest in Australia: tropical rainforest, subtropical rainforest, dry rainforest, warm temperate rainforest, and cool temperate rainforest. South-East Queensland features subtropical rainforest and dry rainforest. Tropical rainforest is found in the northern part of the continent. Areas of warm temperate rainforest and cool temperate rainforest extend from northern NSW into the border ranges of southern Queensland, but are classed as part of the Northern New South Wales bioregion.

Dry rainforest itself has several different types: softwood scrub (also called bottle-tree scrub), hoop-pine scrub, and coastal scrub. Because of the presence of many tangled vines, dry rainforest is often called "vineforest". The dry rainforests were once the most extensive type of rainforest in South-East Queensland, but have been substantially cleared for agriculture and hoop pine plantations. In some areas past clearance has been so great that the rainforest ecosystems are in danger of extinction. Two of the most critical areas are the Lockyer and Rosewood scrubs west of Brisbane, and the Isis and Woongarra scrubs in the Childers and Bundaberg area. Fortunately, though, community groups in these areas are actively conserving the scrub remnants that are left. Two of these groups are Lockyer Landcare and Bundaberg Landcare....

Group Profile: Lockyer Landcare Leads the Way

From Vision to Reality

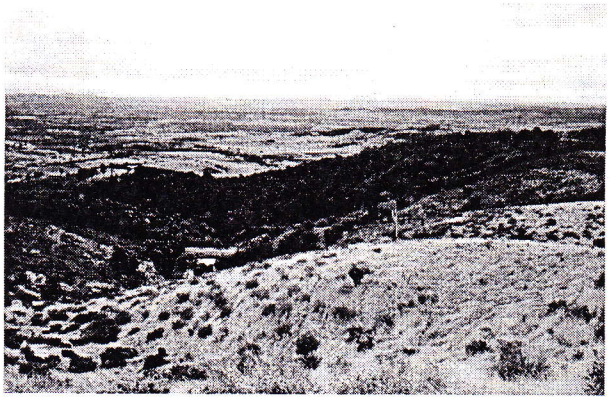
In 1981 Fred From, a farmer in the Lockyer Valley west of Brisbane, had a vision. A vision to bring people together to care for their catchment. His vision became reality with the formation of Queensland's very first Catchment Care/Landcare Group and one of the first of its kind in the whole of Australia. The organisation emerged as an action-orientated group and has now carried out many successful projects.

The Lockyer Watershed Management Association (LWMA) - Lockyer Landcare Group features two subcommittees, one for Education and one for Vegetation Projects.

The Education Sub-committee promotes the Lockyer Valley as an important food producing and water supply catchment in which Landcare and catchment care principles are widely recognised and able to be uniquely demonstrated through a community education program. This sub-committee currently runs a successful program of community education through Lockyer Valley Rural Tourism Packages aimed at "*Learning Through Enjoyment*".

The LWMA Vegetation Projects Sub-committee focuses on achievable bush regeneration and other conservation projects which demonstrate sound Landcare practices and which have community education benefits. This sub-committee is currently carrying out conservation projects at several dry rainforest remnants: Nelson's Remnant at Blenheim, A Touch of Paradise at Mt Sylvia, and Welk's Remnant at Mt. Berryman.

Queensland's very first Nature Refuge, the Berlin Scrub Nature Refuge, was established in 1994 over a 70 acre dry rainforest remnant on the property of LWMA members Dick and Doris Scanlan at Mt Berryman.



The Berlin Scrub Nature Refuge: An island in a cleared landscape

The considerable efforts of LWMA members, in particular Mt. Whitestone farmer Peter Sutton, also led to the Queensland Government's purchase of a dry rainforest remnant at nearby "Egypt". The area is now the Dwyer's Scrub Conservation Park. LWMA also informs the community about the difficulties that landholders face in trying to keep remnant vegetation and the solutions that are needed to overcome these difficulties.

LWMA is successfully conserving rainforest areas and is successfully promoting to the community the benefits of rainforest retention and management. LWMA's efforts are indeed taking rainforest conservation from "Vision to Reality".

Bushy Presents: The Scrubby Adventure Tour

Spend a top day out and see for yourself the excellent work of LWMA. Join "Bushy" for The Scrubby Adventure Tour. See page 11 for details.

Group Profile: Lockyer Landcare Leads the Way

Establishing a Nature Refuge

by Richard Scanlan

Introduction

To commence this talk on establishing a Nature Refuge, I will take you back to the days of my youth. I have lived in the Lockyer Valley for the whole of my life (71 years), as did both of my parents before me. Even as a school boy, I loved to hear my father speak of his days as an axeman and how he and other men of the day would fall the scrub trees that covered the hills.

When the early settlers selected land in the Lockyer Valley in the 1880s and 90s the tree coverage consisted of two main types. An estimated 80% of the valley was covered with eucalypt type forest while the remainder was covered with softwood scrub. This scrub could also be described as dry rainforest or vine thicket. Most of the scrub areas were to be found on the hills to the South of the valley.

Clearing by the Early Settlers

The forest areas were ring barked by the early settlers, whereas the scrubs were completely felled by the axe. When the scrub was felled, fired and grassed, the land was found to be rich in nitrogen and had a good carrying capacity for beef and dairy cattle. Many of the early settlers turned their attention to these scrubby hills. As a result of their hard work, many succeeded in making a good living.

Between about 1890 and 1940, most of the scrubs were felled, and when I grew to manhood in the early 40s, there was not much of it left. However, it was my dream to prove that I was a real man be felling scrub as my forebears had done. My dream did come true. In 1950, I purchased a large piece of land, 446 acres, which was covered with mostly softwood scrub and a small amount of Brigalow scrub. It cost me two pounds per acre.

In those days, conservation was not an issue. My only thought at the time was to clear the scrub and plant it with grass so I could establish a herd of beef cattle. This is precisely what happened. During the next 15 years, with some help, I felled all but about 70 acres. By that time the lantana was growing up behind me and I felt it was time to call a halt.

By the year 1970, soil erosion and land slipping had become a serious problem and I slowly came to the conclusion that I had been responsible for land degradation. This was the worst where the hills were the steepest.

In 1976, I was elected as a Laidley Shire Councillor and a few years later I became involved with a group known as the "Lockyer Watershed Management Association" (L.W.M.A.). By this time my attitudes had completely changed from what they had been many years earlier. The L.W.M.A. was concerned with such things as soil conservation, water quality, establishment of nitrogen rich pastures and the restoration of natural vegetation.

Establishing a Nature Refuge

My friends in the L.W.M.A. had always shown a keen interest in my 70 acres of scrub as well as in other patches throughout the valley. A "remnant vegetation" sub committee was formed and there was a growing interest in the subject. I personally conducted several walks through my patch of scrub. At the time, we were told that Government legislation to establish fauna reserves was in place, but it was not satisfactory for this reason:- It protected the animals and birds, but it did not protect their habitat. In other words, the trees in a fauna reserve could all be felled. What then would become of the animals and lizards, the birds and the bees that relied on the trees for food and protection?

To cut a long story short, word eventually came to us that the Qld Government was considering legislation that would correct this anomaly. Finally the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* was passed in the Qld Parliament, in October of that year. In short, their object was to establish what was to be known as "Nature Refuge" conservation agreements with landholders. Such agreements, to be drawn up by the landholder and the Department of Environment and Heritage would be legally binding and would totally protect the flora and fauna in perpetuity. The landholder would retain ownership of the property.

My next move was to make application to the Department for my scrub to be declared a Nature Refuge. This application was dated 12th October 1992, so it can be seen that we did not waste any time. Within the weeks following, I had a visit from officers of the Department who had to assess whether my block of scrub had ecological value and was suitable for such a declaration. Mr Ron Turner and Mr Greg Siepen duly arrived and an on site inspection was made. They were convinced that it conformed with all requirements.

It soon became obvious that this was to be the first "Nature Refuge" declared under the new legislation and it was important that everything be done correctly. We had to clearly define exactly where the boundaries of Nature Refuge would be. The total area of the property was 446 acres. About 110 acres of this was to become refuge and about 70 acres of that was virgin scrub. On the Eastern side and the South side, the property boundaries were used. A stone gully was declared its Western boundary and the Northern boundary was a line between two points that were clearly established. It was at this time we decided to name it the "Berlin Scrub" Nature Refuge. Firstly, "Berlin" was my wife's maiden name and secondly, several families by that name had lived in the area since 1920.

During the following months I had several visits from Mr Turner and other department officers to finalise an agreement. Very simply we sat down at our dining room table and worked out an agreement that was satisfactory to all concerned. It would not be possible, here, to tell you all the matters agreed upon, but I will touch on just a few.

1. I must make reasonable efforts to prevent the spread or invasion of pests and weeds of a foreign nature.
2. I may allow certain animals in certain situations to enter the land (this could include cattle).
3. I may provide access to the land to special interest groups for nature based recreation.
4. I may not permit the removal of any trees from the property. However, I could remove fallen branchwood for domestic firewood, excluding hollow logs and limbs.
5. I must not plant any trees or plants other than local indigenous stock.
6. I must not allow 4 wheel drive vehicle or trail bikes on the property.

Officers of the Department compiled a great deal of other relevant information following on site inspections of the scrub. This included the general topography, soil types etc. 53 kinds of birds were identified and over 120 plant species were listed. Finally after all legal aspects had been considered, the agreement was completed. It was then signed on the one hand by Mrs Molly Robson, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, by my wife (Doris) and myself as the owners.

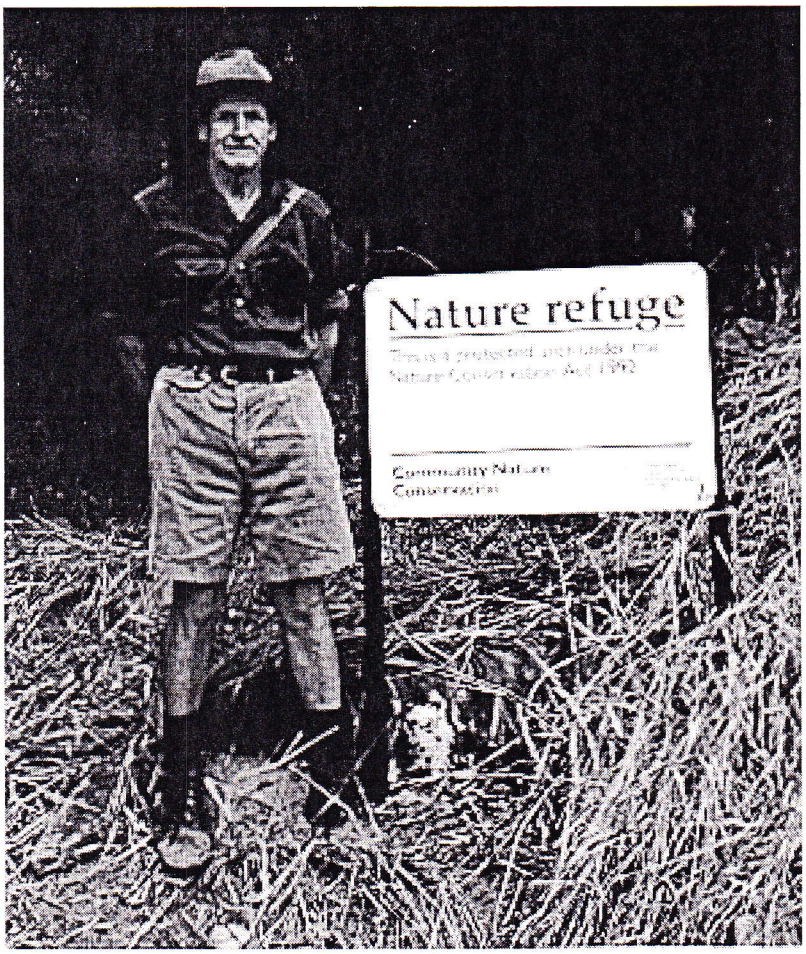
What is the future of conservation outside nature reserves?

The Lockyer Watershed Management Association is currently negotiating with Shire Councils to preserve small areas of remnant vegetation which have survived on unused and remote road reserves. We have also shown an interest in similar patches of vegetation on private lands, where we have received co-operation. By working to protect and preserve these areas, we demonstrate to the local community that they are of value. By so doing we generate a far greater interest by all concerned.

In conclusion

I am proud of my Nature Refuge and have great pleasure in showing it to special interest groups. However, it is not possible to have every little patch of trees "declared" under the Act. I firmly believe that no patch of trees is too small or insignificant to be declared "One's Own Private Nature Refuge". The pride of ownership can be much the same.

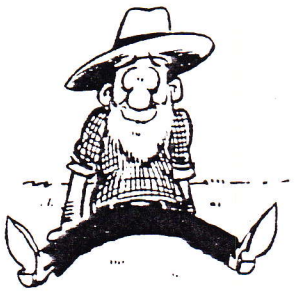
R.A. Scanlan



Dick Scanlan stands proud at the entrance to his Nature Refuge

Group Profile: Lockyer Landcare Leads the Way

Bushy Presents .....



"The Scrubby Adventure Tour"

For your pure enjoyment .....

Get your group "up the creek" and deep into the wonderous mountains bordering the Scenic Rim of the Great Divide, and the green valleys of the Lockyer. Bushy, our expert guide, will make this ever-changing countryside, and the patches of remnant scrub and forest we visit, really come alive for you. Meet up with friendly landowners and maybe other members of our 'bush-care' team right in their own patch.

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Group Profile: Bundaberg Landcare

In expert hands...

Bundaberg and District Urban Landcare Association is currently engaged in a three-year dry rainforest (scrub) conservation project, funded by the Federal Government through the National Landcare Program.

Since the project was initiated in December 1996, most of the remaining remnants in the region, which were once part of the Woongarra Scrub (Bundaberg region) and the Isis scrub (Childers region) have been identified. This process involved the contacting of landholders, compiling of plants lists, field days, displays and press releases all aimed at ensuring the conservation and management of these remaining areas.

The project, under the expert guidance of Bundaberg vineforest enthusiast Maureen Schmitt, aims to:

- initiate the development of a GIS database covering the spatial and temporal variation of scrub species;
- establish protocols for assessing remnant stands;
- detail propagation techniques from seed/cloning;
- establish seed banks (collective and stored);
- endeavour to propagate plants for the community (schools, landholders) and government (State, Local);
- advise on retention, rehabilitation and enhancement of remnant resources;
- develop education material to be made available to the community; and
- raise community awareness of the need for biodiversity and encourage responsibility for ongoing community commitment to the project objectives.

The project is proving to be a great success. For example, Burnett Shire Council have set aside a cleared area adjacent to an existing Woongarra Scrub remnant at The Hummock between Bundaberg and the coast (you can't miss it - it's the only hill for miles!) The area will be replanted as a community education area and to increase the survival chances of the existing remnant. Council has already established an interpretative board walk through this scrub.

Maureen Schmitt (right) shows Siobhan Bland, who is writing the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Plan, some of the features of The Hummock scrub.

During 1996 WWF sought Maureen Schmitt's expertise to lead a conservation project on the Binjour Plateau, located between Gayndah and Mundubbera in the Central Burnett (see page 5). Maureen can be contacted on (071) 517 759.

Group Profile: BRAIN

BRAINpower

The Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information Network (BRAIN), is a community group focused on active rainforest conservation in the Brisbane area. They work extensively with other conservation groups and agencies like Greening Australia, the Lockyer Watershed Management Association (LWMA), the Qld. Dept. of Environment and WWF. The group boasts some extremely knowledgeable people.

Some of the issues they are currently addressing, through community workshops, BRAIN newsletters, conservation projects etc. include:

- educating the public about weed species like morning glory and mile-a-minute, why they pose threats and how they can be controlled and managed;
- promotion of the biodiversity values of maintaining species diversity and genetic diversity and habitat;
- promotion of the values of vineforest species: bushtucker plants, pharmaceutical properties, and landscaping.

The activities that are currently being undertaken by BRAIN include:

- regeneration of Brisbane Forest Park;
- Samsonvale Remnant promotion;
- plant swapping; and
- ongoing work with other groups.

For more information about the good work of BRAIN, please contact Kenneth McClymont on (07) 3403 7181.

In The Next Issue

The next issue of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* will feature an article on the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Plan. Accompanying this will be a special feature on **Lloyd Bird** and his **Woogaroo Scrub** project.

Lloyd is arguably the "father of dry rainforest conservation". Long before rainforest conservation became fashionable, Lloyd was studying his local Ipswich rainforests, propagating the species, and planting his now well known rainforest garden.

The next issue will also feature profiles of two new projects. **Isis Shire Council, Isis Landcare, Isis Canegrowers, Bundaberg Landcare**, the **Department of Environment** and **WWF** are planning a joint project to re-establish the endangered species ***Alectryon ramiflorus*** in the Childers area. **Gayndah Landcare** is planning to establish a dry rainforest planting on the bank of the Burnett River in Gayndah as part of their riverbank park project. It is envisaged that rare and threatened species like the endangered *Pomaderris clivicola* from the nearby Binjour Plateau will form part of the planting. A report on the **Greening Australia - WWF Bunya Mountains dry scrubs weekend** (Oct 11/12) will also be featured.

Future issues will look at the excellent rainforest conservation work of other groups, for example, **Barung Landcare** and **Noosa Landcare.**

Recovery Planning in Action: Austromyrtus gonoclada

Austromyrtus gonoclada is confined to the lower reaches of Brisbane and Logan Rivers in South-East Queensland. It is presently known from 5 locations over a range of 30km, with a total of 70-100 plants currently recorded with 85% of individuals at a single site.

A species Recovery Plan has been completed for *A. gonoclada*, commonly known as the angle-stemmed myrtle. Originally named *Myrtus gonoclada* in 1866, the Angle-Stemmed Myrtle is listed as Endangered under the Commonwealth *Endangered Species Protection Act* 1992.

The overall objective of the Recovery Plan is to arrest the decline of *A. gonoclada* in the wild and to maintain viable *in situ* populations into the foreseeable future. Conserving *A. gonoclada* has high biodiversity benefits. The species is a component of lowland riverine rainforest communities and provides refuges for fauna.

The recovery team consists of Logan City Council, Brisbane City Council, Jacob's Well Environmental Education Centre, landholders Jim and David Murray, Department of Botany: University of Queensland, Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP), Toona Rainforest Nursery, and the Qld. Dept. of Environment. Prior to the commencement of Recovery it was found that this species was likely to become extinct unless circumstances and factors threatening its abundance, survival or evolutionary development ceased to operate. *A. gonoclada*'s range and numbers had already been reduced to a critical level.

Good progress is being made on the Recovery of *A. gonoclada*, a credit to the efforts of the Recovery Team. Future issues of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* will follow the progress of this Recovery.

Threats to the Rainforests of South-East Queensland

South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News will carry a series of articles looking at the threats to the rainforests of South-East Queensland and what can and is being done to overcome these threats. Look for the first article in the next issue. The primary threats that will be examined include:

Weeds like madeira vine, asparagus fern, and cat's claw pose a significant threat to our rainforests. Yet, for the most serious like madeira vine, there are no effective control measures.

Clearance for development is a major problem in the coastal strip. Rainforests in the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast areas are particularly at risk from development.

Fire is progressively eating into rainforest margins in many areas, often assisted by weeds and invading pasture grasses.

Clearance for farming is still happening in some areas. Instead of addressing the problem, the approach has been to hit farmers over the head with a "big-stick". This has just

made things worse. Programs like the Brisbane City Council Voluntary Conservation Agreement Scheme show that workable solutions are possible.

Feral animals prey on small mammals on the forest floor and threaten ground dwelling birds like the Black-breasted Button-quail. Stock moving into rainforest areas are also a problem.

Inappropriate conservation is emerging as a serious threat. With the best of intentions, many people think that all you need to do to save threatened plants is to propagate them and plant them. However, if this is not done carefully it can place the gene pool of the species at risk and thus be just as much a threat to the species as clearance or weeds.

Rainforest Events Calendar

October 25 Saturday Lockyer landcare Nelson's Remnant working bee. A patch of roadside remnant softwood scrub.

October 25 Saturday BRAIN/Brisbane Forest Park gardening with dry rainforest plants workshop. Bookings essential. For details contact Bruce Noble on (07) 3300 4855.

November 15 Saturday Lockyer Landcare Mt. Whitestone walk. The Ma Ma Creek Valley in the southern Lockyer has a unique assemblage of vegetation communities. One example is the *Eucalyptus melanoleuca* community found on Mt. Whitestone. Other unusual occurrences in the Ma Ma valley include *Eucalyptus bakeri* and *Allocasuarina inophloia*. Mt. Whitestone also has another surprise plant - come along and find out what it is.

November 29 Saturday Lockyer Landcare Welk Remnant working bee and BBQ. Remnant softwood scrub on Albert Welk's farm. For details contact the Lockyer Catchment Centre on (07) 5465 4400.

April/May 1998 WWF South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Conference. See back page for further information.

South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News Mailing List

Mailing List - South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News
Complete and send to Bruce Boyes, WWF Rainforest Recovery Officer, P.O. Box 155, Brisbane Albert Street, 4002. Fax: (07) 3227 6386, Email: Bruce.Boyes@env.qld.gov.au

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WWF Presents:

1998 South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Conference

More than one third of all Queensland's endangered plants are found in South-East Queensland's rainforests. Unless we take decisive and immediate action to conserve these rainforests, a large number of rare and threatened species like Coxen's Fig Parrot and Cossinia australiana will disappear forever.

Date: April/May 1998
(to be finalised)

Venue: Tanyalla Conference Centre
Tannum Sands, South of Gladstone

Details: 5 day conference
2 - 3 days of field trips
Options include:

- Kroombit Tops;
- Mt Larcom;
- Tondoon Botanic Gardens;
- Dan Dan State Forest;
- Granite Creek (Bulburin SF); and
- Eurimbula National Park.

Aims:

- To bring together all stakeholders involved with Rainforest Conservation throughout South-East Queensland;
- To provide a unique opportunity to share knowledge, experiences and ideas; and
- To provide a forum for feedback on success stories in remnant rainforest conservation from groups like: Lockyer Watershed Management Association (LWMA); Bundaberg and Urban District Landcare Association; and Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information Network (B.R.A.I.N.).

Proposed Topics:

At Home in the Scrub - conserving rainforest fauna
Industry and Rainforest Conservation
Recovery Planning
Managing Rainforest Remnants in the Urban Landscape
Spending the Rainforest Conservation Dollar - Are We Fiddling While Rome Burns
Conserving Genetic Diversity - As Crucial as Species Diversity
Propagating Rainforest Plants - the Why and How
Understanding Rainforest Ecosystem Types - Which Types are Most Threatened?
Identifying Rainforest Flora and Fauna
Threatened Species - Where are they found?
Rainforest Conservation on Private Land, Problems and Solutions - Economic and Social Realities from the Landholder's Point of View
Managing Rainforest Weeds
Retaining Vegetation Through Diversification: Ecotourism, Bushfoods, Native Flowers
Voluntary Conservation Agreements - Nature Refuges, Local Government Agreements, Incentives, Nature Conservation Trusts
Filling in the Information Gaps - What Don't We Know About Our Rainforests?
Landcare and Rainforest Conservation
Rainforests and the Timber Industry - RFA/CRA Processes
Conservation of Roadside Remnants

Conference Mailing List

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