



World Wide Fund for Nature Australia

South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News



Issue No. 2 - January 1998

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Special Feature: WWF Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Project 3

A Rainforest Holiday 9

Burnett Happenings 11

Bunya Mountains Weekend 13

Threats to the Rainforests of South-East Queensland 14

Rainforest Events 15

South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News Mailing List 15

1998 South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Conference 16

This edition of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* has been compiled by Siobhan Bland and Bruce Boyes.

Cover Pictures

Featuring the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Project. Clockwise from top left: 1. The endangered plant *Plectranthus habrophyllus* in the Woogaroo Scrub; 2. Ipswich naturalist Lloyd Bird guides members of the Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information Network (BRAIN) and Lockyer Watershed Management Association (LWMA) through the Woogaroo Scrub; 3. Cliff Rea's Rosewood Scrub remnant with *Callitris baileyi* visible in the foreground.

Subscriptions, Contributions, Contact Information

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.

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.

Please forward all correspondence to Bruce Boyes, WWF Rainforest Recovery Officer, Threatened Species & Ecosystems Unit, Queensland Department of Environment, P.O. Box 155, Brisbane Albert Street, Qld 4002. Ph: (07) 3222 2529, Fax. (07) 3227 6386. Please note that the pager service is no longer operating.

New funding arrangements are currently being put in place for the South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project. In the interim period the Project is operating one day per week. For this reason, please allow at least two weeks for replies to correspondence.

Special Feature:

WWF Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Project

Happy New Year!

Best wishes for the new year, and welcome to the second issue of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News*. This issue features a special look at the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Project. Ipswich is the first part of South-East Queensland where a Rainforest Recovery Plan has been prepared.

Highly Significant Rainforests

Ipswich is a rapidly growing centre within South-East Queensland. It features productive farming areas, several rural communities, two major rivers, an historic urban centre and natural bushland remnants that are abounding in ecological, scientific, aesthetic and recreational value.

Of particular significance are the rainforest remnants, made up of three threatened rainforest ecosystems, and providing habitat for more than 10 rare and threatened plant species and several threatened fauna species.

The rainforest communities of Ipswich have been subject to extensive clearing for timber, farming and development rendering them much less common than they were before European settlement. The only remaining stands occur as isolated remnants, threatened with further decline by the likes of weeds, clearance, and fire.

The decline of the Ipswich rainforests has been so great that two of the ecosystems - Brigalow Vinethicket 12.9/10.6 and Callitris Vinethicket 12.9/10.15 - are now endangered. That is, unless urgent conservation actions are carried out, these ecosystems will be extinct in a few short years. A unique biological assemblage would then be lost forever! The third Ipswich rainforest ecosystem - Hoop

Pine Vineforest 12.11.11 - is 'of-concern', meaning that it will soon become endangered if well-planned conservation actions are not carried out.



A Woogaroo Scrub remnant

Threatened plants in these threatened ecosystems include the endangered Flinders plum *Pouteria eerwah* and Woogaroo rockflower *Plectranthus habrophyllus*. There are less than 250 of each of these plants left in the wild, meaning that their plight is on a par with the likes of the bilby.

The Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Project is an initiative of the World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF) and Queensland Department of Environment (QDoE). The Project is putting in place a comprehensive plan to save the threatened rainforests of Ipswich before it is too late.

The Project involves Ipswich City Council, numerous community groups and individuals, and government departments.

The recovery plan ensures that conservation outcomes are achieved by detailing all necessary actions, prioritising them, assigning responsibility for carrying them out, establishing a timetable for implementation, and identifying priorities for external funding.

Special Feature:

WWF Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Project

Community groups and individuals involved in the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery project have been undertaking rainforest conservation actions in Ipswich for over 20 years.

Organisations like the Society for Growing Australian Plants, Bremer Institute of TAFE, and West Moreton Landcare have established reputable standards for 'on the ground' nature conservation actions that are recognised throughout South-East Queensland. As well as providing leadership and expertise in the conservation actions in Ipswich City, individual efforts from enthusiastic naturalists - Keith Williams, Lloyd Bird, Arnold Rieck and Mike Gregory - have played a fundamental role in improving the conservation of our valuable natural assets.

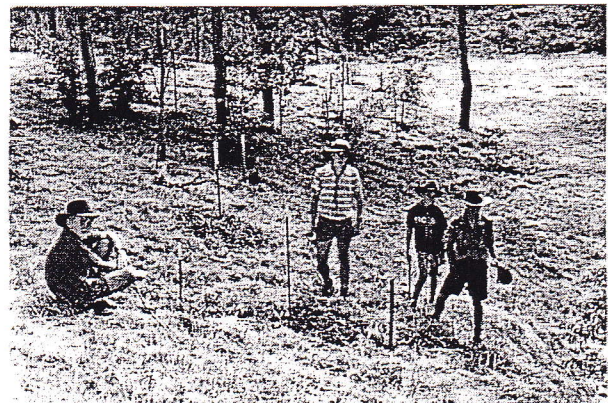
Ipswich City Council has also played a major role. Its outstanding *Enviroplan* initiative has placed it as one of Queensland's leading Councils in the area of nature conservation.

Educating about the Rosewood Scrub

Under the expert guidance of project co-ordinator Arnold Rieck, the Ipswich Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants is establishing an arboretum of Rosewood Scrub plants at Peace Park, in the north-east corner of Rosewood. Peace Park is an undulating area which originally was covered with dry vine scrub (dry rainforest). Clearing over the years has left a few scrub trees - brigalow, rosewood, crows ash, tuckeroo, and a native lime.

About 200 species of trees, shrubs, vines, ferns and orchids have been identified in the dry rainforest scrub patches around Rosewood and nearby Marburg, Mt. Marrow, Tallegalla,

and Minden. Only five percent of the original scrub remains, most of which is on private property. Over the past 10 years checklisting of patches of Rosewood Scrub shows just how scarce some species are. Once plentiful but now hard to find are the peanut tree, the native celtis (related to the weed tree Chinese Elm), deep yellow wood, celery wood, and red cedar.



**Local Scouts have been active with
tree planting at Peace Park**

More than 80 species indigenous to the local scrubs have been planted in multiples along the slopes of a gully running through Peace Park. In time, a patch of scrub will be re-established. SGAP members, Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV), and local Scouts have participated in planting and weeding. The next stage sees the establishment of specialised gardens covering aspects like medicinal plants and Aboriginal food plants, and the preparation of a booklet with drawings and descriptions of the plants.

Peace Park Arboretum will serve as a focal point for the conservation of the endangered Rosewood Scrubs by educating the local community about the values of the scrubs, the threats they are facing, and the conservation actions that can be undertaken. In conjunction with his Peace Park work, Arnold has also

worked extensively with Rosewood Scrub landholders, providing advice and assistance to them in the conservation of their remnants (see bottom picture on front cover). It is likely that, without Arnold's excellent work, the Rosewood Scrub would now be in a far more parlous state than it is.

This work has given Arnold an excellent understanding of the substantial threats to the survival of these endangered ecosystem remnants. The Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Plan will identify a course of action for mitigating these threats before it is too late.

The Woogaroo Scrub: A Major Challenge

Prior to European settlement, the Woogaroo Scrub was distributed along the lower reaches of Woogaroo and Opossum Creeks. The Woogaroo Scrub was similar to the dry rainforest which once clothed the banks of much of the Brisbane River and its tributaries. Many of these areas have now disappeared or exist as tiny fragmented patches. For example, it is now very difficult to find traces of the blackbean scrub at Riverview, Moggill Scrub at Priors Pocket or the Wolston Scrub in the Goodna-Jindalee area.

European settlement in the Brisbane region put great demand upon the natural environment. Rainforest timbers like the hoop pine *Araucaria cunninghamii*, red cedar *Toona australis*, blackbean *Castanospermum australe*, and crows ash *Flindersia australis* were logged virtually out of existence.

The stress placed upon the landscape was exacerbated by extensive clearing for agriculture and grazing, increased intensity and frequency of fires, and inevitably the introduction of exotic weed species like the Chinese elm *Celtis sinensis* and camphor laurel *Cinnamomum camphora*.

The Woogaroo Scrub that you see today is a sad reflection of its previous pristine glory.

Fragmented patches do remain however, on rocky outcrops, in sheltered gullies and on the fringing flood plain of Woogaroo and Opossum Creeks. Boasting some 200 species of rainforest plants, identified as an of-concern rainforest ecosystem, and providing habitat for threatened fauna including two rare frogs, these Woogaroo Scrub remnants have high conservation value and must be saved. The endangered Woogaroo rockflower *Plectranthus habrophyllus* is found on rock outcrops (see the top-left picture on the front cover).

The survival chances of the Woogaroo Scrub have been given a great boost through the efforts of Woogaroo Scrub Project Coordinator Lloyd Bird. Lloyd is actively conserving and promoting the values of the Woogaroo Scrub, and is involving the local community, industry and government in a restoration program (see the top-right picture on the front cover).

A new city called Springfield is being developed adjacent to the Woogaroo Scrub, and the developer, the Springfield Corporation, has been involved in the Woogaroo Scrub Project, as have the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV), Redbank Plains High School, Ipswich branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP), Ipswich City Council, and Bremer Institute of TAFE.

Lloyd has over 20 years experience in rainforest conservation. Before most of us were thinking about it, Lloyd was out there doing it. Lloyd established one of Australia's very first and best rainforest gardens, and has actively surveyed many rainforest remnants throughout South-East Queensland. This massive knowledge base has provided a foundation for *The Vineforest Plant Atlas for South-East Queensland*, and for the conservation work of Ipswich City Council.

Lloyd has discovered previously unknown species, including the rainforest species *Notelaea lloydii* which was named after him.

He has been awarded a well-deserved Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his outstanding conservation work.



**Lloyd tends a seedling of
*Notelaea lloydii***

The work of the Woogaroo Scrub Project Group will be further enhanced by the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Plan, which will provide the group with a scientific framework for their future conservation activities.

Bremer Institute of TAFE Sets the Standard

The Bremer Institute of TAFE's Conservation and Environment Studies unit is setting the standards for a conservation focus in TAFE studies. As a response to current industry practices and Government policy and trends, the TAFE now boasts two new additions to an already substantial course inventory - a Certificate in Applied Environmental Practice (Conservation) and a Diploma of Applied Science (Environmental Science).

For the past three years teacher Karin Hall has been exposing her students to an array of practical conservation activities ranging from the propagation of local endemic and rare and

threatened species to involvement in local Ipswich conservation projects. She hopes this exposure will allow students to build on their skills base and ultimately enhance their employment prospects for the future.

The TAFE students have been involved in several local conservation projects in the past including the Woogaroo Scrub Project, Ipswich City Council initiatives, and Society for Growing Australian Plants work on the propagation of significant local species.

The Westfalen reach of Six Mile Creek at Redbank will be the focus for a major TAFE initiative in 1998: the Six Mile Creek Restoration and Training Project. The project aims to improve species availability for revegetation projects, address problems associated with the fragmentation and weed invasion of riparian areas, and restore and revegetate an open cut mine site.

Actions include herbicide treatment of environmental weeds and introduced grasses along riparian corridors, planting and direct seeding of the widest possible diversity of endemic species, planting and maintaining an Australian cabinet timber forest plot, and implementing propagation trials on local indigenous flora particularly species that are not commercially available, or that are difficult to propagate and/or high priority endangered, vulnerable and rare species.

TAFE staff and students hope to achieve these goals in conjunction with other projects, programs and organisations including the WWF Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Project, Woogaroo Scrub Project, Young Unemployed People of Ipswich (YUPI), Work for the Dole Scheme, and Ipswich City Council.

The Six Mile Creek Restoration and Training Project is addressing significant biodiversity priorities including the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of a riparian ecosystem that supports mature stands of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (forest red gum) and remnant species found in lowland rainforest and

vinethickets (eg. *Waterhousia floribunda*, *Elaeocarpus obovatus*, *Flindersia schottiana* and a stand of *Pittosporum phylliraeoides* previously not found that far east). It is to the TAFE's credit that their conservation work is achieving measurable 'on the ground' outcomes contributing to the enhancement of the biodiversity of the region. The shift in focus towards conservation courses is one which reflects a pro-active approach to education, setting the standards for South-East Queensland.

The Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Project will assist the Bremer Institute of TAFE to identify high-priority conservation actions that they can undertake or become involved in.

Enviroplan: A Leading Initiative

The Ipswich City Council *Enviroplan* initiative continuing to achieve major nature conservation gains. *Enviroplan* includes a

program of acquisition and management of significant areas, a network of environmental education centres, and a program of assistance to private landholders with remnant vegetation.

Council has already succeeded in purchasing areas of threatened rainforest ecosystem Hoop Pine Vineforest 12.11.11 in the Flinders Peak area, and will soon have achieved several Voluntary Conservation Agreements with landholders across Ipswich.



Flinders Peak

Special Feature: WWF Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Project

Ipswich Rainforest Recovery: The Nuts and Bolts

The Ipswich Rainforest Recovery plan now serves as a model for the rest of South-East Queensland. So how was it done?

The Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Plan is a scientific document that sets out exactly what is needed to bring threatened rainforest species and ecosystems in Ipswich back from the brink of extinction before it is too late. By detailing necessary conservation actions, their priorities, costs, who should carry them out and when, the recovery plan ensures that

conservation actions are directed towards genuine conservation outcomes.

The first step was to establish the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Team. This brought together as many stakeholders as possible, including Ipswich City Council, people with relevant expertise, researchers and specialist biologists, community groups and individuals involved in local rainforest conservation projects, rainforest landholders, and government departments. Ipswich City Council has strongly supported the project, which has been a key to its success.

Initially an information night was held to provide a background to the project, an

overview of recovery planning, and a workshop session on the establishment of the Recovery Team. It was important at this stage to inform people about the advantages of recovery plans, that is, the benefits of a 'big picture' planned approach to conservation.

The first Recovery Team meeting provided the opportunity to confirm the membership of the team, establish Recovery Objectives, identify species and communities to be recovered and to set up a working schedule for the drafting of the Plan. The team deemed it important to identify an achievable and realistic overall objective or goal for recovery. The ultimate objective of the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Plan is to prevent further decline of threatened rainforest ecosystems contributing to the conservation of threatened rainforest species.

The second Recovery Team meeting involved further discussion about the species and ecosystems to be recovered and the establishment of Recovery Criteria and Actions. The Recovery Criteria were set out to measure the success or failure of the Recovery Plan. Thus they had to be measurable so that at any stage of implementation progress could be evaluated by anyone on the recovery team in a consistent manner.

The Recovery Actions are broken down into simple manageable units and include detailed activities relating to conservation and management; surveying; biodiversity; research and monitoring; community involvement (individual and organisational);

education; and *in situ* and *ex situ* species establishment.

The third Recovery Team meeting involved planning for rainforest conservation Demonstration Sites and the preparation of an Implementation Schedule. Preparing the Implementation Schedule involved the identification of the agency or organisation to implement each action, as well as the costing and sourcing of funds. This information is fundamental to the accountability of each action. Equally as important is the need for a willing and able body to co-ordinate the implementation of the plan. WWF will continue in this role.

The Recovery Team will meet again early in February to co-ordinate the implementation of the Plan, co-ordinate funding applications to the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT), and establish a participatory monitoring and evaluation program based on the Recovery Criteria.

In choosing Ipswich, WWF has been able to take advantage of a high level of community and Council rainforest conservation action and build a successful ecosystem recovery that will now be used as a model across South-East Queensland, Queensland, and Australia.

Ecosystem recovery will be a major component of WWF's Ecological Restoration program, which will be implemented across Australia over the next three years. Copies of the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Plan will be available from February.

Thanks From WWF

The preparation of the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Plan has been carried out by University of Queensland Gatton College student Siobhan Bland. The preparation of the plan, the first ecosystem recovery plan in Queensland, has involved many hours of compilation, research, assessment, interpretation, and liaison. Siobhan has carried out this major task with ease and dedication. WWF thanks Siobhan for her outstanding work, and looks forward to her continued involvement in the project. WWF thanks the Qld. Department of Environment for facilitating Siobhan's involvement.

A Rainforest Holiday

The end-of year school break is still with us, and the long-weekend season is fast approaching. The time of year when many people head off for a short break. This year, why not give that expensive, environmentally unfriendly resort a miss and instead spend your holiday dollars where they will make a positive contribution to conservation?

Many private landholders want to keep areas of remnant vegetation on their properties. However, the loss of income foregone from that land often makes conservation difficult. This is especially the case in the current times of low commodity prices, rising production costs and long-term drought, when clearing a patch of scrub to plant some extra grass can mean the difference between survival and going under.

A good solution to this problem is to diversify into land uses other than traditional cropping or grazing, where an income can be made from keeping rather than clearing remnant vegetation. Ecotourism is one alternative land use that is finding favour among rainforest landholders. You can help these landholders with their conservation efforts in a major way simply by holidaying on their properties.

Pinecliffs: Pure Paradise!

"Pure paradise" is the only way to describe Julie and Barry Clarson's "Pinecliffs" property. Situated in the Cressbrook Creek valley south-west of Esk, Pinecliffs features what is one of the biggest and best privately owned rainforest remnants in South-East Queensland: over 700 acres of rainforest dominated by hoop and bunya pine.

The rainforest is in excellent condition, with minimal weed invasion (see front cover photo of Issue 1). Pinecliffs is the southernmost limit of bunya pine and provides good continuous habitat for the black-breasted button-quail, which is listed as vulnerable to

extinction. This normally elusive bird is readily observed at Pinecliffs, indicating that excellent habitat values may be contributing to viable populations.



The view towards Esk across part (just a small part!) of the rainforest

Julie and Barry could easily have cleared the rainforest and established grazing pasture, but their understanding and appreciation of the values of the rainforest has ruled out this option. They are instead going to conserve all of their 1200 acre property through a Nature Refuge Agreement with the Queensland Department of Environment.

In conserving the rainforest they will be sacrificing what could have been a viable cattle enterprise, and what would have been a valuable improved pasture grazing property - a sacrifice that is valued at several hundred thousand dollars. Few people make sacrifices for the environment of this magnitude - Julie and Barry Clarson are indeed among the "top Australians", an inspiration to all.

However, to be able to make their major contribution to conservation, Julie and Barry will, like the rest of us, still need to be able to make an income. The stunning scenic values of Pinecliffs have led to the obvious choice of diversification into ecotourism. Sadly, Julie and Barry are facing unexpected obstacles in establishing their ecotourism venture. As the 1996 WWF Vineforests Project found (see report section 3.3 page 7), current policies regarding conservation on private lands are inadequate. WWF is working hard to address this problem. For example, WWF recently

hosted the Council for Sustainable Vegetation Management (CSVM) on a visit to Pinecliffs. The CSVM is an advisory body to Federal Environment Minister Senator Robert Hill. The CSVM was able to see first hand the difficulties that Julie and Barry are facing in their desire to see sustainable vegetation management on Pinecliffs.

You can help Julie and Barry by visiting Pinecliffs for a day, weekend, or more. Your choices include bushwalks, 4WD trips, camping, or a stay in Silky Oak Hut. See historic relics of the timber days including the famous winder-line, a major engineering feat. Barry's scale model shows how its worked.

Pinecliffs Tariff Information Bookings/Info Ph. (07) 5424 1623

Children under 12 are half price
on all activities. Prices as at Jan 1998
and subject to change without notice

Entry: \$10.00 adult. Julie and Barry will have the billy boiling to welcome you.

Guided "Homestead Hike": 2 hrs. Includes Pinecliff Homestead, "Mother of All Stags", and the licensed bush nursery. \$8.00 per adult (\$30.00 minimum). Longer walks are available - prices on request.

Pinecliff Plants: Licensed bush nursery. Another diversification component. Fallen orchids etc. that would otherwise die are collected. Prices per plant. Staghorns from small 'buttons' (\$2 - 3) to large 'fronded' (\$18 - 25). Birds nest ferns from small (\$2) to extra large (\$12 - 14). Orchids from small (\$2 - 4) to large (\$18 - 25).

Stays: Per site per night. Van sites \$8. Tent sites \$5. Silky Oak Hut \$20 (the comforts of home, sleeps a family of 4 - 6).

4WD Tracking: Julie and Barry drive you on a guided tour "Up the Zig-Zag Track" and "Out the Back". Historic winder-line relics. 3 - 8 hrs, maximum 12 people. \$35 adult, minimum \$140. Other packages available, e.g. Moonlight Drives, prices on request.

Other Venues

The Augusteyn family at **Olsens Capricorn Caverns** near Rockhampton are showing how conservation and tourism can successfully work together. The Augusteyns have been carefully conserving the myriad of significant flora and fauna that lives in and around their superb cave system. This includes an area of dry rainforest, where they are carrying out weed control, extensive regeneration, and have constructed an educational trail. The Augusteyns have won a well-deserved Landcare award for their excellent work. When you are next in the Rockhampton area, a visit to Olsens Capricorn Caverns is a must. Head north from "Rocky" to "The Caves" township and follow the signs.

Bushland Park on the eastern slopes of the Bunya Mountains offers bushwalks, camping, cabins, on-site vans, horseriding, 4WD tracks, and slide shows. Walking tracks through the 70 acres of rainforest on Bushland Park will take you some magnificent creations of nature like the "Dragon Tree". Bushland Park was a "natural choice" as one of the venues for the joint WWF/Greening Australia "Bunya Mountains - regenerating the dry scrubs" weekend held last year. Prices range from \$10 for a campsite (2 adults, 2 children) to \$45 for a fully self-contained cabin with ensuite, spring water, TV, microwave, etc. (weekend & holiday price - only \$35 at other times). Ph. (07) 4663 4717 for more information.

Peter Keys and Leanne Jackson-Keys are in the process of setting up **Treetop Sanctuary** in the southern Lockyer Valley, west of Brisbane. This will be the place to go for relaxation, stress relief and healing care from Peter and Leanne, who are both qualified natural therapists. Great rainforest bushwalks in a rugged and stunning sandstone gorge on "Treetops". Expected opening about April 1998. More details on this and other venues in future newsletters. And don't forget **The Scrubby Adventure Tour** offered by **Lockyer Landcare** - see Issue 1 for details!

Burnett Happenings

Isis Scrub Tour

As part of her ongoing good work conserving the Woongarra and Isis scrubs, Bundaberg Landcare Project Officer Maureen Schmitt hosted a bus tour of the Isis Scrub on November 8 last year. Over 30 people participated, including local Councillors, Bundaberg and Isis Landcare members, Department of Environment representatives, and representatives from other groups including Greening Australia and WWF.

While visiting the first scrub remnant, Department of Environment officers Steve Barry and Steve Elson discovered three more plants of the endangered species *Alectryon ramiflorus*. This discovery was an exciting moment for the tour group, and brings the total known number of plants from 35 to 38. Steve Barry is implementing a recovery plan for this "on-the-brink" species.



Project Officer Maureen Schmitt points out the impressive spray of red flowers on the 'blood vine'

At Ian Jenkins' property the group was shown revegetation in action. Just over 100 Isis Scrub plants supplied by Maureen's project

have been planted on Ian's farm. Ian's replanting of a patch of scrub will leave a natural legacy for his children and their children.



Viewing advanced revegetation on Ian Gorrie's property

At Ian Gorrie's property the group was able to see what Ian Jenkins' property will look like in several years. Ian Gorrie has been revegetating his land since 1987, carrying out extensive planting of dry rainforest, wetland and eucalypt forest species. The area had previously been cleared and grazed. Before moving to Childers, Ian worked on a range of environmental issues for the Commonwealth Government, including 18 months as Coordinator of the National Rainforest Conservation Program (NRCP). The NRCP made solid gains in rainforest conservation, but unfortunately no longer exists.

A high hill overlooking naturally regenerating dry rainforest on the Bichler's property provided the ideal location for an inspiring talk by Garth Ilett, Chair of the Qld. Landcare and Catchment Coordinating Council. Garth spoke about the history of Landcare, and how Landcare fits into the community.

The tour was given a great finish with a delightful afternoon tea prepared by the Childers Historic Society at their museum

complex. During afternoon tea a pamphlet describing Isis Scrub trees planted at the museum was officially launched. These trees had been planted with great foresight by well-known local botanist Jim Randall.

Revegetating The Hummock

The outstanding success of Maureen's project can be seen from the progress of conservation work at The Hummock.



Eye-catching signs explain the project to the public

The only hill between Bundaberg and the sea, The Hummock features one of the last remnants of the once expansive Woongarra Scrub.

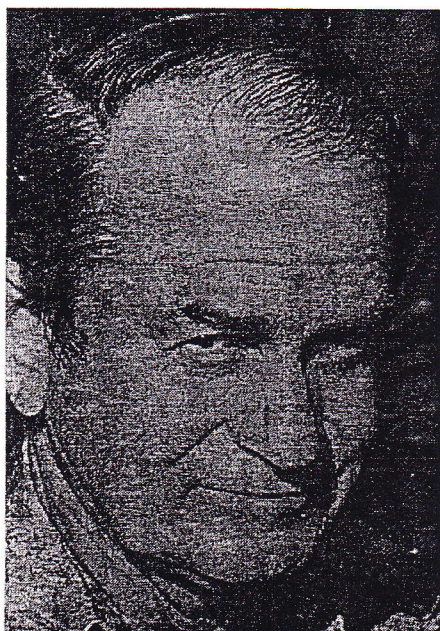
Burnett Shire Council has set aside an area of land adjacent to the existing remnant. Revegetation is well and truly underway, with weeds like lantana and guava being removed and over 200 Woongarra Scrub trees already planted.

Two large eye-catching signs inform and educate the public about the project.



Volunteers tackle the lantana

Vale Ray Jansen



Well-known Bundaberg amateur naturalist Ray Jansen died on Saturday November 8, 1997 after a brief illness.

Ray's main interest was botany, and he discovered an endangered dry rainforest tree in the Bulburin State Forest west of Gladstone which was named *Macadamia jansenii* after him. Only about 30 plants of this species are known to exist. Ray will also be remembered for his co-discovery with Eric Zillman of the "sugar cane monster" insect *Cooloola ziljani*, found only in the Bundaberg area.

Ray will be sadly missed but his contribution to the advancement of the natural sciences will be forever remembered.

Burnett Happenings

Landcare Leads the Way

Landcare groups are taking a lead in the conservation of rainforests in South-East Queensland. In Issue 1 we featured the excellent work of **Lockyer Landcare**, and in the last few pages you have seen the outstanding work of **Bundaberg Landcare**. In the Sunshine Coast and Hinterland areas **Noosa Landcare** and **Barung Landcare** are doing great work (see coming newsletters for major features on their rainforest conservation achievements).

Two Landcare groups that are now starting to get involved in rainforest conservation are **Isis Landcare** and **Gayndah Landcare**. WWF is currently working with Isis Landcare on a proposal for a major joint project. Gayndah Landcare has set in train plans for the revegetation of a degraded section of Burnett riverbank in the centre of Gayndah.

The Gayndah riverbank site will become a major tourist attraction with a picnic area and walking tracks. The revegetation will include a dry rainforest plot using local native species. Plantings will include local threatened species, as part of recovery action

for threatened rainforest species and ecosystems in the Gayndah area.

WWF joined with Gayndah Landcare members, local landholders and residents, and Qld. Herbarium botanist Paul Forster for a tour of the riverbank site and dry rainforest remnants in the area on October 4 last year. Paul Forster grew up in the Gayndah area and has an excellent knowledge of the local native vegetation.



Vineforest Atlas co-author Paul Forster (left) advises on revegetation strategies for the Gayndah riverbank

Bunya Mountains Weekend

A Great Success!

The joint Greening Australia/WWF Bunya Mountains "conserving the dry scrubs" weekend and "grass balds, rainforests and beyond" bushwalk held on October 11/12 last year, were a great success.

The "conserving the dry scrubs" weekend booked out early, attracting some 35 participants from as far away as Brisbane, Bundaberg, Childers, and Gayndah. A great opportunity to network with people involved in dry rainforest conservation right across

South-East Queensland. On the Saturday, participants were trained in rainforest types, species identification, propagation and revegetation. Expert advice was given by Qld. Herbarium botanist Bill McDonald, Greening Australia officer Jim Johnson, and Kenneth McClymont from BRAIN (Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information Network).

Bill McDonald, whose expansive knowledge of Queensland rainforests is well known, made learning species identification easy. Plants along the tracks in a patch of hoop-pine vineforest at "Bushland Park" (the ecotourism

venue that was our base for the weekend), and in a patch of vinethicket at the base of the mountains, were numbered to correspond with species lists for the sites.

Participants were able to easily see the changes in species composition between the different types of rainforest. Further contrasts were seen on Sunday morning in the wet rainforest on top of the Bunyas. The Bunya Mountains is the ideal place to observe the differences in rainforest communities, with a rapid transition from wet rainforest to dry vinethicket in a very short distance.

On Sunday the weekend participants were joined by nearly 100 others for a walk from the top of the Bunyas to the bottom. As well as seeing the changes in rainforest communities, walkers also crossed one of the Bunya Mountains famous grass balds. The

open grass balds are scattered throughout the Bunyas. There has been much speculation as to how they were formed. Qld. Herbarium botanist Rod Fensham, who has studied the balds extensively, outlined the most likely explanations. Aboriginal fire regimes are implicated, evidenced by the invasion of bald areas by rainforest following the reduced incidence of fire after European settlement. Under Rod's guidance, National Park rangers are now burning the balds in order to maintain what is a unique mosaic of ecosystems.

Greening Australia Small Holders Education Officer David Allworth put much time and effort into planning and running the weekend. The great success of the weekend is a credit to David's outstanding nature conservation knowledge and educational skills. Thanks to David for an excellent effort.

Threats to the Rainforests of South-East Queensland

Weeds Part 1

This is the first in a series of articles looking at the threats to the rainforests of South-East Queensland. One of the most serious threats is degradation through weed invasion. A host of weeds are causing damage, particularly to the drier rainforests. Serious vine weeds include madeira vine, asparagus fern, and cat's claw creeper. Serious tree weeds include Chinese elm, camphor laurel, and privet. Serious shrub and ground layer weeds include lantana, rivina, and green panic.

Most of these weeds have now infested large areas of significant rainforest ecosystem. Madeira vine has now infested thousands of acres of endangered vinethicket in the southern Lockyer Valley, lower Mary River catchment, and Rockhampton areas. Cats claw and Chinese elm have infested or completely taken over hundreds, if not

thousands, of kilometres of riparian rainforest. Lantana infests thousands of acres of cleared scrub land, preventing both regeneration and the productive use of the land.

The level of infestation is typically increasing rapidly. In five years in the southern Lockyer Valley, madeira vine has gone from a bit of a problem in a few areas to a serious threat to the survival of all vinethicket remnants. Lantana appears to be becoming better adapted to less fertile soils, appearing now in areas where it has not previously been a problem. Lantana would never survive on shallow soils over rock, but now it thrives.

In a few short years our rainforests will be facing a weed infestation crisis. Thousands of acres of endangered ecosystem will be laid to waste. Indeed, a Qld. Herbarium botanist who recently viewed the madeira vine infestation

in the Dwyer's Scrub Conservation Park remarked that the situation is so bad that "it is a waste of time having this area as a Conservation Park".

Many community groups are tackling weed problems in their rehabilitation and revegetation projects. However, the limited resources they have available means that they can usually only deal with small areas. Their massive efforts are frustrated by weed seeds blowing, washing, or being carried by animals from other nearby areas which re-establish the infestation again.

If the South-East Queensland rainforest weed crisis is to be averted, then many more resources will be required. Community groups will need to be given both the human and financial resources to be able to deal with

whole infestations, not just bits of them. For some weeds, resources will need to be devoted to finding workable control methods. For example, the area infested by madeira vine is now so great that it is beyond control by manual herbicide application. Urgent research to find a biological control is needed.

The development of a proper environmental weeds strategy for Queensland is an urgent priority. The strategy would detail comprehensive plans of action and timetables for dealing with all serious environmental weeds and specify necessary research and resources. Community groups, the people at the coal-face of the weed problem, must be given ownership of the strategy and its development. In **Weeds Part 2** (next issue): preventing the introduction of new weeds.

Rainforest Events

Want to get involved in rainforest conservation activities? Just contact one of the many groups and you will be warmly welcomed. Contacts: BRAIN (Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information Network) Ph. Kenneth McClymont (07) 3403 7181; Bundaberg Landcare Ph. Maureen Schmitt (071) 517 759; Noosa Landcare Ph. Jacky Williams (07) 5485 2468, Barung Landcare Ph. John Muir (07) 5494 3151. Lockyer Landcare Ph. Andrew Davidson or Steve Fox (07) 5465 4400, Greening Australia Toowoomba Ph. David Allworth (076) 359 266, Woogaroo Scrub Project Ph. Lloyd Bird (07) 3282 3737, Peace Park Rosewood Scrub Arboretum Project Ph. Arnold Rieck (07) 5464 1316.

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.

**** Full conference details in next newsletter ****

<i>Date:</i>	Mid 1998 (full details next newsletter)	<i>Aims:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ To bring together all stakeholders involved with Rainforest Conservation throughout South-East Queensland. ♦ To promote the preparation and implementation of rainforest recovery plans, using the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Plan model. ♦ To provide a unique opportunity to share knowledge, success stories, experiences and ideas.
<i>Venue:</i>	Tanyalla Conference Centre Tannum Sands, South of Gladstone		
<i>Details:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 5 day conference ♦ 2 - 3 days of field trips ♦ Options include Kroombit Tops, Mt Larcom, Tondoon Botanic Gardens, Dan Dan State Forest, Granite Creek, Eurimbula National Park. 		

Proposed Topics:

Rainforest Recovery Planning
Industry and Rainforest Conservation
 At Home in the Scrub - conserving rainforest fauna
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, 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

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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