



*World Wide Fund for Nature Australia*

# *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News*



*Issue No. 3 - May 1998*



## *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* *Issue No. 3 - May 1998*

Special Feature: Gold Coast and Hinterland Rainforest Recovery 3

New Areas and Macadamia Partners 7

Welcome to New Staff Member 8

Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Update 8

Rainforest Holidays 9

Burnett Update 11

Rainforest Real Estate 12

Madeira Vine Task Force 12

Threats to the Rainforests of South-East Queensland 13

South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News Mailing List 13

1998 South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Conference 14

This issue of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* has been compiled and published by WWF South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project Assistant Mike Gregory with assistance from Siobhan Bland and Nick Cox. Edited by WWF South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project Coordinator Bruce Boyes.

### *Cover Picture*

Rainforest restoration in Back Creek at the Land Warfare Centre, Canungra. See page

### *Contributions, Mailing List, Contact Information*

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 or 7.0.

*South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* is distributed free of charge to our mailing list. To add your name to the mailing list please complete and return the form on page 13.

Please forward all correspondence to Mike Gregory, WWF Rainforest Recovery Project Assistant, Threatened Species & Ecosystems Unit, Queensland Department of Environment, PO Box 155, Brisbane Albert Street, Qld 4002. Ph: 07 3222 2529, Fax: 07 3227 6386.

# Special Feature: Gold Coast and Hinterland Rainforest Recovery

## *The Project Expands*

Welcome to Issue No. 3 of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News*.

Support and enthusiasm for the WWF South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project continues to grow. The project is now entering a new phase, with rainforest recoveries planned for three new areas. This issue features the first of these areas - the Gold Coast and Hinterland.

## *An Enthusiastic Start!*

On Saturday April 4, the Queensland Department of Environment Forest Assessment Unit joined forces with WWF to host a highly successful South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project information day at the Burleigh Heads National Park.

The information day was very well attended by a diverse group of people, all with the common interest of conserving the threatened rainforests of the Gold Coast and Hinterland.

Participants included rainforest landholders, representatives from Gold Coast City Council, students from Griffith University Gold Coast Campus, people affiliated with various organisations such as the Society for Growing Australian Plants, and several local naturalists, rainforest nursery owners, and ecotourism operators.

The day began with a welcome and introduction from WWF Rainforest Recovery Project Coordinator Bruce Boyes, who described the Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Model and the excellent potential for a similar recovery in the Gold Coast and Hinterland. Wendy Drury, from the Queensland

Department of Environment Forest Assessment Unit, followed with a discussion of her work on the Response to Disturbance Flora project.

Dr. David Rounsevell, also from the Forest Assessment Unit, then introduced the recovery planning concept.

Bruce Boyes closed the formal part of the information day by discussing future plans for the Gold Coast Rainforest Recovery Project. These plans received enthusiastic support from those present. That assembled group featured a very significant amount of rainforest conservation knowledge - the basis for an excellent recovery team.

If our Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) application is successful, the Gold Coast and Hinterland Rainforest Recovery will be on its way to success in October.



**The spectacular rainforest of the Lamington Plateau, near O'Reilly's Guesthouse, Gold Coast Hinterland**



After the formal proceedings, the group took a short walk around Burleigh Heads National Park, which is a remarkable and highly significant rainforest remnant surviving in the midst of an urban landscape.

Local naturalist and rainforest nursery owner Graham McDonald pointed out several interesting features of the rainforest, including a large number of *Aristolochia praevenosa* vines – the host plant for the larvae of the endangered Richmond Birdwing Butterfly.

Also noted were endangered and vulnerable plants, including *Tinospora tinoporoides*, *Cryptocarya foetida*, and *Endiandra floydii*. The day finished with a BBQ and enthusiastic discussion on the prospects of a Gold Coast Rainforest Recovery project.

### *Threatened Species Hot Spot*

The Queensland Department of Environment Forest Assessment Unit is carrying out components of a Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) for the South-East Queensland bioregion. The CRA is part of the process of developing a South-East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (RFA).

One component of the CRA is the Response to Disturbance (RTD) Project. The flora part of this project, carried out by Wendy Drury, has found the Gold Coast and Hinterland rainforests to be the most important area in the South East Queensland bioregion for flora recovery actions.

Some 40 species of endangered rainforest flora are present in the Gold Coast and Hinterland. This amounts to 42% of the flora species of conservation concern in the whole South-East Queensland bioregion. A real threatened species hot spot!

Dr. David Rounsevell is Principal Conservation Officer Recovery Planning with the Forest Assessment Unit. David has a

wealth of experience in recovery planning, and has been quick to recognise the considerable advantages of the recovery planning approach being taken by the South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Project.

The advantages are ecosystem conservation, which recognises that long-term species survival depends on conservation of the habitat, local ownership, where the focus is on a socially cohesive geographic area, and the wise use of limited human and financial resources.

The advantages of the South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery project can be clearly seen in the Gold Coast and Hinterland rainforests. If the traditional single species recovery approach was taken, it would mean 40 recovery teams and 40 recovery plans! A ludicrous situation when all 40 species are in the same habitat type in the same geographic area.

Single species recovery still has a role, indeed, it will be the best approach in many situations. However, single species recovery should be only one of a number of options available in the recovery planning toolkit.

David and Wendy approached WWF Rainforest Recovery Project Coordinator Bruce Boyes to discuss their project findings. Their approach coincided with WWF's recognition of the Gold Coast and Hinterland rainforests as a priority area. Plans were then put in train for joint involvement in a Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) application, which has been prepared and submitted, and for the information day.

WWF thanks Wendy Drury for organising the information day, and everyone who was involved in the day. Special thanks to the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service Gold Coast staff for the use of the Gold Coast Management Unit office at Burleigh Heads, which was an excellent venue for the day.



## Special Feature:

# Gold Coast and Hinterland Rainforest Recovery

WWF looks forward to working with the Gold Coast and Hinterland community to conserve the rainforests of the area. The Gold Coast and Hinterland is notable for the number of outstanding people working on rainforest conservation.

### *Gold Coast City Council*

Gold Coast City Council is in the process of adopting a Nature Conservation Strategy, which is a major step forward in ensuring that the city's valuable natural assets are protected. WWF commends Gold Coast City Council for this excellent initiative, which, like Ipswich City Council's "Enviroplan", provides a very firm foundation for recovery planning.

Current research indicates that bushland loss in South-East Queensland is occurring at an unsustainable rate. The Gold Coast Nature Conservation Strategy addresses this by gathering and maintaining data on the City's natural resources and categorising areas into management units.

The Strategy also looks to building solutions, and proposes a range of options including developing partnerships with private landholders, management and rehabilitation of natural areas, and a State of the Environment Report to establish benchmarks for environmental management and protection.

### *Rainforest Naturalists*

**Graham McDonald** is one of the Gold Coast's foremost rainforest naturalists. He has recorded and promoted the abundant floristic diversity of the Gold Coast and Hinterland with long-standing passion and dedication. Graham is playing a key role as "chief propagator" on the *Austromyrtus gonoclada*

Recovery Team based in Logan City. He has successfully propagated some 50 seedlings of this highly endangered species from both seed and cuttings, with the seedlings now planted back into their natural habitat.

Graham has undertaken numerous plant surveys in the Gold Coast Hinterland. Recently, he was involved in survey work with the Gold Coast City Council as part of their Gold Coast Conservation Strategy. Among his numerous discoveries has been the endangered *Endiandra floydii* at Mudgeeraba and a new population of the endangered *Diploglottis campbellii*.

Graham has been involved in numerous hands-on bush regeneration schemes, including Boonaroo Park at Carrara, a project of Gold Coast City Council and Greening Australia. He has also planted some 600 rainforest species on his own property. From his Toona Rainforest Gardens nursery, he provides native rainforest plants, plant identification and horticultural advice, and supplies plants for local provenance regeneration projects on the Gold Coast.

Graham will be publishing a book in the near future titled *Growing a Butterfly Garden in South East Queensland* which will feature many endemic rainforest plants which are host plants for butterflies.

**David Jinks** is another well-known Gold Coast naturalist who has been able to make a living out of his passion for the bush. From doing survey work out of his own goodwill, he has become a successful consultant.

David has discovered new populations of endangered species such as *Baloghia marmorata* and *Fontainea australis*, and quite recently also found a previously unknown



species. This species, which in evolutionary terms is considered a dinosaur, has been named *Eucryphia jinksii* after him. The species is endangered, and is endemic to the Springbrook region.

David is also involved in nursery work with the aim of using local provenance species. He has been a strong advocate for conservation of remnant forest in the Gold Coast region, and has extensive experience in revegetation work around the Gold Coast.

**Charlie Booth** began growing rainforest plants as a hobby which eventually became a business.

For the past three years, Charlie and his wife have run Bushnuts Native Nursery in Tallebudgera Valley. Charlie collects local seed from the Gold Coast Hinterland area. He has carried out numerous rainforest projects, both voluntarily and commercially, including the revegetation of a local Tallebudgera park with some two-to-three thousand rainforest trees.

Charlie has a special interest in the endangered species *Austromyrtus fragrantissima* which is mostly known from the Nicholls Scrub National Park and has located new populations of this species. Charlie believes it is a good example of an endangered species that has excellent horticultural potential.

## Rainforest Landholders

The people in the front line of rainforest conservation are the landholders. The Gold Coast and Hinterland features some of South-East Queensland's most outstanding rainforest landholders. As well as working hard to conserve their own rainforest, these inspirational people have also been working tirelessly towards better policies for conservation on private land.

The next issue of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* will carry a special

feature on rainforest conservation on private land, and will include profiles of these leading Gold Coast and Hinterland rainforest landholders.

## Rainforest Restoration - the Army Sets the Pace

In May 1996, nearly 6000 ha of land belonging to the Land Warfare Centre at Canungra in the Gold Coast Hinterland was listed on the Register of the National Estate as an area of national natural significance. To maintain those natural values, the Land Warfare Centre is actively implementing a long term Environmental Management Plan.

Originally known as the Jungle Training School, the Land Warfare Centre was established in 1954 for the purpose of training troops in the art of Jungle Warfare.



**A cabinet timber trial plot at the Land Warfare Centre**

Long before the Army took the land over for training it had been extensively cleared of its native rainforest. Plans for improvement of the land date back to 1984 when a nursery was established to improve the general landscaping of the Barracks. In 1990, the nursery underwent expansion to facilitate the Rainforest regeneration and restoration program.

By involving several organisations outside the Army, as well as those soldiers with a direct interest in the long term maintenance of the



Land Warfare Centre's natural assets, over 16 separate projects have been successfully initiated.

Projects include weed control and restoration of a badly degraded area of riparian rainforest, supplementary planting in that area by the Army's Support Wing, extensive tree planting by Greening Australia and the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV), and a new project in association with the Queensland Herbarium which aims to highlight and research the colour variations and hybridisation habits of the genus *Brachychiton*.

WWF congratulates the Land Warfare Centre, and in particular Land Manager Mr. Don Lynch AM, for setting an excellent example in on-ground rainforest conservation.

Following the success of the last Field Day at the Land Warfare Centre in 1996, there will be another opportunity to see current and completed projects. The Field Day provides an excellent opportunity to view and study restoration works and discuss rainforest restoration methods with like minded people. If you are involved in any way with the conservation of rainforest, you should not miss this day.

The Field Day will begin at 8.30 am with a welcome by the Land Warfare Centre Commandant, followed by refreshments, tours of the project sites and discussions with a team of project advisers. Further details can be obtained by contacting Don Lynch on 07 5541 6251.

## Environmental Field Day - Sunday 24 May 1998

Land Warfare Centre, Kokoda Barracks, Canungra

- View restoration works
- Cabinet timbers
- Farm forestry techniques
- Presentations
- Rainforest arboretum
- Weed control
- Displays
- Restoration
- Plant sales
- Propagation

## *New Areas and Macadamia Partners*

In addition to the Gold Coast and Hinterland Rainforest Recovery, new rainforest recoveries are planned for the Lockyer, between Ipswich and Toowoomba, and the Gayndah District in the Central Burnett.

The Lockyer and Gayndah District rainforest recoveries will be based on the excellent work of the Landcare groups in each area.

A Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) application has been submitted for funding to carry out further work on the existing Ipswich Rainforest Recovery, and to initiate the new Gold Coast and Hinterland, Lockyer, and Gayndah District rainforest recoveries. Expansion to a further four areas is proposed for the following year (Sunshine Coast and



Hinterland, Maryborough District, Boyne Valley, and Brisbane).

An innovative component of our Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) application is our partnership with the macadamia industry. The macadamia nut is the first Australian rainforest bushfood to be successfully developed for commercial production.

The Australian macadamia industry is now a multi-million dollar export industry, providing many jobs and significant local economic benefits. The conservation of genetic diversity in remaining natural macadamia populations is critical to the future of our macadamia industry - it provides the industry with the ability to enhance the product through the development of new plant varieties. Most of the remaining natural macadamia stands occur

within the rainforests of South-East Queensland.

The South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery project will thus have significant benefits for the macadamia industry and for the sustainable use of native forests. The Australian Macadamia Society (AMS) and Horticultural Research and Development Corporation (HRDC) are contributing a total of \$10,000 to the project in 98/99 to enable specific conservation actions for macadamia sites in the Gold Coast Hinterland, where there are a large number of sites.

WWF looks forward to a successful partnership with the Australian macadamia industry, and thanks Mr. Steve Falconer for facilitating the partnership.

## *Welcome to New Staff Member*

WWF welcomes Mike Gregory to the new position of WWF Rainforest Recovery Project Assistant. Mike has qualifications in environmental science and planning and has been working as an environmental consultant. As an Ipswich resident, he has been heavily involved in local rainforest conservation projects including the Woogaroo Scrub project, making him ideal for the new position. Welcome aboard Mike!

## *Ipswich Rainforest Recovery Update*

Project Assistant Mike Gregory is currently refining the Draft Recovery Plan into an action document that will facilitate the commencement of on-ground conservation actions. The Project is already helping to focus current rainforest regeneration actions towards common goals, such as targeting actions at the specific recovery needs for rare and threatened rainforest species.

The project has received excellent coverage in the local media including a full page colour feature article in the Ipswich newspaper, *The Queensland Times*, on Saturday April 4. The author made special mention of the work of

Draft Plan author Siobhan Bland, and community representatives such as SGAP Secretary and Rosewood Peace Park Project Coordinator Arnold Rieck. In the article, Arnold commented on the practical value of conservation, pointing out that many of our medicinal drugs are derived from various rainforest plants.

Of special note are the following comments from the article author: "What is groundbreaking about the Ipswich Plan is its focus on ecosystem recovery, dealing with a native environment as a whole rather than the conservation of an isolated species".



## Rainforest Holidays

The 1996 WWF South-East Queensland Vineforest Project found that ecotourism can facilitate rainforest conservation on private land, particularly in South-East Queensland where there is a high demand for recreation from a large urban population.

However, it was also found that ecotourism opportunities are at present stifled particularly by restrictive Local Government policies and a lack of financial incentives from all levels of government.

*WWF South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* is assisting landholders to overcome these considerable obstacles by promoting good examples of where ecotourism has facilitated nature conservation. You too can assist these landholders with their conservation efforts - simply by holidaying on their properties.

### *O'Reilly's Rainforest Guesthouse*

The O'Reilly family has been welcoming people into their mountain home for over 80 years, introducing three generations of Australians to the rainforest, waterfalls and wildlife of the World Heritage listed Lamington National Park. The Guesthouse is renowned for its hospitality, four-wheel bus adventures, short and long nature walks, and the famous tree top walk.

The topography provides the area with magnificent scenery, as well as great variation in temperature and rainfall from the mountains to the valleys. The landscape provides a true wilderness experience. About 70% of the Park supports rainforest varying from the temperate Antarctic Beech forest of the higher altitudes, to the warm sub-tropical rainforests of the valleys.

The O'Reilly family has had an extensive association with the area, with the Guesthouse opening for business at Easter 1926.

O'Reilly's provide a full package of environmental adventures and cater for the special interests of guests when formulating their daily program. They cater for children's activities, special interests and evening activities, all of which enhance a true bush holiday. O'Reilly's provide a range of accommodation including ensuite motel style units, guesthouse and wheelchair friendly units.

O'Reilly's were pioneers, not only in the physical sense but also pioneers in the ecotourism industry in Australia. Their success in enhancing the enjoyment of the bush experience is a credit to all involved.

The O'Reilly's have been very active in nature conservation and related issues. Most recently, Peter O'Reilly's outstanding level of experience saw him appointed to chair the review of the South-East Queensland Regional Open Space Scheme (ROSS). The review has been successfully completed with a new Regional Landscape Strategy now underway.

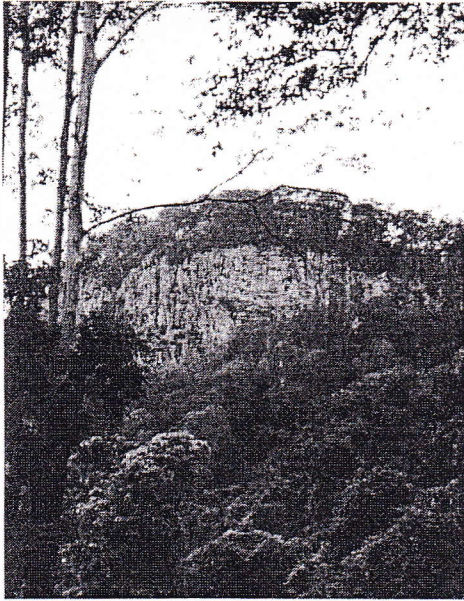
WWF looks forward to the O'Reilly family's participation in the Gold Coast and Hinterland Rainforest Recovery. Lamington National Park is two hours drive south of Brisbane. For more information, phone 07 5544 0644.

### *Adjinbilly*

Adjinbilly is a wonderful example of what can be achieved with ecotourism. Situated 12 km north of Killarney in the Condamine River Gorge, the area features unspoilt sub-tropical rainforest on the edge of the Great Dividing Range. Nurtured and managed by caretaker-owner Kim Best, Adjinbilly offers an excellent



alternative to the usual resort motel style of accommodation, whilst still providing comfort for a family vacation.



### **The spectacular rainforest-filled Condamine Gorge, Adjinbilly**

What's so special about Adjinbilly is it's detailed consideration for the natural environment when designing it as an ecotourism destination. This is the cornerstone of genuine ecotourism planning. Kim emphasises that Adjinbilly has been planned and designed to take full effect of the areas outstanding natural beauty and tranquillity.

The area features abundant wildlife and dramatic landscapes. Cabins have been carefully located to minimise site disturbance and have incorporated "environmentally friendly" technology such as composting toilets and power generated by water turbines.

Adjinbilly is also designed for a small number of people to minimise any human impacts from visitors. For further information phone: 07 4664 1599.

### *Belgamba*

Nestled in Rockhampton's scenic rim is "Belgamba", Ian and Cathy Herbert's property, featuring a little known plateau with

panoramic views, hidden creek gorges and natural forest, all bathed in cool mountain air.

Rockhampton's scenic rim of the Dee and Razorback Ranges rises steeply behind the Fitzroy coastal plains, with Belgamba forming a gateway to this green and tranquil area.

Belgamba is 35 minutes from Rockhampton and 15 minutes from historic Mount Morgan. The Herbert property contains high conservation value vineforest featuring endangered species. Recently, the Herbert's entered into a Nature Refuge Agreement in order to protect their property's high conservation value.

The natural features of the area include tall eucalypt forest dominated by lemon scented gums, grass trees and macrozamia's as well as well graded tracks to lookouts over Bouldercombe Gorge and the Dee Valley.

The Herbert's encourage visitors to go on guided bushwalks to learn about local flora and fauna, in which you can admire some of the tallest cycads in the region and explore secluded pockets of dry rainforest and palm groves. The historic Mount Morgan town and gold mine are also in close proximity.

Belgamba cottage retreat offers low cost, self catering accommodation with modern facilities and plenty of room for up to six people. It includes a well equipped kitchen and spacious lounge with a wood heater for chilly winter nights. Cooking utensils and all linen and blankets are provided. Prices range from \$60 per night for two people, to \$375 per week for six people. Bookings essential. For more information, call Cathy or Ian Herbert on 07 4938 1818.

### *Totally Wild Visits Pinecliffs*

On April 21 a crew from the Channel 10 "Totally Wild" program visited Julie and Barry Clarson's Pinecliffs property near Esk to film two stories for the show. At the time of



publishing this newsletter the stories were scheduled to screen around early to mid May.

One story will focus on the stunning number of Staghorns and Elkhorns contained within Julie and Barry's spectacular 700 acre rainforest remnant.

The other story will look at the high conservation value of the Pinecliffs area and the fantastic contribution that Julie and Barry are making to the conservation of our rainforests.

If you catch the story on the Staghorns look out for the "Mother of all Stags" and wonder at how the Totally Wild team managed to get the footage they did. It was quite a sight to watch Steve (camera) and Steve (sound) clambering up a very, very steep rock face, Ranger Stacey in tow and Julie and Barry assisting, all to get that perfect shot...well done Team!

The Vegetation Project Sub-Committee of the Lockyer Watershed Management Association (LWMA) - Lockyer Landcare group also had a great time at Pinecliffs when they were among Julie and Barry's first ecotourism customers on the weekend of March 15-16.

The group was inspired by Julie and Barry's efforts against the odds to retain one of South-East Queensland's biggest and best privately owned rainforest remnants. Highlights included visiting the "Mother of all Stags" and watching the full moon rise through the hoop-pines. All vowed to return!

Julie and Barry are continuing negotiations for their Nature Refuge Agreement and are gradually building up their ecotourism enterprise. For more information on Pinecliffs holidays see Issue 2 of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* or phone Julie and Barry on 07 5424 1623.

## Burnett Update

### Baldwin Swamp

The Bundaberg Landcare Woongarra and Isis Scrubs Project continue to go from strength to strength. Project Officer, Maureen Schmitt, reports that work has begun in conjunction with Bundaberg City Council to regenerate dry rainforest in the Baldwin Swamp area.

The Baldwin Swamp area features a combination of wetlands, eucalypt forest and remnant dry rainforest along a creekline. Many trees have already been planted and it is expected that it will take several years to regenerate degraded areas. It will form an ongoing commitment for Bundaberg Landcare and Bundaberg City Council.

Maureen has also successfully involved Bundaberg TAFE and Isis High School (Childers) in propagating seed for regeneration work using local provenance. Bundaberg

TAFE will be involved in supplying plants for regeneration work in the Woongarra Scrubs, and Isis High School will do the same for Isis Scrub.



At work in Baldwin Swamp

For more information on Maureen's project, see Issues 1 and 2 of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News*.



## Isis Scrub Replanting

Isis Landcare has applied for Natural Heritage Trust funding to establish an Isis Scrub education project at a high profile site in Childers. This excellent project will play a pivotal role in educating the local and broader community about the conservation of the endangered Isis scrub. By replanting a patch of

scrub, the Isis Landcare project will complement the Bundaberg Landcare Woongarra and Isis Scrubs project, which is conserving existing remnants and propagating scrub species, and also the *Alectryon ramiflorus* recovery project, which is carrying out actions to bring this seriously endangered species back from the brink of extinction.

## Rainforest Real Estate

This issue of *South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* features a new section, "Rainforest Real Estate". Rainforest Real Estate will advertise rainforest properties that are for sale throughout South-East Queensland.

### Holiday Retreat

150 scenic acres only 1.5 hours from Brisbane. Includes Queenslander residence, cabin accommodation, seminar facilities, and amenities. Walking tracks lead to superb views over a rainforest filled sandstone gorge. High conservation values with rare and threatened flora and fauna including a newly discovered pink flowering Boronia - a stunning sea of pink in spring. Expansion potential. Freehold investment. \$275,000 WIWO. Ph. 07 5462 3946.

*Advertising conditions: Advertisements for the Rainforest Real Estate section in WWF South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News will be subject to acceptance by the editor, and will run free of charge until further notice.*

## Madeira Vine Task Force

In response to the serious threat posed to the rainforests of South-East Queensland by madeira vine, a Madeira Vine Task Force has been formed. Task Force member and Lockyer Catchment Coordinator Andrew Davidson reports that a Task Force meeting on March 10 decided on actions to combat madeira vine, and also decided to expand the focus to other serious rainforest weeds such as cats claw creeper.

The Task Force comprises weed control experts from the Allan Fletcher Research Station, staff from the Qld. Department of Environment, and community representatives.



**A madeira vine infestation**



Actions from the first meeting include taking steps to have madeira vine listed as an environmental weed in Queensland, and requesting funding for research into a biological control. should be maintained. The Task Force agrees that madeira vine is a high priority weed problem, and believes it is likely that a biological control will be needed.

The Queensland Department of Environment and Allan Fletcher Research Station have already commenced madeira vine control trials in the Dwyer's Scrub Conservation Park. A holistic approach is being taken, including

mapping areas first, introducing containment zones, and researching chemical control methods.

The Task Force has organised a workshop on May 13 at Dick Scanlan's "Berlin Scrub" Nature Refuge in the Lockyer Valley. The workshop will train Queensland Department of Environment staff, landholders, and Lockyer Landcare members in the latest control methods for madeira vine. Contact Andrew Davidson at the Lockyer Catchment Centre (07 5465 4400) for further details.

## *Threats to the Rainforests of South-East Queensland*

This series of articles examines the various threats to the rainforests of South-East Queensland. In Issue 2 of *WWF South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery News* we looked at the threat posed by the weeds that have invaded our rainforests, weeds like madeira vine, cats claw creeper, and lantana. In this issue we look at how to prevent new weeds adding to an already serious problem.

### *Weeds Part 2*

One of the most serious threats to our rainforests is from weeds.

Tragically, most bushland weeds originate as ornamental garden plants or agricultural plants that have "gone feral". There is now an almost dizzying array of weeds in the South-East Queensland region, many of which pose a serious threat to remnant rainforests.

What is most disturbing is that we keep adding to what is already a disaster. At present there is little control over the importation of new exotic plants. Strict new controls have recently been introduced, where all introduced plants will be screened for their potential to become weeds.

*Continued over page...*

### **Newsletter Mailing List**

**and conference brochure and newsletter back issues**

To put your name on the newsletter mailing list, fill in your details overleaf and send to Mike Gregory, C/- Threatened Species and Ecosystems Unit, Queensland Department of Environment, PO Box 155, Brisbane Albert Street, Qld, 4002.

You can also request the conference brochure or newsletter back issues.



*Continued from previous page...*

Introduction controls will help, but are only part of the answer. What is needed is a concerted effort to capitalise on the enormous diversity of our own native flora. Right here in Queensland we have an astonishing native diversity, in excess of 9,000 species in fact!

Why do we continually ignore the economic potential of our mega-diversity and instead import endless boat loads of devastating weeds? Why have other countries been quick to make big bucks out of Australian native plants when we are instead pushing them over with bulldozers?

The USA developed a mega-dollar macadamia industry while we were flattening rainforests full of native macadamias. Israel now earns four times more than Australia selling Australian native cut flowers on the international market, while we continue to flatten bushland full of flowering native plants.

Just how smart are we?

The Australian macadamia industry is showing how things should be done. Forward thinkers have now created a very lucrative Australian macadamia industry that recently left the USA industry behind. The industry has recognised the economic benefits to Australia from conserving remaining native macadamia populations, and WWF is pleased to partner this leading industry in achieving this goal.

Governments must urgently devote resources to investigating and promoting the economic potential of Australian native plants. You can also do your bit. Target local native species for your garden - for advice contact your local branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP).

Why not trial a plot of Australian native wildflowers or bushfood plants on your property? Your local office of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI) can advise on suitable wildflower plants. *Australian Bushfoods Magazine* is an absolute goldmine of advice on bushfoods - contact Sammy Ringer on 07 5494 3812 for subscription details.

## The 1998 South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Conference *"Rainforest recovery for the new millennium"*

31 August - 4 September 1998, Tanyalla Conference Centre, Tannum Sands

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