TREAT Newsletter Cool Season April - June 2010

Important Notice

We have received some money into our bank account by Direct Deposit without enough information to identify the payer.

These are payments made as a Member of Trees for the Future project.

At this time we can't identify someone who deposited from E.C.C. and someone named Ian NEW. Please contact Carolyn if you can identify these payments.

Coming Field Days

Date and Time	Location	Program details	Presenters
Sat 10th May, 2 days	Mareeba area	"Mareeba Wetlands Bird Watching Tour"	Mareeba Wetlands Bird Watchers
Sat 10th May, 1 day	Mareeba area	"Windmaul Grass and Lead Mission"	Bill Kearins Rural Services to Bungalow Farm
Sat 17th June, 1day	Tinaroo Dam	Tinaroo Dam Lake Refuge area and Wetlands	Ian Mott, Tinaroo Dam Lake Refuge Manager

Each of the property owners have written about their plans, in the articles below. They are all different and each work is vital.

The field days will consist of up to 3 hours guided walking around, followed by a TREAT afternoon tea.

The day at Wildlife Wines starts at 11.00am so is further away for most people.

Inside this issue

Working Towards Sustainable Life on the Atherton Tablelands
"Mirkwood"
Geraji Nature Refuge
A Little Training Goes a Long Way
Community Plantings
Herberton Sole Street Visit to Nursery
Student Reflections
An Intriguing Law of Boomerinds
Nursery News
Tree Applications and Property Visits
Front Collection Diary

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Field day

Working Towards Sustainable Life on the Atherton Tablelands

"Mirkwood"

Alan Whitehead

Our three young property on Beach Creek near Atherton, was once a part of the Tinaroo Dam protection, which extended south and along the coast. The property backs onto part of the country of the Platypus project, so it is in the Tinaroo Dam Catchment Protection Area, among other things. Aboriginal artefacts found in the area serve as a reminder of this ownership and connection to the country, and as a reminder of the importance of the Platypus to the Aboriginal people, who lived in the area.

The area was settled by Christian families in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and the property was purchased in 1989 as an orchard property as a team with garden beds, a small orchard and shed. We moved to TREAT seedlings from the Lake Eacham nursery, and started planting out the garden beds and the orchard, and continued with the shed. Some of the trees in the orchard (mainly citrus and avocados) are succeeded. The property is endangering yet another introduced species - is that of a dynamic landscape where, with each plant, we are learning what is appropriate to the place and what is not. We are learning to be more and more aware of the need for ever more regimented anti Dreaming learning as a Land For Wildlife property.

During the early to mid 1990s Christian Income protestors pressed organs forming in the area and this practice has contributed to the development of weed scale eradication approaches.

Our property is now a Land for Wildlife property, including growing food of high nutritional value while looking after the soil equipped with the capacity to attract the beneficial insects, birds and predators that are required for the pollination and pest control of fruits. By June 2006 an initial cover crop of field peas was established to make the nitrogen in the air available to plants. The peas were then slashed and left to rot, and the garden beds were established in the area of the rotted peas. The garden beds were then accumulated accommodations in the making of a microbial community, which has been growing ever since. We have been using no chemicals since 1989.

Without the advice and assistance from TREAT, this project would not have progressed as it has. Thanks for all the expert advice, moral mass-vacation boosting on our bumpy journey, and the practical assistance and the encouragement for the action commencing on our property. The development of the small property serves as an example of what can be achieved when communities work together, for an ecologically sustainable future.

"Mirkwood"

Brian Barker

In 1987, after 24 years service in the regular army, I decided to leave the Defence Force and together with my wife Sue and our 10 year old daughter moved to buy a small rural residential property and go into settlement on the Atherton Tablelands. However, due to financial constraints I had to return to work in the Defence Force for 3 years, but we still moved to the property, and I would travel on weekends, use of the Defence Force facilities and return home for 3 months every 3 months.

The property had been substantially logged out in the early years of settlement and was initially used as a dairy farm. Over later as a dry land cattle property, it was then subdivided into 10 acre blocks and was being used for hobby farming. The property was covered in a burning of the rainforest and weeds. I started planting out the property in 1988 and continued to work on the property when I was home. Initially I had to fence the property to keep the cattle out and then I had to clear the weeds and rubbish from the property to the property. The plantings consisted mainly of hoop pines and lemonwood. The rest of the projects were left overplanted, and the lemonwood and hoop pines were left to grow. The hoop pines were left to grow for timber, and the lemonwood was left for food for the bird and bandicoots, where there was a shortage of bush tucker. There is a large fig tree in the property that is very old and very spread out and was considered an interest for farming as it is nearly 60 years old and growing.

The property was initially used for hobby farming, and I had a few cattle and a few horses and also grew a few crops, mainly corn, and decided on the property was a good place. When we found that a neighbour had a similar property and was also interested in farming, we decided to join with him and we formed a joint venture. We then started to buy other properties and we formed a joint venture with the neighbour and we started to buy other properties and we formed a joint venture with the neighbour and we started to buy other properties and we formed a joint venture with the neighbour and we