TREAT Newsletter Storm Season October - December 2008

Coming Events

Date and Time	Event	Location
Saturday 6th November 9.00am	Tree Planting	Lake Eacham Rainforest
Saturday 13th November 9.00am-12.00pm	Workshop: Tree ID and Seeds	Lake Eacham Nursery
Saturday 20th November 9.00am-12.00pm	Workshop: Tree ID and Seeds	Malanda Community Nursery
Sunday 21st November 9.00am	Tree Planting	Barron River Catchment Project
Sunday 28th November 9.00am	Christmas Break up	Visit all Nurseries

Tree plantings: **drinking water, a hat, sunscreen**, gloves and travel. TREAT provides refreshments afterwards. See the local papers for directions.

Tree ID and Seed propagation workshop: as places are limited, register with Barbara Lindsay 4091 4460 or the Malanda Community Nursery 4096 5244.

Break-up: Friday mornings resume on 9th January.

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Corridors Past, Present and Future

Colin Hunt

It is some time since the Louis Donaghy's contour map of Queensland was made. It shows the Great Dividing Range, with the Cardwell Range forked. I now wonder whether there was a third fork, which has been lost to the mists of time. In the contour map, the Cardwell Range appears to be the only contour ridge so linearly. I can confirm that it is very impressive.

The page that gave the planting dates were still there, although the page had been moved to a different page. Seasons beginning the 1997 and 1998 plantings, we recorded the births of lines in randomly selected plots.

The lines were 1 km long and spaced at 10 kilometres and 31 kilometres along the Range respectively. At Kalgan's place the value of carbon in Donaghy's contour is around $6,000 per hectare. Kalgan's place is in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and the Cardwell Range is recognised as Regional Ecosystem 7.11.

Another impressive corridor that I am familiar with is the one that runs along the Great Dividing Range from Cooloola to Barry Mountains. Bruce Hunter has been working on this for many years, and has a website at www.greatdivide.com.au.

Then of course we have the Paterson Creek corridor, reaching from Lake Eacham to the Curtain Fig National Park, which is ongoing and almost complete. These corridors are a little more complex than the Donaghy contour, and therefore more difficult to define. Some of the maps made them happen, the private landowners who have floated and the State and Commonwealth professionals who provided support, resources and money can be proud.

However, we are not anywhere near finished with corridors on the Tablelands. The Black-throated antbrush is critically endangered but there are only two records of sightings in the last 10 years. Both of these are in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The species is thought to occupy or frequent a single site, for example a Kauri Pine or Kauri. Form the Kauri Pine, Kauri, Paterson Creek and Curtain Fig corridors, we can see that there is a lot of Kauri Pine in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and that it is a very important component of the ecosystem.

The second largest block of Wet, Dry sclerophyll forest, is in the Mongabar State Forest. This has survived due to the inaccessibility of a forester road. 150 years ago, advocated compartments of plantations within the rainforest. Like other remnants, the Mongabar State Forest is a refuge for species that have disappeared from the surrounding lands. The Mongabar State Forest is a refuge for species which along the Great Dividing Range extends south from the Curtain Fig National Park when plant species that stands out even though it is long, meandering if properties.

The Great Dividing Range is not only the movement of forces, but also pick up small endangered ecosystems, such as Mabin on Alcock. Wherever the Great Dividing Range and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area meet, there is a needed small protection. Nassser's Walk to the north of Ringtail is another linkage possibility, as are corridors to the south.

Given the Green Corridor initiative already underway on the Atherton Tablelands, we should pay the expense of conserving carbon in forests, it is timely to recognise the pristine value of Mongabar State Forest in conservation planning.

AGM Report

Ann Schaffer

The 20th Annual General Meeting of TREAT was held on the 19th September at the Tarzaphone Community Hall. Thirty-seven members attended to hear very positive reports from Treasurer Carmel Pantlin, Ranger in Charge Nick Stevens and President Barbara Lindsay.

The Treasurer's report showed that TREAT is in a very healthy financial position with a surplus of $20,000 for the year. This includes $40,000 seedlings being gifted. The TREAT and QPW contract seedlings number 16,540 trees planted, showing TREAT's continued close working relationship with the staff at Lake Eacham Nursery.

The President's report of the year's activities included the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between QPW and TREAT for another 5 years, the close co-operation with other management groups such as BIRCWH and the continued applications for government grants to fund TREAT's operations.

The election of the 2008/09 Management Committee saw all four outgoing committee members re-elected. Two new members joined them, from the floor the committee was declared elected. The Committee consists of President Barbara Lindsay, Vice President Ann Schaffer, Treasurer Carmel Pantlin, Secretary Ann Schaffer, Committee Members Ron Pantlin, Ian Lindsay, Nick Stevens, Ranger in Charge, Gwen Schaffer, QPW Contract Ranger, Barron Catchment Officer, Deputy Mayor Kevin Davies.

The AGM was declared closed and the General Meeting followed with the coming events for the remainder of the year being outlined.

The meeting opened at 6.45pm and the Tarzaphone Hall was packed with members and friends. Guest speaker was Ian Lindsay who gave us an insight into the numerous business projects which includes revegetation work at the Dilkoon mine in Papua New Guinea, the re-alignment of the Royal Highway through the Cardwell Range and the Cardwell Range Upgrade both overseen and in Australia.

The evening concluded as usual with TREAT's scrumptious supper.

Nursery News

Nick Stevens

Hi All, It's great to be back from leave and to see all the seedlings bagged up of their pots with the onset of warmer weather.

Special thanks to Barry Gottlieb, Darren Caulfield, Kevin Bayley and everyone else who had everything running smoothly through out the Christmas period. Also a special thanks to Ann, Gwen, Barbara, Ian, Carmel, Ron and Kevin for all the work they had to keep everything ticks working at the nursery, particularly working with such a substantial group of volunteers.

We're planning a fairly busy planting schedule again this season starting with 2 Friday morning plantings at the Tarzaphone's property on Paterson Creek, aiming to plant about 4 hectares on the 6th of the month, and a group of 3 hectares of Kauri Pine damaged by Cyclone Larry and the 2007 Floods. On Saturday 6th November TREAT will plant 1,000 on Mark's property at Paterson Creek to finalise the 2008 planting season and start the 2009 planting season.

Nursery staff and TREAT will again hold the annual plant identification and propagation workshop in November. Whether you plan on planting, or just want to know more about the trees around you, these workshops are great fun and very informative. Contact Barbara Lindsay or Ann Schaffer if you are interested in these workshops.

Mark Lindsay

Cardwell Range Upgrade: Addressing Connectivity Issues

Nigel Tucker

Many TREAT members will be aware that the Queensland Department of Main Roads is currently undertaking planning for the re-alignment of the Bruce Highway at the Cardwell Range. This project is being undertaken as part of the Bruce Highway Upgrade development programme, and as part of the Bruce Highway Upgrade for Cardwell Range, the Department is also considering a number of features that require careful planning to ensure they remain in place to the greatest possible extent. This includes the presence of Endangered Regional Ecosystem 7.11.5 (Melaleuca sp. Open woodland on Coastal Dune Swales) and the Cardwell Range Koala population and a major connectivity zone linking the Mission Range to the Cardwell Range and beyond to the west. Only two other areas between Cairns and Townsville demonstrate this extent of connectivity. This of course is in addition to the area's scenic beauty and Indigenous cultural heritage values.

To protect these values, a team of engineers, ecologists, planners and designers assembled by Main Roads are developing sustainable transport solutions for the Cardwell Range. Although the Cardwell Range Upgrade is a State Government project, it is being led by Main Roads planners and designer team but has called upon other specialists to provide advice on the environmental and cultural heritage issues.

The major challenge with any road upgrade project which traverses natural areas is ensuring that flora and fauna communities are not separated by such barriers that they become isolated. Or that large mammals attempting to cross the road are not killed by motor vehicle impacts. Fragmentation of habitat and populations by creating physical barriers which they are unable to cross, or puts them in greater danger when they do make an attempt to cross, is a major issue for conservation management. Many species are unable to cross open areas, or are unwilling to cross because they are susceptible to predator decline. There are a number of ways that these problems can be addressed to limit the linear barrier effect of the road.

The best effort to restore cross-road connectivity is a 10 metre wide, 100 metre long viaduct, or 'over the canopy' bridge which will be the largest that is in Queensland. It is a bridge that will span all the existing vegetation and allow the proposed viaduct and alone certified surrounding tree canopies to remain undisturbed. Bridges are not the only way to cross roadways but they are potentially the most effective. Bridges are not the only way to cross roadways but they are potentially the most effective. Bridges are not the only way to cross roadways but they are potentially the most effective