



5/11 Buchanan Street Murwillumbah NSW 2484  
PO Box 5198 South Murwillumbah NSW 2484  
Phone 026672 2220 Mob 0409244294  
Email: [goorambil2@bigpond.com](mailto:goorambil2@bigpond.com)

Bush regen works at Koala Beach October 2017

Bush regenerators continue progressive work through zones in Koala Beach. Work has been focussed on low-lying areas while mosquitoes are dormant. Mosquitoes make conditions very unpleasant and also pose a health risk to workers.

Additional funds were used to plant a small section of forest at the top of **Upper Grey Gum Gully** after large dead acacias were removed. The surrounding forest was worked through at this time.



*Upper Grey Gum Gully*

**Arthraxon** – after seasonal dieback, the entire patch was sprayed through to reduce competitive grasses and annuals and then mowed. This year the slashings were not raked, partly due to time constraints, loss of rakes after flood, a general absence of enthusiasm from team members (horrible job) and opportunity to trial results of different approach. Arthraxon seedlings were observed immediately after the area was slashed during very dry period in August / September. It is expected growth will be vigorous after recent rain.

The forest area behind arthraxon (northern end of **Macadamia West**) has been thoroughly worked and regen response is excellent. Adjacent roadside gardens harboured many invasive species which were controlled to prevent spread into natural areas.



*Giant Devils Figs, Umbrella Trees and other invasive species were controlled in this roadside garden adjacent to natural forest behind arthaxon*

Established **plantings** beside the sports fields and 'triangle' along Tom Merchant Drive have had maintenance treatment for weeds. Bush regen areas adjacent to plantings - '**Creek**' have also been attended. Bush regenerators experienced a close encounter with very large brown snake near the bridge.

**Lower Grey Gum Gully** required control of large woody weeds and vines especially around the pond at the bottom of the zone. Exotic grasses and annuals were controlled throughout the zone.



*Bush regenerators control exotic vines around Lower Grey Gum Gully pond*

Primary work through **Entrance South** is virtually complete and now links with maintenance areas in Lower Grey Gum Gully. Weed control has made access through some areas more inviting to the public. Chairs and table were observed beside the creek. A bmx bike track through the forest is developing beside the park.



*Bush regenerators prepare entrance south for spray treatment. Lantana and Winter Senna climbing into small trees is controlled manually.*

Maintenance work has commenced along the road edge of **Entrance North**. A huge reduction in weeds has been observed in this area. The majority of this zone requires maintenance work but mosquitoes could limit opportunities to spend extended periods of work during the warmer months.

Large native vines have been observed causing negative effect on forest structure and reducing diversity. Considered control of vines and scramblers to prevent damage to canopy trees, allow access of fauna and reduce competition to juvenile native species has become part of bush regeneration strategy.

A patch of invasive *Furcraea foetida* and other invasive succulents was discovered dumped on road edge of Macadamia Drive. Bush regenerators spoke to neighbours and the plants were collected and removed by council staff. Hopefully the provision of 'green bins' to all residents will see the end of garden dumping in forest areas.

Giant Devils Figs and other invasive species along road edges and adjacent to work areas have been controlled when opportunities arise but complete control of all outbreaks – constantly arriving - would consume time allocated to zones.

Future works are planned through remainder of Entrance North, Muskheart, Blossom Bat, Glossy Black, Tongue, Aboriginal and more zones as accessible. The presence of mosquitoes may limit opportunities in some areas during warmer months.

