

Foothills and Hinterland

LOCATIONS:

BANGALOW, BINNA BURRA, BOOYONG, CLUNES, COOPERS SHOOT, COORABELL, EUREKA, EWINGSDALE (HILL SLOPES), FEDERAL, GOONENGERRY, HUONBROOK, MONTECOLLUM, NASHUA, PALMWOODS, POSSUM CREEK, UPPER COOPERS CREEK, UPPER WILSONS CREEK, WILSONS CREEK

The foothills and hinterland are located primarily in the south west of the Shire amongst the rolling hills and valleys of the Wilson River catchment. The high rainfall and rich soils of the area create the perfect conditions for rainforest plants to thrive. The original vegetation of this area is lowland subtropical rainforest, commonly referred to as 'The Big Scrub' and remnants of this vegetation are now protected as an

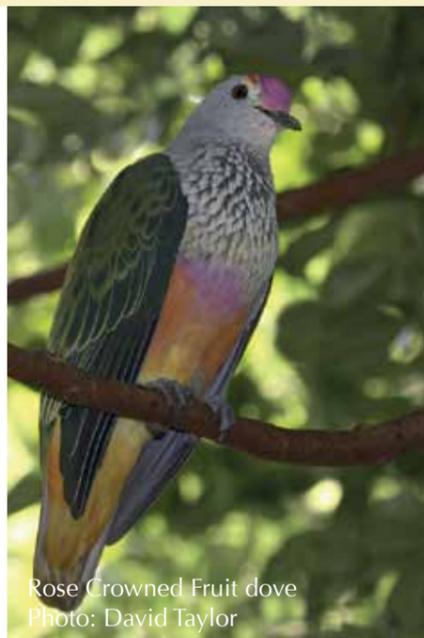
Endangered Ecological Community. The Big Scrub once covered the entire hinterland area but now exists as small isolated remnants that make up less than 1% of its original area.

The elevation of the area ranges from 40m along the river flats around Bangalow and Nashua, which are prone to winter frosts, up to 300m in the north around Goonengerry where the soil and vegetation changes from

rainforest to wet sclerophyll forest. Sub-tropical rainforest forms a dense canopy of large trees above a mid and under story layer of dense lush foliage. The range of plants present is extremely diverse and includes trees, shrubs, vines, palms, epiphytes, fungi and groundcovers. This structure creates a cool, moist, shady microclimate by reducing the light intensity, wind and evaporation.

WILDLIFE:

WOMPPOO PIGEON, ROSE-CROWNED FRUIT DOVE, BROWN CUCKOO DOVE, FIGBIRD, CURRAWONG, BAR-SHOULDER DOVE, EMERALD DOVE, FAIRY WREN, SILVER EYE, VARIOUS HONEYEATER, GREEN TREE FROG, PERONS TREE FROG, ROCKET FROG, MICROBAT, SOOTY OWL, VARIETY OF LIZARDS AND INSECTS



Rose Crowned Fruit dove
Photo: David Taylor



Sooty Owl
Photo: David Taylor



Green Tree Snake
Photo: Rainer Hartlieb



Photo: Jimmy Britton

CREATING YOUR OWN RAINFOREST

For those with more space on their property who wish to establish their own patch of rainforest, a site specific planting design and careful species selection is essential. A full description of this process is beyond the scope of this book but here is a brief overview.

The first step is achieved by planting pioneer, fast growing trees, which can handle full sun and are generally short-lived in terms of a rainforest (10-30 years). Plant the pioneers 3-4m apart to form a canopy in 2-5 years depending on the site and conditions. Interspersed through these pioneer trees, secondary and mature phase trees are planted. These are slower to establish but can live for hundreds of years and in time will form the rainforest habitat. Once the canopy is established, the final staged planting will contain a diverse mix of trees, shrubs, vines and groundcovers. Where possible, try to source the species that grow naturally in your area – talk to your local native nursery and ensure you are also planting species with local population genetics. By planting in this manner, you will extend the existing habitat for local species encouraging them to move into the new areas that you have provided.

Over time you will notice trees and other plants regenerating naturally. These are brought in by birds and the wind and germinate in the favourable conditions provided by the forest canopy.

More information about planting a rainforest can be found in the book published by the Big Scrub Landcare Group *Subtropical Rainforest Restoration*. This book is essential for anyone looking at undertaking this process, providing a detailed overview of the many factors to consider, as well as a list of appropriate species to plant.

CREATING A RAINFOREST GARDEN

SOIL DESCRIPTION:
Deep, well-structured red/brown krasnozems, high clay content, often acidic - may benefit from the addition of gypsum or lime

A rainforest garden in a moist sheltered part of your property can produce a cool, lush oasis full of verdant foliage. Create a multi-layered rainforest structure by grouping together a range of trees, shrubs, palms and groundcovers sheltered from full sun, frost and prevailing winds.

For a smaller garden, trees such as a Macaranga or Native Frangipani and a few large Bangalow Palms can provide shade. If space is at a premium, plant utilising the shade from your house or fence line. Within this shelter, dense, mass plantings of large glossy-leaved species such as Native Ginger, Cordyline and Cunjevoi look impressive, interspersed with Dianella,

Finger Lime and Midgen Berries to provide food and occasional colour. If you need a hedge, Scrub Cherry can be a good choice with dense foliage that can be pruned and it also provides tasty pink berries. Lomandra can form a dense edge that helps keep your garden weed-free. Vines such as the Bower Vine and Purple Coral Pea can grow in a sunny spot and both have a showy display of flowers.

The Birdwing Butterfly Vine likes partial shade and provides essential habitat for the amazing Birdwing Butterfly. In the shade shrubs such as Narrow-Leaf Gardenia and Hairy Psychotria have distinct flowers and can provide a shaded ground layer where Native Violets will spread rapidly and display small purple flowers in summer.

Large feature trees include the Flame Tree, Coolamon and Firewheel, all of which have stunning flower displays. Always ensure large trees are positioned well away from buildings.

Mulch is an important component of a rainforest garden and mimics the humus layer found on the forest floor. The decomposing organic matter forms the basis of the garden ecosystem by adding nutrients to the soil, holding moisture and providing habitat for soil microbes and invertebrates, which in turn provide food for lizards and birds. Many rainforest plants have a network of surface roots that rely on the nutrients and moisture provided by the mulch.

EXAMPLES: Booyong Nature Reserve, Minyon Falls and Protesters Falls

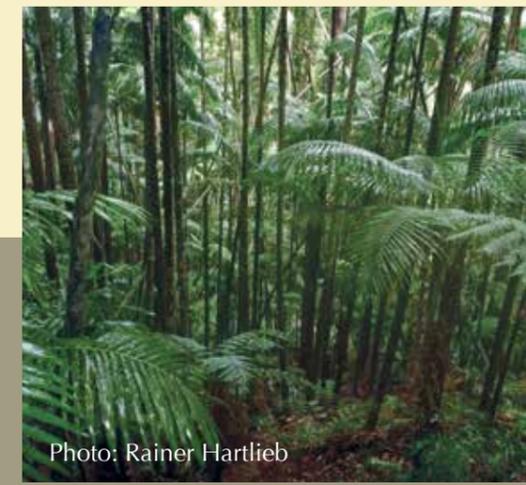


Photo: Rainer Hartlieb

Foothills & Hinterlands



Native Ginger

Lush clumping plant with large foliage and bright blue berries. Flowers in spring/summer. Attracts wildlife. Small variety *Alpinia arundelliana* also available



Cunjevoi Lily

Huge succulent, glossy leaves with a white/yellow flower spike and showy red fruit in summer. Warning: this plant is poisonous if ingested.



Rainforest Lomandra

Native clumping grass with cream flowers and orange capsules in spring. Attracts wildlife. Smaller than other Lomandra species preferring more shade. The larger *Lomandra hystrix* could also be used.



Maiden Hair Fern

Attractive fern with delicate foliage that likes a moist shady position



Soft Water Fern

Attractive clumping fern with a red flush on the new growth



Ground Lily

Unique-looking scrambler with shiny green leaves and small purple flowers



Native Raspberry

Spiky spreading shrub producing edible raspberries in summer. Bushfood. Attracts wildlife. Best grown in moist position receiving direct sunlight



Birdwing Butterfly Vine

Essential habitat for Birdwing Butterfly. They lay their eggs on the leaves and larvae eat the leaves after hatching. Flowers summer/autumn

| | | COMMON NAME | SCIENTIFIC NAME | HEIGHT | WIDTH | SUN | PARTIAL SHADE | SHADE | TOLERATE WET SOIL | TOLERATE DRY SOIL |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----|---------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| GROUNDCOVERS & GRASSES | 1 | Native Ginger | <i>Alpinia caerulea</i> | 2m | 1m | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 2 | Cunjevoi Lily | <i>Alocasia brisbanensis</i> | 1m | 1.5m | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 3 (p18) | Dianella | <i>Dianella caerulea</i> | 0.8m | spreading | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 4 | Rainforest Lomandra | <i>Lomandra spicata</i> | 0.5 | 0.8 | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 5 (p18) | Native Violet | <i>Viola hederacea</i> | 0.1m | spreading | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 6 | Maiden Hair Fern | <i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i> | 0.2m | spreading | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 7 | Soft Water Fern | <i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i> | 0.5m | spreading | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 8 | Ground Lilly | <i>Tripladenia cunninghamii</i> | 0.4m | spreading | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 9 | Native Raspberry | <i>Rubus rosifolius</i> | 1m | spreading | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 10 (p30) | Basket grass | <i>Oplismenus aemulus</i> | 0.2 | spreading | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| VINES/ EPIPHYTES | 11 | Birdwing Butterfly Vine | <i>Pararistolochia praevenosa</i> | 3m | spreading | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | 12 (p30) | Birdnest Fern | <i>Asplenium australasicum</i> | 1m | spreading | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 13 | Bower Vine | <i>Pandorea jasmenoides</i> | 3m | spreading | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| SHRUBS | 14 | Narrow-leaved Gardenia | <i>Atractocarpus chartaceus</i> | 3m | 2m | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| | 15 | Finger Lime | <i>Citrus australasica</i> | Up to 5m | 1m | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 16 | Broad-leaf Palm Lilly | <i>Cordyline petiolaris</i> | 2-5m | 1.5 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 17 | Tree Fern | <i>Cyanthea sp</i> | 10m | 4m | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | 18 | Bolwara | <i>Eupomatia laurina</i> | 3m | 2m | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| PALMS | 19 | Hairy Psychotria | <i>Psychotria loniceroides</i> | 3m | 2m | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| | 20 | Bangalow Palm | <i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i> | 20m | 4m | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 21 | Walking Stick Palm | <i>Linospadix monostachya</i> | 2-3m | 1m | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| TREES | 22 | Flame Tree | <i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i> | 25m | 8m | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| | 23 | Scrub Cherry | <i>Syzygium australe</i> | 25m | 4-10m | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 24 | Glossy Laurel | <i>Cryptocarya laevigata</i> | 6m | 2-6m | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |

For more species please refer to Native Species Planting Guide

Tweed and Byron Shires www.byron.nsw.gov.au/native-plants

Tree Fern

Spectacular species with delicate, shady foliage often used as a feature plant in landscaping



17

Bolwara

Heavily scented flower in summer and edible fruit in autumn/winter. Bushfood. Attracts wildlife



18

Hairy Psychotria

Delicate white flowers in summer. Fruit attracts birds.



19

Bangalow Palm

Classic local palm with bright red fruit in autumn. Bird attractant and a must for any rainforest garden



20

Walking Stick Palm

Distinctive understory palm with bright red fruit sporadically through year. Attracts wildlife



21

Flame Tree

Semi-deciduous feature tree with showy red flowers in spring/summer and large woody capsules



22

Scrub Cherry

Great hedge. Can be pruned to shape. Edible pink/red fruit in spring. Bushfood. Attracts wildlife



23

Glossy Laurel

Shrubby tree with glossy foliage and large red fruit in spring/summer. Attracts wildlife



24

Bower Vine

Great climber with showy white/pink flower in spring/summer. Attracts wildlife. Frost sensitive



13

Narrow-leaved Gardenia

Narrow leaves and fragrant white flower in late winter/spring. Attracts wildlife



14

My Local Native Garden 26

My Local Native Garden 27

Finger Lime

Edible citrus, great in salads and with fish. Bushfood



15

Broad-leaf Palm Lilly

Large lush leaves and bright red berry in summer. Bird attracting fruit. Bushfood



16