



Report on funds received by **ReForest Now**
from **Qudos Bank**

Donation amount: **\$50,000 AUD**



ReForest Now received this funding from Qudos Bank in response to the Australian Bushfires of 2019. When we asked Qudos what we could best do with these funds, we were told - *to utilize them where they are most needed to support ReForest Now's efforts*. By allowing us this, you have achieved more as a financial sponsor than you could've any other way. Please enjoy our full report on the outcomes achieved.

Note budget items appear in the same order as headings below

Prepared by Maximo Bottaro and Michael Martin on behalf of ReForest Now

NURSERY UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE

Included in the budget were a number of nursery upgrades and ongoing maintenance. Being able to sustain a nursery and to produce trees in-house saves us tens of thousands of dollars per quarter in commercial buy-in costs.

- Solarweave nursery cover
- Construction labour
- Steel reinforcement

We fitted improved covering and structural reinforcements to one of our tunnels, using high quality Solarweave fabric. This is the industry standard for nursery tunnels, as it has extremely high strength, UV stability, and allows for the perfect internal conditions at the ReForest Now nursery.

Included in these expenditures are labour costs of installing the upgrades.



Josh and Max are proud of the nursery upgrades.

PLANTING AND SITE PREP EQUIPMENT

- BT 131 Earth Auger
- Husqvarna 535RXT Brushcutter
- Tungsten 90mm cutting tip

ReForest Now has purchased two new pieces of professional-grade equipment: a Stihl BT131 Earth Auger, and a Husqvarna 535RXT brushcutter pictured below. These pieces of equipment are integral to our daily operations.

The earth auger is used at every planting to drill holes for the young trees to be planted into, on an average week it would be used to drill at least 1,000 holes. The brushcutter is used to clear weeds and grasses around our planting sites both as part of pre-planting prep and as ongoing maintenance to keep the plants survivability high.

It is important to us to have the funding to be able to invest in professional grade equipment, as these machines have a hard life on muddy, hot and rainy, job sites.



NURSERY MATERIALS

Included in the budgeting were several essential nursery supplies, including:

- 9 cubic metres of soil for potting up rainforest wildlings (enough for many thousands of trees)
- 10,000 pots (50mm forestry tubes) and 346 trays (50 cell) for the nursery
- Water crystals (25kg) and fertiliser (14kg) to support the continued health of our plantings
- A toolkit and an impact driver for nursery construction and maintenance

Without these supplies, our nursery would not be able to operate and provide tree plantings at such a low cost.



We use water crystal jelly mixed with fertilizer to rapidly increase tree growth.

Just 2kg of this is enough to make up jelly for 1,000 trees. It is placed in the bottom of the holes (dug by your BT 131 Auger) to provide constant growth and water, lasting perhaps 2 years before breaking down.

A full toolkit has been purchased for overall nursery maintenance and building. This is to provide a constant supply of local tools that don't rely on contractors bringing their own.



We are constantly reworking and rebuilding our nursery assets, we were able to purchase an impact driver for the construction and repair of our many structures.



Enough soil has been purchased to grow many thousands of trees using professional grade rainforest soil mix. This will ensure faster growth and stronger trees being used to rewild the environment.



ASSISTED RAINFOREST REGENERATION SUPPLIES

- 2x Makita drills
- 10x Auger drill bits
- 8x Batteries
- 2x chargers

When we are in the rainforest planting and repairing degraded forest, we often come across giant groves of Camphor laurel trees. They are the most significant weed in our region. We have been able to purchase equipment to eradicate up to 50 camphors per day when performing assisted natural regeneration techniques. In the forests where we work there might be 100 native trees below every camphor, entirely suppressed by their root poisons. With the equipment we've purchased with your support as many as 1,500 camphors have been removed over 40 hectares of regenerating rainforest.

We utilize auger drills to dig into the tree and inject it with glyphosate directly.



Example of contractors drilling a camphor and injecting with glyphosate

TREE PLANTINGS

- **2,000 rainforest trees planted**

The remainder of the \$50, 000.00 in funding is being retained for the maintenance of your planted trees for the next two years (\$2,734.09). We have provided a full report on these in a separate document already sent to Qudos some months ago. *It also will be reattached to this full report.



Michael Martin - Cofounder of RN with a seedling rainforest tree, planting in fire affected areas. *note - by planting rainforest here it will be far less likely to burn in future*



ReForest Now team working in the rain! The perfect weather for planting.

PARTNERSHIPS AND WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Qudos support allowed us to create a new role at ReForest Now to manage both the website and create new partnerships.

WEBSITE: ReForest Now had a very basic website when Qudos Bank approached offering a helping hand. We've come a long way with your support and completely rebuilt our website, without having to pay external commercial contractors.

Here are some metrics.

WEBSITE INCOME **DURING** QUDOS SUPPORT

Total = \$53,840.17

This was generated between the period of February 2nd 2020 **when your support arrived** and 22nd October 2020. A period of 263 days.

An average of \$204.71 per day.

Whereas

WEBSITE INCOME **BEFORE** QUDOS SUPPORT

Total = \$10,364.41

An average of \$17.07 per day.

This was generated between June 5th 2018 and 2nd February 2020. A period of 607 days.

PARTNERSHIPS: We received many enquiries this year from businesses around the world who were interested in supporting ReForest Now. We were able to attend to MoU's, partnership contracts, calls and meetings, information packs and so on with the largest portion of your funding. Below are the new partnerships that were created or sustained exclusively with your funding.

note, every invoice for working on partnerships was directly allocated to our tracked Qudos funding, these partnerships were exclusively serviced with your funding during this period

***note starred partners have become large supports of RN.**

Alan Rlva

4Amazonia

Banksia & Bourke

Bare Foot Beat

Byron Rangers

Clean Energy QLD

Conscious Ground Organics

Daintree Life

Douglas Shire Council

*Ecosia (Search engine)

Ecosystem Restoration Camps (ERC)

*FAME (Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species Ltd)

Fresh Prince (Fresh Prints)

Goodeed

Goodwings

*Go-To Skincare

GrowPro

Hanover College

Jasmine Coe Art

Kaola Clothing

La Sape Records

Living Neuro

Luxmy Furniture

Maddy Gray (meditation)

Mapilogy
*MANA Movement
Monkey Brew
Mullum Seed
Mullum Psychology
Participlant
*Patagonia
Plant for the Planet
Prana Skin Co
*Rainforest 4
*ReGrow Australia
Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network
*Santos Organics
Simply Ethical Advice
Sol Cleanse
Sol Cups
Sprout Nutrition
Strasbourg (French School)
Strattens
Sweet Nutrients
Tai Chi Forest
Talenza
*Telfast (Sanofi)
The Foot Collective
Tier Gear Australia
Tigmi Trading
Tourism Adventure Group (formerly Nomads)
Tree-Nation (Belgium)
*Treehuggers
Treetment
Undicloth
up2you (Italy)
We Help Trees
Weighted Lines
*Wettenhall Environmental Trust

Partnerships summary:

These partnerships, some small, some large, have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars of income to ReForest Now. Almost exclusively this has been for the planting of trees at \$5.00 per tree. The facilitation of these partnerships and this service to the environment is, in a very real sense, an achievement of Qudos Bank as a financial supporter.



Chloe Vincent, a full-time RN staff member - working in tree ID, nursery propagation and tree planting

Administration

While the least exciting category of expenditure of any grant, it is important for ReForest Now to find administrative funding. This is due to the fact that we are by and large, a blue collar genuine not for profit organization.

At the \$5.00 per tree we charge to our donors, we are planting trees at $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ the rate of similar not for profit rainforest restoration organizations, who charge \$15 - \$25 per tree in our area. This is because reforestation with rainforest trees expects a survival rate of 95% and the planting of over 100 species. Reforestation elsewhere in Australia does not have the same challenges to consider and can be done cheaper with low survival rates, without professional or public concern.

As such, we are working hard and on tight budgets to bring the cost down and one way we've identified to do that is to minimise office hours to directly effective tasks only.

Of the 16 staff who work at ReForest Now, only 3 work in the office for 1 to 2 days per week. A small 3.12% was spent on overall administration, or around 1.5 weeks of full-time office work.

EXPENDITURE

Qudos Bank Expenditure - ReForest Now

2nd Feb - 22nd Oct - 2020

Nursery Upgrades and Maintenance

Structural reinforcement	-\$352.00	
Additional tools for nursery operations	-\$420.53	
Nursery upgrade labour	-\$2,315.00	sub total
New cover for nursery tunnel 2	-\$607.47	-\$3,695.00

Planting and Site Prep Equipment

Brushcutter	-\$1,179.00	sub total
BT 131 Auger and 90mm tungsten blade	-\$2,418.15	-\$3,597.15

Nursery Materials

9 cubic metres of soil	-\$1,642.00	
10000 pots and trays (50mm tubes)	-\$1,953.11	
146 nursery trays (to hold 7300 pots)	-\$496.40	sub total
Fertiliser water crystals	-\$506.75	-\$4,598.26

Assisted Rainforest Regeneration Supplies

10mm drill augers for camphors	-\$310.00	
Makita drills 2x	-\$298.00	
Makita charger 2x	-\$358.00	sub total
Batteries	-\$1,148.00	-\$2,114.00

Tree Planting

		sub total
Growth and supply of 2,000 rainforest trees to planting sites	-\$10,000.00	-\$10,000.00

Partnership and website development

		sub total
Salary for the development of partnerships and Website improvement	-\$22,059.50	-\$22,059.50

Admin

		sub total
Overall organizational management	-\$1,560.00	-\$1,560.00

Expended budget from grant

-\$47,623.91

Funds retained for tree care

\$2,376.09

We are very lucky to have this opportunity come along early in our development. We have now reached the status of a 'medium sized charity' according to the ACNC in the period of your support.

It cannot be stressed enough that for all the rest of the work we do - we are working to deliver outcomes far below the industry costing standards for our other supporters. This has never left us much in the way of funds to work with for organizational development to make us grow.

You have done us a great service by affording us this support.

If you'd like to discuss anything further, please contact me at info@reforestnow.org.au or +61415 134 941(my direct number).

Yours Sincerely,

Maximo Bottaro - CEO of ReForest Now

Signed: Maximo Bottaro - CEO & Cofounder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maximo Bottaro', with a stylized, cursive script.

Signed: Michael Martin – Vice President & Cofounder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Martin', in a cursive script.