Report on grant received by ReForest Now

from **The Joanne Parkinson Foundation**

$5,000.00 AUD donated 28th June 2021.

Report produced by Maximo Bottaro and Kallen Marecic on behalf of ReForest Now

To our supporters at the Joanne Parkinson Foundation,

Thank you for helping us with a task that is critically important. Your grant was the first funding we have received that has ever allowed us to work within rainforest remnants from the original Big Scrub rainforest. These are a critically endangered ecosystem.

http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/101-listing-advice.pdf

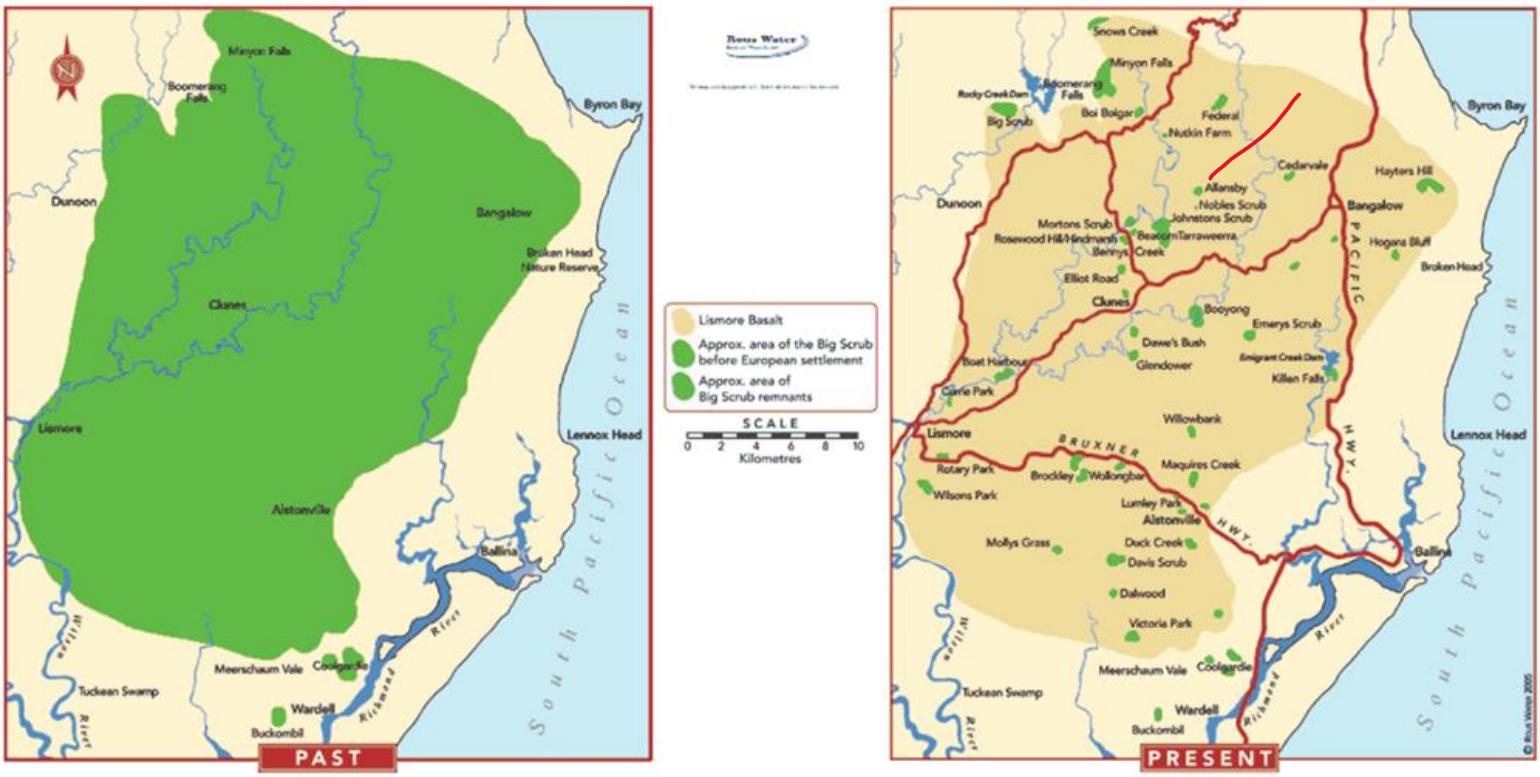

Figure 1 The Original Big Scrub area around Byron Bay. Please follow the red line to the green circle labelled 'Allanby' to see where your support went.

Your patch of restored forest is part of an area called "**Allansby 2**". It is marked as a small green dot that represents 7.9 hectares of remnant forest. The red line in the right-hand image points to the location in Eureka, NNSW – west of the Byron Bay lighthouse.

This is one of 33 fragments of the original forest that was never destroyed when the area was 99.6% cleared for logging, banana farming, cattle grazing and illegal squatting from 1850-1880.

Below is a map of the area worked. With discussion.

WHITE SOLID AREA – This is an adjacent planted area we completed some 2 months ago with 4,850 rainforest trees on the 30th of April. We planted here to help the Allansby remnants expand into the surrounding area. Photo of this planting on page 4.

GREEN OUTLINED AREA – The left half of this is **Allansby 2** (*Your worked area is within that*). Note that across a small bridge in the middle, it joins **Allansby 1** on the right. **Allansby 2** is in far worse condition that **1**. It has received no help in restoring it and helping it expand, that we are aware of. **Allansby 1** is in far better condition, having been worked in the early 2000's and is likely the true ancient rainforest remnant with far more complex ecology and larger trees. It is likely the case that **1** created **Allansby 2** by seeding it, as **2** was potentially let go by an earlier farmer some decades ago.

PURPLE OUTLINED OPAQUE AREA – Your regenerated area within **Allansby 2**. 0.96 hectares of primary rainforest regeneration area worked.

Outcomes Achieved

The regenerated works completed cover **0.96** hectares, or **9,600** square meters of rainforest. What was done is called "Primary works" – this is best described as the first complete run through where all discernible weeds are eliminated.
Examples of tasks completed accompany photos below.

Please reference this image to the map on the previous page (*page 3*). The blue line drawn here shows the front of **Allansby 2** where we entered and worked for this grant.

*Note the pock-marked paddock in this image (WHITE SOLID AREA). These are the holes for the 4,850 rainforest trees planted.

(Above): a giant **Red Cedar** and **Red Bean** were being smothered by vines, lantana and privet weeds. We first treated the area by cutting these away with twin long machetes as seen on the far right. The blue dotted areas show where native rainforest branches are just able to catch sunlight by poking out from the smothering.

(Left): compare the **circle of blue dots** with the above image. This is the same lowest branch of the rainforest tree, now freed from strangulation from vines. This remnant tree had perhaps 2 or 3 years left before it would have died from suffocation – had you not intervened with funding. These are nationally significant critically endangered forests.

(Left): see Josh drilling and culling invasive large leaf privet weeds from China. These have smothered much of the regenerating rainforest here and we removed them almost entirely from your hectare.

(Left): note one Red Bean sapling (tagged with pink ribbon), saved from hundreds of large leaf privet weeds that have come up at the same time around it.

The blue painted stumps of smaller privets here have been treated with herbicide so that the rainforest trees can reclaim the area.

(Above): As we worked our way deeper into the forest we found more intact rainforest competing with weeds.

Examples of these natives are circled with blue dots, such as the Bollygum on the left (*a favourite fruiting tree for rainforest birds*).

Working in these conditions we need careful attention in moving through the regenerating forest while we remove weeds from competing with natives and not harming natives ourselves.

The result of one run through like this can be seen on the next page.

(Above): Debris from cut lantana and privet can partially be seen on the forest floor, while most of the bulk was piled up and cleared. Natives that were once near impossible to see (*as on page 7*) were tagged so they can be easily identified against weeds. Now they are free to expand rapidly. Given that they have been working their way through low light and competition, they will have new shoots of growth within 2 weeks. *Note older rainforest trees in the background – weedy camphor laurel trees have been treated so these can now take over the canopy fully.

Budgets and Expenditure

The total expenditure on this project was $5,610.00 AUD

Joanne Parkinson Foundation Grant - 5000.00AUD budget

Labour	dates	hours worked	Spent	
14 contractors @ 33ph	24th June, 2021	7	$	3,234.00
12 contractors @ 33ph	13th July, 2021	6	$	2,376.00
Total Expenditure			**$**	**5,610.00**

Joanne Parkinson Foundation contribution (minus 5% administration fee from Mullum SEED Bunya fund - our auspicing partner who supplied tax deductible receipt for you)	$	4,750.00
ReForest Now Inkind contribution	$	860.00
Administration charged by ReForest Now	$	-

The compete primary works for 0.96 of a hectare have been achieved. To make your funding reach the whole way, we have contributed in kind to bring you this outcome.

While our tax deductible partner has charged a 5% management fee, we have not charged for administration or other costs incurred, we paid only the wages needed to complete the outcome.

Final Word

It is a regenerators favourite task to be funded to save the old remnants forests, where any of us seldom have the opportunity to work, as there is so little left and landholders are rarely able to supply funding to help these old forests themselves.

Thank you for coming along on this journey with us and we hope you will return again to help us further in this mission – there are 7 more hectares in the Allanby remnants that need help. We have secured two more grants to complete an additional 2.5 hectares.

Yours Sincerely,

Maximo Bottaro - President