

Enhancing native vegetation in Monkerai

The challenge:

Restore a 5 ha degraded area of dry rainforest that is part of an Ecologically Endangered Community (EEC) utilising a range of techniques to remove weed infestations and prepare the site for revegetation using tube stock native to the area.

Work undertaken:

- Hand pulling a variety of weeds
- Cut and paint large single lantana plants
- Splatter gun application - chemical control of lantana
- Site preparation for tube stock planting
- Planting of tube stock to using native endemic species the vegetation community

Benefits:

- Improved the sustainability of Lower Hunter Spotted Gum/Ironbark forest
- Improved biodiversity of native vegetation on vulnerable land
- Improved habitat for native species
- Controlled invasive environmental weeds
- Improved the connectivity of a vegetation corridor that spans from Barrington Tops National Park to the East Coast of Australia
- Provide a case study site for showcasing restoration of native vegetation on degraded land

Overview:

'Little Monkerai' is a 101.3ha property nestled in the Monkerai Valley on the foothills of the Barrington Tops. The property has been owned by Judy for 6 years and is made up primarily of Spotted Gum Iron Bark forest regrowth. Although retired, Judy is still hard at work managing the property for biodiversity and ecosystem services and improving the quality of the vegetation.

According to Judy, 'The property needs to be able to sustain itself in the future' and to this end Judy sells power generated from solar panels on her property back to the grid. She runs 6 head of cattle that help to reduce fire hazard, supply home grown beef and the remainder are sold once they become mature bullocks. Judy also has an interest in managing the vegetation on the property to enhance a sustainable forest with a future harvestable timber supply.

Grant program:

Lower Hunter Biodiversity
(Grants of up to \$15 000)



"Without the grant I would not have been able to undertake the project. The most important part of ensuring my project is a success is the commitment to undertaking the follow-up weed control and maintenance." - Judy Boyden