**Sent:** Friday, 21 March 2014 7:55 PM
**To:** Ballina Shire Council
**Subject:** Clondale Park - Cnr Teven Rd & Johnstons Rd Alstonville

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write this email after months of procrastination, on my part. Clondale Park has become degraded and is, in the main, a place for disruptive, some destructive and on occasion some undesirable behaviours. The attached photos illustrate the transformation of the picturesque park into either a dustbowl or a muddy mess, depending on the weather.

Over the last few years it has seen police arrest some park 'patrons', a number of rubbish dumping incidents, frequent smaller litter problems, broken glass and regular 'doughnuts' from some drivers. It is regularly used by groups of up to 5 cars that drive to the creeks edge, parking and participate in drinking, and likely illegal activities (the bongs provide some insights). As recently as Saturday night, 15th March, the music from a 'gathering' in the park was clearly audible at 10.30pm.

My family and I have often picked up litter and reported one significant dumping incident to the council rangers. The Council park maintenance staff have cleaned up a number of other dumping incidents.

After the gazebo was destroyed and since the bollards were burnt out by some ‘long gone’ park patrons (about five years ago), its demise has been consistent and unfortunate. The people who used to come to picnic no longer visit, and it’s amenity is not used in the manner the park was originally intended.

This problem would be eliminated if Council were to install new concrete or stone bollards that would prevent vehicular access to the park. I’m sure your outdoor staff would provide some testament to the issues concerning this small but charming community asset.

I can be contacted for clarification or assistance.

**Sent:** Sunday, 6 April 2014 5:36 PM
**Subject:** Clondale Park - Cnr Teven Rd & Johnstons Rd Alstonville

Dear Sir / Madam,

For your 'further' information. This is a follow up to my email of 21 March 2014. With the wet weather comes the further degradation of the Park, rendering it unusable to legitimate users who, not surprisingly, no longer use the park. The continued damage resulted from the 'usual unwanted visitors' on Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Some bollards or barriers to keep 'them' out of the park would rectify this messy problem.

**Sent:** Sunday, 7 December 2014 8:44 PM
**Subject:** Clondale Park - Cnr Teven Rd & Johnstons Road, Alstonville

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write this in follow up to my earlier correspondence of 21 March and 6 April. The issues mentioned in the prior correspondence are unresolved. Your inaction is noted.

Late on Thursday afternoon, 4th December, after some significant 'circle work' by a local idiot, there was a cloud of red dust you could not see through.

On Friday evening, 8pm 5th December, there were six cars parked well inside the park, adjacent to the creek. On approaching the group it was evident that a number were drinking, I appreciate this is not your concern but it provides insight into the character of patron in the park after dark. It also explains the broken beer bottles and wine flask left behind. They left in a hurry when approached, a number of vehicles 'cutting' up the ground on their departure.

On Saturday, when cleaning up the broken beer bottles and removing other litter from the park, I was approached by an elderly retiree who came to collect some long grass for his rabbit. He recalled that earlier in the week a couple of young fellas in a ute drove into the park did a 'doughnut' and verbally abused him. The ute he described was one that that I saw on Friday evening.

These cars and their drivers are a new batch of "P" platers.Different from the antagonists earlier in the year. New faces, some old problem.

The sustained abuse of the park is rendering it an eyesore, an aggravation to local residents and unusable to the local community.

The attached photos illustrate that the continued erosion of the topsoil, due to limited grass coverage and 'doughnuts' from idiots, is exposing the subsoil rocks, roots and stones.

I have watched this park be gradually degraded over the last 8 years. It started with the burning of the original bollards, then the destruction of the gazebo. Now it is either a dustbowl or a mud slick. The picnickers and other visitors from past years no longer visit. Just the idiots and the illegal dumpers.

Ten bollards would deny access and fix the problem. Not a significant cost. You have quarries, use bloody big rocks. While you're at it, repair the deep pothole, adjacent to Johnstons Road next to the park. It has been there for months.

I spoke with a Parks and Gardens staff member after my last email. Mr Vidler if I recall correctly. I acknowledge the protocols of budgets etc etc he mentioned. I'm not prepared to wait another 8 months till this issue is 'budgeted for' next year. It's a simple fix, put rocks or bollards in and look after a community resource that is your responsibility to maintain.

enquiries refer
**John Truman**
in reply please quote
**Trim Ref: 14/87681, 14/87684, 14/90026**

16 December 2014

ballina
shire council

Dear

**Re: Clondale Park**

Thank you for your email regarding your concerns in relation to vandalism and antisocial behaviour at Clondale Park. We share your concerns that this behaviour has an impact on the amenity of the neighbourhood.

In response to your email we immediately inspected the site. In regards to your request that we install bollards to prevent vehicles accessing the site, it is our experience that bollards in this location are not able to withstand the vandalism. We agree that your other suggestion of quarry rocks would provide a successful outcome. However, having regard to the relative low level of frequency of the incidents and the level of risk, we consider that the cost of installing quarry rocks is not justified at this point in time. We will continue to monitor the park and review our position if the situation changes.

We have also advised the NSW Police of our concerns and asked that they provide support to our Ranger Team to monitor any inappropriate activities at the park. We have also had to remove temporary barriers at the site which have been installed by members of the community without our knowledge or approval. This fencing was a risk to public health and safety. While we understand the good intentions of those responsible, regrettably we have also informed the Police of our concerns regarding these actions as well.

I understand you have discussed this matter with our Open Spaces and Reserves Team Leader, Jason Vidler. Please contact Jason in future if you identify a further need to report issues at this park that need our attention. An arrangement is also in place for one of our Rangers to contact you in regard to information to the enforcement actions we can consider.

Again thank you for taking the time to communicate with us regarding this matter. I appreciate that you may be concerned that this response is similar to our previous one, however as per above, we have carefully considered your concerns and I trust you will understand our position.

Yours faithfully

John Truman
**Group Manager**
**Civil Services**

40 cherry street, po box 450, ballina nsw 2478
t 02 6686 4444 • f 02 6686 7035 • e council@ballina.nsw.gov.au • w ballina.nsw.gov.au

**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 January 2015 8:38 PM
**Subject:** Clondale Park - Response to Mr Truman's letter 16 December 2014

Dear Mr Truman,

Thank you for your reply to my concerns, and the concerns of the local community, regarding the amenity and care of Clondale Park. Due to the Christmas and New Year holiday period I saw little point in responding to your letter any earlier.

Since my last correspondence on the 7 December 2014, the amenity of the park has improved with less frequent visits from the previously regular 'transgressors'. Their motivation for 'drifting' in the park and their ease of access to the park has been inhibited by the placement of some small rocks across the parks entrance. There has also been a significant decrease in the amount of litter and glass in the park. It has been pleasing to note the regeneration of some of grass in some areas. There has also been an small increase in visits from young families and people enjoying the creek and shaded areas. These are positive outcomes achieved in a short period. It is worth noting that some people persevere in driving into the park by moving the small rocks. This includes overnight campers.

It is also worth noting that these minor improvements result from the efforts of the local community without any tangible assistance from the Council.

After giving your letter consideration it is apparent that you offer the local community and residents no solution to a problem that has been an ongoing issue for many years. Your letter stated that you "share [our] concerns that this behaviour has an impact on the amenity of the neighbourhood". Accepting the sincerity of your concern, it is then expected that Council would offer a solution. The reasonable expectation of a solution is heightened due to the simplicity of the problem, 'deny vehicular access to the park'. If the local community can provide a temporary solution then surely the Council can manage a permanent one. You concurred that quarry rocks would be a solution. You avoid this solution on the grounds of cost. The cost of 10 rocks, and their 'installation'...this excuse seems implausible, almost trite.

Prior to Christmas I spoke with Jason Vidler who offered one possible action was to have sign erected in the park that would enable the rangers increased scope for deterring vehicles in the park. As this was not mentioned in your letter, has this been pursued by Council?

Your offer of informing the police and having rangers "monitor the park for inappropriate activities" has been the only offer of assistance. I have not noticed a single occasion of either the police or the rangers monitoring the park. Neither should they have to if a permanent solution was instigated, their time could be better utilised.

The local community are seeking that the Council take the simple action of denying vehicular access to Clondale Park to restore its amenity and utility. I think we agree on the means of achieving this. I appreciate your budgetary constraints and that there is a cost (for rocks), however on balance Council has a responsibility to Clondale Park and the local community and the local residents.

enquiries refer
**John Truman**
in reply please quote
**Trim Ref: 15/5098, 15/9435**

13 February 2015

ballina
shire council

Dear

**Re: Clondale Park**

Thank you for further email regarding your concerns in relation to Clondale Park.

In response to your email, I again confirm we share your concerns and we have given this issue careful consideration. These deliberations have included whether or not on balance it is reasonable, having regard to the many requests for improvements and services to the Council, to allocate funds to this park at this point in time.

To further review this matter, I have decided to prepare a report to enable the elected Councillors to determine our position. Our report to Council will provide information on the cost of the option to install the rock barrier you have requested. We also propose to discuss an option to revegetate the park.

We intend for this report to be included in the agenda for the meeting of Council to be held 26 March 2015. We will provide you with a copy of the report and our recommendations to Council when it is published. Please also be advised you are able to make a deputation to the Council meeting if that is of interest to you.

Please contact me should you wish to discuss the above response on 02 66861256.

Yours faithfully

John Truman
**Group Manager**
**Civil Services**

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ballina
shire council

# Clondale Park
# Vegetation Management Plan

Prepared by Ballina Shire Council
March 2015

## Table of Contents

## 1. Summary

Following repeated concerns from the local community about anti-social behaviour in Clondale Park, the council has an option to consider reducing the open space of the park by planting open areas with lowland rainforest species consistent with the "Big Scrub". This is hoped to have a twofold effect of limiting antisocial behaviour by excluding motor vehicles from the site and establishing an ecological island for the betterment of local flora and fauna and biodiversity values on the Alstonville Plateau.

This plan identifies the current status of native and weed species, recommends removal techniques for the weeds and lists suitable species to be used in the new plantings within the park.

## 2. Aims and Objectives

Aim: To revegetate the park with "Big Scrub" and riparian species so that it might evolve into an island oasis for local flora and fauna.

Objectives:

- Revegetate the open spaces of the park with a suitable selection of Big Scrub" and riparian species consistent with lowland rainforest.
- To ameliorate the existing native vegetation aided by the removal of weed species.
- Improve habitat for local fauna.
- Engage interested members of the community in the restoration project.

## 3. Site History

Clondale Park is a small triangular piece of ground (2,339m2) bounded by Teven Road, Johnston's Road and Branch Creek. The site is owned by Ballina Shire Council being Parcel 7655 and DP 013/2//815429, 1300 Teven Road Alstonville.

The park was originally established by the Alstonville Rotary Club but has since been maintained by Council's Open Spaces and Reserves section.

# 4. Location Map

# 5. Threats and Impacts

## 5.1 Weeds

Like any restoration project in this area the threat of weed infestation is paramount. The site has some “difficult to eradicate” weeds such as Madera Vine (Anredera cordifolia), Blue Morning Glory (Ipomoea indica) and Hairy Wandering Jew (Commelina benghalensis). Some weeds have resulted from the dumping of garden waste. This has probably also led to a large infestation of Japanese Sunflower (Tithonia diversifolia) (Picture four) in the north end of the park.

## 5.2 Unwanted Mature Trees.

There are several unwanted mature trees in the park. Besides the mature Camphor Laurels (Cinnamomum camphora) in Work Zone 1, Work Zone 3 has mature trees such as the Jacaranda (Jacaranda mimosifolia) , African Tulip Tree (Spathodea campanulata) and Pecan Nut (Carya illinoinensis). The timing of the removal of these trees will need to need to be worked out so as not to denude the park in the first instance and not to cause damage to the new plantings when being removed at a later date. These trees can serve as protection (shade and wind) for the new plantings in the short term.

## 5.3 Vandalism

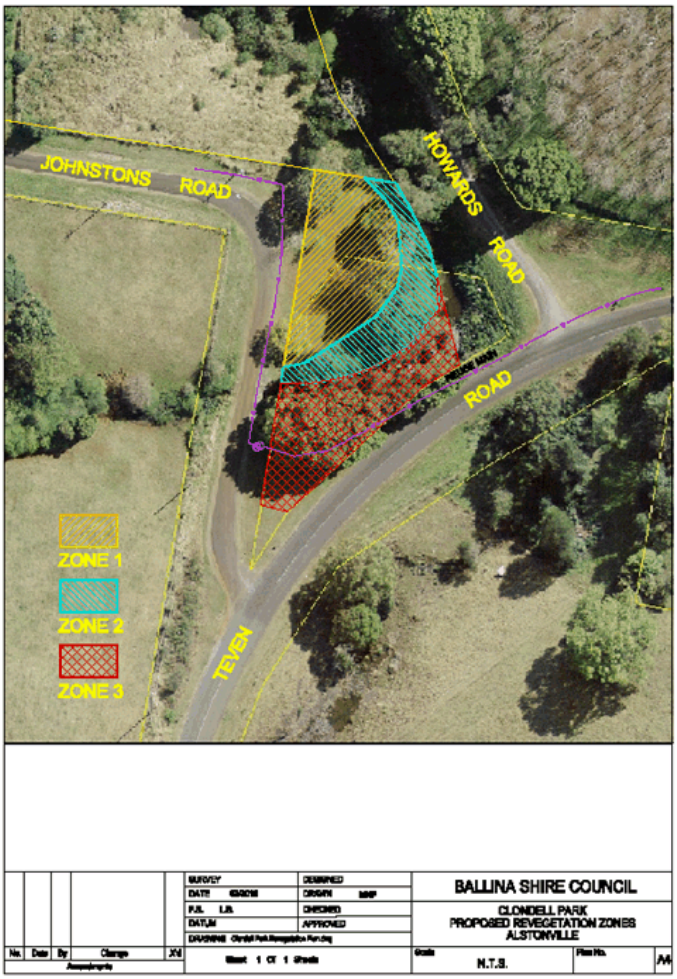
The site has been the scene of considerable vandalism over the past years and this problem is part of the catalyst to redevelop the park as a rainforest. Vandalism (Picture two) has been in the form of infrastructure damage, damage to surfaces by cars and as mentioned in 5.1 the dumping of garden waste (Picture three). The new plantings will have to be well protected for several years with appropriate fencing.

# 6. Site Assessment

## 6.1 Work Zones

Clondale Park can be easily divided into three work zones. These are:

- Zone 1: Triangle of land bounded by Johnston's Road, Teven Road and the creek
- Zone 2: The strip of creek bank starting at the culvert under Johnston's Road to where Branch Creek leaves the park at the northern end.
- Zone 3: Area of flat grassland and mature trees as defined by Branch Creek, Johnston's Road and the northern boundary of the park (Picture one).



### 6.2 Native Vegetation

The native vegetation of this site is mainly confined to the narrow strip along the creek edge (Work Zone One). This remnant is consistent with the Lowland Rainforest of the "Big Scrub". Dominating this area are mature specimens of Red Ash (*Alphitonia excels*), Kurrajong (*Commersonia bartramia*) and Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*).

The southern section of the park (Work Zone Two) is bordered by the two roads and the creek. In this zone the canopy is dominated by Camphor Laurel (Cinnamomum camphora) but the understory has a range of natives including Creek Sandpaper Fig (Ficus coronata), Guioa (Guioa semiglauca), Blackwood (Acacia melanoxylon), Peanut Tree (Sterculia quadrifida) and Birds Nest Fern (Asplenium australasicum) amongst others.

### 6.3 Weed species

The park has several weed species present, mostly confined to the river bank and the area to the south of the creek. The larger open area of the park has been subject to regular mowing and contains a mixture of grasses and herbaceous perennials. The weeds include mature trees, vines and herbs. The mature trees on site include Camphor Laurel (Cinnamomum camphora) and African Tulip Tree (Spathodea campanulata). There are other mature non-native trees that are undesirable within a native rainforest although are not considered weeds and they include the Jacaranda (Jacaranda mimosifolia) and Pecan Tree (Carya illinoinensis). There are also seedlings of tree species amongst the undergrowth of the southern part of the park. These include Alexander Palm (Archontophoenix alexandrae), Cocos Palm (Sygarus romanzoffiana), Umbrella Tree (Schefflera actinophylla) and Wild Tobacco (Solanum mauritianum).

Vines include the troublesome Madera Vine (Anredera cordifolia) and White PassionFlower (Passiflora subpeltata). All weed species and undesirables are to be controlled as a part of the plan.

## 7. Monitoring

The site will have to be closely monitored over the establishment phase of the plantings for the elimination of competing weeds and the assessment of any vandalism damage

## 8. Recommendations

- That Clondale Park be replanted with suitable lowland rainforest species consistent with the "Big Scrub" to provide a valuable ecological island on the Alstonville Plateau. Such connectivity will assist our flora and fauna surviving into the future.

- That the restoration of the existing vegetation occur with suitable control of all weed species and undesirable species.
- That council seek the input from local Landcare groups to take on ownership of the project.
- That barriers be erected for the exclusion of motor vehicle traffic.
- That the remaining park infrastructure (table and seat set) be removed.

## 9. Priorities

- Establish a suitable barrier to stop motor vehicle entry.
- Engage local Landcare group to take on the project.
- Control of invasive weed and undesirable species.
- Removal of large tree weeds.
- Establishment of lowland rainforest species.

## 10. Conclusions

This project will allow for an ideal opportunity to build an ecological island for the local flora and fauna. It will also go towards reducing the antisocial behaviour that has been a regular occurrence at this park over the past few years.

## 11. References

Floyd, A.G. 2008: Rainforest Trees of Mainland South-eastern Australia, Terania Rainforest Publishing NSW Australia

Harden, G.; McDonald, B; Williams, J. 2006: Rainforest Trees and Shrubs. Afield Guide To Their Identification, Gwen Harding Publishing NSW Australia

Harden, G; Nicholson, H; McDonald, B; Nicholson, J; Tame, T; Williams, J. 2014: Rainforest Forest plants of Australia

Lymburner, S. 2003: Mercer Park Native Vegetation Restoration Draft Plan of Management

Watsford, Penny et.al. 2006: Plants of the Forest Floor, Nullum Publications NSW Australia

Williams, j; Harden, G; 2000: Rainforest Climbing Plants, University of New England Printery

# 12. Appendices

**Native Species List**

| Family | Botanical Name | Common Name |
|---|---|---|
| Araceae | Alocassia Sp. | Cunjevoi |
| Arecaceae | Archontophoenix cunninghamiana | Bangalow Palm |
| Aspleniaceae | Asplenium australasicum | Bird's Nest Fern |
| Cucurbitaceae | Diplocyclos palmatus | Native Bryony |
| Cyatheaceae | Cyathea cooperi | Australian Tree Fern |
| Euphorbiaceae | Mallotus philippensis | Red Kamala |
| Fabaceae Subf. Mimosoideae | Acacia melanoxylon | Blackwood |
| Malvaceae | Brachychiton acerifolius | Flame Tree |
| Malvaceae | Commersonia bartramia | Brown Kurrajong |
| Malvaceae | Sterculia quadrifida | Peanut Tree |
| Meliaceae | Toona ciliata | Red Cedar |
| Moraceae | Ficus coronata | Creek Sandpaper Fig |
| Poaceae | Oplismenus aemulus | Australian Basket Grass |
| Proteaceae | Grevillea robusta | Silky Oak |
| Pteridaceae | Pteris Sp. | Brake |
| Rhamnaceae | Alphitonia excels | Red Ash |
| Rosaceae | Rubus moluccanus var. moluccanus | Molucca Bramble |
| Sapindaceae | Guioa semiglauca | Guioa |
| Vitaceae | Cayratia clematidea | Native Grape |

**Weed Species List**

| Family | Botannical Name | Common Name |
|---|---|---|
| Araliaceae | Schefflera actinophylla | Umbrella Tree |
| Arecaceae | Archontophoenix alexandrae * | Alexander Palm |
| Arecaceae | Syagrus romanzoffiana | Cocos Palm |
| Asteraceae | Bidens pilosa | Cobblers's Pegs |
| Asteraceae | Tithonia diversifolia | Japanese Sunflower |
| Basellaceae | Anredera cordifolia | Madera Vine |
| Bignoniaceae | Jacaranda mimosifolia * | Jacaranda |
| Bignoniaceae | Spathodea campanulata * | African Tulip Tree |
| Commelinaceae | Commelina benghalensis | Hairy Wandering Jew |
| Convolvulaceae | Ipomoea indica | Blue Morning Glory |
| Juglandaceae | Carya illinoinensis * | Pecan Tree |
| Lauraceae | Cinnamomum camphora * | Camphor Laurel |
| Oleaceae | Ligustrum sinense | Small Leaf Privet |
| Passifloraceae | Passiflora subpeltata | White Passion Flower |
| Solanaceae | Solanum mauritianum | Wild Tobacco |
| Verbenaceae | Lantana camara | Lantana |
| | | |

*Denotes mature trees

**Weed Removal Techniques**

1. **"Cut-Scrape-Paint"Method**

   This method applies to all woody shrubs, trees and some vines.

   (a) Cut plant low to the ground at an angle.

   (b) Apply Glyphosate immediately at the rate of 1:1.5 with a paint brush.

   (c) Scrape sides to reveal green tissue and apply herbicideto the scraped area.

2. **"Scrape-Ditch-Paint" Method**

   This method is often used on various species of vines where it is desirable to treat the vines without disturbing the plant. Plants such as Madera Vine that have aerial tubers or those that propagate from segments.

   (a) Collect as many loose tubers or plant segment from the ground as possible and remove from the site.

   (b) Scape the stem tissue on one side of the stem only for a length 20-30 cm.

   (c) Apply Glyphosate to the scraped stem at the rate of 100% with a paint brush.

   (d) On thick or horizontal stems, make a ditch in the stem with a knife and herbicide, taking care not to sever the stem.

3. **Tree Injection**

   This method applies to all woody trees and shrubs with a diameter greater than 6-10 cm.

   (a) Drill downward angled holes of 5 cm deep around the base of the tree at 20 cm intervals.

   (b) Fill holes immediately with Glyphosate 1:1. If uptake is rapid then refill holes.

   (c) Drill holes in any exposed roots and fill with Glyphosate.

**4. Spray**

Use of a backpack sprayer is recommended.

(a) Groundcovers such as Wandering Jew and young Madera Vine: spray with 1:50 Glyphosate combined with Li700 surfactant.

(b) Annual weeds such as Chickweed and Grasses apply Glyphosate at 1:100.

**Photographs**

**Picture One - Work Zone 3**

**Picture Two - Vandalism of Park Infrastructure**

**Picture 3 - Weed infestation and dumped garden waste**

**Picture 4 - Japanese Sunflower infestation**

**Recommended Species for Revegetation**

| Family | Botanical Name | Common Name |
|---|---|---|
| Fabaceae | Acacia melanoxylon | Blackwood |
| Myrtaceae | Acmena smithii | Lilly Pilly |
| Malvaceae | Brachychiton acerifolius | Flame Tree |
| Lauraceae | Cinnamomum oliveri | Oliver's Sassafras |
| Malvaceae | Commersonia bartramia | Brown Kurrajong |
| Agavaceae | Cordyline petiolaris | Broad Leaf Palm Lilly |
| Agavaceae | Cordyline rubra | Red Fruited Palm Lilly |
| Lauraceae | Cryptocarya laevigata | Glossy Laurel |
| Sapindaceae | Cupaniopsis anacardioides | Tuckeroo |
| Phormiaceae | Dianella caerulea | Flax Lilly |
| Sapindaceae | Diploglottis campbelli | Small Leafed Tamarind |
| Moraceae | Ficus coronate | Creek Sandpaper Fig |
| Moraceae | Ficus obliqua | Small Leafed Fig |
| Rutaceae | Flindersia australis | Australian Teak |
| Rutaceae | Flindersia xanthoxyla | Yellowwood |
| Rutaceae | Flindersia bennettiana | Bennett's Ash |
| Lamiaceae | Gmelina leichhardtii | White Beech |
| Sapindaceae | Guoia semiglauca | Guoia |
| Pittosporaceae | Hymenosporum flavum | Native Frangipani |
| Sapindaceae | Jagera psuedorhus | Foambark |
| Lomandraceae | Lomandra hystrix | Mat Rush |
| Myrtaceae | Lophostemon confertus | Brush Box |
| Euphorbiaceae | Macaranga tanarius | Macaranga |
| Meliaceae | Melia azedarach | White Cedar |
| Rutaceae | Melicope elleryana | Pink Euodia |
| Sapindaceae | Mischocarpus pyriformis | Yellow Pear Fruit |
| Pittosporaceae | Pittosporum revolutum | Hairy Pittosporum |
| Pittosporaceae | Pittosporum undulatum | Sweet Pittosporum |
| Pittosporaceae | Auranticarpa rhombifolia | Hollywood |
| Araliaceae | Polyscias elegans | Celery wood |
| Rubiaceae | Psychotria loniceroides | Hairy Psychotria |
| Rutaceae | Sarcomelicope simplicifolia | Yellow Aspen |
| Elaeocarpaceae | Sloanea australis | Maiden's Blush |
| Proteaceae | Stenocarpus sinuatus | Firewheel Tree |
| Malvaceae | Sterculia quadrifida | Peanut Tree |
| Meliaceae | Synoum glandulosum | Scentless Rosewood |
| Myrtaceae | Syzygium luehmanii | Small Leaf Lilly Pilly |
| Myrtaceae | Syzygium moorei | Coolamon |
| Meliaceae | Toona australis | Red Cedar |