

CONGO LANDCARE 2008

Envirofund Project

Congo Beach Environmental Protection and Restoration Project

Congo Landcare group wished to undertake a project to enhance the biodiversity of the local native vegetation by controlling exotic weeds, undertaking bush regeneration, and controlling public access.

It was determined that by providing a user friendly staircase to access the beach, then beach visitors would use the new staircase rather than cutting more tracks across the dune vegetation. Approval for the project was arranged with Eurobodalla Shire Council.

Congo Landcare group was assisted by Peter Gow, the Eurobodalla Community Support Officer, to develop a successful funding application to the Australian Government Envirofund.



Elizabeth Hood, Congo Landcare group Coordinator, on the Congo Beach access staircase, completed 2008

Congo Landcare commenced the project with Bush Regeneration work in mid 2007. Once funding was received the staircase construction materials were ordered; arrangements were made for an Aboriginal sites officer to be on site during footing excavation; and volunteers were rallied to work on the staircase construction.

Work progress smoothly with the assistance of local carpenters and a builder. At the base of the staircase a length of Holeybelt (recycled conveyer belt) leads beach visitors onto the beach.

The cost of materials to construct the staircase had risen since the initial budget was developed. The group was assisted by Peter Gow in gaining additional funding from

the Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee, and with the production of the final report to the Australian Government Envirofund.

The group were helped in their work by a team of volunteers from overseas through Conservation Volunteers Australia who targeted controlling Moth Vine and Cape Ivy



Ready for work at Congo are Kim Deawon (S. Korea), Cheng Ngun Yip (Hong Kong), Tanja Thees (Germany), Daniela Glattfelder (Switzerland), Elizabeth Hood (Congo Landcare), Patrick Larscheid (Germany), and Andrew Mathers (Supervisor – Conservation Volunteers Australia)