

Mystery Bay Coastcare 2007 – 08 Envirofund Project

Mystery Bay Coastcare group were concerned about the state of the coastal vegetation at Mystery Bay. The coastal village is a popular destination for holiday makers and includes a large 'primitive campground' on the foreshore. A Plan of Management had recently been approved for the area and the community wished to apply for funding to implement sections of the plan. The group wanted to undertake the following activities: - control where campers could go by installing fencing; replanting and mulching campsites that were to be no longer used; address erosion problems; install nest boxes; rationalise pedestrian beach access; and control exotic weeds.



Mystery Bay Campground

Photo: C Potts

Eurobodalla Landcare Community Support officer, Peter Gow, met with group members Patrick Haas and Christina Potts; and Deb Purss, Council's Plans of Management officer, to determine what actions the group could pursue and to assist with developing a funding application to the Australian Government Envirofund. The group were successful with their funding application and works commenced in early 2007 with the bush regeneration and fencing works. Eurobodalla Shire Council commenced closing down certain tracks; upgrading the tracks which were to be retained; improving drainage, and upgrading the toilet facilities. The tracks which were closed were fenced, mulched, and planted by group

Planting

Over 700 native plants have been planted in various sites throughout the campground and foreshore. Many of these have been propagated by our volunteers from locally collected seeds and cuttings. Ground story, shrubs and trees have been used to recreate the existing habitat mix of remnant vegetation. Help from a public planting day and the Green Corps and local Work for the Dole Teams was appreciated



Plant propagation at Mystery Bay Photo: C Potts

Nest Boxes:

Narooma High School Students have been included in the Nest Box project. Following a presentation given to Woodworking students on the ecological reasons for recreation of nesting habitat in the campground the students have constructed the boxes.

The students designed the dimensions based on the most recent research into appropriate size and shape and also completed a project sheet detailing the specific habitat needs of the animals they were building the boxes for. Involving the students in this stage of our project has allowed us to construct more than our initially planned number of boxes and also resulted in engaging and informing the local young people in the issues behind habitat loss and the need for restoration. Fifteen Nest boxes were constructed catering for various bird and marsupial species.



Mystery Bay Campground - Fencing, Mulching, and Planting

Community Information

Mystery Bay Coastcare also kept the community informed of their work by signage at worksites, media releases, notices on the community noticeboard, and displays in the Narooma Library



Mystery Bay Coastcare display at Narooma Library



Mystery Bay Community Planting Day