

Never too late to save waterways

Cher's words, "if I could turn back time, if I could find a way" describe Kate Hoad, an energetic and enthusiastic young lady.

With a positive outlook on life, Kate's mission is to make a difference.

Kate is the Conservation Manager for ArborCare, Queensland, an ecological and arboricultural management company which has played an instrumental role in a diversity of environmental success stories across the Coast including rehabilitation of Buderim Forest Park and the Mooloolaba Spit regeneration project, to name but a few.

Kate is particularly passionate about waterways. Her breadth of experience spans further than just the creeks, rivers and oceans themselves.

Kate's current project is a challenging two-hectare site at Palmwoods within the Paynters Pocket residential development.

With the combined vision and commitment of developers, local council, and a team of conservation management specialists, an amazing transformation has taken place.

"At Paynters Pocket we started with a weed infested site at the base of what was a pineapple farm", said Kate.



Kate (centre front row) and her team of ArborCare workers.

"Within just 12 months, and over 6000 native trees and 100,000 man hours later, we have created a bushland conservation reserve which will attract, and protect, native wildlife for decades, hopefully centuries, to come.

As a result of this, we can improve water quality and while it will take at least another two years for this site to be totally self-sustaining, the bulk of the rehabilitation has been completed", she said.

Adjoining Paynter Creek, this fragile and unique parcel of natural habitat has been donated

back to the community by the developers of Paynters Pocket, In-Property.

"The effort and support of the whole ArborCare team has made this a very rewarding project and we look forward to seeing the benefits of the bushland conservation reserve as it protects and nurtures an array of native fauna and flora," she said.

"It is fantastic when developers, council and environmental organizations can work together, for a common goal, to make the world a better place", Kate added.

Latest News

Developers Invest \$1.2 Million 'Going Green' at Paynters Pocket Palmwoods

Tue 4th July 2006 Sunshine Valley News

It's not just 'people' who will be moving out to Paynters Pocket for a new lease on life! Two hectares of regenerated bushland conservation reserve is set to attract a diversity of native birds and wildlife once it is re-established to its original and majestic form.

Adjoining Paynter Creek, this fragile and unique parcel of natural habitat has been donated back to the community by the developers of Paynters Pocket, InProperty. Currently undergoing significant regeneration under the careful management of ArborCare Queensland, the tailor-made program consists of the removal of weeds followed by the planting of genetic plant stock from the Paynter Creek catchment area, allowing native species to reclaim the canopy.

ArborCare Queensland is an ecological management company which first worked with InProperty on the regeneration of the neighbouring residential community reserves at Old Orchard. In January this year ArborCare Queensland commenced work on the Paynters Pocket project and the strategic management plan sees the team completing the regeneration of this special site in late 2008, by which time it is expected that the bushland reserve will be self sustaining.

Leo Phelan, Manager of ArborCare Queensland, says that this is very much a community project and the focus is on creating a natural public amenity which will be enjoyed by many generations to come.

"InProperty donated the land to council and we work very closely with the local community at many levels. ArborCare Queensland have developed a management plan for the Paynters Pocket development and have contracted Florabunda Bushcare the local Paynters Creek Catchment Care Group nursery to collect seed from the Paynters Creek catchment and contract grow approximately 6000 seedlings for the restoration of the Paynters Pocket development. These will be the native plants which we will use to re-establish this reserve", Mr Phelan said.

"This site is very unique in that it has a huge diversity of plant life and Paynter Creek is an important feeder to the Maroochy River – it starts at the bottom of Montville and is part of the Maroochy River Catchment system", he said. "We aim to work with the seasons in decreasing the weed population and increasing natives; eventually we will create a buffer which will seal the rim of the site off with natives so that weeds can not penetrate it – and that's when it will be self sustaining and native wildlife will flourish within this safety zone".

It has taken from January to now, with about 6 people working on the project each week, for the weeds to be eradicated. Over summer it is expected that 6000 trees will be planted, and then a team of about four will manage the bush regeneration of the site for the next couple of years.

"It's all about caring for trees and looking after special places like the Paynters Pocket bushland reserve", said Mr Phelan.

Paynters Pocket Estate



Paynters Pocket Estate February 2006
Commencement of rehabilitation -note the large *Cinnamomum camphora* lining the creek



May 2007 – Stage 1
large woody weed removal staged over a three years period to reduce impact – light penetration, weed invasion & loss of habitat



ArborCare Queensland

Certified Horticulturists, Arborists & Ecologists

Paynters Pocket Palmwoods Subdivision (Client – Inproperty)

Preliminary ecological site assessment
Consultation with stakeholders

Development of Rehabilitation Management Strategy

Implementation of approved management strategy

- Bush regeneration approximately 2ha
- Staged Removal of Large Woody Weeds over 3 years including 115 *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurels)
- Irrigation
- Soil conditioning (approximately 1ha)
 - Soil analysis
 - Compaction amelioration
 - Addition and mixing of fertiliser and lime as per recommendations

Mulching from wood chip stored and composted from other tree works

Erosion and sedimentation control including wetland planting and installation of jute mat (1000m²)

Revegetation – 6000 tubestock contract grown by a local nursery with local provenience seeds

Successful ‘On Maintenance’ inspection

Maintenance up to 3 years including replacement planting, on-going exotic vine control, slip stabilisation with tubestock, installation of rock weirs and woody debris to mitigate surface erosion.

Successful ‘Off Maintenance’ inspection

Paynters Pocket Estate

Paynters Pocket April 2009
Revegetation merging with
existing riparian canopy



Installation of Thick Jute mat
to mitigate the water flow
dispersed from storm water
detention trenches; ensuring
the leading edge is trenched
in to prevent lifting through
water flow



Paynters Pocket Estate



Revegetation
Planting local province species
into jute mat and mulched area



Paynters Pocket
December 2006
Revegetation
completed

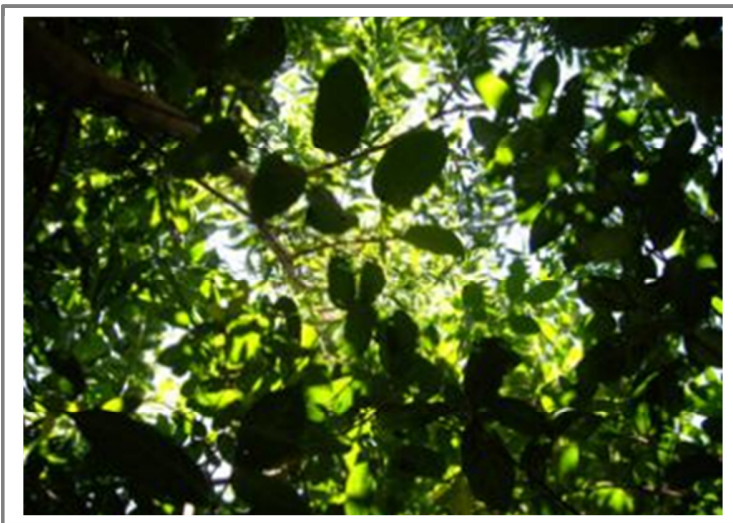
Paynters Pocket Estate



Paynters Pocket January 2009 - last stage of large woody weed removal showing excellent regeneration & development of native recruitment



Paynters Pocket – July 2009 installation of rock weir and woody debris to mitigate surface erosion



High percent foliage cover - canopy closure achieved in revegetation site