



Restoring and Enhancing Habitat Values of Magnetic Island Golf Course

Magnetic Island Golf Course has recently received funding through the Australian Government's Envirofund with the support of Townsville City Council. This Envirofund project was developed in conjunction with the team captains, grounds committee and groundsman of the Golf Course. The project has been designed to not interfere with normal play, but to enhance, rather than hinder the player's experience through creating more shade for players.

The funding will assist in the restoration and protection of lowland vegetation within the Golf Course by planting over 2000 local native trees and ground covers. These will include species propagated from Magnetic Island seed stock and will create a local native seed bank for future island revegetation and restoration projects.

Throughout 2005, the Golf Club will host several community plantings run through Townsville City Council's Greening Townsville program, which has held events at Horseshoe Bay Sports and Recreation Club, Gustav Creek and Picnic, Alma and Nelly Bays over the past three years.

Habitat Values of the Golf Course

The Golf Club contain some fine examples of remnant trees, in particular Ironbarks (a favoured Koala food tree), Poplar Gums and Bloodwoods. However, battering by wayward balls, root exposure through erosion of the soft granite soils and cyclone damage mean that many trees are in poor health. Due to constant mowing, there are few seedlings to replace mature trees that are dead or need removing.

Existing trees will be inter-planted with seedlings and protected in mulched beds. This will assist in habitat restoration, root protection, soil protection, plant replacement and lower maintenance costs. Replanting areas of the course will restore a section of lowland habitat that will become a demonstration revegetation site for other projects. It will also establish habitat corridors to link the hillslope softwood scrubs with the coastal vegetation.

For more information, please contact Environmental Management Services on 4727 9312, 0437 431 855 or visit www.soe-townsville.org/treeday/. Community group contact, Paul Wightman: 4778 5088



Community Planting Dates for 2005

Sunday, March 13th 8 - 11am

Sunday, June 26th 8 - 11am

Sunday, September 25th 8 - 11am

Sunday, December 4th 8 - 11am

After each planting stay for a free BBQ and take home a free native plant. Please bring a hat, gloves, sturdy footwear and drinking water.

Envirofund is for individuals and groups to undertake small projects aimed at conserving biodiversity and sustainable resource use at the local level.