

MEDIA RELEASE

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Free workshops arm residents to fight weeds

Daintree residents are now armed to confidently identify and begin to manage invasive weeds on their rainforest properties thanks to a free weed management workshop held at the weekend. Twenty local landowners attended the fully-booked, half-day session hosted by the Australian Rainforest Foundation (ARF) under their Rainforest Stewardship Program.

"Following consultation with the community, weed management, along with feral animal management, has been identified as a major problem on private blocks in the Daintree and Mission Beach areas, with residents calling not only for financial assistance but the skills and know-how to get the job done themselves." ARF, CEO Roger Phillips said.

"There are 37 major weeds that have been identified in these areas which continue to be a threat to our tropical rainforest environment. Being able to identify the extent and types of weeds that are growing in the rainforest, and developing a weed management strategy to effectively select and apply appropriate control methods, is a skill that we encourage every landholder to have and are more than happy to support," Mr Phillips said.

Cape Tribulation resident Cheryl Williams attended the workshop and was not only impressed with the standard of information but the fact that the workshop was held within the community.

"So often we receive leaflets telling us what to do," Ms Williams said. "Actually coming and talking to people is so important and this is what made this workshop different.

"I was particularly impressed with the emphasis on safety issues and the document we got to take away, it is the first I have seen designed for the local area, it is really good and will be a useful resource for me that I can keep adding information to."

A similar workshop for landowners in the Mission Beach, El Arish and Tully area is scheduled for this Saturday 10th November and is now fully booked. Further workshops will be scheduled for early next year.

"We will continue to work with the local community to assist residents with conservation issues that have been raised, and that will emerge, including feral animals, revegetation and fencing," Mr Phillips said.

Landowners who attend the workshops, may also be eligible for financial assistance through ARF Weed Management grants of \$500 - \$5000.

To register your interest in attending future weed management workshops call the ARF on (07) 4051 2000 or email your details to info@arf.net.au.

Note: Weeds cost Queensland an estimated \$600 million every year and have significant impacts on primary industries, natural ecosystems, human and animal health.

- Weeds reduce biodiversity values and the integrity of rainforest
- Weeds decrease important wildlife food sources and sheltering areas
- Noxious weeds can reduce agricultural crop production
- Weeds are costly to the environment and expensive to control

Further information contact: Roger Phillips, CEO, Australian Rainforest Foundation

Ph: (07) 4051 2000 go to www.arf.net.au and read our current newsletter.