

# Lord of the Weeds

Introduction to refuge  
Series of events



## The Local Region

- The nature refuge is located near the shores of Moreton Bay near the headwaters of Lota Creek an important international stopover for migratory birds and a habitat resource of national importance.



# The Nature Refuge

- The Nature Refuge consist of nationally important melaleuca swampland and areas of remnant eucalypt forest. The refuge however is severely effected by weeds and its proximity to urban areas.



# Introduction to Plot area

- The plot area consist of tall melaleuca forest on the northern border of the Nature Refuge. It is severely effected by significant populations of *Ochna serrulata*, Chinese Celtis *Celtis sinensis* and Camphor Laurel *Cinnamomum camphora*.



Setting up the plots

# Weed gathering and observation

- After We set up our plots we gathered samples of weeds from the plots and took photos of them. We also took sketches of our plot and wrote notes about species present and any interesting features of our plots.



# Visitors

- After our initial weed gathering and plot observation we invited members from the Bayside Creeks Catchment group to come and help identify the weeds. They showed us a PowerPoint outlining the groups role, what they do and the importance of the Nature Refuge. They also taught us about edge effect, wildlife corridors and weed management. After this they identified the weeds from the photos and we went down to the refuge where we took them on a tour of the plots where they identified more weeds and any significant native plants.

Kristy an environmentalist from the Bayside Creeks Catchment Group



# Research and Planning

- After the visit we immediately set about researching target weed species in the plot area. Everyone in the class did a weed information sheet for a weed present in the refuge and everyone did research on weeds present in their plot.
- We also set about planning our work down in the Nature Refuge. We planned integrated weed management strategies based on our research and chose native species for replanting that were native to the area and the Nature Refuge.



Boys working in the Nature Refuge.

# Weed Extermination

- Finally we got to work weeding our plots. We first set about removing small shrubs and trees such as ochna *Ochna serrulata*. Then we got rid of the large trees such as Camphor Laurel *Cinnamomum camphora* and Chinese Celtis *Celtis sinensis*. Finally we removed the ground level plants and vines such as fishbone fern *Nephrolepis cordifolia* and Dutchman's Pipe *Aristolochia elegans*.



Removing weeds

# Replanting

- After replanting we began replanting native plants in the plot area. We focused on plants already native to the refuge. Some plants include
- Coastal Banksia: *Banksia integrifolia*
- Brisbane Wattle: *Acacia Fimbriata*
- Kangaroo Grass: *Themeda triandra*
- Wombat Berry: *Eustrephus latifolius*
- These plants and more were chosen to provide replacements for weed species removed and form a crucial part of our integrated weed management strategy

# The Future

- Our work is not yet done and the refuge will need to be maintained. But hopefully if we are successful in our work the nature refuge will become a glowing beacon in our local area used for the benefit of the community and its wildlife.

