



ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, OFFSET

BYRON
at Byron

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Revitalise The Byron at Byron Resort

has been designed to work in sympathy with the natural environment in which it is situated.

The Resort strives to be an industry leader when it comes to the care and concern for environment and this principle has been incorporated in all aspects of the Resort from planning, design, development through to the operational management of this ninety two room five star resort, spa, restaurant and conference facility.

RAINFOREST RESTORATION AND REGENERATION

The Resort buildings are situated on less than ten percent of the forty five acre site and the remaining site has been carefully and skilfully regenerated. The regeneration project aimed to restore native plant communities of the site by halting the degradation of native plant communities, promoting their ability to become self-sustaining in the longer term and enhancing habitat values. The major component of the project is to remove weeds in such a way that they are replaced by native plant species, while at the same time considering the habitat values of both natives and weeds. The restoration team is led by Rosemary Joseph and the three members of the team have worked together in the regeneration/restoration industry for over 20 years.

To date, 89 species of birds, 188 species of native plants, several species of reptiles & amphibians and 1 macropod species (swamp wallaby), have been identified on the site.



BANGALOW PALM RAINFOREST

Lowland subtropical rainforest on floodplain
This rainforest is classified as an "Endangered Ecological Community" under the Threatened Species Conservation Act (TSC Act) 1995. It provides valuable habitat for the Mitchell's Rainforest Snail *Thersites mitchelli*, an endangered species under the TSC Act.

The Mitchell's Forest Snail is a semi-arboreal snail that can be found under bark on tree trunks, in the base of palm fronds and under any fallen debris. The rainforest also provides habitat for many other faunal species such as the Swamp Wallaby, Brush Turkey, Whipbird, Yellow Robin, Noisy Pitta, Kingfisher, White-headed Pigeon and many other species of birds. Approximately 50 species of native plants have been identified within the rainforest areas, including the ground orchid *Geodorum neocalendonicum* which is listed as a Schedule 1 Threatened Species under the TSC Act 1995)



PAPERBARK FOREST

Swamp sclerophyll forest on coastal floodplain
This forest is classified as an "Endangered Ecological Community" under the Threatened Species Conservation Act (TSC Act) 1995. It is habitat for the ground orchid *Phaius australis*, a Threatened Species under the TSC Act 1995. The fringing vegetation of the nearby creek is habitat for the Common Planigale, Black Bittern and Bush Hen, all Threatened Species under the TSC Act 1995.

Restoration work commenced on the cleared section dominated by exotic grasses which were totally suppressing the germination and growth of native plants. The exotic grasses were controlled and the subsequent regeneration of native species was rapid. Native species are reclaiming the site which is now dominated by native grasses, sedges, rushes and reeds and seedlings of native tree species.



COASTAL CYPRESS PINE FOREST

Prior to the commencement of restoration works, regeneration of this uncommon forest type was being inhibited by a dense groundcover of weeds, such as Ground Asparagus, Coral Berry and exotic grasses. These weeds have now been controlled and the Coastal Cypress Pine and other native species, are now germinating in the weed-free conditions.

Eight species of ground orchids have been identified in this forest.

Resort Design & The Environment

The site, covering an area of 17.5 ha, is part of a very sensitive ecological community. The entire complex is linked by kilometres of timber boardwalks that also meander through the rainforest and to a viewing platform overlooking Tallow Creek.

The Central Facilities building is a pavilion that encloses an interstitial space between the natural landscapes of the sclerophyll rainforest and the introduced landscapes of the road edge and carpark. The building is by necessity of a north south axis. The 3m wide western verandah shields the building from afternoon sun and the generous 6m wide eastern verandah through its extending eave engages the building's connection with the forest.

The interior of the building has been designed to reflect the place it is in – there is extensive use of natural materials including timber, and river rock. The majority of the building is not air-conditioned. All timbers are from sustainable forests and specified softwoods are used wherever possible.



OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Operationally The Byron at Byron Resort has implemented many policies and procedures to minimise the impact on the environment in the day to day running of a resort.

These include;

- + Using recycled paper to print documents internally
- + All internal memos/letter uses recycled envelopes
- + Email used for correspondence rather than printing
- + Energy efficient light bulbs used where possible
- + Environmentally friendly cleaning products used in guests suites and public areas
- + All cars and buggies cleaned via waterless method
- + Guests encouraged to leave their car parked and to use resort push bikes or resort shuttle when transport is needed
- + A fleet of electric buggies for transport within the resort for both staff and guest needs.
- + Local produce utilised in restaurant menus with much purchased from local farmers markets (slow food principle)
- + Encourage less use of suite air conditioners and to utilize the more natural air circulation the front and back veranda doors offer.
- + State of the art \$500,000 waste water treatment facility. The treated water is used throughout the resort grounds and any excess water is pumped onto the golf course situated conveniently across the road.

CARBON OFFSET PROGRAM AND RAINFOREST RESCUE

The Resort is mindful of and works with individual clients needs and has created a philosophy of synchronizing the whole business event with the Resort focus of relaxation, wellness, inspiration and the environment.

In conjunction with the ongoing rainforest restoration program the Resort has teamed up with 'Rainforest Rescue', a local not for profit organization committed to the future of the natural environment, to offer a 'Carbon Neutral Conference Package'. Rainforest Rescue can calculate the amount of carbon dioxide created by each individual conference. This 'carbon footprint' includes the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions released from travel, accommodation and general conferencing activities in relation to the number of participants in each conference. Rainforest Rescue can then plant rainforest trees to effectively 'offset' the CO₂ output. Local native tree species will be planted in the Byron Bay hinterland rainforest areas.

Every rainforest tree planted absorbs approximately one tonne of CO₂ over its lifetime. Sponsorship of one tree is \$25. An average conference would need to plant one tree per delegate. The cost of ensuring a Carbon Neutral Conference with fifty delegates would only be \$1250.00. The Byron at Byron Resort and Rainforest Rescue can also organize active participation by delegates in the planting of these rainforest trees at an additional cost.

Leisure guests can also participate with the purchase of a 'tree' available in the Resort lobby shop.