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### ***Soil erosion and sediment controls during wet season works***

Just a reminder that at this time of the year, with heavy rainfall we get some of our worst erosion. All that sediment flows direct to our magnificent Great Barrier Reef. It's outstanding natural beauty attracts people and supports our tourist industry and associated businesses. What you do on your block can directly affect people's jobs! So, please don't trash the reef by needlessly clearing down to bare soil, especially around this time of the year.

Local councils are now responsible for monitoring and control of soil erosion and sediment flows. If you have concerns about how to contain sediment and avoid soil erosion on your own property, TRC council Environmental Health can give guidance. If you're concerned about what you see happening on properties around you, request that TRC council Environmental Health staff investigate and provide direction.



***Cleared road with erosion scars, Speewah***

### ***Even our Mayor moved mulch***

Our Plant Smart / Tropical tree planting day under powerlines mid December went off well with materials support from Ergon Energy, Greening Australia, Yuruga nursery and TRC council. Even the weather co-operated in the following days to gently water the plants in!

Despite the festive season being so close, over 20 community members planted and heavily mulched almost 200 plants. Even our mayor rolled up his t-shirt sleeves and got stuck in.



***Mayor Gilmore with KEC members***



***Mayor Gilmore, down and dirty***

Our intention this wet season is to finish off with mass planting the spaces between low growing plants with mat rush, the local river grass (*Lomandra*). We'll blanket mulch the site to suppress weeds until the *Lomandra* fills the spaces.

### ***Seeds are raining down***

After so many months of little or no rain last year the gentle rains of the last 3 months have brought on massive fruiting of many species and quite phenomenal growth in our planted trees, not to mention the grasses!

If you have seeds you want identified, bring in a few leaves along with the fruit, even a photo of the tree shape, the more info the better. We'd be happy to exchange seeds we target for our seedling. We still have quite a few low growing lilly pillies and other native berry plants for your front or back yard available and we'd like them to move to your place instead of our new nursery site!

### ***Plant of the month***

**BROWN PINE** – *Podocarpus grayii* (our local)  
These latin names can be confusing and / or hard to pronounce. Sometimes they're easier to remember if you know what the name means. So this month:

"*Podocarpus* is derived from two Greek words *pous*= foot, and *karpos*= fruit, referring to the fleshy fruit stems"

Well I did say sometimes.



***Photo courtesy of Wikipedia, Podocarpus macrophyllus***  
*Podocarpus* genus and the Podocarpaceae family were endemic to the ancient supercontinent of [Gondwana](#) which broke up between 105 and 45 million years ago.. *Podocarpus* is a characteristic tree of the [Antarctic flora](#), which originated in the cool, moist climate of southern Gondwana,. Elements now survive in pockets in the humid temperate regions such as Australia's Wet Tropics region (where we live) As Australia drifted north toward Asia, the collision pushed up the [Indonesia](#) archipelago and the mountains of New Guinea, which allowed *Podocarpus* species to hop across the narrow straits into humid Asia, with *P. macrophyllus* reaching north to southern [China](#) and [Japan](#)

So we have an ancient relic in our midst! A quiet unassuming, slow growing but very elegant plant, with

strappy dark green leaves, happy to grow in the shade of taller rainforest trees. If you have room for an “old timer” placed on the edge of your forest so you can glimpse their growth, we have a few available in the nursery.

## **WHAT'S COMING UP**

### **Calling all landowners sharing Warril Creek stream bed**

Envirocare has received funding from Caring for Our Country landcare grants program, for our focus on Warril Creek. The funding is specifically to strengthen the creek corridor and margins and the creek's significance to species conservation has been recognised by provision of this funding.

Funding will allow us to assist land owners with any environmental problems they have such as soil erosion problems, weed control, rainforest stands enhancement, creek shading and ultimately is designed to maintain the high level of water quality in this important stream.

Two species of endangered frogs breed in the lower reaches of this creek (Myola frog and Common mist frog) and they require high water quality for survival. They also require good stands of rainforest around the creeks in which to live. They've been found calling more than 100m from their resident waterways. With the support of land owners and frog researchers we hope to begin a long term study of frog numbers in this creek.

If you have a boundary with Warril Creek or the creek runs through your property we'd invite you to contact either Cathy on 4093 9926 or Margaret on 4093 8393 to find out more and talk about your interest in being assisted by this project.

### ***Mulching Hay and trailers***

Trailer Hire – member discounts, call 4093 8393  
Mulching hay small bales available, call 4093 9926  
You can even borrow the trailer to get your bales home!

### ***Saturday morning plantings – 8am***

This month we'll do some infill plantings up Dismal Creek and at Myola behind the school farm site. Watch for signs on Myola Road/ Oakforest Road or ring Cathy 4093 9926 to confirm location.

### ***Focus on the environment around us***

This year our general meetings are being replaced with movies, speakers and discussions with influential community members connected with environment.

Our general (boring) process of running the organisation has moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month or as required. All members welcome. Contact [secretary@enevirocare.org.au](mailto:secretary@enevirocare.org.au) for dates.

### ***Next Speaker Meeting , 3rd Feb 7pm***

*Recreation centre, Fallon Road*  
***Watch out for the signs entering the village,  
advertising the event***

All welcome, light supper provided.