

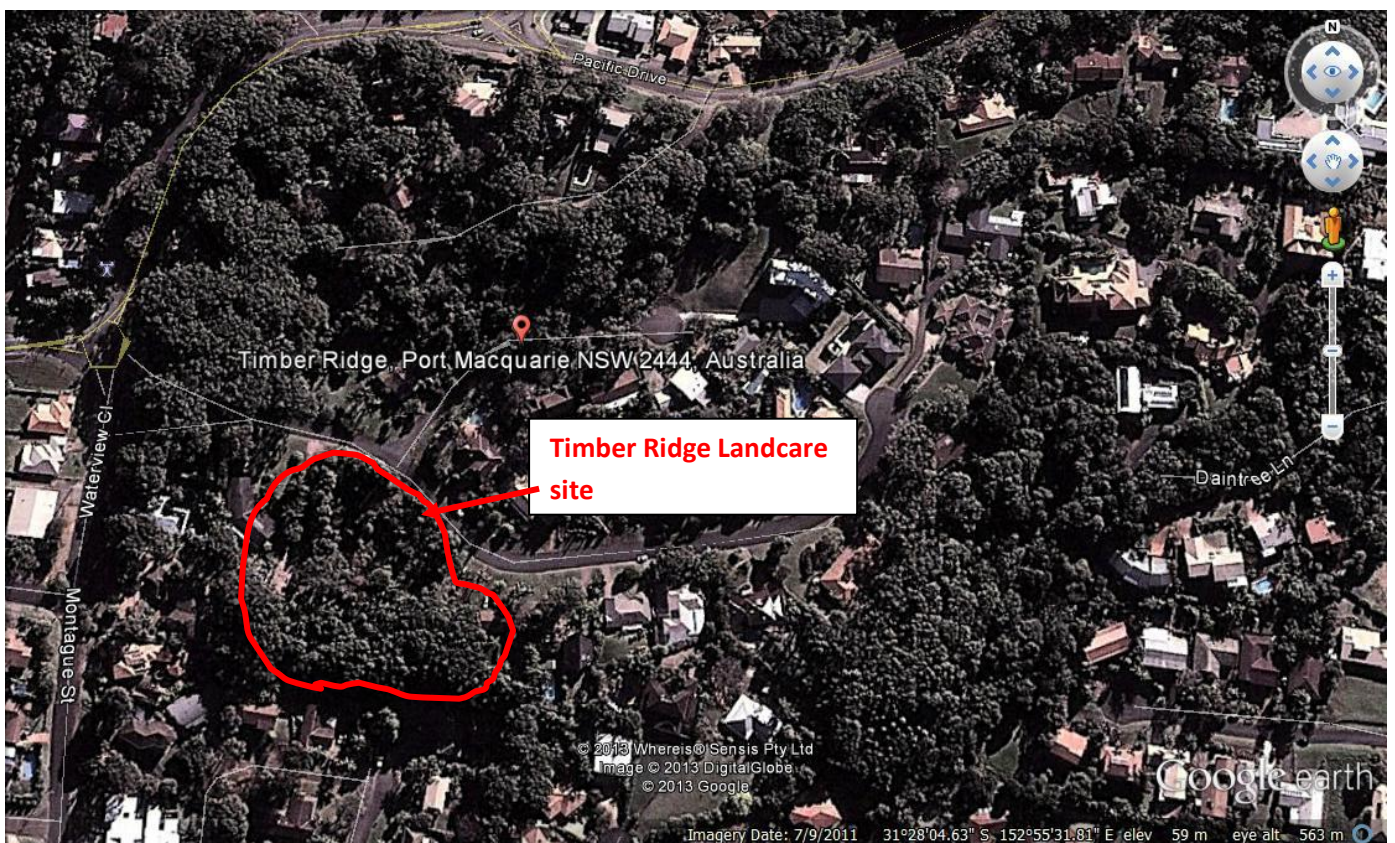
**Timber Ridge** was the 9th Project taken on by Port Macquarie Landcare Group Inc in early 2003, under the management of retiree Dr Noel Kinny who lived close by. This bushland reserve has a healthy intact section of Subtropical Rainforest bordered on the North by a degraded, weed infested wetland and drainage area.

This bushland is important as Timber Ridge is the top of the catchment for two important waterways in Port Macquarie. To the north it is the head of Wrights Creek that flows through town to Kooloonbung Creek; and to the south the head of Rushcutter Creek which flows into Lake Innes then on to Lake Cathie.

Dumping of rubbish was an ongoing problem on the site. The improvement in the amenity of the site has reduced this. The most vexing problem was the destruction of vegetation by youngsters building bike tracks and cubby houses. Over time this has reduced as the vegetation increased in density after weed removal. The work undertaken on this site has been a staged approach of weed removal and revegetation.

At Landcare we are always conscious of planning for the generational change in personnel on our sites, without this planning, retirement would be difficult for our volunteers and our sites would go backwards. Happily we had a team ready to take up where Noel left off when he retired for the second time in 2010. Now we have a plan in place with Council that enables us to hand back sites that are at the status of Ecological Maintenance for their Bush Regeneration teams to manage.

There has been some large scale revegetation on the site with the help of students from St Josephs Regional High School and The Green Jobs Team. This complements the previous work carried out on site by the one man band of Noel. The ultimate aim is to revegetate the whole area to extend the remnant Subtropical Rainforest from Lady Elliot Court to Timber Ridge, incorporating the rehabilitated wetland area.







This is the large infestation of weeds, Lantana, Wild Tobacco and Senna with Madiera Vine scrambling over it all that was the site in 2003. The intact Subtropical Rainforest can be seen in the background.



All this vegetation on the edge was planted in 2005 and has grown to almost maturity since then. Neighbours have appreciated the increase in value to their properties due to the improvements in the bushland reserve.





This large mown area was damaging to the edge of the Subtropical Rainforest by allowing an easy path for weeds to penetrate into the rainforest.



Getting the site ready for planting October 2010





Planting March 2011



The result in June 2012, the rainforest edge is protected from weed invasion.

Madeira Vine has been the most difficult weed to control on this site. It is a troublesome weed which is difficult to eradicate as it produces large subterranean tubers. It mainly spreads via large numbers of specialised aerial tubers



that are produced along the stems. They are also spread shorter distances after falling off stems high in the canopy (by gravity) and can be transported downstream in floods. If fragments end up in waterways, they are easily transported to new locations in this manner. This is why it is desirable to remove it from the top of the catchment at Timber Ridge. It also spreads vegetatively by tuberous roots and creeping underground stems (rhizomes).



Some of the underground tubers found.



Noel and Margaret decided to retire (again) in 2010. They have left Timber Ridge in a far better state than they found it. The local neighbours and wildlife benefit everyday from the work this dedicated couple put in over the previous seven years.

They are seen here with Landcare Patron Roy Sach on the right at their Landcare retirement presentation.

This brought the new team to the site who took on the challenge of the Madeira Vine with a will to win attitude.

Madeira Vine is now under control on this site; however vigilance is needed into the future.





This weed (below) Liriope is a newcomer to our sites. It is planted by council in public plantings around Port Macquarie. It is in the Asparagus family and has large clusters of black fruit that the birds love to distribute. This infestation is from 2 plants that had been brought in by birds and allowed to mature and set seed.







As you can see, this wetland was overrun with serious environmental weeds to the detriment of the wildlife. Many of these weeds are water-borne. By preventing this infestation moving downstream onto other restored sites, these restoration works became critical to the health of the whole catchment. Sightings of The Tusked Frog *Adelotus brevis* have been recorded on this site.







St Josephs School Year 7 students were a great help with the extensive planting required on this site to bring it to ecological maintenance ready to return to Council for their Bush Regeneration Teams to continue the maintenance of this site.

An Eastern Water Dragon, frequently sighted in our bushland reserves, captured basking in the sun.

