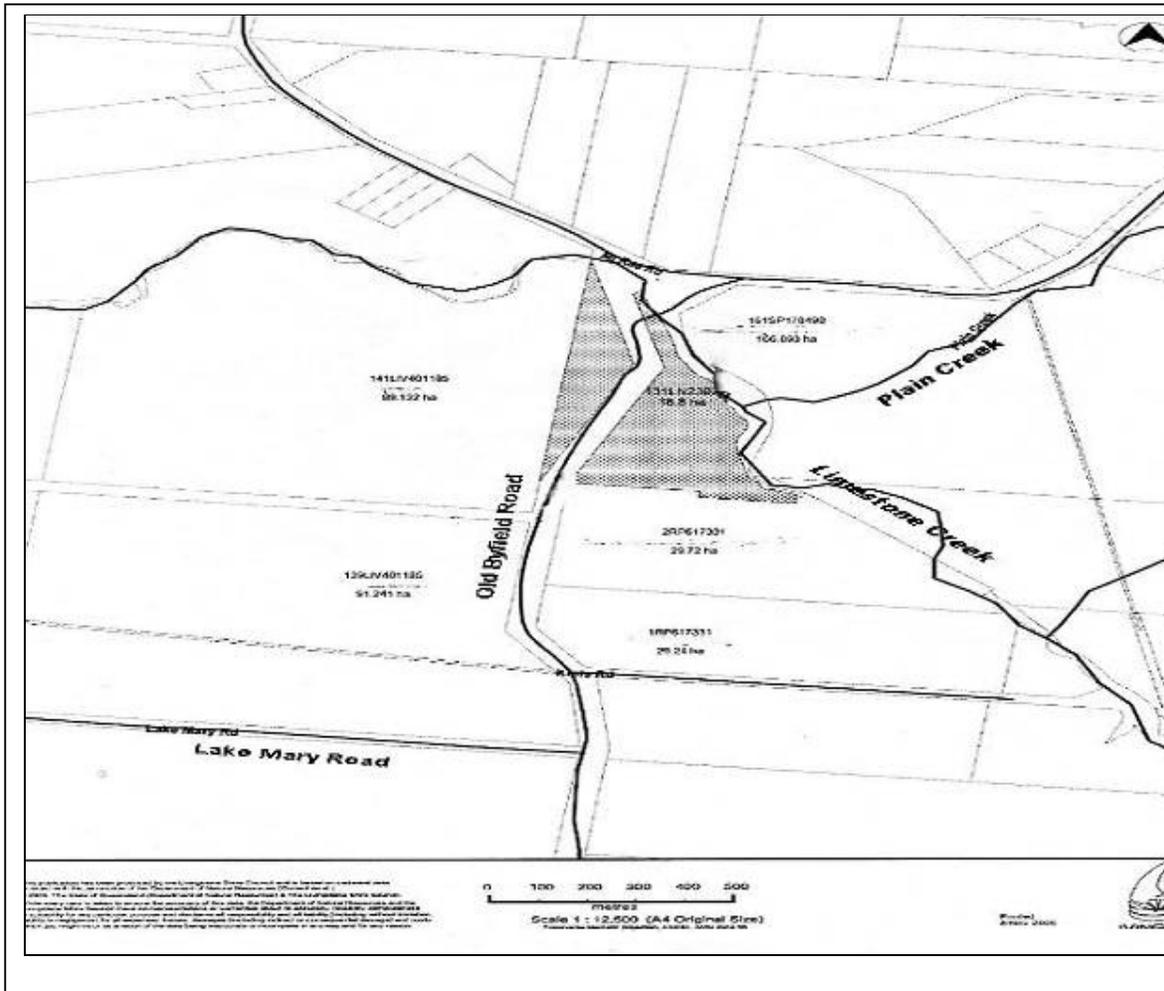


Limestone Creek Catsclaw Eradication Project 2005 to 2009

The Limestone Ck Water and Camping Reserve area is located on the Old Byfield Road, to the north and south of the Limestone Creek crossing, Bungundarra, approximately 11 km north-west of Yeppoon.

In 1996 it was chosen as one of the five original Rem Veg Management Sites.



In the original Management Plan for the area, one of the main aims was to reduce weed infestation and it was hoped eventually to trial various methods of weed control and eradication.

Amongst the many weeds on site, the worst was cat's claw creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) which is native to tropical America. It was used as an ornamental plant in older-style Queensland gardens and is an aggressive climber which is very difficult to get rid of. Of course part of the problem of dealing successfully with weeds is to protect native vegetation and encourage natural regeneration.

In 2006 Rem Veg were awarded a grant through Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments group (FRCC) and the Fitzroy Basin Association to raise community awareness of the problem and undertake weed control within this bushland reserve along Limestone Creek

As raising community awareness was part of the project a public bus trip was arranged as an education tool. Local property owners were particularly invited because as they also had cat's claw on their land it was hoped to involve them in the eradication project

Limestone Creek Reserve

Livingstone Remnant Vegetation Study

Guided tour Saturday 4th March 2006



The Limestone Ck Water & Camping Reserve is located on the Old Byfield Road, approximately 11 km NW of Yeppoon. The triangular reserve is bordered on the eastern side by Limestone Creek. See map overleaf. Its area is 18.8 hectares. Livingstone Shire Council is trustee for the reserve. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for water management and allocation of water from Limestone Creek.

The site has historical importance as Yeppoon's first water supply and a significant crossing on the original road to Byfield. Water was pumped from the waterhole on Limestone Creek, for the town of Yeppoon until 1946, when pipes were extended to Waterpark Ck at Byfield.

The vegetation is a tall Poplar gum (*Eucalyptus platyphylla*) woodland with rainforest understorey grading into a riparian closed forest of Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium australe*) with She-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*). Vegetation in the rest of the reserve is diverse, including melaleuca wetlands and spotted gum hilltops.

The reserve was identified by Rem Veg Group as a significant site for the multiple environmental values it supports. There is enough intact streambank vegetation to provide habitat for fauna and flora that perform biological roles in the stream ecosystem. These roles include keeping water clean, preventing stream bank erosion, providing fish habitat, and food for residents, downstream animals and migratory birds. The Limestone Ck/Corduroy Ck catchment is one of the major water catchments in the SE of Livingstone Shire, starting in the Mt Wheeler region and dispersing into the Green Lake flood plain. It has a number of reserves along its path and has intact vegetation adjoining its course.

Cat's claw creeper is spreading in the reserve and there is an urgent need to prevent this weed from destroying the vegetation and spreading through the catchment. Cat's claw vine is an environmental pest in Queensland, classified as a Class 3 pest under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*.

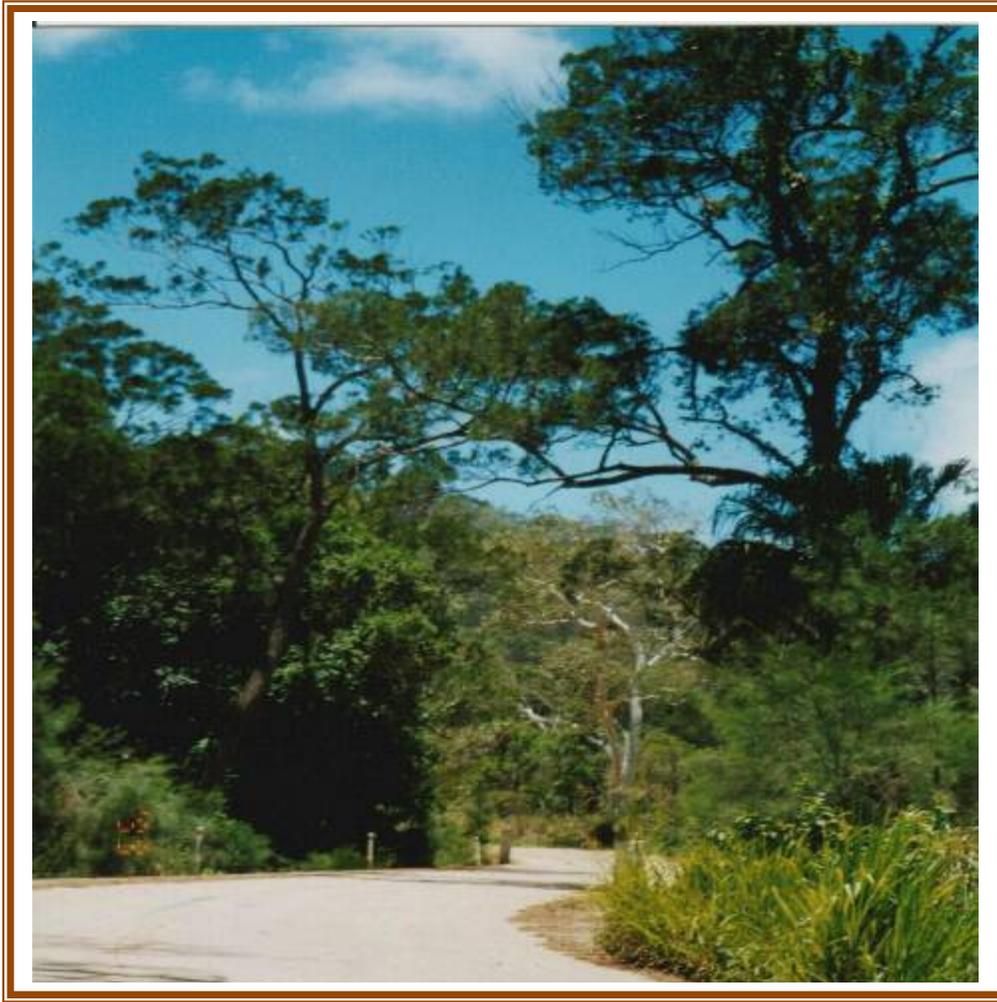
This project is part of the Neighbourhood Catchment Action Plan for Woodbury-Bungundarra. The Livingstone Remnant Vegetation Study, sponsored by Greening Australia Queensland, will receive funds through the Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments group (FRCC) and the Fitzroy Basin Association to raise awareness and undertake weed control within this bushland reserve along Limestone Creek.



Cat's claw creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) a rampant woody climber with showy yellow bell-shaped flowers. The three-clawed tendrils are distinctive and suggestive of its common name, native to tropical America; this plant was introduced as an ornamental and is still found in gardens. It has become a problematic weed due to its rampant growth which often smothers tall trees. It is difficult to eradicate because of its tuberous root system



Road Crossing limestone Creek



Invitation to join Bus Tour

Explore Limestone Creek

Water & Camping Reserve

Saturday 4th March 8am - 10am



Free guided tour by the Livingstone Remnant Vegetation Study. Depart Yeppoon, from the Railway Station, James Street at 8 am. Morning tea provided.

Located 11 km North West of Yeppoon, the reserve was Yeppoon's first water supply. A significant area of remnant vegetation and fauna habitat, including paperbark wetlands, spotted gum hills, poplar gums with rainforest and stream bank vegetation of Lilly Pilly and She-oak.

Limestone / Corduroy Creek is a major water catchment in Livingstone Shire. This project is part of the Neighbourhood Catchment Action Plan for Woodbury Bungundarra. Community volunteers tackle environmental weeds within the reserve. See how Cats Claw vine threatens to destroy vegetation along the creek. Sponsored by Greening Australia - Queensland and funded by the Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments group and Fitzroy Basin Association.

Book your place on phone 4923 7542 or 0400 256554



Between 2005 and 2009 a great deal of effort was put into planning, administration and on ground work by all those involved. And two reports were produced.

Manual and Chemical Eradication of Cat's Claw at Limestone creek
Biological Control of Cat's Claw at Limestone Creek

Much was accomplished over the four years but unfortunately Cat's Claw is so aggressive and invasive that there is still work to do. We have been told that a new Bio-Control agent is on the horizon and we are waiting impatiently to hear more.

In the interim the community Nursery "Bug Breeding" enclosure is still being maintained and we are trying, in conjunction with Rockhampton Regional Council, to deal with ongoing site management issues.

Dumping of garden waste is a perennial problem and it can be due to a number of factors. Some people genuinely believe that they are helping to nurture the bush, but dumping can also be due to unwillingness to drive to the Council Green Waste dump or the cost of a visit to it.

No matter what the reason, it is up to anyone who knows about and cares for bushland, to pass on the message that dumping of garden waste is a major cause of spread of exotic plants and consequent degradation of native habitat.

Dumping of general waste, vehicle damage and careless camp sites are more difficult problems to solve as all those who do it know that it is wrong. They take great care not to be detected and don't seem to care about the damage they are doing.

What all of the people involved in these problem activities fail to appreciate is that not only are they undoing hours of effort of volunteers but also probably importing on their vehicles the next crop of recalcitrant weed species.

There is a need for improved tracks on site and further signage and to encourage bush walkers and visitors to be able to use the site in the proper way and possibly to educate the careless but not criminal dumpers.