



Summary Report on funds received
by **ReForest Now**
from **Ecosia**

Trees Planted: **26, 000**

(6,799 in invoice 1, 6,600 in invoice 2, 6,600 in invoice 3 and 6,001 in invoice 4)



ReForest Now was registered with the Australian Government in January 2018. From then we began the hard work of establishing a Not for Profit with virtually no startup funds, seeking small grants and community donations.

We were approached by **Ecosia** in response to the Australian Bushfires of 2019 and ramped up our development and response to the ecological crisis facing Australia with your partnership.

We had seen that for the first time Australian rainforests were invaded by bushfires meaning that the wettest most fire resistant ecosystems on the driest inhabited continent of the world were now under threat.

In the time we have known you, we have become a medium sized charity and increased to 16 staff, despite the threat of Covid 19. This is owing in significant part to the support of Ecosia.

Please enjoy our full report on the outcomes achieved, we will give an summary of the past 4 reports and an overall macro view.

Prepared by Maximo Bottaro on behalf of ReForest Now

Summary of Deliverables



Figure 1 Tashi Maizey – Nursery Director (left), Conan Rei - Director (center) and Michael Martin – Co-Founder and Vice President of ReForest Now (right) with new hole drilling machinery purchased with Ecosia support. These drills are extremely important to us – each machine drilling up to 500 holes per work day.

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- 10, 000 pots.
 - 500 trays to hold 20 trees per tray.
 - Stihl BT 131 Augers (left two machines pictured above).
 - Drilling shafts for augers (seen above).
 - Box trailer (pictured below).
 - 6,799 rainforest trees planted *GPS coordinates, locations and species used described in detail in previous reports.
 - 6,600 trees planted in Invoice 2 *.
 - 6,660 trees planted in Invoice 3 *.
 - 6,001 trees planted in Invoice 4 *.



Figure 2 ReForest Now crew with trailer purchased with Ecosia support. We use this to transport trees and also provide a mobile tank of water crystal and fertilizer to sites.



Figure 3 Josh Fry Hall - Youth Director and Maximo Bottaro – CEO, stand amongst the new and utilized pots, growing more trees than ever - supplied by Ecosia.

Tree plantings (summarised)

- **26, 000 trees planted.**

Michael Martin - Cofounder of RN with a seedling rainforest tree, planting in fire affected areas. *note - by planting rainforest here in an area that was dry and weedy before, it will be far less likely to burn in future as the moist rainforest ecosystem establishes*



How rainforests resist fire.

- Vines stop the flow of drying air through the rainforest edge, keeping the inside wet.
- Thick, multilayered tree canopy retains ground moisture as no direct sun at all pierces a complete rainforest canopy, this also stops embers from floating in and starting ground fires.
- The moist, fungal, thick leaf litter is permanently damp, meaning that floating embers from nearby fires is unlikely to ignite the forest floor.
- Around half the rainforest species can pump water through their bodily systems as an adaptation to super wet climates, as such they can wilt and shrivel instead of catching on fire.
- Recycle water in the atmosphere with bacterial and fungal symbiosis to increase local rainforest, inhibiting dry conditions that start fires.

All tree plantings by Suburb of Byron Byron, Northern New South Wales, Australia.

Invoice 1.

Goonengerry	08/03/2020	1,479 trees
Mullumbimby	20/03/2020	979 trees
Mullumbimby	21/03.2020	250 trees
Wanganui	27/03/2020	757 trees
Wangnanui	02/04.2020	945 trees
Federal	18/04/2020	2,389 trees

Invoice 2.

Myocum	10/06/2020	724 trees
Myocum	18/06/2020	1,035 trees
Main arm	02/05/2020	348 trees
Federal	28/04/2020	178 trees
Federal	01/06/2020	
	08/06/2020	
	09/06/2020	
	20/06/2020	3,390 trees
Goonengerry	06/06/2020	925 trees

Invoice 3.

Federal	02/10/2020	
	-16/10/2020	6,600 trees

Invoice 4.

Federal	11/12/2020	930 trees
Federal	18/12/2020	2,020 trees
Federal	19/12/2020	1,498 trees
Federal	23/12/2020	1,553 trees

Discussion

A) How are our trees protected?

I ReForest Now plants only Critically Endangered Lowland Subtropical Rainforest. This ecosystem type is entirely considered protected, meaning any tree within it, endangered species or not, cannot be touched. We have seen instances where land developers in Byron Bay need permission to remove one single tree from a common species from this ecosystem and the cost can be 20, 000 AUD to 40, 000 AUD per tree. This is the reality for common species here, in this endangered ecological community. If a person was to remove 1,000 trees of your 26, 000 the fines and criminal sentencing would be dramatic and there is no precedent for that level of environmental abuse here in Byron Bay.

“The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 provides that the maximum penalty for illegal tree removal or destruction in breach of the Act is a fine of \$1.1 million and a further fine of \$110,000 for each day that the offence is continuing”

II The next step is land use limitations assessment. We look at property development assessments and use of land and determine if any of our trees could be removed for the development of housing or other. For this reason, we have been planting on properties that have several dwellings pre-established or set development plans for several dwellings that mean there can be no later additional dwellings. Simply put, we work on sites where we know the owners can't keep building.

III We have learned from other rainforest regenerators a trick to always keep our customers honest, no matter what MoU we have, or what intention they have. We plant endangered species into our works so that regardless of the change of ownership, the endangered trees will establish and be completely unremovable. The government ruling at current for endangered tree species states that they may not be removed if over 2 meters tall. As rainforest regenerators we establish that within 3 years maximum.

IV Ongoing site assessments, photography and presence. Our primary marketing will be the forests that we grow, as such, we need to keep visiting those and keeping in contact with site owners where we plant. This ongoing relationship is a further reminder that the planted forests must be treated with respect.

B) How are the trees looking after a few months?

We got in a helicopter with the owners of 375 Coorabel Rd on the **25th of May 2020** and took this video directly above the Wilson's River on their property where many, many of your trees were later planted.

You can see a dead patch of grass in the distance where one of your very first plantings with us happened (from 18 to 20 seconds video time).

<https://www.facebook.com/2257038301249873/videos/178788786807643>

Here's a photo of that same patch of trees now, planted on the 28th of March 2020. Virtually all of them have survived. A near perfect result.



C) What Endangered Species were worked with?

While restoring rainforest on the ecologically strong Wilson's River we are indirectly supporting 25 known species of endangered plants and animals in that area. In a direct sense though, this project helped the below species.

Arrow-head vine (*Syngonium podophyllum*)

An endangered vine species we've not worked with before. It occurs on the 375 Coorabel Rd site near the Wilsons River in the forest remnants we've been working on.



Figure 4 The compound leaves of the Arrow-head vine

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10809>

Thorny Pea (*Desmodium acanthocladium*)

These bright purple flower endangered shrubs grow along the stretch of the Wilsons river between 213, 315 and 375 Coorabel Rd. Your plantings will thicken and protect their habitat.



Figure 5 Thorny pea in flower

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10218>

Rough Shelled Bush Nut (*Macadamia tetraphylla*)

Have you ever eaten Macadamia nuts from Australia? They were created by breeding of native nuts like this species. There are several of these rare trees amongst your plantings in Federal at 315 and 375 Coorabel Rd.



Figure 6 The large fruits of the *Macadamia tetraphylla*

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10499>

Richmond Birdwing Butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*)

We especially grow the host vines for these butterflies in our nursery and incorporate them into the plantings. Your site at 375 Coorabel Rd contains these vines in 16.1 hectares of forest we have been restoring, your forests will almost double the habitat for these incredible creatures in that location. Once your forests are established, we'll add more birdwing vines to it also as we know they are living there.

Here's a video we took of their mating dance at a planting site!

<https://www.facebook.com/2257038301249873/videos/2872782052813696>



Figure 7 Mature male Birdwing Butterfly



Figure 8 Our birdwing vines at your last planting going in the ground

<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/threatened-species/featured-threatened-species-projects/richmond-birdwing-butterfly>

Pink Underwing Moth (*Phylloides imperialis*)

One of the most endangered creatures in Australia. We also found abundant Carronia vines at the 375 Coorabel Rd site, which they are known to ONLY live on. The case for expanding and growing a large rainforest around these existing vines is the same as for the birdwing vines, more habitat for the moths to expand and breed into.



Figure 9 Pink Underwing Moth larvae are terrifying, just as well to keep things from trying to eat them!

We've been growing vines for these guys and trying to help them for a while
<https://www.reforestnow.org.au/?wix-vod-video-id=37081db0990149be8cfc84ed43073524&wix-vod-comp-id=comp-kdtsxhqk>

Here's a video our friends at Land for Wildlife took of the larval moth scaring off predators. <https://www.facebook.com/2257038301249873/videos/2397712623797914>

Red Bopplenut (*Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia*)

These giant red fruited trees grow on the Federal sites where you have had us planting trees. There's just a few clusters of them left in Australia and together we're securing this stand on the Wilsons river!



Figure 10 Have you ever eaten a 'Golden Gaytime' icecream?

The flowers of this tree smell just like that, a very specific version of caramel flavor and highly enjoyable.

Species List

Below are the species used in your plantings in 2019.

Species	Height (m)	Species	Height (m)
White beech (<i>gmelia leichartii</i>)	60	Macaranga (<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>)	12
Brown beech (<i>Pennantia cunninghamii</i>)	30	Bleeding Heart (<i>homolanthus populofolius</i>)	8
Gardinia (<i>actinocarpa</i>)	10	Walking Stick Palm (<i>Linospadix monostachya</i>)	4
Blue quandong (<i>Eleocharpus grandis</i>)	50	Red Apple (<i>syzigium ingens</i>)	40
Red Kamala (<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>)	20	Black Apple (<i>Pouteria australis</i>)	30
Yellow Kamala (<i>Mallotus discolor</i>)	10	Purple cherry (<i>Syzygium crebrenerve</i>)	35
Native Tamarind (<i>diploglottis australis</i>)	35	Water fern (<i>blechnum minus</i>)	1
Red cedar (<i>Toona ciliata</i>)	50	Green Bolly Gum (<i>Neolitzia dealbata</i>)	12
Cheese tree (<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>)	8	Orange thorn (<i>pittosporum spp.</i>)	2
Commersonia (<i>Brown Kurrajong</i>)	8	Red Bean (<i>disoxylum mollissimum molle</i>)	35
<i>Syzygium oleosum</i> (Blue lilly pilly)	15	(<i>Wilkea astroqueenslandica</i>)	5
Pepper berry (<i>cryptocarya obovata</i>)	40	<i>Guioa semiglauca</i>	20
Native frangipani (<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>)	10	Grey Walnut (<i>Beilshmeidia elliptica</i>)	30
Forest sandpaper fig (<i>ficus fraserii</i>)	15	Spear Lilly (<i>Doryanthes palmeri</i>)	3
Creek sandpaper fig (<i>ficus coronata</i>)	15	Tree Fern (<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>)	15
Bangalow Palm (<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>)	25	Flame Tree (<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>)	35
Sweet pittosporum (<i>pittosporum undulatum</i>)	15	Koda (<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>)	
Hairy walnut (<i>Endiandra pubens</i>)	25	Small Leaved Tamarind (<i>Diploglottis australe</i>)	30
Yellow pear fruit (<i>Mischocarpus piriformis</i>)	18	<i>Cryptocarya erythroxyton</i>	
<i>Lomandra hystrix</i>	2	<i>Cryptocarya glaucescens</i>	
<i>Cordyline rubra</i>	5	<i>Podocarpus elatus</i>	
<i>Cordyline stricta</i>	5	<i>Planchonella australis</i>	
Native ginger (<i>Alpinia caerulea</i>)	3	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	
<i>Paraaristoclocia praevenosa</i>	vine	<i>Carronia multifsepalea</i>	vine
<i>Cissus antarcticus</i>	vine	Davidson Plum (<i>Davidsonia jerseyana</i>)	
(Snow wood) <i>Parachidendron pruinosum</i>			

Next steps

We'd like to continue planting for you in the near future. Our tree planting season is at it's best between late December and late April.

As such, we'd like to get started on our 2021 plantings with partners such as yourselves as soon as possible to make for the best growth conditions and survivability.

As we understand it, Ecosia would like to work with us again in 2021 on a reduced budget compared to 2019. We see this as two separate arrangements.

- A) A new contract and planting effort in early 2021 with Ecosia support.

- B) The production of a fundraising video by ReForest Now for Ecosia's fundraising purposes, however this would not occur in January 2021 as the details are still being fleshed out. The hope being, that additional funds could be generated for tree planting with ReForest Now, sometime in 2021.

We are very lucky to have this opportunity come along early in our development and on behalf of everyone on the team, we're very happy to be partnered to Ecosia, with your excellent global reputation.

If you'd like to discuss anything further, please contact the CEO at info@reforestnow.org.au or +61415 134 941 (*direct Australian number*).

Yours Sincerely,

Signed: Maximo Bottaro - CEO & Cofounder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maximo Bottaro', with a stylized flourish at the end.