



Nursery Upgrades



\$20,000 donated on May 10th 2023

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ReForest Now is registered as a charity with
the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits
Commission (ACNC). NSW License Number: CFN 24812.

Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.



We acknowledge the the Aboriginal People of the
Bundjalung Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land
we work on and thank them for protecting ecosystems since
time immemorial.

OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

A workspace that nourishes our growth

The ReForest Now nursery is intrinsic to our operations, being situated in the heart of Mullumbimby, it is an anchor in the local community providing us with an ideal location for both RN staff and the wider community to integrate with our services.

It's where it all starts, from locating and collecting the seeds across a genetically diverse range of species scattered throughout the Big Scrub remnants, through to propagation and development, resulting in enhanced resilience and excellent early-stage development, giving ReForest Now's plants the best start out in the big world.

Providing a space that is welcoming, accessible and comfortable for staff and community members, allows us to streamline our services whilst welcoming further integration and greater involvement from outside entities.

Some challenges addressed

In 2021, our nursery operations were heavily impacted by the unprecedented floods, prompting us to rebuild and adapt our workspaces so they would be safer, increase efficiencies and more resilient to future climatic stress events.

Following this, our nursery in Mullumbimby was put back in action with reduced functionality, limiting potential output for the approaching planting season and subsequently putting a strain on available resources and limiting efficient processes.

We had outgrown our home and SAP answered our call!

Through your generous support in May '23, we were able to engage a local design and small build specialist contractor who has been pivotal to achieving these outcomes at a fraction of the commercial value for which most other clients would usually pay.

Your support has enabled us to surpass our own expectations for not just a workshop, but for a functioning hub where our staff and the wider community can support each other to restore the Big Scrub rainforest and deliver a safer, more inviting and comfortable nursery for all to enjoy.

A fruitful relationship

Hello,

I'm Sam! Prior to my first planting day with ReForest Now in Clunes earlier this year, I had been feeling frustrated at the wasteful and ingenuine nature of the building industry, having chipped away at the sustainable building dream for over 10 years.

RN first engaged my building services to renovate and revamp Tunnel One which had fallen into a state of disrepair following the floods, and to design and build two access bridges spanning the creek, to address two major health and safety hazards.

Delivering these projects felt right by the soul, assisting a not-for-profit through upgrading their facilities and therefore providing a safer space for their plants and employees was an appreciated change of pace.

Following the successful delivery of these projects, I was asked if I would be interested in undertaking a major renovation within the space and designing a new workshop that would reflect the company's growth and working practices.

Sustainable building design

Having received the opportunity to redesign the workshop meant understanding how RN employees use the existing space and how it might be adapted to address future requirements.

The use of a clerestory roof design allowed for natural air flow to cool the space whilst allowing the low winter sun to enter the space and blocking out the harsh summer light through the use of long overhanging eaves.

Recycled materials were used wherever possible as a major focus to my approach.

Future growth possibilities

Having the honour to work so intrinsically with a charity such as RN and to assist in optimising their spaces to better reflect the amazing work they're doing has been so rewarding and to further assist in future works and projects would be a great pleasure.

There are several other nursery upgrades I have in mind that could increase the scale and public value of the nursery. My goal is to increase production and make us more sustainable by generating our own revenue by making the nursery attractive to sell to the public.

- Sam Cater

BUDGET SUMMARY

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DATE COMPLETED		OUTCOMES ACHIEVED	COST OF MATERIALS	COST OF LABOUR	TOTAL
REFOREST NOW IN-KIND	03.02.2023	Tunnel 1 - stripout, flooring preparation and repairs to greenhouse drainage	\$520.00	\$1360	\$1880
	09.02.2023	Tunnel 1 - Bench upgrade using sustainably sourced Australian durable hardwoods	\$1390.00	\$1587.50	\$2977.50
	17.02.2023	Tunnel 1 -Replacement of centre bracing member, re-tension roof and bench tops	\$1148.00	\$555	\$1703
	24.02.2023	Bridge 1 - Sustainably sourced, mixed Australian hardwoods	\$488.50	\$800	\$1288.50
	06.03.2023	Bridge 1 - Footbridge spanning creek/swale to create safer access	\$800.00	\$890	\$1690
	20.03.2023	Bridge 2 - Version 2.0, bigger, better and safer still made sustainable hardwoods	\$129.00	\$900	\$1029
	06.04.2023	Bridge 2 - Final touches to both bridges, increased accessibility and tip run	\$144.80	\$320	\$464.80
	Total Value of ReForest Now in-kind contribution \$9,347.10				
SAP GRANT	12.05.2023	Solar Shed accessibility upgrade, planter bench repairs and greenhouse roller doors	\$138.00	\$600	\$738
	24.05.2023	Modification to power supply safety in nursery and safer access to greenhouses	\$187.90	\$860	\$1136.90
	30.05.2023	Design and build of new site directional signage	\$440.00	\$200	\$640
	30.06.2023	Misc tasks - Front gate repair, Fire Hydrant and First Aid install and workshop meeting	\$65.00	\$260	\$325
	06.07.2023	Workshop Design and Cost plus collection of recycled materials for roof structure	\$601.00	\$320	\$921
	12.07.2023	Solar shed clean and organisation, irrigation retention experiment and seed shed access	\$96.40	\$360	\$456.40
	21.07.2023	Tunnel 2 irrigation setup, recycled material collection and site expansion meeting	\$41.20	\$280	\$321.20
	07.08.2023	Bridge 1 Safety Rails and on-street directional signage	\$42.00	\$475	\$517
	14.08.2023	Workshop design and materials - all recycled, repurposed materials sourced	\$6340.00	\$600	\$6868
	18.08.2023	Workshop construction labour in processing and assembly of roof structure	\$65.00	\$2292.50	\$2357.50
	22.08.2023	Workshop roof construction labour to erect and fix off bracing members and roof sheets	\$0.00	\$2792.50	\$2792.50
	04.09.2023	Workshop roof completion, misc tasks, clean up and tip run	\$42.00	\$580	\$622
	12.09.2023	Misc tasks final hardwood bracing members, cyclone strap and safety footings to Bridge 1	\$109.00	\$1030	\$1139
	15.09.2023	Workshop Benches and expansion site remediation works for safer access	\$112.00	\$1175	\$1287
	\$20,000 Grant from SAP Received				

GALLERY - Workshop



James and Maximo enjoying the workshop whilst the rain sprinkles outside, both individuals well above 6 foot, can easily fit under the space without feeling too tight or getting a wet back.



The workshop entrance beginning to take shape, including new recycled site signage in the foreground.

Some future amendments we intend to make include; moving the existing soil storage bay to showcase our stock and increase ease of access to space, in addition to optimising the seed storage/processing structure to a Point of Sales hub.

GALLERY - Workshop



Maximo and Pierre discuss sale pot sizes.



Workbenches created from old workshop



Increased sight lines and pathways



Blue Quandong (*eleocarpus angustifolius*) seeds awaiting processing and propagation.



Clerestory roof design enables the light to pass through the middle of the workshop without allowing water to get in - a natural skylight.

GALLERY - Accessibility Upgrades



Bridge 2, adjacent to the Solar Shed was built from sustainably sourced Aussie hardwoods and enables safe access to our site expansion area.

The nature of this site is that when it rains, even a few mm of rain, this drainage swale, or creek, swells and inhibits safe or dry access between sites.

The design of the bridges was to have as little impact on the waterway as possible whilst providing a sturdy, safe footbridge for people and plants to cross.

Timbers have been left un-oiled to leach tannins and grey off before final cleaning and sealing for the approaching summer heat. This is to optimise the grip and durability of hardwood.



In 2022, RN signed an expansion agreement that would grant access to a vacant lot of land adjacent to our existing nursery.

This site has poor drainage and was previously a low, boggy water catchment. Through the efficient use of 2 men for a day the major low-water retaining pit was filled in with free, organic fill received from a local residential renovation.

GALLERY - Tunnel One Upgrades



Improved roller doors utilising existing materials and the harvesting of bamboo from the clumping bamboo behind the workshop. A simple roll and hang method was incorporated with a garage hanger from the tip shop. This method has been used on each of the tunnel doors.



Before and after photos in Tunnel 1 show the space being completely utilised and much easier to manage weed regrowth through the use of weed matting and better surface water runoff.

Thank you!



Together, we can bring back the rainforest.

