

Ninas Gate : (Piers and Nadia...and D'D' volunteers) 8/25

Aim: To keep a clear view of the river and replant appropriate bird friendly natives ...with minimum use of insecticide.

“Ninas Springs”- Towards cement stack
from ‘sawn’ seat - Years 2 and 3



(Below - from the other side)



From dense to cleared Privet

This is
working



our fourth year
on the town-

side patch below Fern st (opposite squash club) . Slow progress !.. but the privet is ‘observed’ and the thirty or so surviving trees from Planet Ark are still standing.....all clawing for light.

Regeneration and privet removal from ‘Ninas Springs’ (there are four or five depending on the rain !)... from Fern St to Hilda’s Pool has been in a ‘too-hard basket’ for years. One reason has been a theory that forest birds might over time, drop viable native seed from the nearby parks into the privet. This has not happened. The six surviving natives are all survivors from last years plantings. Nadia and I have seen 12 cockatoos on the very dead hollow shell of a giant and rotten cottonwood .There are small birds and the ducks are still regular Only privet and willow trees (whose roots will not support them) remain. Ticks and rat sign yes... but no skinks, frogs or lizards. There are Spring flows from the squash court ‘bowl’ that runoff across and around the “Dont Mow” patch.

It takes weeks of dry to become a trickle and flows most of the year. The combination of waterlogged soil, active flow, seasonal flooding as well as existing shade cover and

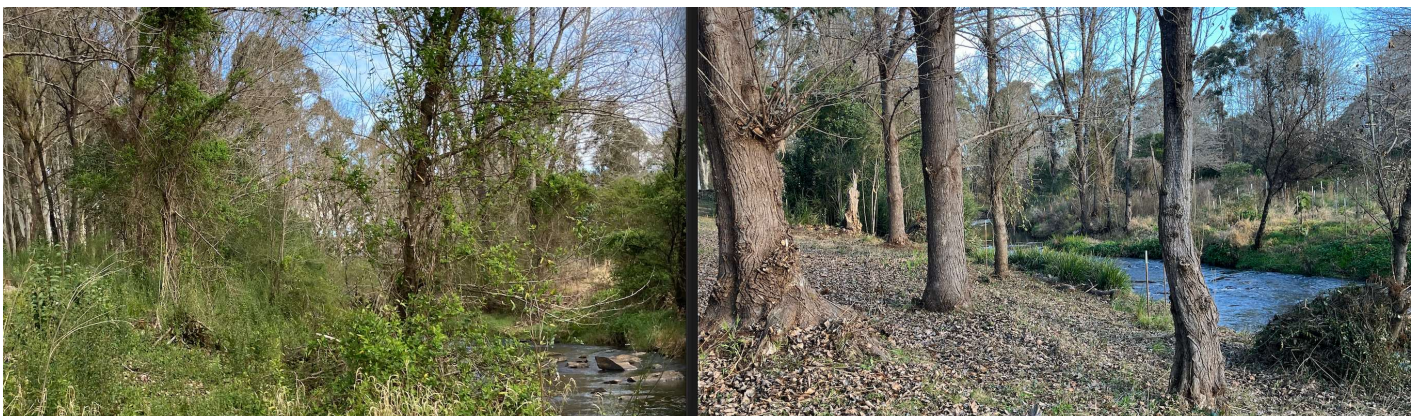


occasional frosts give us either.... a beast !....Or an opportunity to rid the patch of invasive (privet, elder, poplar and willow) and to try to plant bird attractant native shrubs...not trees, into the two deep soil pockets that currently sustain the dead or dying shells of four trees..... Finally, plant ground cover into current grass and bracken.

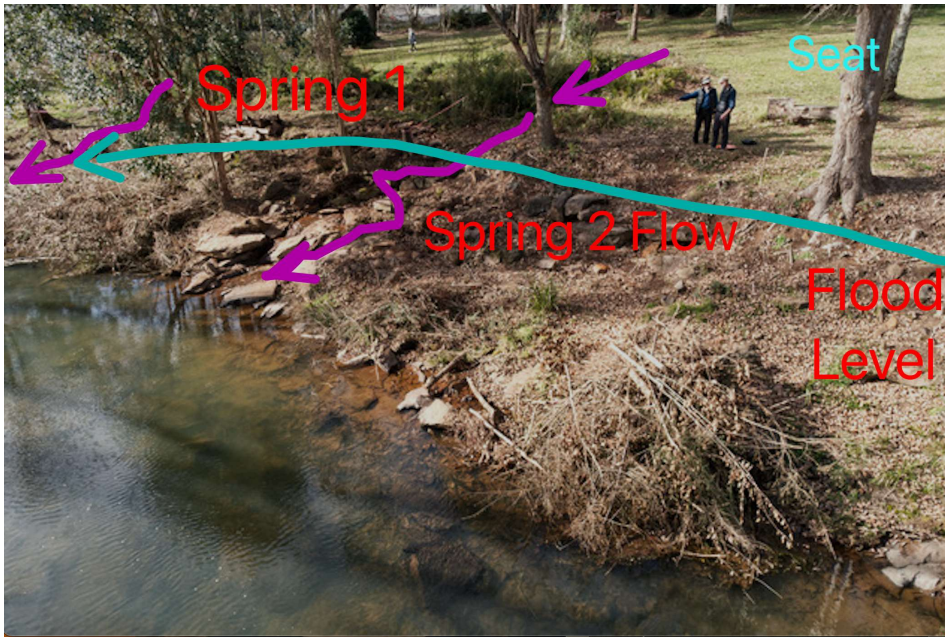
If we are aiming to create Habitat and deter foot traffic (the clay compresses when wet) I suggest use of thorny varieties around the edge (probably too wet for needlefish) and backed by callistemon,hakea,grevillea wherever there is enough sun. I will look at nurseries for likely myrtles and know that Nadia is also working on a Dandarrga based contribution. Lomandra should take onto of the springs edging rock and will be an important way of keeping back both privet types.

The organic privet pulling will continue with only 300mls of glyph used (Dril'n'drip) in three years. Before planting, we plan to use the new saw to build 'log defined' raised mounds (mature mulch in Parkes st -permission granted-. /trailer electrics damaged too !) until established.

We have left four medium size broadleaf privet in case shade plants are planned. I have lists of possibilities but availability will probably define our first replant !



(4 years ago..... and last year)



The two main aims before planting: are to channel the flow of spring 2, using available rock and also

to establish positioned mulch beds to raise the root systems out of the wet patches.



There are small rocks (See left).....BUT.....

Larger rocks (as there were in 1988 background : see pic above, with red arrow) would look better and define a deeper drainage channel. They would support pockets of raised soil in which to plant too. The excavation of the

helicopter pad produced these beauties. Being smooth but irregular they would not shift .The Golf club and Mark O' have possible rock supplies (best practice?)



Grok seems good....despite most recommendations needing full sun. Midgen berry anyone ?

native shrubs for waterlogged soil dorriggo plateaux new

The Dorrigo Plateau in New South Wales, with its high rainfall (around 2,000 mm annually) and often heavy, clay-rich, or poorly drained soils, presents unique challenges for plant selection. Native shrubs that tolerate waterlogged or heavy soils are ideal for this region, as they can handle periodic inundation or consistently moist conditions while thriving in the local climate (Köppen Cfb, oceanic/highland subtropical). Below is a list of native shrubs suited to waterlogged soils on the Dorrigo Plateau, based on their adaptability to heavy, wet soils and the region's conditions. [en.wikipedia.org](#) [en.wikipedia.org](#)

Recommended Native Shrubs for Waterlogged Soils on the Dorrigo Plateau

- Melaleuca species (Paperbarks and Honey Myrtles)**
 - Examples:** *Melaleuca incana* (dwarf form 'Seamist'), *Melaleuca viridiflora*, *Melaleuca armillaris* 'Pink', *Melaleuca linariifolia* (Snowstorm, Snowflake).
 - Why Suitable:** Many *Melaleuca* species thrive in wet soils, including temporary inundation, and are resilient to the Dorrigo Plateau's wet climate. They tolerate heavy clay soils and can handle both wet and dry spells. *Melaleuca incana* 'Seamist' is a madium shrub with soft grey foliage, ideal for damp areas, while *Melaleuca linariifolia* cultivars like Snowflake and Snowstorm cope well with wet and cold conditions. [australianplantsonline.com.au](#) [melaleucadesign.com.au](#)
 - Features:** Attractive foliage, papery bark, and creamy to pink flowers. Sizes range from 1-6 m, depending on the species.
 - Care:** Plant in full sun to partial shade. Prune to maintain shape. Ensure soil has some aeration to avoid long-term root suffocation.
- Callistemon species (Bottlebrushes)**
 - Examples:** *Callistemon viminalis* 'Slim', *Callistemon salignus* (Pink Tips), *Callistemon* 'Genoa Glory', 'Pink Champagne', 'Endeavour', 'Hannah Ray', 'Green John', 'Prolific'.
 - Why Suitable:** Bottlebrushes are highly adaptable to clay and waterlogged soils, thriving in the Dorrigo Plateau's moist conditions. *Callistemon viminalis* 'Slim' is a narrow form ideal for screening, while *Callistemon salignus* tolerates wet coastal conditions, which aligns with the plateau's high rainfall. [australianplantsonline.com.au](#) [melaleucadesign.com.au](#) [arbox.org.au](#)
 - Features:** Vibrant red, pink, or white flower spikes in spring/summer, attracting birds and bees. Heights range from 1-3 m.
 - Care:** Prefers full sun. Water regularly during establishment, but they are drought-tolerant once

Dons Patch:

Grass cleared from roots .All trees upright after flooding.... and in need of mulch.
The fern didn't make it.... but Ninas is calling out...!