

## Cloudlands Field Day – giving nature a kick-start

Ever wondered how to speed up rainforest regeneration? We certainly have! Replanting rainforest is a slow and expensive business, and many friends of the Wet Tropics are keen to find more cost-effective ways to speed up regeneration. Local nature refuge owner, Dave Hudson, volunteered his property for scientific trials as part of the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Making Connections project (funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country programme).



*Dave Hudson points out revegetated areas on a map of his property*

Cloudlands is a private nature refuge in the Southern Atherton Tablelands, which protects high-altitude rainforest in an area scientists have identified as being a critical climate refuge for plants and animals threatened by rising temperatures. About 40 people came along to a field day on Saturday 25 August to see how things are going, and inspired by what they saw, some are already trying things out on their own properties!

Professor Carla Catterall of Griffith University demonstrated the work she's been carrying out with Kylie Freebody to trial more cost-effective ways of converting pasture to rainforest by giving nature a kick-start. The trials are still in the early stages, but early indications are that suppressing grasses through use of herbicides, and erecting bird perches and watering points can help to speed up natural regeneration. Birds like rainforest pigeons and pied currawongs play an important role in helping spread rainforest seeds.

It takes many years for replanted forest to begin to function like a mature rainforest and attract creatures that occupy holes in trees or decaying logs on the ground. Past research has focused on the addition of nest boxes and den sites for tree-dwelling animals, with little research done on how to create microhabitats for small ground-dwelling animals, like insects, frogs, and skinks. However, Dr Luke Shoo, of the University of Queensland (with assistance from Dr Rohan Wilson and Conservation Volunteers Australia) has been creating microhabitats for animals that like cool, dark, damp places, by adding piles of logs and old fence posts to regeneration areas. Early results are very promising, with target species, like prickly forest skinks, quickly taking up residence.



[CORPORATE HOME](#)

conserving | sharing | enriching

[HOME](#) [MEDIA](#) [ABOUT US](#) [CONTACT US](#) [SEARCH](#)

[• Sitemap](#) [• Privacy Policy](#) [• Right to Information](#) [• Disclaimer](#) [• Copyright](#)



[Like us on Facebook](#)