## **Upper Redwood Park (adjacent Prince Henry Drive)**

Tom Esplin

## Work completed past 12 months

The focus over the past 12 months has been:

- a. Keeping recently cleared areas weed free
- b. Extending clearing and regenerating activities down PHD towards Lovers Outlook
- a. Areas cleared between 2020 and 2023 cover around 20,000 m2 or 2 ha. These areas have been cleared of dense lantana and privet. These areas are patrolled at least monthly (more often in growing season) and kept weed free through the use of Starane for broadleaf, and manual pulling in the case of panic grass, lantana and privet regrowth. The exhausting of the weed seed bank is starting to become evident, with germination of cobblers pegs, blackberry nightshade, fleabane and thistle becoming less and less common. These areas are flourishing with new growth of dry rainforest species including grasses and ground covers, understory and canopy trees.
- b. New clearing has commenced further down PHD, with a large section of clearing taking place near the gate exiting the loop section. The lantana and privet growth is extremely dense, evidencing many decades of neglect, and clearing is tedious and slow. However scattered amongst the dense infestation are numerous rainforest seedlings previously starved of light. These will no doubt thrive with the additional light and moisture.

The streetscape along the length of PHD for several hundred metres looks amazing, having been transformed from degraded scrub consisting predominantly of panic grass, lantana and privet to native dry rainforest margin. Red cedar, kamala, box-leaved canthium, fig, celerywood, pittosporum, native elm, and native olive figure prominently amongst the regrowth.

## Work targeted next 12 months

The plan is to continue clearing a wide section of Redwood Park adjacent to PHD, down to and around Lovers Outlook. This will incorporate a section of the parkland opposite Lovers Outlook.

In addition to these new areas, around 20% of time will be focused on maintaining previously cleared areas and keeping them weed free.