

Talk given by Bev Yates on October 4 Open Day

The Miyawaki method of creating a Microforest is unique in that it re-creates the conditions for a mature, natural forest to arise within decades rather than centuries.

- At the heart of the method is the identification of a combination of endemic plants. The Miyawaki method calls for planting native species but not just any natives – it needs local native species. For this microforest, the choice was easy because we were planting adjacent to Hancock Street Bushland Park and we were able to collect seeds and cuttings which Crows Nest Community Nursery then propagated for us.
- Improving the site's soil quality and planting densely to mimic a mature natural forest is an important part of the method. For a Miyawaki microforest the standard planting density is three plants per square metre.
- Mulching is a critical component
- It's also necessary to lightly maintain the site over the first three years – which can include weeding and watering.
- The site also needs access to water

The trees grow quickly, as much as one metre per year. They survive at very high rates and they sequester carbon more readily than single species plantations.

Once established (two – three years) Miyawaki microforests are generally self-sufficient and need no maintenance of any sort - no pruning, no watering, no fertilizing and no pest control – ever.

A Microforest can be planted in an area as small as 3.6 x 3.6 metres - approx.. 13 sq. metres. However, a minimum total area of 70 sq. metres is recommended to get the full immersive feeling.

The first planting took place in April 2023 and now two and a half years later we have this flourishing forest.