



Big Scrub Landcare

Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group Award

Over 23 years Big Scrub Landcare's mission has been to help save lowland subtropical rainforest and its magnificent biodiversity. Its major focus is promoting, facilitating and undertaking on-ground restoration of critically endangered lowland subtropical rainforest. This involves

- Rehabilitation and ongoing management of remnants
- Revegetation of cleared rainforest land
- Community engagement

Working in partnership with private landholders, NSW National Parks & Wildlife, all levels of government and the community, Big Scrub Landcare (BSL) has developed, funded and managed over 35 projects worth more than \$5 million. These projects have contributed to the ecological restoration of more than 90 lowland rainforest remnants with a total area of more than 600ha that are an important component of the Border Ranges National Biodiversity Hotspot. Restoration is focused on remnants of the Big Scrub, which was Australia's most extensive lowland subtropical rainforest. BSL has also contributed to the revegetation of 250 ha of lowland rainforest.

The group follows scientific best practice in all of its activities. It has produced widely acclaimed manuals on subtropical rainforest restoration and on the identification and control of subtropical rainforest weeds that have become standard reference texts in the community. The restoration manual contains a unique planting-relevant data set on more than 200 tree species.

BSL successfully nominated lowland subtropical rainforest for listing as critically endangered under the Commonwealth EPBC Act and as endangered under the NSW TSC Act.

BSL has run 16 annual Big Scrub Rainforest Days with an aggregate attendance of more than 22,000, making it one of the most successful and enduring landcare community engagement events in Australia. Each year BSL also runs field days and site visits. It has over 160 members and produces regular newsletters and promotes lowland rainforest restoration through its website.

