

Dr Tony Parkes

Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award

Dr Tony Parkes' dedication to restoring critically endangered lowland rainforest started 25 years ago when he moved to a degraded 42ha ex-dairy farm near Bangalow in NE NSW. The farm was once part of the Big Scrub, the largest area of lowland subtropical rainforest in Australia. Over 99% of the Big Scrub has been cleared, leaving 60 significant remnants with incredibly rich and endangered biodiversity.

Tony Parkes and his team have restored rainforest on 14 hectares of his property by rehabilitating three small rainforest remnants and planting 35,000 rainforest trees.

Tony helped form Big Scrub Landcare in 1992 and has been president since 1993. Outstanding achievements of Big Scrub Landcare under Tony's leadership include:

- Rehabilitation work at over 90 significant lowland subtropical rainforest remnants in the Big Scrub and surrounding region.
- Facilitating the revegetation of 250 hectares of ex-rainforest land.
- Raising more than \$2.5 million in grants for rainforest restoration, mainly from NSW Environmental Trust and Australian Government programs. This was matched by over \$3 million in landholder and partner contributions.
- The listing in 2011 of Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia as a critically endangered ecological community under the EPBC Act. Tony led the team of volunteer scientific advisors who prepared the nomination and contributed to its assessment.
- Presenting, with the help of many supporters, 16 annual Big Scrub Rainforest Days - one of the largest annual landcare community engagement and education events in Australia with over 22,000 attendees in total and 1500 in 2014.
- Publishing comprehensive manuals on subtropical rainforest restoration and weed identification and control in subtropical rainforests of Eastern Australia.
- Working in partnership with over 60 private landholders, NSW NPWS, Councils, Rous Water and others.

Dr Tony Parkes continues his successful 25 year love affair with lowland subtropical rainforest restoration.

