

Media Release – 8 April 2008

Beach scrubs up nicely after community day

A huge community effort has seen more than 2000m² of scrub area near Fisherman's Beach in Emu Park cleaned up on April 6.

The successful Beach Scrub Community Day, organised by the Emu Park Community Bushcare Group, attracted 27 people who together put in around 100 man hours of work to enhance the area.

Coordinator Kaye Gardner said the day included weeding, mulching and an inspection of activities under the *Bringing Back the Beach Scrub* project.

"Our efforts concentrated on removing weeds including Guinea grass, Brazilian cherry, Mother of Millions, Lantana, and Coral Bush," Ms Gardner said.

"I was absolutely thrilled to see how much we achieved on the day along the roadside area."

The patch of beach scrub is one of twelve priority sites identified by the *Bringing Back the Beach Scrub* project, a cross-regional project aiming to improve the protection and condition of beach scrub areas between Townsville and Rockhampton.

Funded by the Australian Government, in the Rockhampton region, the project is being delivered by the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, who support grassroots groups like Bushcare to carry out on-ground works.

Beach scrubs are immensely valuable, particularly for their provision of habitat to threatened species such as the northern quoll, beach stone-curlew and coastal sheath-tail bat. They also have significant cultural value to Aboriginal communities and provide protection to the coastline from erosion.

With less than 30% of their original extent remaining, vine forests on coastal sands are an endangered ecological community.

The Emu Park Community Bushcare meets regularly and anyone interested in joining the group should contact Kaye Gardner on 0407 545 732.

For more information please contact Kaye Gardner on 0407 545 732.

