

RAINFOREST IDENTIFICATION FIELD DAY

Monto 10th February 2015

- **Meet 2 of Australia's highly esteemed botanists**
- **Learn how to identify rainforest species**
- **Improve your knowledge of local rainforest**
- **Trial the new interactive "key"**



Rainforest is one of the most interesting but threatened vegetation types on Earth. In the Monto district, we have numerous species of rainforest plants and identifying them can be a challenge! This **FREE** field day is a great learning opportunity for volunteers, landholders, naturalists, consultants and lovers of the bush. It will include talks from renowned botanists Gwen Harden and Dr Bill McDonald; exercises in identifying plant samples and a short walk in the rainforest.



When: Tuesday 10th February 2015

Time: 9am – 2pm (morning tea/light lunch provided)

Where: Meet at the Old Scout Hall (Landcare Hut),
46 Kelvin Street, Monto

What to bring: Laptop (if available). Hat, sturdy shoes and a water bottle if going out for the afternoon site visit.

RSVP: to **Vikki Evans**, BMRG Wondai Office. Ph. 4169 0720

Vikki.Evans@bmr.org.au by Monday 9th February 2015

If weather permits, after lunch the botanists will lead an excursion to collect from local rainforest communities – possibly Hurdle Gully.

On the day you will have the chance to trial the new interactive key on computer USB. It provides illustrated descriptive information and an interactive key (using the Lucid software) to species of rainforest trees, shrubs and climbing plants of subtropical eastern mainland Australia, from Rockhampton to Victoria. Each of the 1139 species has a factsheet with description, line drawings and images. In all, over 12,000 images are included.

COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE ON THE DAY AT A DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$70



About the botanists

Gwen Harden was a botanist at the University of New England, James Cook University and at the National Herbarium of New South Wales (at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney). She graduated from the University of New England with M.Sc. in botany and she is an Honorary Research Associate at the Botanic Gardens Trust Sydney. Gwen was awarded an OAM in 2004 for her services to botany.

While at the Gardens (from 1980 to 2001) she co-ordinated the Flora of New South Wales project and was the editor of the 4-volume publication and later revisions. She continued her interest in rainforest floristics and was involved in advising and monitoring the regeneration of rainforest remnants in various areas.

Gwen was involved in the Ecofest schools (run by the Department of Continuing Education at the University of New England) from the early 1970s in inland N.S.W., north-eastern N.S.W. and southern Qld. For these schools she prepared and co-authored many plant lists and illustrated identification guides so that many (both professional and amateurs) could share in her love for, and appreciation of, the diversity and ecology of native plants.

Gwen is now retired on the mid-north coast of New South Wales and is updating identification guides to rainforest species.

Dr Bill McDonald joined National Parks Branch, Qld Department of Forestry in 1974 and transferred to Botany Branch, Qld Department of Primary Industries (incorporating the Queensland Herbarium) in 1977. Since then he has worked on botanical survey and mapping projects throughout central and southern Queensland. He developed a particular interest in rainforest floristics and ecology and was awarded his PhD in 1998 for a study of semi-evergreen vine thickets (softwood scrubs).

He initiated and co-authored the first report on rare and threatened plants of Queensland in 1987. He was appointed a member of the first Scientific Advisory Committee under Queensland's Nature Conservation Act (1992) and currently is a member of the scientific advisory committees for the Fraser Island and Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia (CERRA) World Heritage Areas.

In recent years Dr McDonald has been heavily involved in the Queensland Herbarium's vegetation survey and mapping program in the Wet Tropics, Central Queensland Coast and South-East Queensland biogeographic regions.