

## Two Chimneys community planting day

Sunday morning was a beautiful morning had by all who came out to Two Chimneys Reserve to plant some trees and enjoy morning tea. We were blessed with lovely weather, the wind held off for a few hours, and the rain came in behind to water all of the new trees.

Approximately 120 trees were put in the ground, around the picnic area and down the valley. A combination of common species, like *White Oak*, *Pine* and *Whitewood*, along with some more endangered species like *Popwood*, *Euphorbia* and *Abutilon* were planted. The intention behind this planting is to: re-establish a substantial windbreak to protect the rest of the reserve and surrounding properties; stabilise the slopes to reduce erosion; rehabilitate the natural coastal vegetation and habitat; and to increase the distribution of some of the more endangered plant species.



With a turnout of about 25 people, all of the hard work was done in under an hour! This left plenty of time to enjoy a cuppa, some fresh oranges and coconut bread whilst admiring our handiwork.

I'd like to say a big thankyou to all those who gave up their Sunday morning to give back to Norfolk, many hands make light work! A big thankyou as well to Geek for pre-digging most of the holes; to Mark Scott at the nursery for propagating all of the native saplings; to Merv, Marg and Joel for their advice; and to NIRC for funding of the project.



Our next planting will be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June at Ball Bay Reserve. A 'biodiversity hotspot' has been fenced off to exclude cattle, and cleared of invasive *African Olive*, *Hawaiian Holly* and *Lantana* by David Biggs and his team. This site is home to one of the oldest and largest known specimens of *Isaacwood*, a rare and endangered Norfolk native. The planting aims to mimic the natural environment that would have existed there once before, and to create the right habitat for continued natural regeneration of flora and fauna. The community are all invited to come along and get their hands dirty, from 9am onwards. Let's create a legacy that will outlive us all!

**Lilli-unna King**

Environmental Project Officer

28 May 2021