

# Endangered Weeping Paperbark protected at Tucabia



**The attractive flowers and foliage of the endangered Weeping Paperbark.**

The Weeping Paperbark (*Melaleuca irbyana*) has been listed as an endangered species because the NSW Scientific Committee has determined the species is at risk of extinction if current trends are not reversed. [watch youtube video](#)

In 2009-2010 alone, the Clarence Environment Centre reported three cases where the Paperbarks had been destroyed. This destruction is not only occurring on private property where landowners have unknowingly bulldozed them, but also on public land and by government agencies. One of the reported cases involved Forests NSW at the Grafton Agricultural Research Station, where an unknown number of the endangered trees were cleared and slashed to establish a pine plantation.

Probably the worst destruction is part of the southernmost known population at Glenugie, which has been bulldozed to build the new Pacific Highway.

The Paperbarks are nowhere common, with most populations consisting of just a handful of trees, but of greater concern is the fact that none of the known populations occur within national parks or conservation reserves. This means there is little protection for the species, in fact Forests NSW, under its Threatened Species Licence, can legally destroy up to 10% of these trees during every logging cycle.

But now – a small but significant step in the right direction, a good news story. A campaign to protect a small population on crown land at Tucabia, spearheaded by one of our members, Peter Turland, has seen the Tucabia Public School, Landcare, and the Clarence Valley Council combine to create a park to protect the colony.



**The Students of Tucabia Public School surrounding the newly dedicated sign board at the official opening of the park, with Clarence Valley Mayor, Richie Williamson (left) and Peter Turland, project coordinator (right rear).**

The park is a work in progress by Landcare, assisted by Catchment Management Authority grants over the past two years, that has enabled extensive tree planting of species common to the valley.

The plants, including endangered paperbarks, were propagated by Dennis Milne for Landcare, and Dennis himself was active on the day helping with the planting and instructing the children on the basics of plant recognition.



***Dennis Milne, the man responsible for growing many of the trees and shrubs for Landcare, also assisted with instruction on the day.***

With so much environmental destruction still occurring across the Clarence Valley, it was an extremely positive experience to see the children so engrossed in planting and caring for the trees, with each child being responsible for planting their own tree which was then tagged with their name.



**Julie Mousely, Landcare coordinator (right), supervising a group of Tucabia Public School Students with planting their individual trees.**



**Clarence Valley Mayor, Richie Williamson, and Project Coordinator, Peter Turland.**

Mayor Richie Williamson representing the Clarence Valley Council, on whose land the park now stands, undertook the official opening, and praised the efforts of all those involved.

The Environment Centre wholeheartedly endorses his comments.

Well done Guys – it's great to be able to report on a good news story.