

The significance of a littoral scrub remnant at Geoffrey Bay, Magnetic Island

Bounded by Marine Parade, Bright Avenue and McCabe Crescent at Arcadia is approximately 1/4ha of littoral scrub (see maps and photos) which appears to be currently gazzetted as road reserve. It is the last area of littoral scrub in the area and is extraordinarily rich for its relatively tiny size. Thirty nine native tree species were recorded in a brief reconnaissance survey. Fifty percent of these species were not recorded by Sandercoe (1990) in the Nelly Bay beach scrub. The area is partially invaded by exotics species that have escaped from nearby gardens. However, the area could be relatively easily rehabilitated with minor restoration effort. Its species richness and its remnant status afford the area high conservation significance.

A list of native species follows:

Aglaia elaeagnoides
Antidesma parvifolium
Canarium australianum
Chionanthus ramiflorus
Cissus oblonga
Citriobatus spinescens
Cryptocarya triplinervis
Cupaniopsis anacardioides
Drypetes australasica
Diospyros geminata
Eucalyptus tessellaris
Eugenia reinwardtiana
Euroschinus falcata
Ficus opposita
Ficus racemosa
Fitzalania heteropetala
Ganophyllum falcatum
Harpullia hillii
Jagera pseudorhus
Jasminium didymum
Litsea glutinosa
Livistona drudei
Macaranga tanarius
Mallotus philippensis
Melaleuca leucadendra
Memecylon pauciflorum
Micromelum minutum
Mimusops elengi
Neolitsea australiensis
Pachygone ovata
Pavetta australiensis
Pisonea aculeata
Pleogynum timorense

Polyalthia nitidissima
Pouteria sericea
Rapanea variabilis
Smilax australis
Terminalia muelleri
Timonius timon

Reference: Sandercoe C. (1990) Vegetation of Magnetic Island. Queensland National parks and Wildlife Service. Technical Report No. 1.

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