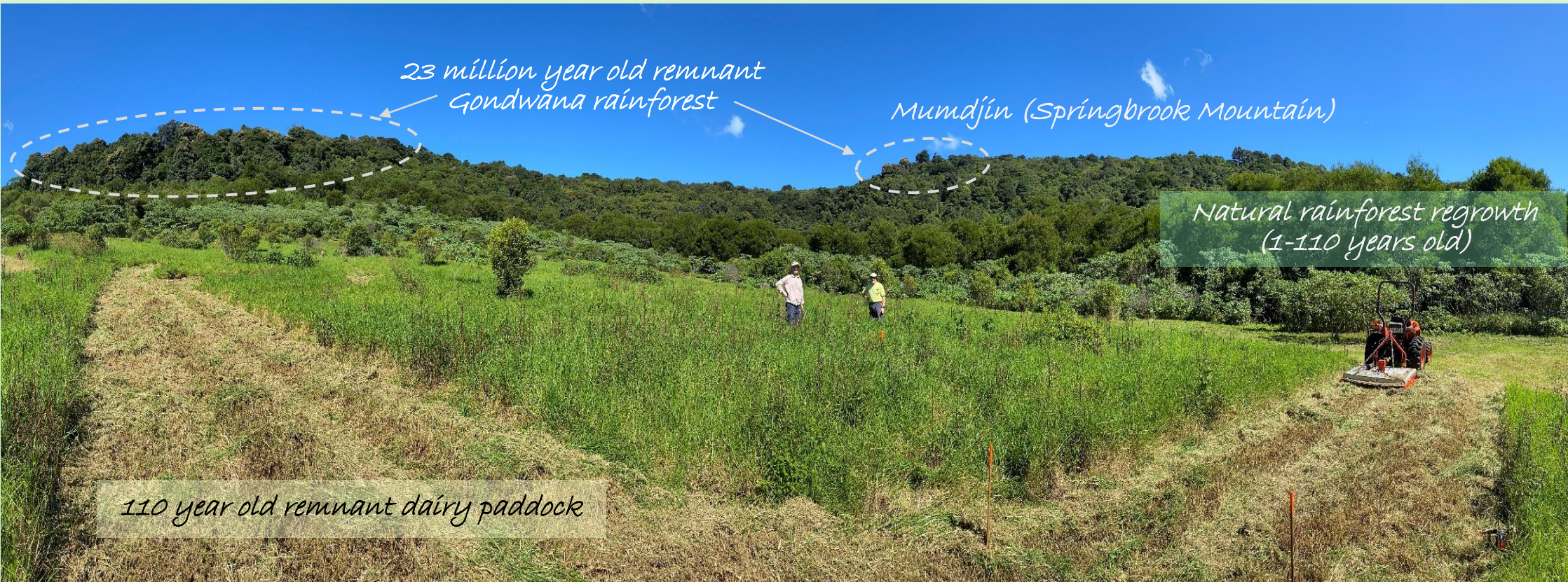




from **GRASS TO GONDWANA**

THE GREAT SPRINGBROOK RAINFOREST RESTORATION COMPETITION



**Commencing
21-22 November 2026**

Final Expressions of Interest
close 30 October 2026 – Apply now!

INFORMATION FOR ENTRANTS

What is 'from Grass to Gondwana'?

- Apparently the world's first rainforest restoration competition (certainly Australia or Queensland).
- Accelerating the regeneration of temperate and subtropical rainforest at Springbrook National Park (Thillanmam/ Mumdjini/ Burrigan) in the Gold Coast hinterland.
- Surrounded by the [Gondwana Rainforests of Australia](#) World Heritage Area, on the high northern flank of the 23 million-year-old Wollumbin/Mt Warning shield volcano caldera.
- A unique opportunity to help set 100+ year old dairy paddocks on their journey back to unique, special and complex Gondwana rainforest and cloudforest.
- A 2-year competition for select community or industry-based volunteer teams with capability in bush regeneration, plus opportunity for ongoing follow-up and involvement on additional sites.

Who can enter?

- Any community, industry, corporate or self-organised group, with 2 adult coordinators and **minimum of 4 and maximum 10 members** working on site at any one time.
- [Final expressions of interest close Friday 30th October 2026 here](#) – apply early!
- Participating teams (approx 6) will be selected to join the competition, based on confirmed capability and commitment, in response to the preliminary and final expressions of interest.
- No entry fee, free accommodation, but travel and food costs to be covered by teams or their sponsors.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be offered other opportunities to contribute to the Springbrook Rainforest Restoration Project (there's plenty to do!)
- **Individuals not connected to a team**, who can commit fully to the competition, are also encouraged to submit an EOI – we will match you with a team or offer you other opportunities to get involved in our rainforest restoration efforts.

Local to Springbrook or don't have time to join a team? Get involved with **Springbrook Weed Busters** and support the competition by helping with a *demonstration plot* in a more relaxed way! Email <Springbrookweedbusters@outlook.com>

What's the time commitment?

- **Eight (8) working weekends** over a two-year period, starting on **21-22 November 2026**, plus an Award Weekend.
- Equal site access for all teams on the following **working weekends** (rain, hail, cloud or shine!):
 - 21-22 November 2026
 - 16-17 January 2027
 - 17-18 April 2027
 - 17-18 July 2027
 - 18-19 September 2027
 - 20-21 November 2027
 - 15-16 January 2028
 - 18-19 March 2028
 - 20-21 May 2028 (Award Weekend)
- No other time commitment is required, or permitted - it's a competition!
- Team coordinators are responsible for organising their team members, arranging transport, and participating in additional updates and briefings.

What work is involved?

- Each team takes on responsibility for regenerating an equal number of allocated 100 square metre plots (20m by 5m) of pure, 100 year old introduced pasture grass (*kikuyu* and *setaria*).
- Teams get an equal start but develop, submit and follow their own restoration plan.
- Planting and maintenance of locally germinated native tree species (all provided – no off-mountain seeds, seedlings, mulch etc allowed).
- On-site identification, protection and encouragement of self-sown native species.
- On-site identification and hand removal of weeds, introduced grasses and other invasives.
- Other interventions as per your restoration plan. Creativity and innovation encouraged!
- Non-residual herbicide use may be proposed in your plan, but where approved, will be administered by the ARCS ground team.
- Any fertiliser use will similarly be subject to prior approval as part of your restoration plan.
- Minimal work tools needed (mostly just gloves and weeding tools); no machinery allowed.

Where is the competition site?

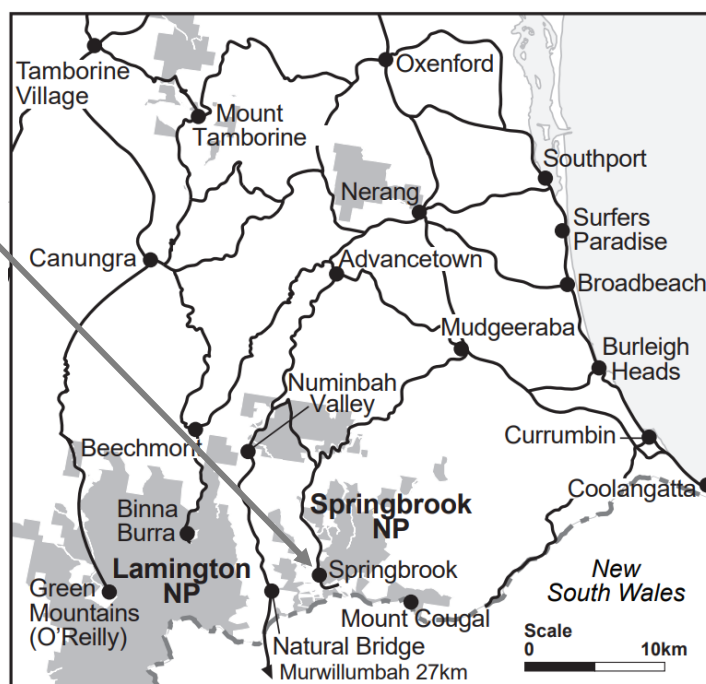


Competition Site: Springbrook National Park

Above: Aerial view of Upper Springbrook Mountain, looking south to Wollumbin / Mt Warning, 2021

Almost all the area shown, voluntarily acquired since 2006 by the Queensland Government for addition to Springbrook National Park, has been regenerating from paddock back to rainforest under ARCS' Springbrook Rainforest Restoration Project.

Cover photo: ARCS Technical/Judging Panel members Dr Clyde Wild (chair) & Ben Kober (Numinbah Valley Environmental Education Centre) at the competition site, April 2026



What is the Springbrook Rainforest Restoration Project?

The remnant and recovering rain and cloudforests of **Springbrook Mountain** (in Yugambah, the Thillanmam-Mumdjin-Burrigan range) are a globally significant hotspot, and refugium, for ancient biodiversity, geological history and climate adaptation. A place of deep significance for its traditional custodians, it's a centre for nature-based tourism, environmental education, and water sustainability for Australia's 6th largest city and fastest growing city, as well as peoples beyond.

Added to the **Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area** in 1994, this unique forest 'island in the sky' is the second wettest location on mainland Australia, recording the highest rainfall south of the Wet Tropics rainforests – and a higher concentration of endemic tree, plant and animal species than perhaps any other location in Australia, from the recently discovered *Syzigium nebulosm* (cloud lilly pilli) to the iconic Albert's Lyrebird.

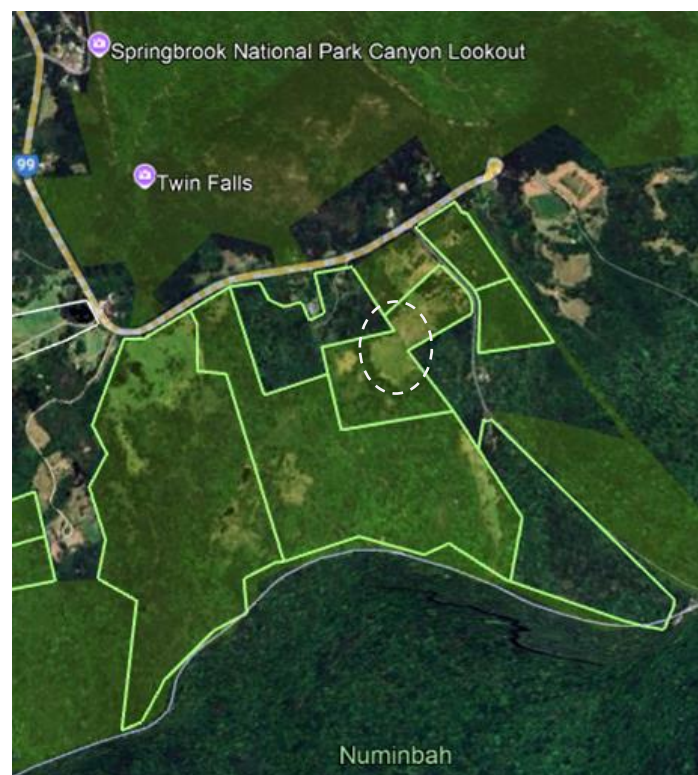
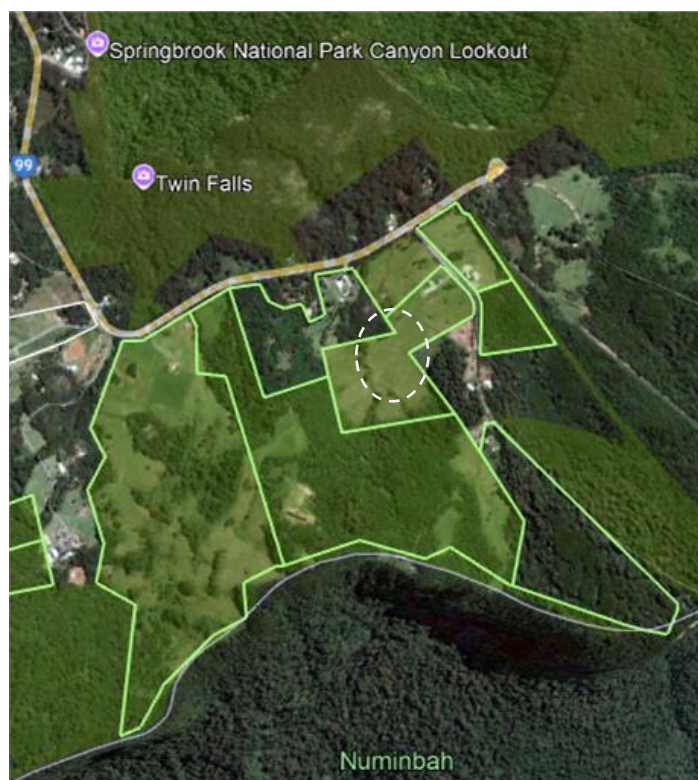
Since 2008, **Australian Rainforest Conservation Society** has partnered with the Queensland Department of Environment to deliver the historic **Springbrook Rainforest Restoration Project** – a program of assisted natural regeneration on over 200 hectares of former rainforest acquired by the Queensland Government since 2005 for addition to Springbrook National Park.

Working together, ARCS personnel, Springbrook locals, volunteers from across Australia and the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service are returning large areas of **former agricultural land and residential sites** to World Heritage-quality forest.

By healing fragmented and damaged forest, we are protecting a vital hub of ecological resilience in the face of climate change, and securing one of Australia's most precious landscapes as a world-class destination for nature-based visitation, research, environmental education and biodiversity preservation.

At Springbrook, ARCS also owns and manages the largest private Nature Refuge areas on the Gold Coast.

Visit our websites for more on [Australian Rainforest Conservation Society](#) and the [Springbrook Project](#).



Upper Springbrook properties acquired for addition to National Park and under ARCS restoration management since 2008 - in 2004 (top) and 2025 (below)

from Grass to Gondwana competition site circled

How will the competition be judged?

- Each team's restoration effort will be judged against published criteria developed by our Technical/Judging panel including:
 - Dr Clyde Wild, Conservation Biologist, ARCS Management Committee member, and former Dean (Academic), Science, Griffith University
 - Adele Carter, Springbrook Ranger Base, Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (Department of Environment, Tourism, Science & Innovation)
 - Ben Kober, Senior Teacher, Numinbah Valley Environmental Education Centre (Education Queensland) & Springbrook Weed Busters
 - Saul Hondow, Senior Conservation Partnerships Officer, City of Gold Coast.
- Ground rules and criteria are being finalised with input from teams who participated in the September 2026 Information Weekend.
- Criteria focus on creativity and effort in restoration science approach, successful establishment of canopy species, growth success relative to site conditions, retention and encouragement of self-sown native species, and weed removal and suppression (see our separate 'G2G Field Guide').
- Teams must ensure a minimum of 4 members (maximum 10) are available and working on site, each day of the competition weekends. Teams that fall beneath this commitment, or choose to withdraw, may lose all their points and have their plots reallocated to other teams for bonus points.

What will be the prizes?

- Prizes will be announced during the course of the competition, and awarded at a public award ceremony in mid-2028.
- Prizes for **Best Team** will include an award certificate and prizes for all coordinators and team members who participated in a minimum number of the working weekends.
- A major **Wild Card Prize** will go randomly (drawn by raffle) to any participant (from any team) who participated across a minimum number of working weekends, with maximum participation earning the maximum number of entries.

- Of course, the *biggest* prize will be pride in the knowledge of your incredible contribution to restoring the World Heritage rainforests of Springbrook Mountain, for the present generation and all generations to come.

What will it cost to participate?

- There is no entry fee.
- Teams are provided with free accommodation for the working weekends (Friday to Sunday nights inclusive) at Koonjewarre Campground & Retreat, Springbrook Mountain.
- Pre-booked breakfast, lunch and dinner will be available for the working weekends at a reasonable cost to teams or your sponsors.
- Teams make their own travel arrangements and cover their own costs for travel.
- Working weekends will include briefings, free expert talks, educational experiences and opportunities for walking tours of Springbrook National Park.

Working Weekend #1 – 21-22 November 2026

Provisional program:

Friday 20 November – dinner, accommodation and breakfast available, if sufficient numbers

Saturday 21 November –

- 09.00 Registration & induction
Koonjewarre Retreat
- 10.30 Shuttles to site (no parking on site)
- 11.00 Welcome to Country & Official Launch
- 11.30 Plot familiarisation and work commences
- 16.30 Work ceases; return to Koonjewarre
- 17.00 Debrief and Day 2 Planning
- 18.30 Dinner; after dinner nature talk.

Sunday 22 November –

- 08.00 Breakfast
- 09.00 Shuttles to site (no parking on site)
- 09.30 Work commences
- 14.00 Local nature walks (optional)
- 16.30 Work ceases; return to Koonjewarre
- 17.30 Dinner (if sufficient numbers).



Above: Provisional layout of the restoration plots to be allocated to 'from Grass to Gondwana' restoration teams. Final number and location of plots per team will be determined by the Technical Panel based on final expressions of interest.

How to enter

- Share this information and gather your team!
- Block out the planned working weekends for the duration of the competition.
- Complete the [final expression of interest](#) by **Friday 30th October 2026** – including registration for the first **working weekend** (21-22 November).
- Apply early to ensure your spot and help us with our planning.
- Successful teams will be notified by Monday 2nd November, and can attend the **online plot draw on Thursday 12th November** to find out their allocated regeneration sites.
- Contact us with any queries at springbrook@rainforestaustralia.org.au

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