

DOLPHIN SANDS - RE-VEGETATION.

IN 1968 WHEN THIS PROJECT WAS BEING PLANNED THERE WAS A 782 Ha STRIP OF MOVING OR POTENTIALLY MOVING SAND AND IT WAS REALISED SOME SERIOUS STEPS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO STOP DUNING AND THEIR RELENTLESS MARCH OF DESTRUCTION IN A NORTH EASTERLY DIRECTION. ALONG WITH THE PLANNING, STUDIES WERE MADE INTO SAND-DUNE STABILIZATION AND FROM THESE CAME THE NEED TO DISRUPT THE DUNE FACE AND THUS LESSEN THE VOLUME BUILD UP. TI-TREE BARRIERS - MANY OF WHICH ARE STILL VISIBLE INSPITE OF THE RAVAGES MADE BY DUNE BUGGIES AND OTHER OFF ROAD VEHICLES WERE ERECTED AT AN ANGLE TO THE LINE OF THE DUNE, MARRAM GRASS WAS PLANTED ON THE GENTLE BACK SLOPES I.E. SOUTH WESTERN SIDE OF THE DUNES AND ANY OTHER FLORA WHICH WOULD SURVIVE. THE CONSTRUCTION OF INDIVIDUAL ACCESS ROADS IN THE LOTS HELP AGAIN TO DISSRUPT THE LINE OF A MOVING DUNE AND PROVIDE A STABLE BED FOR SOME PLANT GROWTH WHICH WOULD NOT SURVIVE IN RAW SAND. THE BEST PLANT WAS FOUND TO BE COASTAL WATTLE (ACACIA SOPHOROEA) BUT OF A DIFFERENT VARIETY TO THE TALL GROWING, DARK GREEN INDIGINOUS TYPE. THE LOW GROWING LIGHT GREEN VARIETY WAS IMPORTEED FROM MONA VALE IN N.S.W. BOILED TO SPLIT THE HUSK THEN SOWN FROM THE AIR BY A LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT. THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PLANT IS THAT IT GROWS QUICKLY IN THE RAW SAND, PROVIDES GOOD GROUND COVER, IS FAIRLY OBEDIENT - ONCE TRIMMED IT TAKES SOME TIME TO INTRUDE AGAIN. THE GREAT DISADVANTAGE IS THAT IT IS QUITE INFLAMMABLE - EVEN WHEN GREEN. OTHER TRIAL PLANTINGS WERE MADE AND ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WAS GOLDEN WEEPING WILLOW (SILEX VITELLINA PENDULA) ALSO SOWN FROM THE AIR BY BEING LAUNCHED THROUGH THE CAMERA HATCH OF A LOW FLYING CESSNA WHERE THE STICKS PLANTED THEMSELVES LIKE ARROWS. THE AREAS OF THE BEST STRIKES WERE JUST BEHIND THE FOREDUNE ALONG THE MAIN BEACH WHERE THE WATER TABLE IS VERY CLOSE TO THE SURFACE. COMPLETE LOSSES WERE SUFFERED AFTER ABOUT 18 MONTHS WHEN CATTLE AND SHEEP BROKE THROUGH THE FENCES AND ATE EVERY TREE.

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PENUS RADIATA WILL GROW IN ALMOST ALL AREAS AND ARE USEFUL FOR THE NEEDLES ARE GOOD PLANT PROTECTION AS THEY WILL NOT CLOG WITH SAND. I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE MASSIVE PLANTINGS OF PINE HOWEVER, BECAUSE THEY INHIBIT OTHER PLANT GROWTH AND ARE NOT CONDUCIVE TO ATTRACTING BIRD LIFE _ WHICH ARE USEFUL DISTRIBUTORS OF PRE_ FERTALISED SEEDS.

IN CHOOSING PLANTS AND TREES, IT IS VITAL TO ENSURE THEY BE OF THE TYPE WHICH REQUIRE ONLY THE AMOUNT OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL OF 600 mm. DO NOT WATER PLANTS DURING THE SUMMER (FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH WINDMILLS) FOR WATERINGS SAKE - ONLY WHEN THERE ARE REALLY DRY SPELLS. BLUE FOLIAGE IS A GOOD INDICTATION THAT IT IS SUITABLE FOR SANDY CONDITIONS - THORNS AND PRICKLES HELP IN THEIR PRESERVATION FROM KANGAROOS AND WALLABYS. MELALEUCAS (TI-TREE) MOST ACACIAS (WATTLES, ESPECIALLY THE BLACK WATTLE) AND MANY EUCALYPTS SHOULD BE AVOIDED BECAUSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUEDS AND DISEASES WHICH IN TURN ATTRACT DESTRUCTIVE PESTS. THAT PRETTY GOLDEN CHRISTMAS BEETLE IS SHEER MURDER ON ANY EUCALYPT IT ATTACKS AND CAN DENUDE A FAIR SIZED TREE IN 24 HOURS.

PLANT IN AMONGST THE MARRUM GRASS FOR THE DEW THAT COLLECTS AT NIGHT WILL PROVIDE CONSTANT MOISTURE FOR A STRUGGLING INFANT. THOSE PLANTED ON THE SOUTH WESTERN SIDE OF ANY RISE OR OTHER PROTECTION HAVE A BETTERCHANCE OF SURVIVAL FOR THE SOUTH WESTERLIES BRING THE RAIN AND THEY ARE PROTECTED FROM THE HOT DRY NORTH EASTERS. WHEN PLANTING, DIG HOLES DEEP ENOUGH TO HOLD 2 OR 3 BUCKETS OF GOOD LOAM - A TRALER LOAD WILL BE ENOUGH TO PLANT A LOT OF TREES. USE ONE OR TWO BUCKETS OF WATER TO THOROUGHLY WET THE HOLE AND THE BACKFILL, PUT A HANDFULL OF BARLEY OR WHEAT UNDER THE PLANT AND THIS WILL EXPAND AND GENTLY SPREAD THE BOUND ROOTS OF ANY POTTED PLANT AS WELL AS PROVIDING A LITTLE GOODNESS DEEP DOWN. DO NOT USE ANY FERTALISER OR NATURAL MANURE - CERTAINLY WITH NATIVES, MAYBE A LITTLE LEAF MOULD OR MATURE COMPOST WHICH IS NO LONGER WORKING. 5 OR 10 PELLETS OF OSMOCOTE CAN BE USED ONCE THE PLANT IS WELL

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ESTABLISHED AND THIS WILL GIVE THEM A BOOST. A HANDFULL OF KANGAROO DROPPINGS SPREAD AROUND THE BASE OF THE PLANT WILL TEND TO DETER THOSE ANIMALS FROM TAKING A NOCTURNAL SNACK. THE TUBE METHOD OF POTTING PRIOR TO PLANTING IS A SMART WAY TO DEVELOPE LONG DEEP ROOTS.

IT IS BEST TO PLANT THOSE SPECIES WHICH GROW WELL IN THE AREA FOR THE MOST REWARD FROM YOUR EFFORTS. IN MOST CASES ADVANCES PLANTS SHOULD BE PURCHASED AS THEY ARE USUALLY HARDIER AND HARDY PLANTS ARE NEEDED IN THE AREA.

OYSTER BAY PINES (CALLITRI RHOMBOIDEA) SOME TIMES CALLED THE PORT JACKSON PINE ARE AMOUNG THE BEST. THE SHAPE IS GOOD AND THE BROWN GREEN FOLIAGE IS A GOOD CONTRAST TO THE SAND AND COASTAL WATTLE. CORDOLINE IS DIFFERENT AND GROWS VERY WELL. IT CAN BE GREEN, GREEN WITH A YELLOW STRIPE, RED WITH A YELLOW STRIPE OR RED WITH A CHOCOLATE BROWN STRIPE. ENSURE THE DEAD FONDS ARE CLEARED FROM THE TRUNK HOWEVER AS IT GROWS, TO CLESSEN THE FIRE RISK. HAKEA BOTH SOUVOLENS AND SERICEA ARE EXCELLENT AND GROW WELL. PINK OR RED FLOWERING GUM (E.LEUCOXYLON ROSEA) THRIVES AND IS VERY COLOURFUL AS IS THE RED STEM COARSE LEAF VARIETY. VIRGILIA IS A SHORT LIFE (5-10) YEARS) SHRUB WHICH GROWS QUICKLY AND PROVIDES GOOD SHELTER FOR SOME LESS HARDY SPECIES. NATIVE HONEYSUCKLE (BANKSIA MARGINATA BUT NOT SERRATA) GROWS WELL PROVIDING SAND BUILD UP AROUND THE TRUNK IS KEPT TO A MINIMUM. BLACKWOOD (ACACIA MELONOXYLON) IS HARDY, GROWS QUICKLY AND ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE. TRY A FEW COOTAMUNDRA WATTLE (ACACIA BAILEYANA) THE PURPLE-BLUE COLOUR IS GREAT - BUT WATCH FOR CATERPILLARS THAT LOVE THEM AS WELL. SOUTH ESK PINE (CALLETRIS OBLONGA) IS A SLOW STARTER BUT HARDY AND COMES ON WELL ONCE ESTABLISHED. BOTH THE KNIFE EDGED WATTLE (BLUISH) AND THE OVENS WATTLE (BROWNISH) ARE HARDY QUICK GROWERS AND GOOD SURVIVORS. IT IS HANDY FOR THE OCCASIONAL OCCUPYER TO HAVE A FEW EDIBLES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE MUCH ATTENTION SO TRY PARSLEY, CHIVES AND STRAW METHOD

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POTATOES - KENNEBECS ARE THE BEST ALL ROUNDERS BUT USE ONLY CERTIFIED SEED. BANANA PASSIONFRUIT WILL GROW - BUT YOU HAVE TO BE SLICK TO BEAT THE POSSUMS. I SAW ONE OWNER PICK 17 DIFFERENT VEGETABLES ONE DAY WHEN I WAS VISITING - PERHAPS HE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN THIS ADDRESS.

BY FOLLOWING THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS YOU WILL FIND THAT DOLPHIN SANDS IS MORE AN"EDEN"THAN A"HADES"AS IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY SOME WHO ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT AMONGST THE CHOSEN FEW TO OWN TITLES.

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