

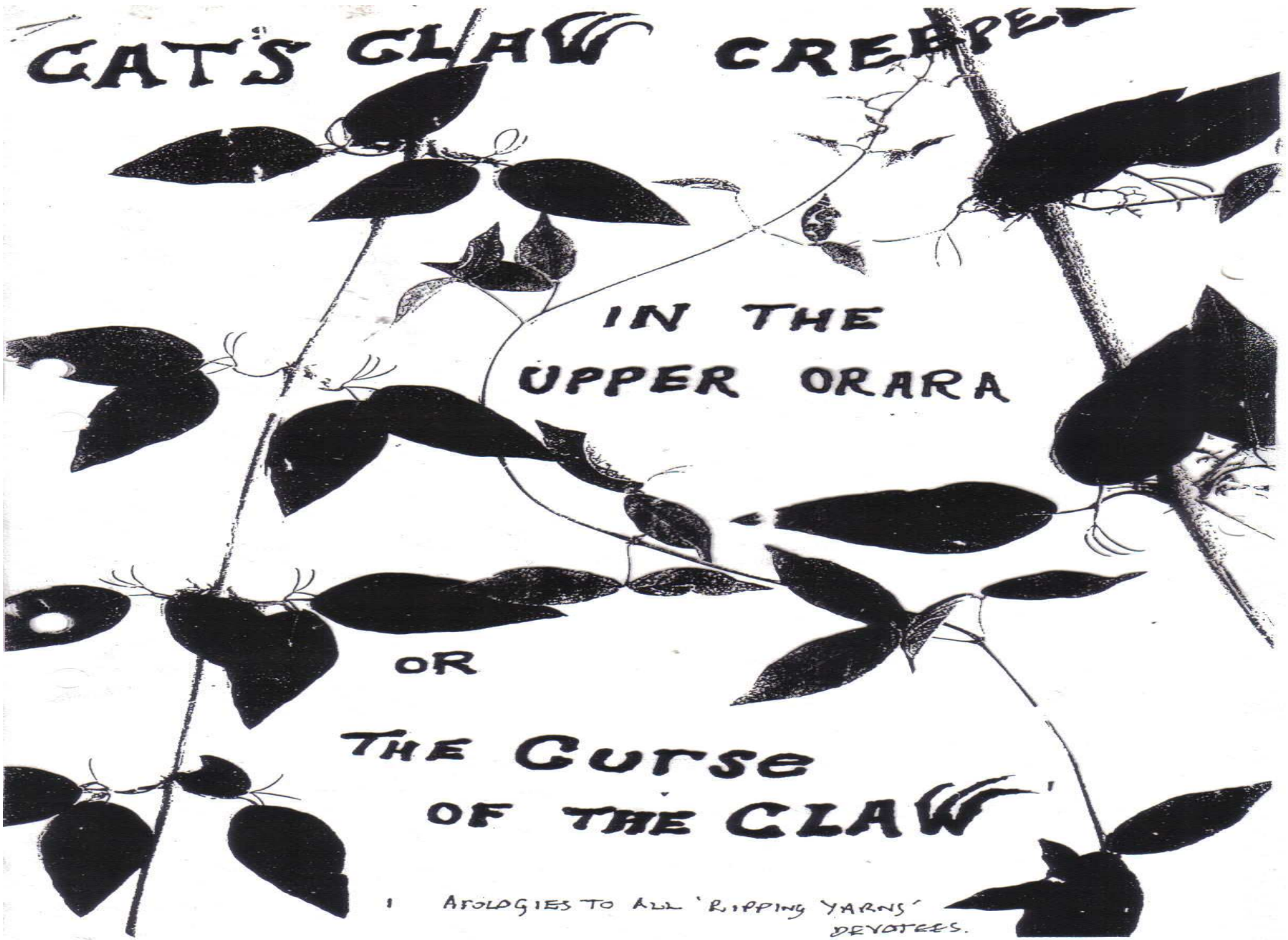
**GAT'S CLAW CREEPER**

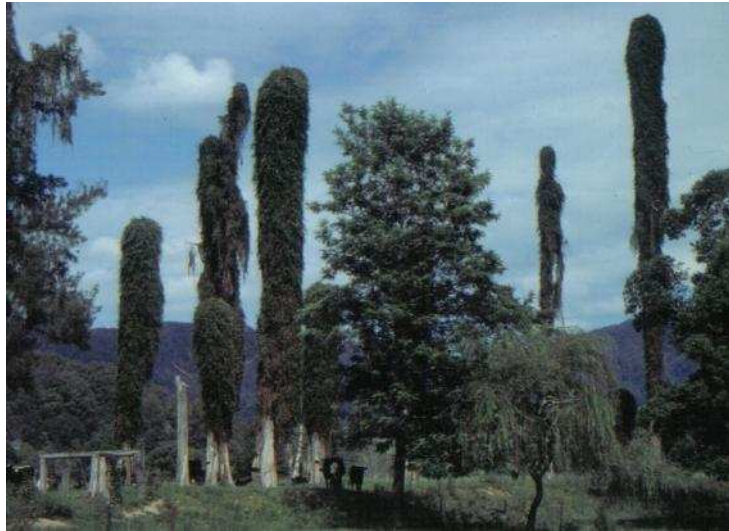
**IN THE  
UPPER ORARA**

**OR**

**THE CURSE  
OF THE CLAW**

**1 APOLOGIES TO ALL 'RIPPING YARNS'  
DEVOTEES.**



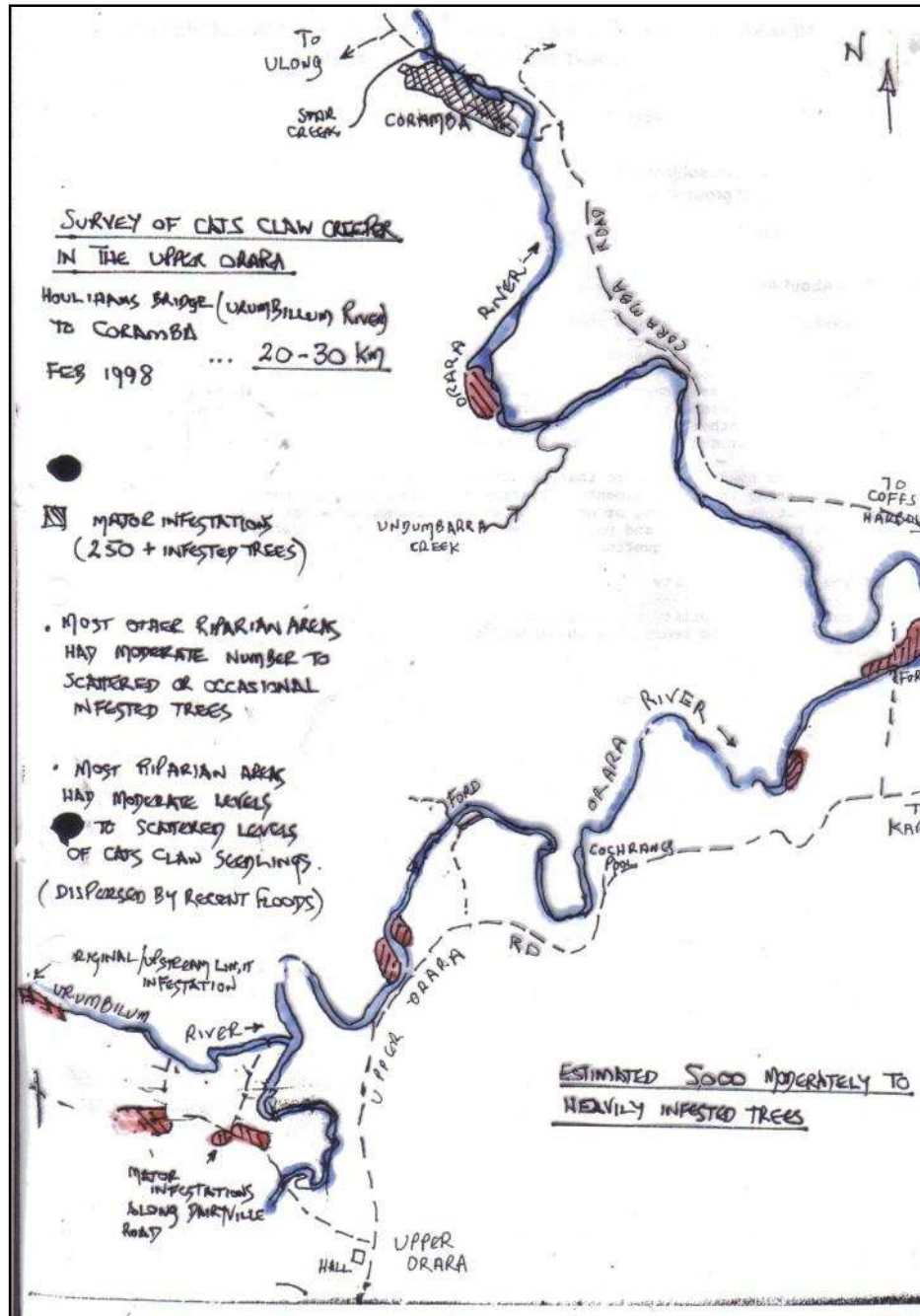


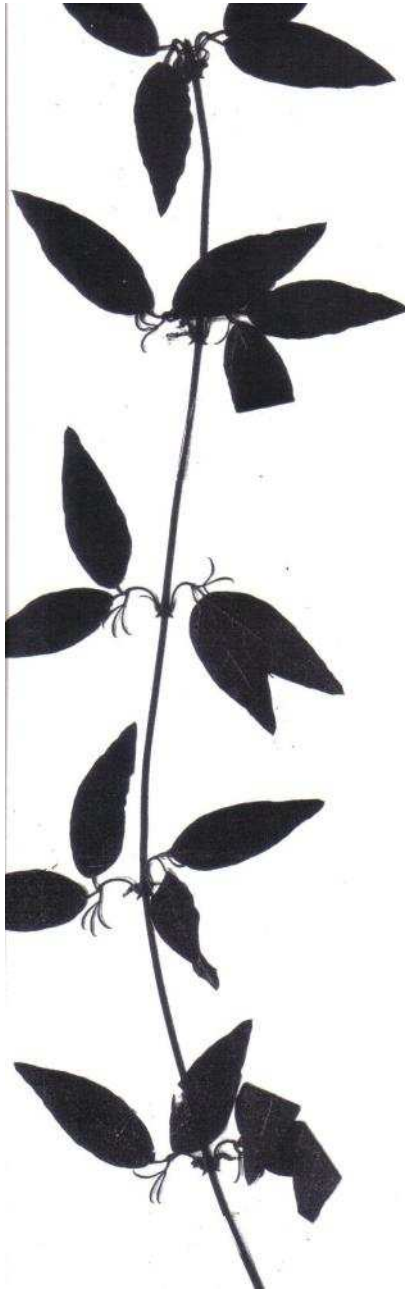
## Orara River Restoration Project

- Began 1997
- Planned/strategic
- Three major components:
  - Planned river structural works
  - Cats claw control/eradication project (1999)
  - Riparian vegetation restoration (2001)
- Jointly Managed by committee of Rivercare Groups, DLAWC & CHCC
- Bush regeneration contractors (funded CHCC Environment Levy)
  - Lloyd Foster, Jeff Foster & others



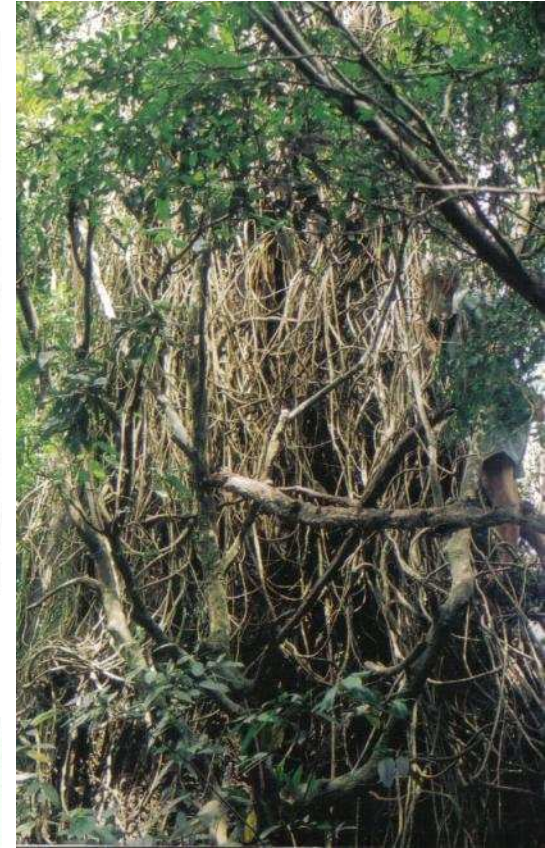
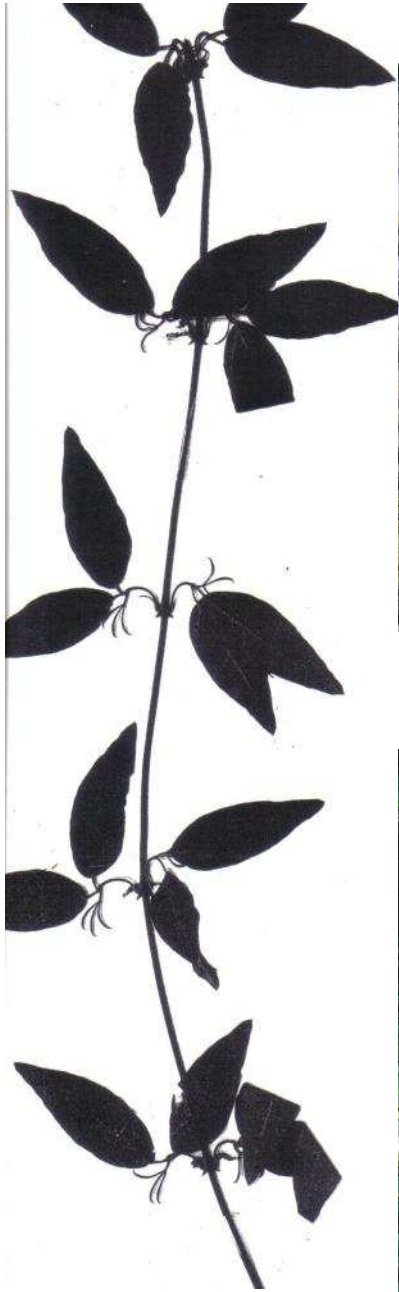
# Original Cat's Claw survey 1997



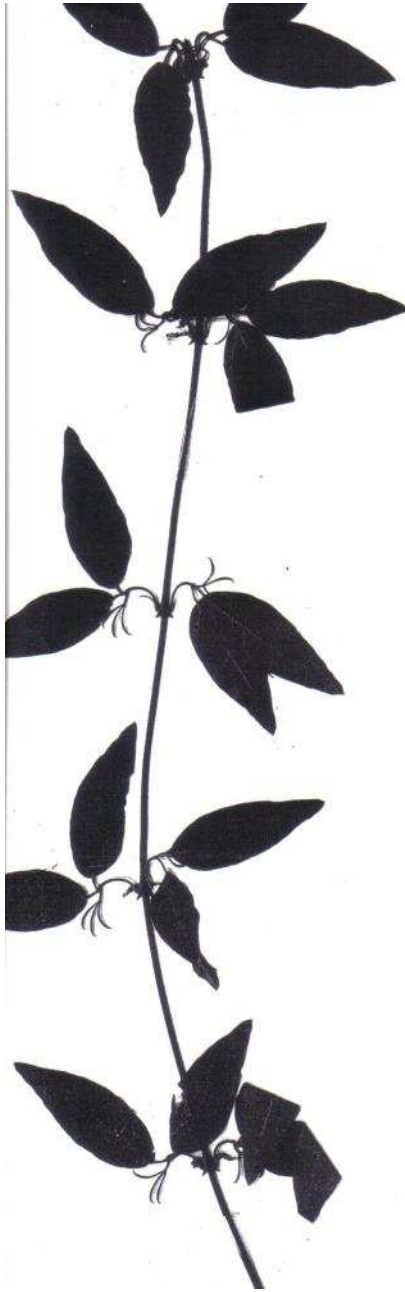


# Strategies

- **Year 1:** downstream transect to control all cat's claw in canopy to greatly reduce flowering & fruiting
  - Estimated 5,000 trees
  - Estimated 6 trees per hour/2 person team
  - 1,665 hours; contractor 1,125 hrs (\$30,000)
  
- **Year 2 & following years:** complete downstream control and follow-up ground layer seedlings and regrowth.
  
- Permission of all riparian property landholders
  
- Awareness Campaign:
  - Newspaper articles
  - Pamphlet distribution
  - Displays eg. Orara Valley Fair



## **The Curse of the Claw**



## Achievements/Current status

- Initial mapped 20-25km from upper limit to Coramba treated in first year...very little flowering since
- Downstream to beyond Nana Glen treated in subsequent few years
- Follow up regrowth/seedling treated with downstream transects in subsequent years
- Cat's claw suppressed but not defeated; regrowth and scattered isolated seedlings continue in some locations (see next slide)

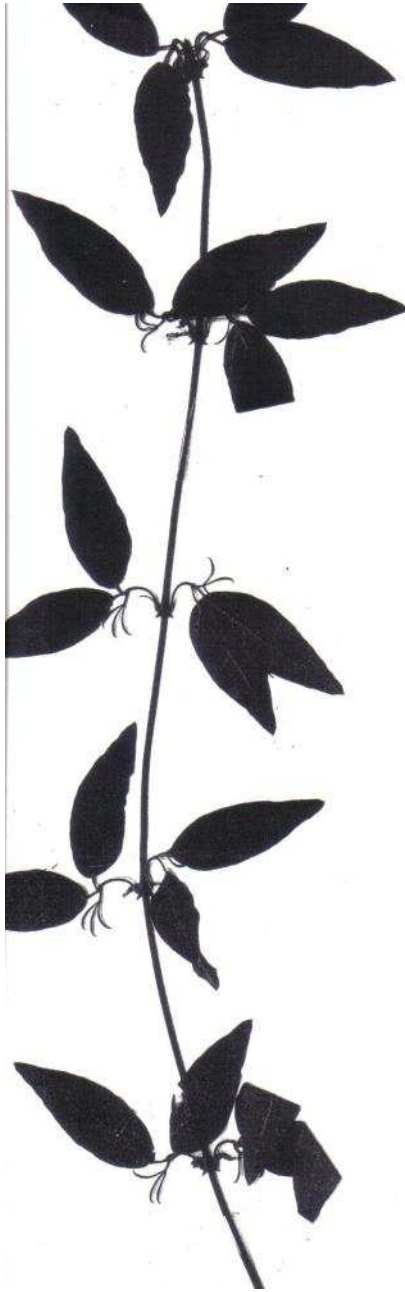
The situation/success needs to be compared not to 10 years ago, but as to how much worse it would be now without the control project.



# Problems/Issues

- Previously unknown small infestations continue to be found in other tributaries, side creeks/gullies, villages, farm homesteads...notified or found during camphor/privet work
- Less funds and longer distances have not allowed regular full and systematic follow-up treatment transects
- Continued regrowth from tubers and occasional seedlings:
  - Hidden under flood debris
  - Hidden amongst weed growth eg. *Tradescantia fluminensis*





Major benefit of Orara River Cat's Claw and riparian restoration work is early detection of potentially serious infestations of other weeds and their early treatment. Eg.

- Honey Locust
- Madeira vine
- Celtis
- Broad leaf pepper tree
- Kudzu