

A LITTLE PIECE OF RAINFOREST SUPPORTS AUSTRALIA'S RAINFORESTS

It is not often that a company can have such a direct association with the causes it supports but **Ambius** has done it with a new range of indoor plants and its involvement with Rainforest Rescue.

"We are a continuing major supporter of the good work Rainforest Rescue is doing, particularly in helping to protect the Daintree Rainforest in far north Queensland," says **Ambius** Marketing and Communications Manager, Pacific, Ms Anne Briggs.

Ambius is the new name for Rentokil Tropical Plants, Australia and the world's largest provider of indoor plants, silk floral arrangements and interior artwork for commercial environments.

"We are conscious of spreading the message about the importance of air quality. I think everyone knows about the role rainforests play in improving the air we breathe, but few know that indoor plants do the same thing," says Ms. Briggs.

To highlight the issue of indoor air quality and to support Rainforest Rescue, **Ambius** has launched a new Australian rainforest range which include: *Castenospermum australe* (Blackbean), *Licuala ramsayii* (Fan Palm), *Schefflera actinophylla* (Umbrella tree) and *Agatha robusta* (Kauri Pine). All are Australian rainforest plants that have been selected for their abilities to survive well in an indoor environment.

When customers choose any of these plants as part of their **Ambius** indoor plant rental, **Ambius** make a contribution that will go to Rainforest Rescue to help protect rainforests forever in Australia's unique Daintree area in North Queensland. This will help create wildlife corridors for our unique fauna.

Rainforest Rescue's Executive Officer, Mr Kelvin Davies, says the new range is a great promotion for the importance of rainforests.

"What better way to remind people of the importance of rainforests, than to have your own miniature piece of rainforest sitting on your desk or in your offices every day."

According to Anne Briggs, research from around the world and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) confirms that indoor plants remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the air indoors, among their other benefits.

Professor Margaret Burchett from UTS says that their studies have shown the plants can reduce and keep down VOCs to negligible levels, reduce carbon dioxide by up to 25% and carbon monoxide by up to 90%.

"It is both the plant and the potting mix micro-organisms which act as a symbiotic microcosm that gives cleaner, fresher air," says Professor Burchett.

Recognition of the role of indoor plants is also growing, with the Green Building Council now awarding two points towards green star ratings for indoor plant installations*.

For more information on the new Australian Rainforest range or other Ambius information: www.ambiusindoorplants.com.au

The head office of **Ambius** is in Sydney, with other offices in Melbourne, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Adelaide, Perth, Canberra and other regions in Australia. Over 160 people are employed, working in various plant technician, sales, support and managerial roles.

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More information:

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* For more information on the Green Building Council Australia, go to the Office Interiors / Interior Environment Quality section, (IEQ – 15 'Indoor Plants'): <http://www.gbca.org.au/green-star/rating-tools/green-star-office-interiors-v1-1/1530.htm>



Rainforest Fact Sheet

Daintree Facts:

- The Daintree is Australia's largest contiguous areas of rainforest.
- The Daintree is the world's oldest rainforest at over 135 million years old.
- The Daintree contains an almost complete record of the evolution of plant life on earth.
- The Daintree is home to the largest collection of ancestral flowering plant families in the world. 12 out of the world's 19 families of primitive flowering plants grow in the Daintree.
- The Daintree is home to the only recognised Aboriginal rainforest culture in Australia.
- The Daintree is home to over 120 rare or threatened species of plants and animals.
- The endangered Cassowary is the third largest bird in the world.

Rainforest Facts:

- 25% of Western pharmaceuticals are derived from rainforest ingredients.
- Rainforests help stabilise the world's climate by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Deforestation is responsible for 20-25% of all carbon emissions entering the atmosphere.
- Tropical rainforests have the world's highest levels of biodiversity.

Sobering Statistics:

- The United Nations reports that at least 30,000 hectares of tropical forest disappear from Earth every day.
- There have been more than 800 recorded extinctions since 1500.
- Up to 100 species are now becoming extinct every day. Up to half of all species will be extinct in our lifetime.
- Species extinctions are likely to occur for up to a century after a tropical forest has been logged.
- Due to the interconnectedness of species, if one is removed, it can impact on hundreds of others.
- Current estimates of the total number of species on Earth range from 5 to 30 million, of which, only 2 million have been formally described.

More information on rainforests and Rainforest Rescue: www.rainforestrescue.org.au