

# Parish of the Callide Valley

Softwood scrub is a wonderful form of 'bush' found throughout our Parish of the Callide Valley. One of the best places to walk through softwood scrub is at Mt Scoria Conservation Park just south of Thangool which is just south of Biloela.



Narrow leaved bottle tree at  
Mt Scoria Conservation Park

Softwood scrub is also called bottle tree scrub. It is dry, seasonal subtropical rainforest. The extent of these communities has declined significantly due to land clearing and fragmentation, fire, invasion by exotic plants, grazing and salinity.

You will often see lone bottle trees on the hillsides as you travel through our valley; evidence that once softwood scrub grew there. There are four different types of bottle tree growing in our area; broad and narrow-leaved bottle tree (*Brachychiton australis* & *Brachychiton rupestris*), Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) and bidwillii (*Brachychiton bidwillii*).

It is difficult to describe a typical softwood scrub patch because there is considerable regional variation of plants and variation in the height and density of the canopy. Softwood scrub typically has an uneven canopy (4-9m high) and contains a mixture of evergreen, semi-evergreen and deciduous emergent trees (9-18m high). They are also characterised by small leaved plants and the presence of swollen-stemmed bottle trees. Vines, twining and scrambling plants are also prominent.



Broad leaved bottle tree