



MISSION BEACH
BULLETIN



INSIDE:

- C4 20th Anniversary—New Environment Centre
- Northern Quoll found at Mission Beach
- Going coconuts
- Eco tourism focus for Mission Beach
- Fencing — a big issue
- Council development decisions
- Horses for courses

Mission Beach is special - you can help keep it that way



C4 Update

Wow! 20 years old this year. Countless hours volunteered by a long line of people with passion, purpose and a vision to preserve the natural and social values of the Mission Beach area. An impressive cumulative effort has brought us to this point.

What would this place be like today if C4 never existed.

If the Bjelke Peterson Government had followed the 'Nolan Report', Mission Beach would have five marinas and all the unallocated state lands, most of which are the large tracts of remaining forested areas at Mission Beach, would be under high rise unit development. I think it would be safe to say that Mission Beach would no longer be home to our iconic cassowary.

Protecting north Queensland's unique and precious coast from development and its diverse impacts has been a concern of many conservationists and much of the community in North Queensland for a long time, and remains so.

The Environmental Defenders Office and Save Hinchinbrook Inc. and many members of the community were delighted to hear that the Queensland Government recently relied on the *Cardwell Hinchinbrook Regional Coastal Management Plan* to refuse an application by Port Hinchinbrook Services Pty Ltd for permission to dump sea dredge spoil from the marina development into the World Heritage listed Hinchinbrook Channel.

The refusal decision was made by the Queensland Government's newly formed Department of Environment and Resource Management ("DERM"), following consultation between the previous Environment Protection Agency and Department of Natural Resources and Water. C4 applauds the efforts of Margaret Thorsborne and Margaret Moorhouse who have kept the battle alive and won!

Congratulations to Bianca Keeley for her wildlife documentary CASSOWARIES. We hope you were able to see it on ABC television recently. Bianca spent three years researching and filming to produce the first documentary made that follows the lifecycle of the cassowary in the wild. The stunning footage had us all transfixed and it was heart warming to watch the family interaction. The feelings were matched with grave concern for the safety and survival of our endangered cassowary. Bianca introduced herself to C4 while here filming footage post Cyclone Larry. CASSOWARIES DVD will be available at ABC shops from the 3rd September and will also be shown at the Cassowary Festival. (see opposite) Visit Bianca's website at [www. Bk-films.com](http://www.Bk-films.com)

Our thanks to Terry Keven for his never ending patience in creating the photographic panels to realise our concept for the interpretive display at the environment centre. It is wonderful to have such a professional resource in our small community.

We invite the community to celebrate our Open day on the 16th August (see opposite page).

C4 Management Team

Bulletin Advertising Rates;

Black and White—1/8 page \$15, 1/4 page \$30, 1/2 page \$60, and full page \$120
Colour—1/8 page \$30, 1/4 page \$60, 1/2 page \$120 and full page \$240

Enquiries to; Mission Beach Bulletin, P.O. Box 165, Mission Beach, QLD 4852

The Bulletin is printed and distributed by The Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation Inc. (C4) Porter Promenade, Mission Beach Tel. (07)4068 7197, Fax (07)4068 7298

| | |
|--|--|
| 2 | C4 Editorial |
| 3 | Community Page |
| 4 | Nursery/Arboretum |
| 5 | Ross Overton Park |
| 6 - 7 | Rural Rave |
| 8-9 | Djiru Country/ Cover Story |
| 10-11 | Habitat Matters |
| 12 -13 | Quoll Story/Horses for Courses |
| 14-15 | C4 Environment Centre/ Terrain Happenings |
| 16-17 | Our Foreshore is not YOUR Dumping Ground/ Changing Face of Mission Beach |
| 18 | Mission Beach Film Festival/ Visitor Information Centre |
| 19 | Garner's Beach Rehab/Council dog bylaws |
| 20 | Native Trees in Fruit/Weed of the Month |
| 21-32 | Community information Advertisements |
| Cover Photo—'Ms Cass and Joov' by Liz Gallie | |

Please join us to celebrate
the newly revamped C4 Environment Centre



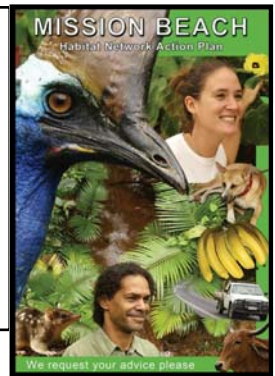
The community is invited to an Open day sausage sizzle

on
16th August
from
12pm to 3pm
at

the C4 Environment Centre

The Launch of the Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Plan (MBH NAP)

In recognition of the high biodiversity of our area the MBH NAP has been developed by Terrain in partnership with CSIRO after lengthy consultation with the community and interested stakeholders. Mission Beach is identified by both the state and federal government as a priority conservation area. Special planning considerations need to apply that will ensure the retention of our natural values. Comments on the Plan are sought and C4 encourages the local community to have their say. (More page 15)



On the 24th of June, Mission Beach Business and Tourism organised a workshop to encourage as many businesses as possible to look towards eco-certification. The two hour session was conducted by Ecotourism Australia's Acting CEO, Kristie Gray who said, "Mission Beach is in a perfect position to become the next Ecotourism destination". (More page 9)



The Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) is hosting a Cassowary Summit at the Tanks Arts Centre, Collins Avenue, Cairns on the 8th September. It will be during the Cairns festival and will incorporate a variety of activities and forums.

The aim is to raise awareness for the endangered cassowary. It is a free event and everyone is welcome.

All wildlife and conservation groups are invited to participate by having a stall to promote their products or their particular interests.

For further information please contact C4 at (07) 4068 7197 or Stacey at WTMA on 4052 0561



Congratulations to Garners Beach residents Lynda Hannah and Paul Williams for winning both the Queensland Building Design Association's Best New House and Queensland's Sustainability and Energy Efficient awards.

Based in many countries, Lynda and Paul have a long history of involvement with renewable energy, sustainability projects and training.

As the world is being forced to address the affects of carbon emissions, technologies used such as in this house will need to become more mainstream.

It is admirable to have achieved such a high level of efficiency through cutting edge renewable energy and recycling technology.

One house, even with the large footprint this one occupies, may be sustainable in an immediate environmental sense.

C4's concerns remain about the number of houses still being proposed for the same property and the impact, including increased traffic, the development may have on the local environment and wildlife including the Garners Beach cassowary population. (More page 11)



Nursery/Arboretum

Currently we have around 8000 local native plants in the C4 nursery. We also have thousands of seeds germinating or about to germinate in the seed tunnel (which needs enthusiastic volunteers to pot up!). Every week C4 nursery volunteers plant at least 1000 seeds, so its been hard to keep up with potting these little ones into tubes in time for the next lot of seeds to germinate.



In the last couple of months, many of the plants grown in the C4 Nursery have been planted in revegetation sites throughout the local Mission Beach area. We have been working with the CCRC Revegetation Unit, Conservation volunteers, Green Corp and community, planting trees at sites to widen a cassowary corridor at Wongaling Creek (behind Marks Park) and at Cottonwood, a private property on the Tully-Mission Beach Road (as part of a grant from Threatened Species Network). We have also been part of coastal foreshore plantings at Bingil Bay (two plant outs), and at North



Mission Beach to help stabilize the foreshore and reduce coastal erosion.

Volunteers have also weeded and started to replant the creek side of the C4 Nursery to stop the spread of weeds into the nursery, and to rehabilitate this disturbed area.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the nursery or being part of our local area plant-outs, come down to the nursery on Fridays for our community nursery days from 10am-3pm.

We have a number of beautiful rainforest and coastal plants in the Nursery ready to plant in your garden now. Most of our plants are for sale at \$2 each and have been lovingly grown by our committed volunteers. Come down and have a look at our selection today...

Planting native trees, vines, and shrubs in your garden makes sense. They are perfectly adapted to this environment, providing food for many different birds, bats, butterflies, bees and insects, while looking great and helping to restore habitat for our local wildlife, including cassowaries.

There are many species suitable to plant in your garden. Most of the plants grown in the nursery have been grown from seeds collected in the local area, so are perfect for our environmental conditions.

As usual, we have in stock many species of lillypills, an attractive tree bearing an array of beautiful coloured fruits and ranging in size and habit. The foliage of the new leaves is often pink or purple, making them a most attractive garden tree and attracting a multitude of bird and butterflies to your garden. These trees can range in sizes from some which grow bushy and lower and some which grow tall and bear giant red cassowary fruits.

Some of the species available in the nursery now include:

Syzygium hemilampra - a beautiful dark green leaved tree, with clusters of white lilly pilly berries, perfect for attracting birds and butterflies to your garden.

Cordyline cannifolia—Native Cordyline—which bear a stunning spray of bright red shiny seeds eagerly sought after by birds.

Dianella Flax Lilies - We also have a lot of Dianella Flax lilies, a small growing ground lily bearing delicate purple flowers and blue-purple berries for much of the year.

Alexandra Palms – Good food for the birds and giving that tropical feel to your garden.

Flame Tree (Brachychiton acerifolius) – A blooming great Christmas with the red flowers of the flame tree in your garden.



Photo Mike Trenery ©

Little Evodia (Melicope rubra) – A smaller growing tree, with pink flowers borne along the branches of this beautiful tree to attract the Ulysses Butterfly to your garden. This is the host plant for the caterpillars of the Ulysses butterfly.

Beach Callophyllum (Callophyllum inophyllum) – a stately tree with shiny dark green leaves, white lusciously perfumed flowers and large green turning brown seeds. Prized for its timber.

Red Bead Tree/False Red Sandalwood - Adenthera pavonina – a fine leaved tree with curly seed pods, ripening to expose bright red hard seeds, which have been used for beads.

Aristolochia – This vine is the host plant for the iridescent green Birdswing butterfly and will therefore attract them to lay their eggs in your garden.

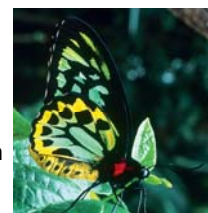


Photo Mike Trenery ©



We had a very special visitor to the nursery this month. A beautiful red, black and white Lacewing butterfly was seen fluttering about the nursery, maybe looking for their host vine, Adenia heterophylla which

we are currently growing in the nursery. This butterfly is listed as vulnerable and is therefore not often seen. Plant a lacewing butterfly vine in your garden to feed the larvae of this spectacular and special butterfly and to help increase their numbers in our area.

Ross Overton Park/Norm Byrnes Arboretum

I have spent much of the past year filling in the under-storey of Arboretum/Park.

One of the aims was to shut off the road as far as possible so that the area will be almost totally enclosed. The plants are in place and seem to be thriving. In a few years we'll see how successful the operation was.

My sense is that the Park is largely complete and will undergo only minor changes from now on, eg the addition of new tree signage. The main job will be maintenance.

In light of Council's decision to weed, revegetate and upgrade the foreshore along the full length of Mission Beach, I'll be devoting more and more of my time to the area directly north of the current grounds.

My hope is that the entire coastline between Bingil Bay and South Mission will eventually have the same ambience as the Park.

If so the C4 initiative started by Norm Byrnes and facilitated by Ross Overton in the 1990's will have become one of the major features of Mission Beach. Their idea will have succeeded beyond anyone's expectations.



Bob Jones, Park Manager



Rural Rave

“I told you so’s” have been coming thick and fast with the recent collapse of some of the massive M.I.S’s (managed investment schemes). They gave investors substantial tax incentives to get into what were initially timber plantations throughout Australia, though lost favour with existing farmers when they expanded into horticultural crops in a big way, with scant regard for existing supply and demand forces, in crops such as mangoes. Our local “level playing field” has already seen foreign corporate giants Chiquita and Dole muscling in on the Aussie banana industry, and the 21.4 million who eat the fruit (and dictate the market size).

The latest challenge to add an extra furrow to the brows of local banana growers is the import threat. However the extensive protocols required for bananas to be imported and the strength and resolve of our local growers should keep the production of Australia’s most eaten fruit, here for a long time to come.

As a farming district Mission Beach and the close hinterland have some very strong and uncommon assets. The red basalt soil type (kraznozem) found in the Clump Point region is rated the best type in the world where natural fertility and good drainage are important. The next best soil type here is red/brown metamorphic, derived from greywacke parent rock. Greywacke is formed from sediments (in our case volcanic ash) which settled in ancient sea beds and formed haphazard sandstone like rock which has since been uplifted to form most of the elevated land from Luggar Bay to the Walter Hill Range between El Arish and Tully.

In contrast, Mount Mackay and the islands are less fertile granite country. The Mission Beach area has advantages over farmlands north and south in more ways than just good soils and rainfall. The cold air which slips east from the high tablelands at night, doesn’t seem to pull winter temperatures as low in our region as some places further north, so minimum temperature is less of a restriction with crop choice and risk factor.

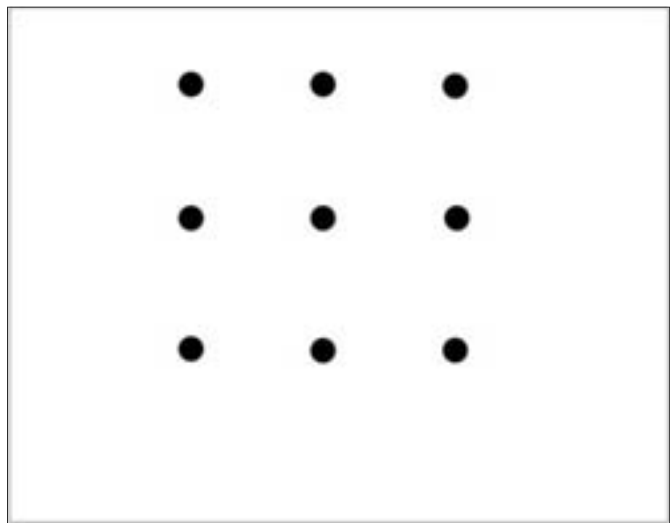
I believe the natural environment has a lot to do with shaping the character of the people who live and work there. The vibrant, rich diversity of the Mission Beach environment has infused its people with resilience and an often adventurous business spirit. Anyone who needs more than 10 seconds to think of local characters endowed with “coastal crafty/ jungle mongrel” attributes, could broaden their social networks.

One such character once told me of the major difficulty he had getting Tully banks and machinery dealers to take him seriously about the purchase of a new tractor. That was in the early days when almost all of our Nations’ banana needs were grown in Southern Qld and Northern NSW, and bananas were basically a backyard crop up here.

If you were a serious farmer then - you grew cane. The good advice that grower gave me at the time was “when everyone else is stepping left, you step right, and when they all start heading right, you go left”.

Though “not as young as he used to be” that same grower is still here, in fine form, with admirable succession processes in place for the next generation to continue, when he and his wife reckon they’ve had enough. What he was saying made plenty of business sense, when there’s a lot of good competitors in something you can expect to work much harder for any margins.

The attached problem (below) is a classic I reckon, for showing that we can work really hard at things and not get a result. We very often just need to break our trained, habitual thinking patterns to find the key that makes all the difference. Just link all the nine dots (below) using 4 straight lines connected at their ends. The lines can cross each other. *The solution will be in the next bulletin.*



The Mission Beach mind set for rural land has been fairly fixed for a few decades....cattle and or bananas then subdivide, so once productive paddocks are lost forever to masonry blocks and golden cane palms.

Whilst planners have recognized the value of good quality agricultural land to our community, I believe they still lack vision on viable block size for tropical horticulture. Banana farming is still used as a benchmark for local horticulture, with good reason as that is currently the major horticulture player.

A century ago the Cutten brothers pioneered growing coffee and tea at Bingil Bay. Both have now “come of age” as major crops and tourism drawcards on the Tablelands where the growing environment is slightly more suitable. (eg Nerada Tea)

Mission Beach has the perfect microclimate for growing most of the world’s tropical and ultra tropical delicacies, with everything from vanilla to uvilla worthy of commercial scrutiny. I believe the rural potential diversity first tried and tested by the early pioneers will be thoroughly revisited in the coming decades. Eddie Banfield planted one of only 3 purple mangosteen trees (Queen of the tropical fruits) growing in Australia in the early 80s, on Dunk Island. It well and truly out lived him (they produce more with age and live for hundreds of years) but

was unfortunately bulldozed for the golf course before its value over turf was realized. It could have been producing 500kg plus of the brilliant fruit today, and been a rare and living part of our early horticultural history if the developers of the time had a bit more knowledge and vision. And yes, it would have survived nature's challenges from the recent cyclones.

Times have changed though and Brighton's farm for example at East Feluga now has around 1000 mangosteen trees in the ground and plenty of other local growers have smaller commercial plantings.

The early horticultural pioneers in the north would have probably overlooked trialing crops like durian due to its very rich taste and aroma, described as "smelling like hell – tasting like heaven". Until fairly recent times the average Australians' taste buds were only accustomed to relatively bland fare and the likes of olive oil, garlic and pizza fell well and truly into the "wog tucker" category, though now they are virtually staples as we crave richer, fuller flavours.

The controversial durian (tagged King of fruits) is definitely on its own as a rich flavoursome fruit. Apparently tigers and elephants fight over it in the wild Asian rainforests where it originates. The smell of the ripe fruit is to encourage/help wildlife locate and eat the fruit and therefore disperse the large seeds. Durian is gaining popularity in Australia as more people get to try good varieties. The frozen durians in the chain stores are good varieties from Thailand – though through the freezing process, which allows the fruit to meet import quarantine protocols, and subsequent de-frosting by the chain stores, means

they're normally of extremely poor eating quality.

Fresh Australian durian easily fetches between \$10 and \$20/ kg wholesale in Southern markets, and the Mission Beach area is perfect for growing it.

This area may well have a reprieve (thanks to the 2025/31 plan) from heading down the same path as Tweed Heads, Coffs Harbour and others, where the

majority of good farming land has been lost to urban sprawl, reducing its critical mass advantages as a production region. Local planners will predictably be lobbied with the "too many neighbours, too small to be viable and not enough water" arguments from landholders who see subdivision as the best option for them to make a dollar and cash in farmland. This area has plenty of potential for horticulture outside of the cane, cattle and banana "square," which would maintain our economic base and district character better than the short term

gains from slicing up good productive country, which inevitably means more traffic, crowded boat ramps and increased pressure on our local recreation fishery. Simple things highly valued by many locals and visitors alike.

The collapse of the likes of Storm Financial and the giant rural managed investment schemes Timbercorp and Great Southern, has, if nothing else, reinforced the belief of a lot of the people living in this area, that the dollar doesn't always rule, and bigger isn't always better.

Peter Salleras, Rural/Ag.



Harry Linnett with a big durian grown at East Feluga.



Abiu harvested just two years after planting



Djiru Country

Submissions have been called for the review of the Queensland Bio-Discovery Act 2004

The Act indicates there are benefits to bio-discovery – but there is no recognition of the detriment which comes from the exploitation of biological material and resources. The exploitation is problematic for Indigenous people and for Australia as a whole.

Australian governments – and Queensland among them – allow for overseas companies to invest in bio-discovery, exploit their discoveries and privatise them. Most of the profits are then taken overseas and the biological resource is sold back to Australia at some point in the future.

The Bio-Discovery Act 2004 allows for bio-discovery but says nothing about the granting of patents. If patents are not defined and limited, they can be used to exploit the results including privatisation of knowledge and the stripping of intellectual property rights.

Strict limits need to be explored on how the results of bio-discovery are commercialised.

Genetic modification of native biological material is an area of great concern and needs to be clarified in the Act.

There is an obvious omission from the document, which is the recognition of Indigenous peoples' intellectual property rights on known uses of biological material. Much of the material gathered by corporations is obtained through discussion – often informal – with Indigenous people or by written sources of Indigenous peoples' use of plants.

Mission Beach is recognised by both the State and Federal Government as a high biodiversity area sure to contain many essential and to date undiscovered biological resources which may well prove to be of major benefit in sustaining the health of our local, broader and world community.

C4 believes in the need for acknowledgment in the Act of the Indigenous people's knowledge of biological resources and for consultation to take place before any bio-discovery project is approved.

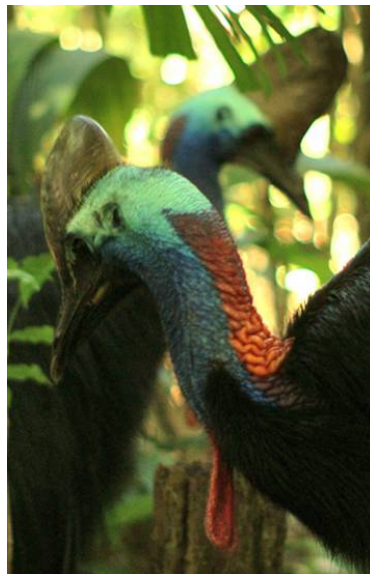
Cover Story

This is the time of year when the large chicks that have been seen accompanying the adult male cassowary over the past nine to eighteen months are being chased away. They are being abandoned to find their own territories as the mating season is in full swing. The dad spent up to 50 days incubating the eggs and has been very protective of them since then. He has prepared them well to survive on their own.

These chicks will have a hard time finding a place in the diminished and fragmented remaining rainforest around Mission Beach. Cassowaries occupy 100% of their available habitat apart from patches that are too isolated. Unless an adult is removed from the existing population, it is seldom that any chicks will be able to find, and establish, a territory of their own. They will most likely perish by either starvation or predation.

Two cassowaries whose territories overlap at Bingil Bay and extend to Garners Beach are currently being observed by the local community going through the yearly ritual. One, known as 'Ms Cass', is around nine years of age and the other, 'Joov', has just turned four.

Joov is a newcomer to the mating game and was able to claim a foraging range after the reshuffling of territories resulting from the death of a Garners beach female bird believed to be over forty years of age. Ms Cass has frequented the lower Bingil Bay area all her life and moved over to Garners Beach when the old matriarch 'Betty' aka 'Mario' became ill and was euthanised by OPW about a year ago. She has made only periodic and brief returns since her move. Since then Joov has claimed it as his own territory. He originated from the Bicton Hill area.



Ms Cass and Joov have been constant companions for the past month. She will most likely lay up to five eggs for him to start the cycle all over again.

They cross the road at Bingil Bay almost daily and run the gauntlet with the morning and evening traffic of workers hurrying to be on time. Heavy vehicles use the road regularly during the day and traffic is increasing with tourists keen to visit our area.

If Ms Cass and Joov can avoid illness or any of the many threats human encroachment into their world has introduced, they will live to around forty years of age. Ms Cass will visit Joov every year. Unless there is an increase of habitat there will be no increase in the number of the birds.

The longevity and slow emergence to adulthood leave this species very vulnerable to a sharp decline in their small remaining population.

Local council by-laws can be introduced and current ones enforced to deal with many of the threats facing cassowaries at Mission Beach.

One such move could be the management of wildlife crossings identified on the JSC Planning Scheme which recommends a speed limit of 40kph.

Lowering the speed of vehicles along the Bingil Bay Road between Connors Corner and the beach to 40k an hour would have a multiple affect. It would create a safer environment for the residents of Bingil Bay especially the children walking to the beach, enhance and reinforce Bingil Bay's 'village' status as recognized in the FNQ2031 plan and would help to ensure safe passage for these cassowaries at the locally known and identified crossing.

It all makes so much sense!

Liz Gallie

ECOTOURISM - Are we there yet?

A consensus of opinion in Mission Beach would suggest that the main business activity for this area going forward would be tourism. The place is a natural, being so ideally placed between the World Heritage rain forests and the Great Barrier Reef.

The problem is that any tourism activity has to be carefully managed in order to protect the wonderful bio-diversity of this area and the endangered Cassowary. There are a good number of local tourism operators with sustainability at heart so ecotourism could see Mission Beach thrive both economically and environmentally.

On the 24th of June, Mission Beach Business and Tourism organised a workshop to encourage as many businesses as possible to look towards eco-certification. The two hour session was conducted by Ecotourism Australia's Acting CEO, Kristie Gray. Ms Gray said, "Mission Beach is in a perfect position to become the next Ecotourism destination".

The ECO Certification Program was developed to address the need to identify genuine nature tourism operators and provide travellers with an assurance that a certified product is backed by a commitment to best practice and ecological sustainability.

There are three levels of certification:

- **Nature Tourism:** Tourism in a natural area that leaves a minimal impact.
- **Ecotourism:** Tourism in a natural area that offers interesting ways to learn about the environment with an operator that uses resources wisely, contributes to the conservation of the environment and helps local communities.
- **Advanced Ecotourism:** Providing an opportunity to learn about the environment with an operator who is committed to achieving best practice, using resources wisely, is contributing to the conservation of the environment and helping local communities.

Sanctuary Retreat at Brooks Beach is currently the only eco-accredited tourism business at Mission Beach. It has an Advanced Ecotourism Certificate. Owner Paul Verity is obviously committed to the model, having been eco-accredited for ten years. Paul believes increasing numbers of tourists are seeking the relaxed experience of the natural environment where lush rainforest grows down to the sea and there is still the best opportunity of seeing a Cassowary in the wild.

Terrain NRM (Natural Resource Management body for the Wet Tropics) Local Area Planner Tony O'Malley is drafting an Ecotourism strategy that identifies the natural attractions of Mission Beach and proposes a number of projects to enhance visitor experiences in the future. "Ideas include promoting the fact that we've got the biggest fan palm forest in Australia, visitor access to all the different habitat types, an international Cassowary festival, and a national reef and rainforest conservation museum as a wet weather activity. Assistance to help businesses become eco-certified will be part of the strategy too" he said. Eco friendly ventures might also include guided night tours, indigenous and farm tours. The importance of the natural environment in the eco equation should not be understated. There is a



Photo Preston Clothier ©

wealth of lowland rainforest separated by the villages of Mission Beach, lava headlands like Clump Point and areas of World Heritage. For tourists and especially overseas visitors, it is possible to see Cassowaries in their natural surroundings. This has to be maintained by the preservation of habitat diversity and connectivity, and research into Cassowaries and Northern Quolls by the CSIRO. Cassowaries do face an increased threat of being killed by cars with any increase in tourism numbers. Some reduction in speed limits will be necessary to reduce the possibility of road kill. Where possible appropriate bus arrangements should be in place for incoming eco tourists.

One element of ecotourism is that tourists are encouraged to "linger longer", spending more time in particular areas. An alliance between the Atherton Tablelands and Mission Beach seems like a good idea. Given the heavy CO₂ emissions of motor vehicles and jet aircraft this is a more sustainable thing to do.

With a growing global concern for the long-term sustainability of the environment, and the increasing interest in Nature and Ecotourism, the opportunities for ecotourism operators are certainly increasing.



Habitat Matters

Seafarer Investments.

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC) has denied a 53 lot residential subdivision on land containing remnant vegetation, situated in a gazetted cassowary corridor and zoned conservation at South Mission Beach. (below foreground middle) This development had the potential to introduce many of the threatening processes to the cassowary at a bottleneck in habitat connectivity between the Kennedy Bay National Park and the vegetation to the north. The developer, Mr Will Manton who is responsible for the removal of natural vegetation on large tracts of Tam O'Santer Point to the boundary of the Kennedy Bay National Park (below centre) and South Mission Beach claims that the "goal posts have been changed". C4 agree with the council decision.



Wahroonga Holdings Development at Lugger Bay.

The 13 residential subdivision has also been declared a controlled action under the EPBC Act. Council have approved the subdivision with conditions which require the 65m erosion zone on Lugger Bay to be voluntarily surrendered to the State under the trusteeship of CCRC to be managed as a Coastal Management Reserve. (marked above) C4 believes that there should be a buffer zone of 20 metres behind this reserve, be revegetated and provide walking access to the beach further north so that there is no encroachment into the thin strip of coastal remnant vegetation assumed to be endangered littoral rainforest and where there are frequent sightings of cassowaries on the beach.

A covenant is also to be placed over the common areas and areas on each of the 12 lots outside the housing footprint requiring revegetation. These areas will be subject to council inspection. However, the housing footprint has been increased from 400m² to 800m².

We thank the proponent, Murray Charlton, for inviting C4 to discuss the proposal before it went to the council. Overall it would appear that this development leads to a net ecological gain for a largely cleared area.

There is a concern about the allowance of one dog per household. Dogs of all sizes can be a threat to

our wildlife. The recent discovery of a Northern Quoll at Mission Beach needs to be considered as dogs and cats are a major threat to these endangered native marsupials.

Sellars Banana Farm Development at Carmoo.

An application for a material change of use to allow for a 60 lot residential subdivision on rural land currently being used as a banana farm has been declared a controlled action because of the impact it may have on matters of national environmental significance.

C4 believes that Good Quality Agricultural Land should not be used for residential housing. The site is also positioned strategically at a very high cassowary road mortality site. The plan would fragment the vegetation on site and inhibit free movement of the cassowaries known to utilize the area ranging between the World Heritage areas of the Walter Hill Range and the Hull River National Park.

Cavanagh Development at Narragon Beach.

This alteration of the boundaries encroaching into the declared covenanted area and incorporating Mackness Creek into several of the residential blocks of this development, appears to be in breach of the decision handed down in the Environment and Planning Court. The CCRC Planning officer admitted the approval of the changed boundary was 'a mistake' and C4 believe the move is a blatant act in contempt of the Court ruling.

The matter has been raised with EDO and enquiries are continuing.

Thompson Development on Cassowary Drive

A 41 residential lots subdivision on the old Porter farm on Cassowary Drive has been approved by the DEWHA after 22 months of assessment. It is an excellent example of how the contradictory environmental laws of three tiers of government create a lack of surety for both the environment and development lobby. The development was approved with what C4 could probably see as the best list of conditions yet to be handed down to a developer under the EPBC Act. However, **three and a half thousand square metres of prime cassowary habitat is still allowed to be removed** for a house block and associated infrastructure. The developer has commented that it has cost him a considerable amount of money and that developers may not see Mission Beach as such an attractive area to move into.

Dunk Island Expansion.

A preliminary approval was granted by CCRC meeting of July 9. Councilor Jen Downs is to be commended as the only dissenter to the decision. Since that time there has been a change of ownership and is now owned by a philanthropic American company based in Switzerland, The McCall MacBain Foundation, whose vision statement is 'to improve the welfare of humanity through focused grants in areas of health, education and the environment'.

We look forward to opening dialogue with the new owners to see how their vision will, or could be, applied to development at Dunk Island.

The Oasis Development at Nonda Street

continues to be a disappointing outcome for Mission Beach. The Council has approved a development application for an increase of density to allow 58 units on 3 blocks of land. It was one of the first council development decisions at Mission Beach since the introduction of the FNQ2031 Plan and it is disappointing to see that the Council have taken a 'business as usual' approach to such developments. The density could have been lowered and conditions could have been imposed to incorporate a screen of natural vegetation to maintain the village atmosphere, especially at the entrance of Mission Beach.

The entire development is proving to be having a very high impact on the environment, the visual amenity and on the immediate cassowary population.

The introduction of fencing and raised walkways has



placed barriers to the free movement of the known family of cassowaries which utilize this area year round. The partially fenced area creates a trap and mesh fencing has been known to cause mortal injuries to cassowaries as they attempt to continue to access their traditional foraging areas, in this case to the thin fenced corridor that can only be accessed from either end. A very distressed cassowary with two chicks had to be released after becoming entrapped and the site contractor said they are observed often inside the residential area along with another larger bird, a female known also to utilize the area. The situation remains unresolved.

In a recent newspaper article the proponents of the large resort/residential development at Ella Bay, a former partner in the Mission Beach Satori Resort development, claims that they are avoiding any impact on the cassowary by **incorporating raised walkways and fencing** into the design.

Hannah/Williams Development at Garners Beach.

DEWHA has declared this a controlled action because of the impact it may have on matters of environment significance.

CCRC are yet to decide on the application.

In the Mid 90's C4 objected to and fought against a development proposed for the same site because of the large development footprint it would have on the highly sensitive environment. The proponents of 'Cofordo Eco Development' withdrew their application after a 2 year court battle. The new proposed **11 lot residential development** will occupy a similar area and configuration. it may inhibit cassowary access to most of the level land except for roadways.

It is proposed that there will be extensive revegetation carried out and that 70% of the site will be covenanted. Most of the site apart from the level ground which will be largely occupied by the 11 dwellings and associated infrastructure is natural habitat contained on steep rocky cliffs, terrain that cassowaries cannot traverse. The remainder is mostly within the erosion zone or wetland area.

Documentation by the EPA presented with the development application reports, *"The proposed reconfiguration if it was to proceed in the manner planned could cause adverse impacts on cassowaries and their Essential Habitat on the site. The new roads, clearing onsite and general human and domestic pet presence are likely to render the site far less suitable for cassowaries. This is exacerbated by the position and clearing associated with proposed Lots 1 and 2 which are essentially located in the corridor onto the site. The layout of the reconfiguration may also need to be changed with proposed lots 1 And 2 taken out and revegetated"*. The EPA also states that the site has high conservation values including the important habitat value of the non remnant vegetation and for the need to maintain a cassowary habitat and wildlife corridor. There is much written evidence by scientists to support the view that the area has high conservation value.

C4 acknowledges there will be a no dog policy and the major focus on energy efficiency and recyclable methods used for the existing dwellings. There are still concerns about the environmental impact 10 more houses may have on the site. It is our view that there should be no more than four modest dwellings built on this property. C4 wishes to ensure that cassowaries are able to continue to safely utilize the block including access to the beaches to the north-west where they have traditionally been regularly sighted.

Increased traffic to the end of a road traveling through a largely protected area is of great concern.

C4 Habitat Team



2005 pre cyclone

2006 post cyclone

2008 present house

CLARIFICATION
The following is in relation to a statement in the Habitat section of the May June Bulletin which said that several pending developments would require clearing of natural vegetation. This is to clarify that the proponents of the 11 residential lot development at Garners Beach have stated in their development application that no vegetation will be cleared in the development and that they will be undertaking revegetation on the site.



Proposed development 11 houses

Imagine More Mission Beach, well 'quollified'



An endangered species was discovered recently at Mission Beach. The Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), listed as endangered under national environment law had not previously been recorded along the coast between Ingham and Cairns but was recorded at Mission Beach when it was accidentally caught in a household trap set for a cat.

Audrey Reilly, Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPWS) Ranger in Charge of the Mission Beach Management Unit, is "very excited" about the sighting.

Climate change and sustainability Minister Kate Jones said the discovery would be a significant breakthrough and would lead to a survey of Mission Beach's coastal lowland habitat.

A spokesperson from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts also said the discovery was significant especially as it was found in low-lying rainforest near the beach.

"Until now, there have been no known records along this part of the coast. In Queensland, quolls were thought to only occupy high relief rocky habitats with the nearest known location being in high relief rocky habitat west of Cairns, or just north of Ingham.

"Receiving new information such as this is important and helps the department make better decisions that will help protect the health and diversity of the environment for the benefit of future generations."

This new discovery shows there is still so much to be learnt from the ecosystems of Mission Beach. Despite being recognised for many years for its biodiversity significance, there is still no thorough study of the fauna of Mission Beach. Additional work on the area's flora is also certainly warranted. We need greater understanding of the unique rainforest wildlife corridor from Mission Beach to the southern Atherton Tablelands

It is very important that we know what we might be losing before any other areas are cleared or fragmented.

Threats: Habitat destruction for agriculture and urban development is the main threat facing the Northern quoll. The fragmentation of its habitat then exposes it to a range of other threats ranging from vehicle mortality and predation by feral animals to poisoning by cane toads.

Recovery actions: There is a need to raise community awareness about northern quolls to ensure that they receive greater protection outside protected areas. In particular, landholders need to be encouraged to protect these animals on private land through habitat protection and responsible pet management.



Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) is the smallest member of the Quoll family, about the size of a small cat. Varying in colour from grey to brown with large white spots on their bodies, their chest and belly are cream or white in colour and unlike the Spotted Tail Quoll, which shares the same habitat, these guys have no white patches on the tail. This little fellow has a very cute pointed face similar to many of the smaller marsupial carnivores. Equally at home on the ground or climbing in trees, our spotted friend shelters in tree hollows and feeds on a variety of prey ranging from insects and reptiles to small mammals and soft fruit. Cute as they are, they are well known for their aggressive behaviour when disturbed. If you feel inclined to pat one, make sure you count your fingers first.

Almost all males die at about twelve months old, not long after mating. Adults become sexually mature at 12 months and live for two or three years (except if



you're a bloke). Although they are marsupials, like echidnas, the female Northern Quoll do not have a pouch. At the start of the breeding season the area around the nipples becomes enlarged and partially surrounded by a flap of skin. The young (usually six in a litter) live here for eight to ten weeks.

They then detach from the teats and are suckled in the nest until they are five months old. Up to one-third of a litter may die during this time. The surviving young have been observed still suckling from the mother on a stretched teat while clinging to her back - youch!

Now listed as "Endangered" the species was once found in coastal areas from north of Brisbane right across the Top End to the northern parts of Western Australia. It is now reduced to small populations in the Northern Territory, WA's Kimberley and Pilbara regions, and Queensland's Cape York, Wet Tropics and a small area just north of Brisbane.

Populations have declined for various reasons, such as deforestation and the introduction of invasive species like cats, foxes and cane toads. The rapid decrease in Northern Quolls in recent years appears to be directly linked to the spread of the cane toad into quoll habitats. A recent study in Kakadu National Park found that quoll's were completely gone from areas where the cane toad had recently arrived. Cane toads compete with native animals for food and shelter, toads will eat almost anything that will fit in their mouths, they are also poisonous at all stages of their life cycle. Northern Quolls often mistake cane toads for native frogs, eat them and then die from the poison.

Thanks to a call-out from two Bingil Bay residents, I recently came face to face with a Northern Quoll. They were aware that they were having nightly visits from an unwelcomed guest who was wandering around on their kitchen bench creating mayhem. Concerned that it may injure itself by chewing wires or come in contact with cleaning products, they set a critter-friendly cage-trap on the bench.



Imagine their surprise in the morning on discovering not a rat, but an incredibly cute and fuzzy spotted thing with beautiful eyes inside the trap. Our gorgeous little friend had obviously found himself an excellent source of food and had decided that co-habiting with humans was a good plan. Although after a stressful night in the trap, we hope that he has changed his mind and will stay in the rainforest where he belongs.

Many of our native animals are territorial. Make sure that the little furry friend you are relocating is going back into its own territory and not someone else's spot. If you must move them on, look at the habitat where you found them, and try to release them into a similar place.

Our little friend was released into the forest nearby in a nicely wooded area containing lots of undergrowth.

[contact Mission Beach Wildcare Inc 4068 7272 to learn more.](#)

Horses for courses

Recently The Cassowary Coast Regional Council voted against placing two road reserves within the Tam O'Shanter National Park into a protected area. It is concerning that Council went against the recommendation of the CCRC Planning Manager, Aletta Nugent.

C4 is of the opinion that the degazettal of the road segments and the converting of the area into National Park are in the best interests of the community, the environment and the council's already stretched finances. The incorporation into the National Park would have allowed QPW to improve and maintain the walking track as well as enhance wildlife habitat,

One of the reasons given for the decision is that "Horse owners have rights too".

It is illegal to take horses into National Parks in Queensland although there is no such law for the World Heritage Wet Tropic areas. (An oversight perhaps that may be rectified in the current Wet Tropics Management Review). Hooved, large, herbivorous horses are not native to Australia and their hooves and grazing practices can cause great amounts of damage to Australia's natural landscape.

Some of the main impacts of horse riding include damage to vegetation, soil compaction and soil erosion. Research of the impact of horses in National Parks in other parts of Australia has found that in place of native plants, weeds often

proliferated, which were often introduced on the horses' hooves or their excrement.

The existing track does not stay true to the gazetted road so anyone using it will be at times within the National Park.

The Lacey's Creek/Licuala track is one of the most sensitive nature refuges open to the public in our area and supports a very high density of cassowaries. It is promoted by the tourism industry, of which the Mission Beach economy is reliant, as the best possible place to see a cassowary in the wild and contains the largest fan palm forest in Australia.

The need has never been greater for all public areas within National Parks to be managed and developed for low impact walking and where appropriate, cycling activities, more in line with the eco tourism direction Mission Beach is now promoting and for the benefit of our future generations."

C4 would have hoped that Council would support any proposal to increase protection of National Park areas and in particular within the World Heritage Area.

We understand that QPW will not maintain the popular Licuala Fan Palm walk under the current circumstances and there has now been a 'no horses' sign erected on the track.

We thank Councillor Downs and the Deputy Mayor for their forward thinking vote on this issue.

C4 Environment Centre—A world class facility

The November 2008 Bulletin featured an article outlining the important contribution John Büss made for conservation in our area. The exceptional biodiversity and beauty of the Mission Beach environment has always attracted people to its community who have been motivated to help preserve the special values of our unique area.

It is an apt time to recall, on the 20th anniversary, the history and achievements of C4 and its evolution from 'the Movement for Responsible Coastal Development' (MRCD) formed in 1989.

1989 Many people in the Mission Beach Community were alarmed by a proposal to lease valuable Crown Land to the Mission Beach Marina Pty Ltd. This lease would enable the company to develop a marina with 250 metre long groynes going into the sea from Porters Creek. The development on Crown Land was to include canal development. The block, known locally as R214 is a 60ha area of virgin forest. Every forest type known in the Mission Beach area is present on this block and it had been identified as cassowary habitat. The majority of the community opposed the marina and at a meeting attended by several hundred locals, The Movement for Responsible Coastal Development was born. This group successfully fought off the marina proposal. Later the same year there was another application to lease the land, this time for a golf course.

1990 The constant pressure on Crown Land at Mission Beach, all of which is now critical cassowary habitat, was the impetus for the group of twelve locals to get together to form Mission Beach's first incorporated conservation group. The MRCD held it's first general meeting on 26th June 1990.

1990 In December the newly elected State Labor Government, with the assistance of several local councils and the Tully branch of WPSQ, organised a conference at Mission Beach to discuss the plight of the cassowary. The outcome of this conference was the establishment of the Consultative Committee for Cassowary Conservation (C4). C4 was a consortium of local community groups, local councils, government departments and other agencies such as CSIRO.

The MRCD, known locally as 'the Movement' continued its activities until June 1994, when it combined with the old C4 to form the new C4. (The Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation)

C4 has maintained a high profile since then by constant lobbying and having input into local, state and federal government and agencies decisions, policies and laws.

In recognition of the special values of Mission Beach, Terrain NRM appointed a Local Area Planning Officer to Mission Beach in 2007.

2008 A Landmark decision was handed down by the Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett using the EPBC Act to deny a residential development because of the impact it would have on the endangered cassowary.

2009 C4 20th anniversary. The complete revamp of the environment centre made possible by the generous grant from Wet Tropics Management Authority. The revamp of the display, from being "a clean-up, new pictures and a touch up" has become a major initiative which has involved hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours.

During the last six months the C4 Display has not been open to the public due to the enormous task that was faced.

The result has been worth it and the Centre has now returned to daily opening hours of 10am—4pm, Monday to Saturday. We expect to welcome many visitors from now on.

The cleanup of the whole facility includes ongoing development of the nursery to make supplying native plants to the community more streamlined and efficient.



It is planned for the revitalised theatrette to be used more often as a community facility to promote our area and share information with locals and visitors alike.

C4 is fortunate to have a small dedicated and hard working team who combine their passion for the environment with their pleasure in greeting visitors in the Environment Centre and working in the Nursery.

As we continue to reform C4's activities to reflect the changing circumstances of the revamped C4, we will also be seeking volunteers who may be interested in becoming part of the working team. C4 is a very exciting group in which to be participating! Please contact us at any time if you are able to be involved.



We would like to extend a huge thanks to all those who have contributed in making the centre a



world class facility and to those who continue, through their volunteer time, to work toward keeping Mission Beach the special place it is.



TERRAIN PROJECTS HAPPENING AT MISSION BEACH

Mission Beach habitat plan released for comment

A draft community plan to look after the cassowaries, rainforest corridors and unique culture at Mission Beach was recently released by Terrain for public comment. The Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Plan includes projects such as habitat conservation, traffic management, ecotourism, development planning, habitat-friendly farming, working with Traditional Owners, managing dogs and pest species, and building community strength.

Information about the draft plan has been posted to residents. Full copies of the plan are accessible from www.terrain.org.au/missionbeach or by phoning (07) 4043 8000. C4 also has copies available. Terrain is keen to receive community feedback on the draft plan to make sure the plan works. Comments are requested by 9 October 2009. Feedback can be provided by using the feedback form in the brochure, feedback form on website, or by writing to or emailing Terrain.



The Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Plan is being developed in consultation with community, industry and government. The plan has benefited from rigorous science support from the CSIRO, James Cook University and the Australian Government's Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTRSF).

Voluntary conservation

Last year Terrain engaged Biotropica to identify wildlife corridors in the area between Wongaling Beach and North Mission Beach that linked coastal habitats with the hinterland National Park. Terrain then offered incentives (eg money and expertise for covenants, revegetation or weed management) to landowners with habitat linkages to encourage voluntary conservation. A number of landholders registered an interest and were primarily interested in funds for entering into a conservation covenant for part of their land. Terrain worked with Environmental Defenders Organisation NQ to prepare plain language factsheets describing the various legal mechanisms available for voluntary conservation on privately owned land in Queensland. These factsheets are available on www.edo.org.au/edonq/website/general/factsheets. Terrain is currently revisiting the landowners with the new factsheets to progress the incentives.

Habitat linkages

The Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Committee (Committee) advised Terrain that the next area

to identify wildlife corridors should be between Wongaling and South Mission Beach because important coastal habitat may be under pressure. DEWHA kindly provided funding to engage a consultant to draft a report which has subsequently been reviewed by the Committee and revised by the consultant. Terrain has recently taken the revised draft to landowners in the area to check that the corridor mapping is correct. The report will then be updated, finalised and publicised. Available incentives will then be offered to private landowners to encourage voluntary conservation.



Regional rainforest corridor

One of the many reasons why Mission Beach is such an important natural area is because there is more-or-less continuous rainforest from Mission Beach to the Southern Atherton Tablelands. The survival of this rainforest corridor is largely thanks to rural landholders on the Walter Hill Range. Terrain recently met with landholders in the East Feluga Rd/Mt Myrtle area to discuss how we can help landholders to benefit from the rainforest corridor. For example, we could help these landholders market their rural products (including farm tourism) as eco-friendly. Terrain will shortly be collating information on the ecological characteristics and significance of the corridor.

Ecotourism strategy

With the help of post-graduate students from JCU, Terrain is drafting an ecotourism strategy for Mission Beach. The draft strategy identifies the natural attractions of Mission Beach that tourists might like to experience and proposes projects to ensure these experiences are available in the future. Preliminary ideas include promoting the fact that we've got the biggest fan palm forest in Australia, providing visitor access to all the different habitat types at Mission Beach, an international cassowary festival, and a national "reef and rainforest conservation" museum which would be an ideal wet weather activity. There will be public consultation on this strategy, particularly with tourism organisations.

Cheers
Tony O'Malley
Mission Beach Local Area Planner
Terrain Natural Resource Management
Ph 0437 728 190
tonyo@terrain.org.au
www.terrain.org.au/missionbeach

Our foreshore's NOT your Dumping ground

by Green Corp Team Leader Jo Senior

Our pristine waterways, our beautiful forests and beaches are all in jeopardy due to the dumping of garden waste by homeowners, releasing noxious weeds into our natural environment.

What seems to be a harmless activity of pruning and weeding your home garden can so easily turn into an environmental disaster if you dump your waste inappropriately.

Illegally dumped garden waste is having a huge detrimental affect on our unique local environment. Garden escapees like Arrowhead, Mother-in-laws Tongue, Singapore Daisy, and the exotic variegated Monstera are choking our waterways, foreshores and rain-forests.

From the smallest cuttings or root segment a plant can reshoot, and seed pods can germinate.

When dumped in and around waterways, cuttings can be transported to many locations resulting in prolific infestations of which the native vegetation cannot compete against. The task of removing the weeds takes a huge amount of time, effort and expense.

Do the right thing and dispose of your green waste responsibly. All dumps and transfer stations in the CCRC shire are free to the public.

Our Green Corp team, The NQ Tree Huggers based at the CCRC revegetation nursery Innisfail, have

been working for the past five months removing exotic weeds from our waterways and foreshores. The majority of weeds we have removed started out as ornamental garden plants.

As part of our as Green Corp training, we have learnt and developed a range of skills to obtain our cert I in conservation and land management. We have also learnt how important it is to have good work ethics and work together as a team.



Innisfail Green Corp Team amongst garden escapees Mother-In-Laws Tongue and Arrowhead on the South Johnstone River From left; Kimberlee Inskip, Isabelle Blackman, Caitlin Uhlenhut, Matt Eyles, Nick Benson and Jasmin Stevens. Photo Jo Senior

As a team we've been working at a range of sites from Clump Point Mission Beach which is listed as endangered vegetation, to the riverbanks of South Johnstone weeding and replanting. It is highly important to sustain the local environment for the community, agriculture and tourism.

The task isn't easy but it is a great feeling to do something positive for our community and its natural habitats.

Through our role as Green Corp participants we have learnt to care for the environment and with you, the community's help, we can all make a difference no matter how small the act is. As members of our local community we strongly recommend to give a day back to the environment and volunteer with a conservation organisation.

Remember our foreshore in not your dumping ground; please make the effort to dispose of your green waste properly.

BE A FLASHER!

This is the only protection cassowaries have for crossing the road - Please observe all the speed limits and watch out for these signs. Always be on the watchout for cassowaries on the sides of roads especially when approaching bends. If you see a cassowary while driving, please — **slow down and**

flash your lights

You may just save the life of one of our endangered cassowaries.

A C4 'Caring for Mission Beach' message



Changing face of Mission Beach



No Council bylaws exist to make these developments merge into the environment to retain a visual amenity fitting for the character of our area. We are losing the natural skyline and green areas continue to be diminished by expanding roadways. There are no provisions for vegetated nature strips along boundaries of developments. Local council are all powerful to make decisions on these matters.

Despite the best efforts so far by the Visual Amenity Group which was established out of concern for the loss of the Mission Beach identity, developments such as these continue to decorate and landscape with exotic species. There is a consensus that retention and enhancement of natural vegetation needs to occur to ensure the continued unique character of Mission Beach.



It is great to see the Council vegetation unit carrying out planting on the ocean side of the World Heritage Alexander Drive.

We would like to encourage locals and newcomers alike to explore the possibility of including some of the wonderful naturally occurring plants and trees into their landscaping and nature strips.

The C4 nursery is bursting with plants that will attract birds and butterflies to your garden. The nursery is open every day with a working bee each Friday. Call in to get expert advice from our nursery coordinator Nina.

Going Coconuts

C4 encourages the growing of native vegetation wherever possible, and practical, and supports the rehabilitation of the foreshore in an effort to regain and retain the special character of our villages. The beauty of Mission Beach is reliant on its lush rainforest natural areas and has always been known as a place where the rainforest meets the sea.

The gradual destruction of our foreshore for views and the removal of native vegetation to be replaced by coconut palms has saddened those of us who knew the dense rainforest that once grew down onto the beach.

C4 policy on Coconut Palms

C4 acknowledges that the issue of whether coconut trees are an asset to our beaches is a contentious one and has formulated its outlook in the interests of attempting to resolve the often heated local debate.

C4 believes that coconuts were not an endemic species to northern Australia prior to white settlement. This is based on the fact that there is no evidence of Aboriginal use, nor historical documentation by the early navigators (eg. Cook, Stanley).

C4 supports the selective culling of coconut tree groves and the complete removal of any coconut trees where they are unable to be tended.

Rationale for C4 policy:

- The dense root mat, accumulated large fronds and fallen nuts suppress the understorey recruitment of native species, prohibiting their growth.
- Rats chew holes in nuts which often sit upright and fill with water providing ideal mosquito breeding receptacles.
- Coconut palms do not provide substantial shade on the foreshore compared to the native Callophylum.
- They pose a danger in public places due to falling nuts and an exorbitant financial and resource commitment to annual maintenance by council.
- If left untended, coconut palms will result in a coastal monoculture in the long-term.
- The need to promote unique indigenous / native coastal vegetation rather than the replication of a South Sea Island image.



MISSION BEACH FILM FESTIVAL

6 & 7 NOVEMBER, 2009



Mission Beach Business and Tourism has announced that the inaugural Mission Beach Film Festival will be held on the weekend of the 6-7th November 2009.

With an overarching theme of "Sustainability" as it applies to the environment, the Film Festival will be a celebration of creative storytelling from Australia and around the world. As Mission Beach is set within two World Heritage areas, the Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef, it is the perfect location to establish such an event.

The aim is to create an annual Film Festival that will become an iconic cultural and environmental event. The organisers are hopeful that the whole community will get behind this exciting new initiative, which will further unite the community and promote the villages of Mission Beach and surrounding areas.

Along with Castaways, C4 is now confirmed as a key venue. Further, C4 has agreed to undertake a Festival specific re-vegetation program to assist with carbon offset obligations for the Festival.

Terrain has agreed to facilitate a Green Audit on the Festival's behalf. The Green Audit looks at the potential carbon emissions that the Festival will generate and will recommend measures to make the Festival as carbon neutral as possible.

August 2009 will see the launch of the Mission Beach Film Festival website, face book and twitter. Go to www.missionbeachfilmfestival.com.au

The Steering Committee - local Mission Beach residents, Sue Clothier, Melissa Thurgood and Sarah Mort are keen to hear from any community members or organisations that may be willing to provide time and resources to assist in the production of the Festival. Please contact sarah@missionbeachfilmfestival.com.au if you would like to be involved.



Mission Beach Visitor Information Centre

We are now well and truly into our busy season at the Centre with Visitor numbers continuing to surpass last year's figures. With Mission Beach Business & Tourism's recent marketing efforts from Mackay through to Cairns we can expect Mission Beach will become a 'must do' for local and international visitors to Queensland. Welcome to new volunteers Pat, and Joy. Our Centre could not function without our dedicated volunteers.

The big news for our Centre in July was the amazing milestone that our volunteer, Daphne O'Neill reached. Daphne volunteers at the Centre two days a week and is well known for her 'eagle eyes' catching us out with her meticulous study of brochures and the like. She shares her abundant knowledge of the area with our visitors as well as her travel experiences from all over the world. She is a great asset to our Information Centre and celebrated her 80th birthday on the 26th July. We won't be a bit surprised if she is still volunteering at the Centre when she reaches 90. We are sure she will have a few more exciting world adventures under her belt by then.

We are very pleased that C4 has reopened and congratulate them on a job well done. The Environment Centre and the gardens are looking very welcoming and fresh. Many visitors specifically come to Mission Beach to visit the Environment Centre and will not be disappointed at the quality of the Centre and the information, awareness and education provided.



Cassowary Regional Council Dog Registration Laws

General information

Your dog may be your best friend but it could also be your neighbour's worst nightmare.

So, to make sure dogs, dog owners and neighbours can live happily side by side Please keep in mind the following information about dog ownership in the Cassowary Coast Region.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Walk your dog on a lead of two (2) metres or less
- Keep your dog quiet
- Keep your dog in your own yard
- Remove your dog's dropping from public places or a fine will apply
- All dogs must be kept within an adequate enclosure to prevent it from wandering.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Dogs are banned from all designated camping grounds and caravan parks.
- Current registration tags must be attached to your dog's collar at all times
- All dogs over three (3) months within the registration boundaries must be
- Re-registered every 12 months.
- Penalty fees are much higher for unregistered dogs which are impounded.
- Expired tags must be destroyed
- Dogs are not allowed within 10 metres of children's playground equipment
- Or public barbeque facilities
- Dogs are NOT permitted on beaches sign-posted to that effect.
- You are responsible for keeping your dog quiet
- It is an offence to allow a dog to chase a car, bicycle, animal etc.,
- A dog may NOT frighten or bite a person
- Dogs are prohibited in food shops, shops and offices.

Protect our wildlife from dogs, particularly at night and report any injured native animal to National Parks and Wildlife.

Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre—Update

Little has changed since the last report on the Garners Beach Cassowary facility.

The facility is still unoccupied with a skeleton staff tending to the wildlife concerns at Mission Beach. Extensive work is being carried out for white ant damage on one of the buildings. There are no plans at this stage to look for alternatives to QPW staff occupation.

There are three birds still being held at the centre.

The adult female, bought into care with a bad infection and swollen knee has shown no improvement despite being treated with antibiotics for the last three months.

Rocky is now heading toward adulthood at more than three and a half years and is the stripey that many of you will have seen in the documentary CASSOWARIES recently aired on the ABC. As a 'stripey', he was rescued from a dog's mouth and bought to the facility shortly after Cyclone Larry. He has been in captivity since that time.

Reggie also featured in the CASSOWARIES documentary and her future now looks grim. There is still no certainty about what ails her after the latest tests once again turned up negative for the Circo virus. She still has no quills and there have been discussions concerning her future.

It has been 12 months since a Garners Beach Rehabilitation Advisory Committee meeting has been held.

TAKE THE LEAD

The health of our environment relies on the harmonious inter-relationship of all species within a given habitat. With good pet management and public awareness the needs of domestic and native animals can both be met.



Dog attack is a major threat to cassowaries.

Mission Beach is cassowary country.

By being a responsible pet owner you can protect our wildlife.

so please ...

be a leader

NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN AUGUST

Arytera (arr-it-EER-a) divericata
 Beilschmieda (bile-SHMEED-ee-a) obtusifolia
 Breynia (BRY-nee-a) stipitata
 Buckinghamia celisissima
 Cananga (can-ANG-ga) odorata
 Cardwellia (card-WELL-ee-a) sublimis
 Cerbera (SERB-er-a) floribunda
 Clerodendron (clear-o-DEN-drum) inerme
 Colubrina (col-yoo-BRY-na) asiatica
 Dillenia (dill-EEN-ee-a) alata
 Diospyros (di-OS-pi-ros) hebecarpa
 Elaeocarpus (ell-ee-o-CARP-us) angustifolius
 Elaeocarpus bancrofti
 Endiandra (en-dee-AND-ra) globosa
 Endiandra insignis
 Fagraea (fa-GREE-e) cambagei
 Ficus (FY-cus) benjamina
 Ficus microcarpa
 Ficus pleurocarpa
 Ficus racemosa
 Glochidion (glo-KID-ee-on) philippium
 Glochidion sumatranum
 Halfordia (hal-FORD-ee-a) kendack
 Intsia (INT-see-a) bijuga
 Irvingbaileya (er-ving-BAIL-ee-a) australis
 Litsea (LIT-see-a) leefeana
 Livistonia (liv-is-TO-na) drudei
 Melaleuca (mel-a-LOO-ca) leucadendra
 Morinda (mor-IN-da) citrifolia
 Myristic (my-RIST-ic-a) insipida
 Neolisteia (nee-o-LIT-see-a) dealbata
 Planchonella (plan-shon-ELL-a) chartacea
 Planchonella obovoides
 Planchonella pohlmaniana
 Polyseias (polly-Sy-as) murrayi
 Randia (RAND-ee-a) fitzalani
 Rhus (RUSS) taitensis
 Syzygium (siz-IDG-ee-um) alliiiligneum
 Syzygium cormiflorum
 Syzygium gustavoides
 Syzygium kuranda

Rose Tamarind
Blush Walnut
Bridle Bush
Ivory Curl
Macassar Oil Tree
Northern Silky Oak
Cassowary Plum
Harmless Clerodendron
Beach Berry Bush
Red Beech
Scrub Ebony
Blue Quandong
Johnstone River Almond
Ball Fruited Walnut
Hairy Walnut
Pink Jitta
Cluster Fig
Indian Laurel Fig
Banana Fig
Fig Wood
Daintree Cheese Tree
Button Wood
Saffronheart
Kwila
Wax Berry
Bollywood
Cabbage Palm
Weeping Paperbark
Cheese fruit
Native Nutmeg
Grey Bollygum
Boxwood
Yellow Teak
Yellow Boxwood
Pencil Cedar
Brown Gardenia
Sumac
Onion Wood
Bumpy Satinash
Water Gum
Kuranda Satinash

The Seed list for the Johnstone Shire area was carried out by Kylie Free body over a five-year period and is maintained by WTTFS Green Reserve. Presented to Mission Beach Bulletin by Bernie Crowe



WEED OF THE MONTH

MORNING GLORY (Ipomea sp)

This is a very prominent vine in our local area, threatening our forest ecosystem by climbing over the trees, smothering and shading out native vegetation. Morning Glory is a climbing, twining, annual, perennial vine family. Their leaves are alternate, often heart-shaped and 3 lobed. They become most obvious when blooming with showy funnel-shaped flowers which may be purple, pink or white. These flowers are very short-lived (overnight) and withering by midday. Fruits are round papery capsules with 4-6 dark brown seeds inside them. These species are listed as an Undesirable plant in the Wet Tropics World Heritage World Heritage Area. Although not currently a declared weed, its control is highly recommended.



C4 Nursery

*Plant sale 16th August from
12pm—3pm*

**Specialising in native species,
cassowary food plants and
rare littoral rainforest plants
open every day**

Friday is nursery activity day

Please call C4 on 4068 7197 for information or advice on your native garden or if you are interested in joining the nursery team

IN FRUIT NOW

CORDYLINE (Cordyline cannifolia)

Cordylines or Palm Lillies are now fruiting in our local area. These palm lillies are often found in rainforests and wetter types of eucalypt forests. The plant has simple or sparsely branched stems bearing long thin leaves. Cordylines are very elegant and versatile plants and can be used in native rainforest gardens, as temporary indoor plants or just about any part-shaded to well lit area of the garden to provide interest using foliage form and very showy cascades of berries. In some parts of Australia, the fleshy underground stem of some Cordyline species have been boiled and eaten as an emergency food.



NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN SEPTEMBER

Aglaia syindina
Archontophoenix alexandrae
Arytera divaricata
Beilschmiedia castrisinensis
Clerodendron inerme
Chionanthus ramiflorus
Cryptocarya grandis
Cupaniopsis anacardioides
Davidsonia pruriens
Dysoxylum (dis-OX-il-um) gaudichaudianum
Elaocarpus bancrofti
Emmenosperma alphitonioides
Ficus (FY-cus) albipila
Ficus obliqua var obliqua
Litsea glutinosa
Melaleuca leucandendra
Morinda citrifolia
Myristica insipida
Nieyemera prunifera
Normanbya normanbyi
Podocarpus elatus
Prunus turneriana
Randia fitzalani
Synima macrophylla
Syzygium angophoroides
Syzygium fibrosum
Syzygium Kuranda
Terminalia Muellieri

Boodyarra
Alexandra palm
Rose Tamarind

Harmless clerodendron
Native olive
Cinnamon Laurel
Beach tamarind
Davidson plum
Ivory Mahogany
Johnstone River Almond
Yellow Ash
Fig wood
Small leaf fig
Brown Bollywood
Swamp Tea Tree
Cheesefruit
Native Nutmeg
Plum Boxwood
Black palm
Brown Pine
Almond Bark
Brown Gardenia
Topaz Tamarind
Yarrabah Satinash
Fibrous Satinash
Kuranda Satinash
Mueller's Damson

You can help to save the cassowaries at Mission Beach by donating to the

C4 Land Gift Fund



CASSOWARIES ARE ENDANGERED. They are on the edge of extinction! Even today more rainforest habitat is being destroyed at Mission Beach.

This appeal seeks to address the problems arising for the cassowary from:

- destruction and fragmentation of habitat
- introduction of exotic flora and fauna including dogs
- inappropriate development and infrastructure

- 40% of cassowary habitat at Mission Beach is not protected
- Town planning schemes allow for a population of 18,000 -current population at Mission Beach is approx 4,000
- Mission Beach supports the highest density of cassowaries in Australia
- There are only approximately fifty adult cassowaries at Mission Beach

Please give generously to save our endangered cassowary

Your donation is tax deductible

For more information;

T. (07) 4068 7197

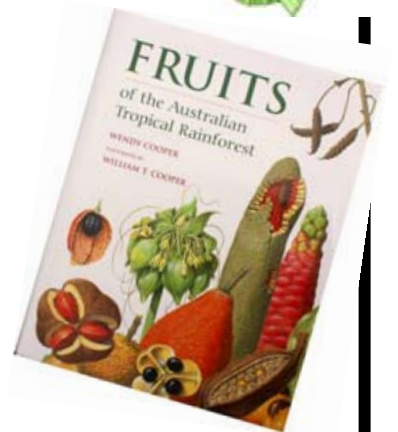
E. C4@cassowaryconservation.asn.au,

W. www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au

C4 Display

IN STOCK NOW

In this superbly illustrated scientific volume, Wendy and Bill Cooper describe and identify 2436 species and includes 1236 paintings. Each illustrated fruit has been vouchered and lodged in the National Australian Collection. A book for all serious botanists and readers.



These field guides published by Steve Parish Publishing cover a great range of Australian birds, mammals and reptiles, with fantastic photos that make identification easy. Detailed descriptions of animal distribution, habits, diet, breeding and behaviour patterns provide a learning experience not to be missed!

Call in at the C4 Display Centre and browse through our comprehensive range of books and other gift lines. We are located just 400 metres north of the North Mission Beach Village.