



MISSION BEACH  
**BULLETIN**



- UN Year of Biodiversity
- John Büsst, Judith Wright, Len Webb –Dynamic trio
- Community sightings project
- Main Roads Cassowary Crossing trial
- Inconvenient cassowary

*Mission Beach is special -  
Exceptionally high diversity of ecosystems supporting outstanding biodiversity  
Lets keep it that way*



## C4 Editorial

Here we are in the middle of another wet season – a time to celebrate just why we live in a place that has held the tag ‘Mission Beach Magic’. The high rainfall in our area is largely responsible for the magic!

It is a slow down time when locals can relax with fewer tourists, less traffic on the roads and with the weather dominating our days and activities. It is time when we can literally watch the dynamic growth of the wet tropical rainforest.

There has been an overwhelming amount of calls from the community about cassowaries crossing roads at various places around Mission Beach. Please slow down, be on the lookout and alert other drivers by flashing your lights.

Congratulations go to Nina for securing a Caring for Country grant of \$20,000 for foreshore revegetation. The Nursery is bursting with anticipation!



C4 is sending a deputation to the Community Cabinet being held in Innisfail on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be speaking to several Ministers, bringing to the table our concerns in the many areas of legislation that fail to protect the natural environment at Mission Beach and that threaten the sustainability of our community, environment and economy.

C4 recently had a meeting with Rainforest Rescue and the Rainforest Information Centre from northern NSW with the intent to further the campaign to raise funds for Buy Back and Incentives in Mission Beach and The Daintree. All contributions to our Land Gift Fund are gratefully received.

Thank you to all those who help and contribute to the Bulletin making it a voice of the community. C4 would welcome more volunteers, in the nursery, the display or on the Bulletin, please call in and say hello.

**C4 is open Monday to Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm and 10.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays**

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## Mission Beach signs gain International attention

Mission Beach's signature signposts warning drivers of the presence of cassowaries has been included in an exhibition currently travelling Europe.

The unconventional sign has a undeniable allure according to Doug Lansky who is curating "Signspotting" an exhibit that drew crowds in Stockholm and Edinburgh . In his show and in public places, signs can entertain with overkill and fanciful images.

They also let travellers see the world through another cultures eyes. One such sign instructs squat toilet users in Western bathroom etiquette. Says Lansky; "Now I understand why I see foot-prints on the toilet in an international airport"

**No 10; Australia** Speeding endangers cassowaries

(December 2009 National Geographic)



C4 congratulates the Mission Beach artists for their final choice of where to place the new Purpose built Art Centre.

MARCS Park was made available to the community as an arts and recreation area in a controversial decision at the time by the Johnstone Shire Council to buy and subdivide a farm that was for sale at the time to finance the community space.

The forward thinking initiative by the JSC has given Mission Beach a valuable facility that will now provide an excellent venue for the Arts Centre.



You are invited to take part in the '**Fringe Dweller Identification Project**' Page 6



**C4 wins National Conservation Award** Page 17



**Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia**



Artists impression...  
... reality



The 'Shannon poll' (named after CCRC Mayor Cr Bill Shannon conducted a random survey of 12 people to present an argument at a Council meeting concerning the impact of Woolworths Sunday trading on local business) has resulted in an overwhelming **no** for the direction development is taking at Mission Beach.

The buildings that are dominating the backdrop of the village of Mission Beach are at one point three stories high in a two storey zone and offer little opportunity to merge into the environment as indicated by the developers.

The question asked in the poll was "Is the development in keeping with the character of Mission Beach"? The answer was a resounding **"No"**.



# Nursery/Arboretum

The nursery stock for this year's planting season is looking fantastic and is a wonderful, complete array of cassowary food types and some other companion plants occurring in their natural habitats. When considering horticultural plans, please think of our wildlife and come visit us at the nursery, down behind the Mission Beach Tourist information Center.

The nursery volunteers are keen to assist as much as possible in order to get these plants in the ground. Our philosophy is about caring for our local fauna and flora. There is usually somebody around most week days. Please inquire at the Environment Center desk if nobody can be seen in the nursery.

We are volunteers with various levels of skills and knowledge, dropping in during the week or weekend from time to time; however, Fridays are usually set aside by most volunteers as "Nursery Day".

Another activity of volunteers is planting out large areas on private and public land in exchange for a donation towards the nursery and a small B-B-Q for the workers. If you are interested in rejuvenating rain forest or riparian areas on your property, we would like to assist. However, apart from some advice, we don't have volunteers to help with site preparation or long term maintenance.

Our plant selection is of hardy plants that grow vigorously in our local area (maintaining the genetic pool) mostly upper canopy, but some smaller ones are suitable for gardens to provide shade and shelter. Some are even interesting "bush tucker" plants, for the adventurous cook, otherwise left for the birds. Birds do drop other seeds though, which eventually improves the biodiversity, so our plants are useful in establishing rainforests.

Our "Plant of the Month" is *Morinda citrifolia*, commonly known locally as (Stinky) Rotten Cheese-fruit, which is in fruit right now. The growing of this plant has become an industry of economic importance in Hawaii and worldwide to produce a variety of health and cosmetic products made from its leaves and fruits. It is marketed under its Hawaiian name, Noni. It is a



small evergreen tree (3-10m height) with a notoriously stinky fruit—and a reputation for so much medicinal mania that Polynesians carried it with them in their voyages around the Pacific for thousands of years.

A poultice of fresh Noni leaves is said to sooth bruises and cool fevers; the ripe fruit is used to treat wounds, infections and rheumatism; and a tea made from its bark helps alleviate jaundice. Roots, stem, bark, fruit,

leaves—Hawaiians believe every part of the plant has healing properties, from treating hypertension and diabetes, to boosting the immune system and fighting cancer.

All parts of the plant have traditional and/or modern uses, including roots and bark (dyes, medicine), trunks (firewood, tools), and leaves and fruits (food, medicine). The medicinal applications, both traditional and modern, span a vast array of conditions and illnesses, although most of these have yet to be



scientifically supported. Noni is well suited for intercropping within traditional agroforestry subsistence farming systems or as a mono-crop in full sun.

### Specific cultivation techniques:

This species does not compete well with grasses or with grassy weeds in deep soils as an agricultural mono-crop to replace sugar cane for instance. However, it is a good forest under-story plant that can tolerate very harsh conditions and competition from other forest trees. There are not really any cultivars specially developed for cropping, so our local fruit is as good as any.



We wish everybody all the best for 2010, and if you have any unwanted 4-5L plant pots, please bring them in, we sure can use them right now.

Cheers, Jack

Sources of Other Information: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noni> ; [http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/noni/horticulture\\_production.asp](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/noni/horticulture_production.asp)



Took this photo of a birdwing butterfly caterpillar feeding on our aristolochia vines in the nursery a few weeks ago. They are coming into the nursery to lay their eggs and feed their caterpillars on the vines we have grown for them!! Its so cool to see nature in action!!  
Nina

The **Cairns Birdwing** (*Ornithoptera euphorion*) is Australia's largest endemic butterfly species, with females reaching a wingspan of up to 16 cm. Males are usually a few centimeters smaller. A closely allied species, the New Guinea or Priam's Birdwing (*Ornithoptera priamus*) reaches 19 cm and is the largest butterfly species found in Australia, but it is not endemic.

Cairns Birdwings are found southwards from Mount Webb and Cooktown to Mackay in Queensland. Its favoured habitat is primary rainforest, although the species will breed readily in a home garden if the correct larval host plants are grown.

Males have a predominately black upper wing with emerald green flashes, however the female lacks the green coloring, having a plain black upper wing with white patches. The female is the larger of the two sexes. The larvae or caterpillars of this species breed on several species of pipe vine, including *Aristolochia tagala* and *Pararistolochia deltantha*. The latter species is more commonly used at altitude, with *A. tagala* used at sea level.

The leaves of the introduced Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia elegans*) will kill the larvae of this species and several other swallowtail butterflies in Australia. It should not be planted anywhere in Queensland, New South Wales or the Northern Territory.

<http://en.wikipedia.org>



## C4 receives Grant for Foreshore Revegetation

C4, Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation is proud to announce it has been a successful applicant in the Community Action Grants. A joint media release re the Caring For Country Grants was announced by Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts the Hon Peter Garret and Minister for Fisheries the Hon Tony Burke MP.

The Minister said "there was a strong field of applicants from rural, urban and indigenous groups across the country keen to protect the environment."

"The Government wants to make sure that smaller community groups thrive and do their excellent work locally" he said.

This funding aims to help community groups take action to conserve and protect their natural environment. C4 was one of 299 successful community group recipients across the country and received a Grant of \$19,381.82.

The funded project will revegetate and rehabilitate the coastal foreshore of degraded sites within the Mission

Beach area by managing weeds and planting coastal species, increasing species diversity and habitat for our endangered wildlife.

C4 will be working closely with the Cassowary Coast Re-Vegetation Unit, the community, traditional owners and school children to improve the environment and to produce educational material including signage and a brochure on coastal environments and their importance.

C4 is committed to its aims of both coastal and cassowary conservation; the voluntary group acknowledges the significance of this funding and encourages members of the community to become involved in the plant outs which begin in March.

The Nursery is well equipped with mature native plants and the volunteers have been busy in preparation for the plant outs. The Wet season will provide the ideal conditions to optimise the success of the revegetation project.

# Mission Beach Fringe Dweller Identification Project

## Call us now!



Bella Garners Bch

Brookes Beach

Lilol, Bingil Bay

Barbara Brookes Bch

Lot 66

Bart, Bingil Bay

Ms Cass Bingil

As development continues to encroach into natural areas it is to be expected there will be more frequent sightings of cassowaries.

Their home ranges can be up to 7 square kilometers which means they may have to cross busy roads sometimes several times a day in the course of moving around the landscape to access their essential habitat.

Roads and open country is fragmenting their safe environment and exposing them to very high risk of traffic strike and dog attack.

Many houses at Mission Beach back onto rainforest where people have got to know a particular bird or families of birds that frequent their properties. Often they are known by name.

These birds could be called fringe dwellers and have become used to people and less shy of entering open areas such as back yards to feed on available fruit.

Cassowaries can live up to 50 years of age and once they have established a home foraging range they will occupy it for life.

The cassowary fringe dweller identification/sightings project will endeavour to identify individual birds and a better estimate of numbers of cassowaries in the Mission Beach area. It would gain an insight into movements of the birds over the landscape.

The information gathered will be invaluable to help authorities in considering the needs of the cassowary when making planning decisions for Mission Beach.

The study will involve residents who have regular sightings of cassowaries on their property or on the fringe of their block and give good representation of the whole study area.

As many rainforest plants do not fruit annually and to take into consideration seasonal fruiting it is anticipated records would give reasonable results within a 24/36 month period.

If the community is happy to continue taking records in the long term, the project could be perpetual.

An unlimited number of people are encouraged to participate in the survey by maintaining a diary of sightings. The more the better.

Dr Dave Westcott and Adam McKeown from CSIRO have kindly offered to help by creating the online database for the project. The project would complement the CSIRO Scat analysis research and will include an upgrade to the regular local and visitor sightings collected by C4 through the environment visitor centre.

The process of information gathering is kept simple so it does not become a chore for the participants or in any way increase interaction or stress for the birds. Photo uploading will give an excellent record of incidences, interactions and changes of bird/birds over time. It will also offer the opportunity to study the differences between individual birds by noting the shape of wattles and casque and other often easily distinguishing characteristics

Volunteers will be guided by an induction process to establish a system and education of proper identification of the different birds and protocol to follow for appropriate observation to avoid close interaction with birds.

C4 will be asking for ongoing advice and guidance from CSIRO, QPWS and other relevant authorities, agencies, experts and interest groups to streamline the project and correlate information that is currently being collected by the different stakeholders.

Records will be entered on hard copies until the electronic database is completed.

Time *is* running out but with a focused effort we can show that the people of Mission Beach will work together toward a common goal that will see the protection and continued existence of the important population of cassowaries at Mission Beach.

**If you see cassowaries on a regular basis and would like to take part in the Fringe Dweller Identification Project please call 4068 7197 to register your interest and arrange for your sightings form.**

Follow the link to a story about Joov the Fringe Dweller;  
<http://ellabayforever.blogspot.com/2009/05/joov-fringe-dweller-by-liz-gallie.html>

# Chairman's Comment



"I'm not a greenie, but...." then comes their opinion which often leaves a bloke wondering which precious part of their anatomy they have the Greenpeace logo tattooed. If I had a dollar for every time I've heard that statement sweat and vitamin D overdose would be things of the past as far as earning a crust goes.

It's pretty clear most Australians are "green", though to differing degrees. We've all seen people change like chameleons from light green to frothing fanatical dark green when particular issues close to their hearts crop up.

A persons' greenness appears to be influenced by their recreational preferences, occupation, financial state, life experiences and family and ethnic background. Peer pressure and work "politics" often suppress peoples' personal opinions on green subject matter.

Last year I was fortunate enough to attend tropical tree fruits conferences in Costa Rica and Guatemala. Both countries have rich lush rainforest country like we have here, though no wildlife species as big, bold and striking as the cassowary. It was very evident that their native wildlife was fair game (as it was here 40 years ago) to supplement the diet of fast growing populations of people with many still living subsistence lifestyles.

Likewise the outer islands of Fiji conjured up images of pristine seas and a piscatorial paradise. Anyone with issues regarding the fishing regulations we have here needs to go and see the end result where there are none.

Again, a growing population (of very nice people) overworking their natural resources. for sustenance and commercial gain leaves things pretty "barren" compared to here.

As Australians though, we're a long way from being able to get cocky regarding our ability as land managers compared to the likes of Costa Rica and Guatemala. They've had over 300 MORE years of European settlement than us – yet I understand we have the dubious honour of being the world record holders for native species extinctions.

We can't turn back the big clock, or stop it though. Finding an acceptable middle ground between human wants, needs and values and the "natural" balance of the planet, is clearly a complex challenge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

C4 cops a lot of flack (often incorrectly) for all manner of perceived environmental restrictions and "injustices".

C4 also gets plenty of calls from 'Armchair Greenies', irate (in the comfort of their own phone) asking accusingly "What's C4 doing about such and such?"

Some people have various opinions on what the 4 'C's stand for depending on their convenient shade of green at the time. Four "C" words beyond the official meaning, that rattle round in my thick skull are **Com**munication, **Com**monsense and **Caring** for **Co**untry.  
Peter Salleras.

## Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre—Update

Hi, my name is Audrey Reilly. My family and I have just moved into the Garners Beach area and taken over management of the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Facility.

Whilst I have been employed as the Ranger In Charge for Mission Beach with the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS) for many years, my role has since expanded to assist with the management of occupant birds and maintenance of the facility.

One of my first tasks is to call on interested members of the community in collecting native fruit that can be used to enhance the rehabilitation process of occupant birds.

C4 has kindly offered to act as the collection post for these donations of native fruit, which I will collect Tuesday's and Friday's from their fridge.

For those of you who may be interested I will also be making a short presentation at C4 on 'Sourcing Native Fruits For Cassowaries' at 6pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2010.

Anyone wishing to obtain further information may contact me on my mobile Ph. 0427 800 265 from 7am-4pm weekdays.

To report on wildlife incidences or concerns please call Dan Mead on 0427 126 602



C4 is looking forward to working closely with Audrey and helping out wherever we can.

As Audrey said we are looking for an old fridge that can be located outside at C4 for the fruit collection.

If anyone can help out please call us on 4068 7197.

Perhaps we can do a swap for some beautiful native plants for your garden.



# Djiru Country

## Clump Point Sign Returns

There was a large gathering to watch the unveiling of the replacement of the Djiru sign that was stolen from Clump Point lookout 12 months ago.

Thanks to Janine Ewens for her initiative and all those who supported her with the many donations for a raffle to raise the funds for the sign.

Thanks also goes to the CCRC for their \$520 contribution.

Janine said she felt the sign needed to be replaced to show the Djiru people, the Traditional Owners of Mission Beach, that the community cares and acknowledges the importance of the land.



Djiru elder Pastor John Andy made an impassioned speech about the importance of Clump Point for the Djiru people's cultural, spiritual, social, educational and recreational values.

He spoke of how it was a place where his people had met with other groups, held ceremonies, fished,

hunted, camped and collected resources for thousands of years.

The reinstated sign tells how Clump Point is an important part of the Djiru country that includes story places, hunting and fishing grounds, water-holes, ceremonial, camp and burial sites.

John was emphatic in his speech that the Djiru people do not want development and particularly a marina to happen in Boat Bay.



Janine holds the basket while Leonard Andy draws the winning tickets

Helen Holland was all smiles when she won first prize in the raffle.



Thanks to Terry Keven for covering the cost of the materials while the funds were being raised by the raffle.

Mayor Bill Shannon was on hand to help unveil the new sign at the gathering at Clump Point



C4 welcomes Dr Helen Larson as a new member who will be able to offer expert opinion and advice in her professional capacity as a Ichthyologist.

Helen tells us her particular field of study is in coral reefs and estuaries and in particular the muddy environs.

So of course we have pointed Helen toward Boat Bay which should have her happily studying for some time to come.

After a brief look Helen emailed with the following comments.

"we just got back from a walk about Boat Bay area - have started a fish species list from what I could see with binoculars, will have to go snorkeling there one day soon with slate and dip net in hand.

The area looks very rich and interesting - there were Roman-nosed Gobies in Wylie Creek that flows out by the jetty.

These gobies occur in a very limited area - known only from Mclvor River near Cooktown to Haughton River near Townsville (and one river system in SE New Guinea).

Also found some of my favourite fish - glassgobies - swarming around the boat ramp pontoon. They look like tiny larvae but are fully grown adults. And a turtle was patrolling the edge of the Sargassum.

If you like I can send you a preliminary list of fishes when I've put common names on them."  
Helen

<)/===<

*We look forward to ongoing observations from Helen*



## Understanding and Caring about our Place

Wild weather associated with two cyclone systems on the 27th January saw several boats at Clump Point breaking their moorings and being damaged on the rocks in Boat Bay.

Questions are being asked why the boats were left unattended during an extreme weather warning and in an exposed mooring situation.

When a cyclone watch was declared and the north was being advised to make abatement plans Dunk Island called for an emergency evacuation. The tourists were collected by Calypso and taken to the Clump Point Boat Ramp where they were successfully disembarked. There was no attempt to use the Clump Point Jetty which the tide levels and calmness at the time would have allowed.

Although the Clump Point Jetty is exposed to rough weather that at times may make passenger loading and unloading less comfortable, most tourist operators will not venture out in weather more than 20 knots when the tourist experience can be less than enjoyable anyway and is more likely to be counted by how many paper bags are used.

As experienced boat owners at Mission Beach know, Boat Bay is not a safe haven in the summer months with the prevailing northerly or nor/easterly winds. In the past boat owners used the 'wet season', (off season) when the tourist numbers are very low, to do maintenance work on their boats.

Understanding of the monsoonal weather patterns that affect our environment needs to be seriously considered when decisions are being made for any development at Mission Beach and especially marine facilities.

The recent incident of boats slipping their moorings has once again had calls for a safe boating facility and claims that the existing jetty is unsafe.

The jetty had been used successfully for many years and the first time it was 'condemned' was when a Boat Bay marina was being proposed. Many people still believe the jetty is a safe facility. It is probably not in any more exposed environment than the Palm Cove jetty which is used extensively by tourist boats.

Tourism boating operators often choose not to run because of lack of numbers even at the height of the season. Having a boat out of action during the cyclone season would not necessarily pose much of an income loss which questions the suggestion made at the last MBCA meeting that tourism is suffering as a result of inadequate boating facilities.

There is no doubt that there needs to be suitable boating facilities at Mission Beach to accommodate tourist and local needs especially with the anticipated population increase associated with the current approved development.

Perhaps some of the existing boat ramps around Mission Beach i.e South Mission, North Mission and Bingil Bay need to be upgraded to accommodate the smaller boats to take the pressure off the Clump Point boat ramp.

Mission Beach is identified as a village activity centre and recommended for development constraint in the FNQ 2031 Plan. It is unlikely to ever be the first port of call for reef trips as tourists are well catered for at Cairns and Port Douglas so a large marine facility is not warranted.

Again we must start looking at quality not quantity to offer a unique experience. Mission Beach has a lot to offer over other wet tropic destinations with its low density, uncrowded village atmosphere, its natural areas and the best place to see a cassowary in the wild.

Tourism operators should not be expecting, and pushing, to be a 12 month tourist destination. Businesses, unless they can provide a wet season activity or attraction should be looking at ways to promote Mission Beach as a unique destination

within the natural weather friendly times of the year and focus on the natural values which set Mission Beach apart from other coastal towns.

That would allow our area to develop in a sustainable manner with first consideration and protection given to the spectacular environment Mission Beach is renowned for.

C4 identified the opportunity for Mission Beach to become a premier ecotourism destination and has campaigned as a policy that this is the only sustainable way forward for the health of the community, environment and economy but as each economic boom and change of government(s) overrides achievements in this area the natural values continue to be eroded.

It is happening again now. It is disappointing to see Mission Beach Business and Tourism, who receive > \$80,000 subsidy from the CCRC, focusing on adventure tourism as their main 2010 marketing strategy.

The promotional material relies heavily on the natural values of Mission Beach and yet ecotourism rates a minor mention in favour of the come one come all approach. The cassowary, always associated with Mission Beach also only rated a couple of mentions.



Boat Bay is not a natural marina, It is a tidal bay, the mangroves being the breeding ground and nursery for many fish and crustacean species. The waters of the bay supports a number of endangered, vulnerable and migratory species including dugongs, two species of turtle and Irrawaddy dolphins. The bay is lined with some of the best developed rainforest on a littoral zone in Australia. The unique vine forest is the only example of this type on basalt soils in the Wet Tropics coast area.

The most recognisable aerial photographs of Mission Beach are taken looking south along the coastline with Clump Point in the foreground. It retains the look of a natural area which is recognised in the coastal management plan as having high visual amenity on a World Heritage area scenic tourist route.

It seems that there are some who do not respect the value and pristine nature of the bay.

There have been several reports of fuel spills in the bay and at least one report of a turtle surfacing in a distressed manner.

It was also reported from a community member who dives around the edge of the drop off that when they surface there is a very strong smell of fuel.

The photos were sent to C4 and show the unsafe (illegal?) method of fuel being transferred from a tank on the back of a truck into the plastic tank on the dinghy by a long fuel hose. They show fuel running off the pontoon into the waters of Boat Bay.

It is sad to note that there seems to be a general lack of understanding or respect for the natural values of our special place by some who now call Mission Beach home.



## UN opens Biodiversity Year with plea to save world's ecosystems

In January 2010 – In a bid to curb the unprecedented loss of the world's species due to human activity – at a rate some experts put at 1,000 times the natural progression – the United Nations is marking 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, with a slew of events highlighting the vital role the phenomenon plays in maintaining the life support system on Planet Earth.

“Humans are part of nature's rich diversity and have the power to protect or destroy it,” the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is hosted by the UN Environment Programme, said in summarizing the Year's main message, with its focus on raising awareness to generate public pressure for action by the world's decision makers.

“Biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on. Human activity is causing the diversity of life on Earth to be lost at a greatly accelerated rate.

These losses are irreversible, impoverish us all and damage the life support systems we rely on every day. But we can prevent them.”



**Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for the International Year of Biodiversity (2010):**

Over the past half-century, human activities have caused an unprecedented decline in biological diversity. Species are going extinct a thousand times faster than the natural rate -- a loss now being further compounded by climate change. A wide variety of environmental goods and services that we take for granted are under threat, with profound and damaging consequences for ecosystems, economies and livelihoods.

In 2002, world leaders agreed to substantially reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The 2010 Biodiversity Target was subsequently integrated into the Millennium Development Goals. It will not be met.

Tropical forests continue to be felled, destroying valuable endemic species and disrupting local, regional and global climates. Climate change and ocean acidification are destroying coral reefs. Fisheries are increasingly overexploited, condemning millions of the world's poorest people to unemployment and malnutrition.

The failure to protect biodiversity should be a wake-up call. Business as usual is not an option. We need a new biodiversity vision. We must manage our forests sustainably so they can store carbon, protect watersheds and provide resources and income. We must conserve coral reefs so they can continue to protect coasts from storms and support livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people. We must ensure the long-term viability of our seas and oceans.

To raise awareness of the impending crisis and to spur the world to act, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. In September 2010, the General Assembly will hold a special high-level meeting on the subject. It will give the international community an opportunity to demonstrate much-needed leadership in advance of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, which will adopt a new strategic plan for implementing the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.



In this International Year, we must counter the perception that people are disconnected from our natural environment. We must increase understanding of the implications of losing biodiversity. In 2010, I call on every country and each citizen of our planet to engage in a global alliance to protect life on Earth. We must generate a greater sense of urgency and establish clear and concrete targets.  
**Biodiversity is life. Biodiversity is our life.**

More than 80 per cent of vegetation on the coastal lowlands between Cairns and Townsville has been cleared. Mission Beach has 13 per cent of the remaining lowland rainforest in the Wet Tropics.

Mission Beach has exceptionally high diversity of ecosystems which support outstanding biodiversity.

It was recognised as a priority conservation high biodiversity area in the FNQ 2010 Regional Plan and again in the FNQ 2031 Plan.

There is feedback from some in the community who believe the C4 conservation effort focuses too much

on the cassowary.

For those who are unfamiliar with the history of C4;

The constant pressure of development on crown land at Mission Beach, all of which is now critical cassowary habitat, was the impetus for a group of twelve locals to get together in 1989 to form Mission Beach's first incorporated conservation group, the Movement for Responsible Coastal Development.

In 1990 the newly elected State Labor Government, with the assistance of several local councils and the Tully branch of Wildlife Preservation Society Queensland (WPSQ), organised a conference at Mission Beach to discuss the plight of the cassowary.

The outcome of the 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,

Over the next two years the group worked on, and gained international recognition for, a local town planning scheme that incorporated measures to protect an endangered species (the cassowary).

As an umbrella species, protecting enough habitat to ensure a robust population of cassowaries will automatically protect a vast number of ecosystems and flora and fauna species.

When talking about getting the balance or 'mix' right there is currently an over supply of real estate (estimated at the current growth rate by a local real estate agent to be enough for the next 20 years).

Despite hundreds of thousands of dollars spent identifying the threats and making recommendations for the recovery of the cassowary, current legislation still offers little or no protection for the endangered species.

More money is now being spent in the development of a Plan for Mission Beach in an effort to attain the same goal identified by the original C4 all those years ago.

With 40 per cent of the rainforest at Mission Beach still unprotected, and the known threats continuing to increase, it is probably not the right time to stop campaigning for change.

After 20 years, the problem is not solved. Is it all too hard? Who then will take responsibility for the consequences?

## For our children's children's children Queensland Conservation Pioneers

Much of the work achieved by the dynamic team outlined in the following account was brainstormed on the verandah overlooking the Coral Sea at 'Ninney Rise', artist John Búst's home at Bingil Bay.

The importance of the work carried out by these conservation pioneers who raised awareness and gained protection of large natural areas, makes Ninney Rise an important part of our local, state and national history. Bequeathed to and now in the ownership of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Ninney Rise is currently being considered for the Queensland Heritage Register.



**Dr Len Webb** 1920—2008

**Introduction.** The three-way relationship between science, nature and society embodied in the triangle of Judith Wright (poet and WPSQ inaugural president), Dr Len Webb (scientist and long term WPSQ

vice-president) and John Búst (artist and inaugural president of the Innisfail WPSQ Branch) formed the basis and shape of WPSQ's actions.

The empathy and ability to communicate of these three people helped change the direction of the society from a loose idea of individual conservation endeavours to group, focused campaigning for conservation issues.

The Great Barrier Reef campaign that started in 1967 had its beginnings with the WPSQ and was the first big conservation campaign in Queensland.

**Importance of Science.** From the beginning the society founders recognised the importance of science, actively seeking experts who shared their Australian perspective to further their common goal of awakening the community to see, love and protect the unique Queensland environment.

Dr Len Webb, the only rainforest ecologist in Australia at that time, was soon contributing to their efforts as the society's ecologist and vice president through his scientific standing and his unique ability to make intellectual, philosophical and social connections.

When Dr Webb joined WPSQ he was an eminent CSIRO scientist with extensive experience as principal research officer in the North Queensland rainforests, initially as a biochemist investigating chemicals from rainforest plants during the 1940s.

Then during the 1950s he became an ecologist, starting CSIRO's rainforest ecology section, because 'he had experienced the scientific challenge and mystery of the rainforests, which had kindled the desire to understand their nature and environmental relationships.'

**Significance of Partnerships.** The meeting of Judith Wright and Dr Len Webb proved to be most fortuitous for WPSQ. They shared a unique understanding at a powerful intellectual and philosophical level.

Wright, with her standing as one of Australia's most influential poets, her ability to nurture and inspire



**Judith Wright 1915—2000**

and her intuitive grasp of science for a non-scientist and Webb, with his scientific standing, his communication skills and networking ability helped establish WPSQ's directions.

Reflecting on their friendship at the memorial for Judith Wright at Mt Tamborine in 2000, Webb acknowledged his admiration for Wright and the influence she had on him.

He spoke about referring unfavourably to 'sentiment' in connection with resource management when speaking on ecological science at a Summer School at the University of New England in Armidale in the early 1960s. Wright drew him aside and quietly observed, *That I should not be ashamed of 'sentiment': 'It's a good word – look it up in the dictionary!' Which I did – Thought tinged with emotion, feeling bound up with some subject or ideal.*

Webb attributed this moment as 'a foundation stone in developing his insights into emotional intelligence'. 'How can science help us to reintegrate the human process with the earth process?'

**Science and the Society.** The society developed with Judith Wright as inaugural president always insistent that policies, campaigns, educational material, press releases should be grounded on relevant scientific knowledge.

Similarly Dr Webb had enormous standing as an ecologist because according to Geoff Tracey, Webb's long-term associate, *Len's attitude was always to stress the fundamental importance of field work and experienced field biologists, given a sound basis of taxonomy, without which ecology would become sterile.*

In the 1960s sound scientific information was often not available so the society members had not only to seek out scientists but also, at times, actively searched for the needed information themselves.

This insistence on accuracy meant that Webb's many scientific contacts, his ability to network with others; scientists, timber cutters, cane farmers, engineers and the cosmopolitan range of people of North Queensland proved to be very valuable for the society. Particularly Webb's relationship with John Bússt, north Queensland artist and nature's friend, was to play a very significant role not only in WPSQ's efforts to protect the tropical rainforests but also in their fight for the Great Barrier Reef.

**Another side to the triangle.** Webb knew John Bússt from his early rainforest work in North Queensland long before WPSQ commenced and they, along with Geoff Tracey, shared mutual concerns for the future of the rainforests. Bússt was a man of great humanity who had many local and political contacts and he knew how to successfully lobby for action from behind the scenes.

**Personal relationship impacted political outcomes.** 1965 was a defining year for rainforest conservation. In January Webb presented the first listing of Queensland rainforest habitat types that should be preserved.

Meanwhile Bússt was continuing his enthusiastic efforts to protect the tropical rainforests which were being rapidly cleared for grazing and sugarcane expansion in the early 60s. In November, Webb led a CSIRO scientific expedition to the North Queensland lowland rainforests with the objective to identify representative rainforest habitats.



John Bússt self portrait courtesy Margaret Thorsborne

**John Bússt 1909—1971**

This expedition had been expedited by Bússt who, after much pushing suggestions, exhorting and supporting during the later half of 1965, convinced the head of the CSIRO to fund such an expedition, conducted 'under top level Federal orders and the Queensland government blessing'.

**The push for the rainforest – the start of Campaigning.** This CSIRO rainforest expedition data resulted in a paper written by Webb which made major recommendations for the preservation of 20 representative habitat types on the wet tropical lowlands 'below 1000 feet' (304.8 m). This was the beginning of the push for the protection of North Queensland's rainforests. WPSQ distributed 100 copies of this paper as a reprint from the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland to organisations and persons likely to be influential in the making of

reserves. In the 1966/67 WPSQ Annual Report president Judith Wright wrote, *As the first report of its kind we hope it will give rise to many more such detailed scientific surveys of areas in need of protection and conservation.* Ultimately the rainforests were declared a World Heritage area in 1988.

**The first campaign: The Great Barrier Reef.** By the time the society was confronted with the Great Barrier Reef issue it had developed the expertise in the science, the understandings of nature conservation, the people and contacts to be ready to address this enormous issue.

The Innisfail WPSQ branch formed in 1966 with John Büssst as its first president.

In 1967 he noticed the first application to mine limestone on the Great Barrier Reef, at Ellison Reef, just off Innisfail. Büssst immediately enlisted the help of WPSQ in Brisbane and had to find and support scientists to go to Ellison Reef to prove and testify in court that it was a significant living coral reef and so should not be mined.

The Littoral Society joined with WPSQ in this battle to prevent a precedent allowing mining of the reef.

Their efforts resulted in the application's rejection in 1968. Following this the very public campaign to protect the reef from oil drilling was set in motion, with Büssst and Wright again playing a leading role.

The Great Barrier Reef was declared a World Heritage area in 1981.

**Conclusion**

The times, the people and their relationships changed the society's role and shaped conservation in Australia. Judith Wright's role in the conservation movement is well known but along with her, two unsung giants of rainforest and reef conservation in Australia, Dr Len Webb and John Büssst, married science and passion for successful conservation outcomes. Their heritage is the World Heritage status of rainforest and reef in Far North Queensland.

Source; the **Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ)**—Historical papers—**Heart and Mind**



**Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia**  
**Community Wildlife Conservation Award**

C4 is proud to have been chosen as the 2009 winning conservation group *'that is helping to save our precious Australian wildlife'* and to accept the crystal trophy and a cash award of \$2,500.


The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia Community Wildlife Conservation Award is an annual award to a community conservation group that is making a major contribution to wildlife preservation in Australia.

Many government agencies already have their own legal responsibilities to preserve our wildlife but we now rely very much on other conservations groups to assist in preserving our native fauna and flora.

The WPSA wants to recognise and help these conservation groups continue with their good work on behalf of the whole community.

The Wildlife Preservation Society knows that many organisations and thousands of volunteers are already working tirelessly to save our threatened species, as well as the humble and more common Australian species, and the precious wildlife habitat in which they live.

WPSA is very conscious of the need to join together with other conservation groups to save and protect all native Australian wildlife populations in all its many and varied forms across Australia.

<p>What is a tree?</p> <p>Is a tree just a lump of wood crowned by leaves?</p> <p>A tree is truth with a nail in its side, beauty built out of air and stones – mellow in death, lively in spite of human foolishness.</p> <p>Trees adore wind and birds, sunlight and sweet air, kookaburras and cows, raindrops in quiet evenings.</p> <p>Nobody but a plant can dine so noiselessly, and on such strange foods as the invisible carbon of the air and the harsh minerals of the ground.</p>		<p>Nobody but a tree can grow so huge not even whales and dinosaurs.</p> <p>Nobody but a plant has green blood to capture the energy of the sun.</p> <p>Trees have no blood banks to succour them after fire and mutilation,</p> <p>yet without the green stuff of their sap, there would be no redness in animal blood,</p> <p>no sun's energy and no life for us who cannot dine on dust.</p> <p>A tree is a magic creature, whose ancestors are lost in the mists of time...</p> <p><i>Len Webb (1963), 'Trees are your friends',</i></p>
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## Puppies for Sale

This advertisement was posted on the Wongaling shopping centre and Woolworths notice boards. It is with great concern that the keeping and backyard breeding for profit, of hunting dogs is being allowed to happen in our environmentally sensitive area.



Cassowaries are listed as endangered by both the state and federal governments. Mission Beach supports the highest density of cassowaries in Australia and is recognised as an important cassowary population by the Department of Environment Resource Management in the Cassowary Recovery Plan. Dog attack is cited as a major threat to the endangered cassowary in the Plan.

The local vet stated in a Tully Times article 13 Nov 2008 that "cars are not the biggest cassowary killer" and that "In this area (Mission Beach) approximately twice as many cassowaries are killed by dogs than by vehicles".

With a known 60 deaths in 15 years (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service records) occurring as a result of traffic strike on Mission Beach roads the vet's statement is very alarming.

Current State and local laws do not restrict/control the



breeding or hunting activities of these types of dogs that are bred specifically for pig hunting.

Wet Tropics rainforest areas are popular for the sport as seen by the articles in glossy magazines advertising good places for weekend pig hunting that encourages the release of dogs that have been cross bred for a superior hunting dog into the tropical rainforest including World Heritage Areas that would be unlikely able to be trained not to chase a fleeing cassowary.

The number of vehicles with large hunting dogs, some with amour, being observed in cages on the back of trucks is very concerning. There is a compelling case for certain breeds of dogs to be prohibited in high biodiversity areas and specifically cassowary country



The lack of control of 'dangerous' dogs is only one of the escalating and overwhelming threats to the natural environment and endangered species of our area resulting from the ad hoc over development that has been allowed to occur.

5.1 11 of The Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Plan, adopted by the CCRC recommends the 'restriction or prohibition of dogs and cats in new developments in proximity to habitat network after 2009 through local planning regulation.'

Provisions are available under the Integrated Planning act for a **Temporary Local Planning Instrument** to be made if;

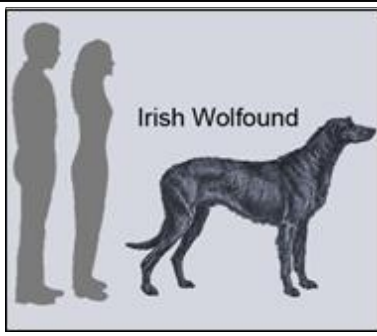
- (a) *there is a significant risk of serious environmental harm,*
- or serious adverse cultural, economic or social conditions occurring in the planning scheme area; and*
- (b) *the delay involved in using the process under schedule 1 to amend the planning scheme would increase the risk.*

With a new planning scheme five years away from being completed and the serious impacts of clearing, fencing, increased people, traffic and dogs on the special values of Mission Beach becoming more evident by the day, only an irresponsible Council would not, as a matter of priority, explore all avenues available to address the situation.

A **Temporary Local Planning Instrument** is an obvious option and could be put in place while effective legislation is developed to protect the cassowary. A Koala Conservation Plan was called for by the Queensland Premier because of the threat of extinction to the Koala in South East Queensland Koala's are listed as 'vulnerable', are represented in far more areas in Australia and in much larger numbers than cassowaries.

With best estimates having only between 1500—4000 cassowaries left in Australia and very little known about the ecology of the species, why then, after 20 years of countless thousands of dollars spent identifying the need to act to save this species from extinction, are the threats not only continuing but increasing?

Liz Gallie

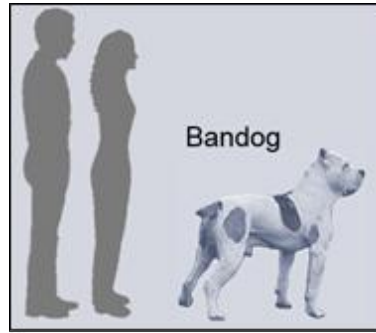


### **The Irish Wolfhound**

is a very old sight hound dog breed originating in Ireland. It is the tallest dog in the world and was originally used to hunt large game - stags, boars, elk and wolves. It is a dog of massive size with a very large powerful body, greyhound-like shape and

gracefully built. The Irish Wolfhound belongs to the collection of dogs referred to as Sighthounds which specialise in hunting its quarry by sight rather than scent.

Sighthounds, have distinctive characteristics, features and traits which are perfect for their purpose. They have extremely good vision. Their lean muscular body, deep chest and long powerful legs essential assets when following any fast and agile prey. Their long stride, powerful chest and lungs and agile bodies make it possible for sight hounds to chase and kill their quarry. As a pet, special consideration must be given to the practicalities of keeping such a large dog.



### **The Bandog**

is not a pure bred dog and has descended from the cross-breeding of Pit Bulls, Mastiffs and Rottweilers. The literal meaning of the Bandog refers to large and fierce dogs, such as mastiffs, which were kept chained or tied up until they were released

for guard dog duties or in some cases for fighting and bull and bear baiting.

Working dogs, like the Bandog, are medium to giant size and are strong, often independent, domineering and difficult to manage. This, together with the immense sizes of many of the breeds, make many of the working dogs unsuitable as a normal family pet or for first time dog owners.

These dogs require firm control and must be properly trained. Formal obedience training should include a proper socialising program.

## **Dog Control Issue—Mission Beach Area**



**Jennifer Downs.**  
Councillor – Cassowary Coast Regional Council  
m: 0400 330 870

Council Officers and Councillors frequently receive calls about issues surrounding dogs. This subject is a universal Local Government function, and one of the more difficult ones to manage because of the emotive reactions often generated on both sides of any debate about increasing or decreasing controls. Councils determine their own level and manner of control, and the decisions which they make must be embodied in Local Laws made by the Council to suit its own circumstances.

Issues to be considered include limiting animal numbers, remedies for barking or other noise nuisance, enclosures required on private property, the extent of restraint required in public areas, including beaches, and special provisions to deal quickly with dangerous animals. Impounding and procedures for destruction of impounded or abandoned animals must be dealt with.

(Source: Councillor Handbook and Good Governance Guide – 2010)

Clearly, in the Cassowary Coast, the effect of roaming and wild dogs on protected species is also a very concerning issue.

Council's Environment and Health Manager advises: "Responsible dog ownership is an ongoing problem for Cassowary Coast and every other local government in Queensland. Council

presently employs two full-time Animal Control Officers to manage Tully, Cardwell and Mission Beach areas, with further personnel based in Innisfail concentrating on the northern part of the Council area.

Despite the large geographical area and numerous complaints to investigate, these officers regularly conduct patrols to identify and impound roaming dogs. Mission Beach is visited almost daily, concentrating on those areas where Council has received previous information relating to roaming dogs & also known cassowary corridors. In the past year thirty percent of dogs impounded from the Tully office came from Mission Beach, with total numbers not showing any substantial spike in recent years.

Council also periodically conducts surveys and inspections with regard to dog registration and enclosures. Another door-to-door inspection program is planned for the coming year to be accompanied by an educational brochure for owners and public.

The issue of restricted dogs has proven problematic for local government and the approach taken in the new *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2009* reflects this. The new act focuses on the behaviour of individual dogs as grounds for declaring regulated animals

(dangerous and menacing). While there are restricted dog provisions, local governments throughout Queensland have had little success in proving an animal belongs to a restricted dog breed when this has been disputed in court by the owners. Even DNA testing has been inconclusive in this regard. The burden of proof always falls upon the authorities in these circumstances.

Compulsory micro chipping and registration of all new dogs from December 1 this year is one measure designed to curtail backyard breeders. Council has also set low annual registration fees for desexed animals (\$20) compared to entire (\$80) in an attempt to promote responsible ownership and reduce the incidences of roaming and aggressive behaviour.

**When dog issues occur, Council officers would appreciate information that gives the time, date and location, as well as a full description of the breed of dog – colour, size.**

Council does not have unlimited resources to manage this issue, however the ongoing assistance of the public is valuable in reducing the incidences of this shared concern."

**Jennifer Downs**  
Councillor – Division 3  
Cassowary Coast Regional Council



# Habitat Matters

## Williams Development Garners Beach—11 lots on 8.5 hectares—Rural/conservation/remnant vegetation/essential cassowary habitat/ habitat/corridor

It is with great disappointment that the development of 11 residences at the end of a dirt road in an undeveloped area which has a very high biodiversity associated with the varied land forms and ecosystems has passed the local and state approval process.

An upgrade of the dirt road access will greatly diminish a pride of the local residents and the reason for Garners Beach to be considered one of the unspoiled areas at Mission Beach.

The narrow beach road represents some of the best critically endangered littoral rainforest occurring along the coast which will require substantial disturbance to comply with the condition for a road upgrade.

The section of road has very low and slow traffic use and is one of the few beaches left in the Mission Beach area where cassowaries are often sighted.

Determining this development would have offered the opportunity for the CCRC to show their commitment to understanding the importance for constraint in development and consideration for the natural values as outlined in the FNQ 2031 Plan.

Local government has discretionary powers and there are options available under the present planning schemes if a Council has the will to use them

The Council minutes don't mention any discussion that may have been entered into by Councillors before the planning officer's recommendations were accepted and voted on.

C4 believes this development will cause serious environmental harm and will have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.

The controversy surrounding this development site dates back more than 20 years when the hill tops were being removed and dumped onto the wetland below creating two unstable areas adjacent to steep adjoining roads.

The proponents of this development continually refer to the cleared area as a quarry. There was never a registered quarry at this location.

The current dwellings on the lot being presented as a template for the rest of the development gained an award partially because of the claim to have rehabilitated a quarry site.

A development was proposed on the pre-emptively cleared site in the early 1990's. C4 challenged the 'Cofordo' proposal in court on the grounds that the Johnstone Shire Council should have

called for an Environmental Impact Assessment given the high ecological values of the site and surrounding area.

A lot of scientific evidence was produced supporting the value of the site despite the clearing that had taken place.

The proponents withdrew their application and the lot was left to nature until the present owners' occupation. The rainforest canopy had closed over the majority of the disturbed areas except where the excavation had left bedrock clearings. (Fig 1).

Cassowaries were regularly seen on the lot and on the small beaches that could only be accessed by walking over the knoll because of the steep cliffs on both sides of the lot.

Incremental loss, of natural areas at Mission Beach, otherwise known as death by a thousand cuts, continues through private insensitivity or developments such as this and the two featured on the opposite page.

They can all be graphically shown to result in substantial disturbance and fragmentation of remnant rainforest/essential cassowary habitat. This is quite apart from the negative impacts of significant increase in traffic and people being introduced to presently unoccupied areas.

The Williams development not only puts high density housing into a low density, highly environmentally sensitive area but the style of housing has a **very** large footprint.

An email was circulated amongst the community titled '*Paul and Lynda need your help*' soliciting for support for the development. One claim in the email was;

- Small housing envelopes on cleared land and re-vegetated wildlife corridors around every house blocks; increasing the net habitat.

The existing 'house' consists of three above average sized large dwellings which is stated in the development application to CCRC to be the template for the rest of the development. (Fig 2) The space between any of the house blocks is minimal and considering access, garages, etc could not be called wildlife corridors.

The email can be viewed at C4 for anyone interested.

The approved 11 lots and infrastructure will occupy all the level ground on the lot and any planting of fruiting trees around the dwellings will attract cassowaries into a threatening environment.

It will be virtually impossible for cassowaries to move over the lot to access the beaches they have traditionally foraged without encountering roads, people and all the invasive elements and noise associated with everyday activities, recreation and maintenance.



Fig 1 2005 Pre cyclone Larry



Fig 2 Current dwellings footprint



Approved Configuration of lots and infrastructure



EPA Remnant vegetation mapping showing unprotected area

The existing group of dwellings is situated at the larger of the destructive landslip areas created by the original clearing that caused a lot of sediment to enter the marine park immediately below.

**It is unclear what 'eco efficient' means but low environmental impact this development is not.**



C4 will be monitoring the site as any development occurs that may have a detrimental impact on the sensitive adjacent ecosystems and wetlands

The development is yet to be approved by DEWHA under the EPBC Act.

The Garners Beach decision is not a precedent though as the CCRC have approved three other developments on land zoned conservation that may be at first glance be seen as low impact.

Two of those propose 6 and 8 lots and are **also** positioned to dominate and fragment important cassowary habitat corridors. (below)

The third is at Luger Bay with **13 lots on 27.8 hectares**. It is the only development in the recent economic boom that has been planned in a way that may have a net gain for the environment.

The proponent plans to do extensive revegetation which will significantly

increase cassowary habitat to create vegetation corridors in a largely cleared area.

The development will be featured in the next Bulletin as an example of how land can be rehabilitated to find a good mix of attractive lifestyle lots that also allows for sustainable enhancement of natural values.

*Just what Mission Beach needs!*  
What a pity there are so few developers with such a vision.

**Explorer Drive South Mission Beach 8 lots on 4.53 hectares - conservation/of concern remnant vegetation essential cassowary habitat/habitat corridor.**

Again this is a development that proposes to occupy only existing cleared areas. The lots are 400 to 600 square metres within remnant rainforest.

The lot is currently unoccupied and is frequented by cassowaries.

It is shown on the Biotropica Wongaling/Sth Mission Habitat Linkage Report as an important cassowary corridor.

The remnant patches of rainforest are considered to be of high value for cassowaries which will either need to be fenced to avoid human/cassowary interaction in which case a substantial amount of valuable food resource will be denied or it will draw the birds into situations again, as with the Williams project, which will expose them to the threatening processes associated with human activity identified in the Cassowary Recovery Plan.

If approval is given to the plan as proposed with the very small lots, there will be inevitable further legal clearing because of the risk of injury of rainforest so close to dwellings.

DEWHA must start to make decisions to either deny or lower density of housing within cassowary habitat and impose conditions of rehabilitation to establish sustainable corridors



latest aerial mapping



Configuration of lots and infrastructure



In the landscape Sth Mission Beach

**Peter Heywood Tully mission Beach Road - 6 lots on 13 hectares - conservation/remnant vegetation/essential cassowary habitat/habitat corridor**

As can be seen from the maps below the proposed 6 lots will require a substantial amount of clearing of essential cassowary habitat, and will block an important corridor connecting the World Heritage area to the coastal littoral zone. (Biotropica habitat linkages)

A condition of approval was for the vegetation on site to the east of the development to be covenanted as an offset. This will result in a net habitat loss.

The EPA summary report is all that is needed to explain how the development will impact on the landscape.

*"The proposed reconfiguration and development of the lot is likely to have an adverse impact on viable networks of wildlife habitat, and in particular on cassowaries and the connectivity of their habitat.*

*These impacts are likely to be significant at both local and regional scales, particularly if the proposal leads to an increase in road deaths. The proposal is likely to permanently displace cassowaries from suitable habitat and impede their movement by reducing the degree of habitat connectivity in an area known to be regionally significant for their survival.*

*These impacts will arise from clearing, the construction of new roads and fences and from effluent irrigation practices. The further loss of cassowary individuals or further restrictions in the movement will have a deleterious effect locally and regionally on the functioning and regeneration of rainforest ecosystems, and hence on the viability of the habitat networks they form"*

The accompanying EPA map below shows the "significant environmental barrier to cassowary movement, including steep slopes, dense vegetation with a prominent vine under story, and incised tidal watercourses".



now



In the landscape Sth MB turnoff



All the proposals in this article have been referred to the DEWHA and are going through the assessment process under the EPBC Act. which means the federal environment agency considers they may have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance i.e world heritage areas or endangered species.

In an effort to better understand how the planning schemes work at this

crucial transitional time for Mission Beach, C4 asked for a meeting with the CCRC Planning department.

The meeting, organised by Cr Downs was at first agreed to but later denied by John Pettigrew who is the Director of the Planning and Environmental Services and who signs off on all the development approvals.

A meeting would have offered the opportunity for C4 to make more informed

comment in an effort to secure good environmental outcomes at Mission Beach.

C4 is urging the Council and the State Planning Department to make a Temporary Planning Instrument based on the serious environmental harm that is being allowed to occur under present legislation and with a new planning scheme still five years away.

C4 Habitat Team



## The Sweeping saga of Sweepy

Driving home one day I saw something flutter down onto the road, I realised it was a wee baby



bird, I stopped and ran back to get him before he was run over. The poor little baby was covered in green ants, and of course his nest had to be way up at the very top of the tree. With no way to get him back into his nest, we decided to look after him. So we popped him into a nice snug box and took him home.

We named him Sweep, after the little dog puppet in Sooty & Sweep, cos he sounded just like him. From the very brief glimpses I'd had of his parents, we decided that he was a White-breasted Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina papuensis*)

As I was a first time carer, I had lots of advice from both my Wildcare and QPWS friends. The Ranger's first comment was 'I hope you realise that you are going to have him for a long time'. She has also cared for cuckoo-shrikes and was a great source of info. Apparently cuckoo-shrikes hang out with their parents still feeding them for months, as they need to learn how to catch insects on the wing. His diet consisted of small grasshoppers, flies, bugs, mealworms, and marsh flies when they were in season and puppy food soaked in water as a high protein supplement. As Mummy Bird, I began with a pair of disposable tweezers as my beak, then, we graduated to a paddle pop stick.

He had a big aviary outside during the day and we brought him inside at night, as the cage was not python proof. Because he was still hand fed, he also went everywhere with us. He was well traveled and went to the Tablelands, shopping to Cairns, he even went to Dunk Island when I was painting at the Artist Colony and became an honorary Girl Guide, as I was a Guide leader at the time. My little Guides loved him and were all collecting marsh flies and bugs for him.

Then finally... one Thursday after months of love and care, came the big day... I confess, I was very nervous and scared, talk about a paranoid mother. We decided on a 'Soft Release', instead of returning him to where he came from, we released him here at home. My friends both said that the chances were that he would hang around and come for help if he needed it. So that is just how life was for the next 3 months. Sweep hung around for free snacks and was here every morning sitting on the back of a chair waiting and yahooping for breakfast. He'd also visit at other times during the day, and was especially frequent when I was outside painting. Sometimes he would be in his cage at night waiting to be shut in for the night, we even brought him inside during Cyclone Larry. We knew that sooner or later Sweepy would go off and be a big brave bird by himself.



Then that day came, he popped in to say hello and then just didn't come back. Apparently that is the usual way of things. One day, they just wake up and decide that it's time to grow up and leave the nest. We didn't see any sign of cuckoo-shrikes in the area for the next 2 months. Then I heard one, I went out and talked to him, calling his name, I had no idea if he would recognise me. He sat in the tree and chirped at me while preening happily, he then flew off, but returned 3 times that day. It's pretty easy to think that maybe it was Sweepy. I have since seen this bird many times and each time it is quite calm and relaxed around us. I'd certainly like to think that it is my baby.

It was not only wonderful for us, but lots of other people and children got to share his life too and to learn things about birds that they didn't know. I believe firmly that education is the most important gift we can give our kids, and they certainly are the conservationists of our future.

Thank you for the experience Sweepy.

**contact Mission Beach Wildcare Inc 4068 7272 to learn more.**

# Clamping down on illegal clearing of vegetation

The Cairns City Council (CCC) has taken the lead by making a key decision at a December Council meeting making it easier for Council officers to prosecute people who have breached local laws for vegetation and management and have illegally cleared vegetation.

According to the Mayor, Cr Val Schier, "Disappointingly, Council has only ever issued warning letters and has never taken a vegetation clearing matter to Court".

From now on, the CEO will be able to instruct Council's solicitors to initiate legal proceedings against a person who has willfully or unlawfully damaged vegetation. Fines ranging from \$50,000 to \$85,000 can be imposed.

This decision complements another recent CCC decision to erect "shame" signs in front of any beachfront areas where coastal vegetation is deliberately damaged by people wishing to improve their waterfront views.

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC) also has local laws prohibiting foreshore clearing in place but is reluctant to enforce them. In the November bulletin Acting Parks Manager Paul Devine wrote the following....

"...Council's policy is to heavily revegetate the area that has been damaged and if the unlawful clearing



continues, to place large offensive red signs in that area until the revegetated trees reach an appropriate height", he said.

Mr Devine reiterated that all reported incidences of vegetation clearing are investigated by Council or if needs be passed onto the relevant state or federal government department. **He asked all community members to be alert and if they do see what they believe to be suspicious clearing immediately call Council on 40680055.**

*C4 - The foreshore belongs to us all and those who deliberately destroy natural vegetation need to be effectively discouraged i.e. "shame" boards and fined.*

## More about Coconuts

Some interesting notes supporting C4's policy regarding planting of coconut palms. Coconuts bad for the shore:

An icon of unspoilt isles, a recent study found that the ubiquitous coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*) may reduce nutrients on the shore.

The study found that 'guano producing' birds didn't like to perch on coconut palms which can be full of nasty rats and are not suitable for nest building. This resulted in nutrient poor soil, affecting plant growth and animals eating the plants.

### Coconut palms block nutrient flow in tropical ecosystems

**Journal Watch Online** 25 Jan 10;

The sight of coconut palms on tropical islands is so common that it's hard to believe these trees are invasive transplants from Asia. And while their presence might be good for tourism, it turns out that the palms also prevent valuable nutrients from reaching the soil.

As described in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers studied an ecosystem with coconut palms (*Cocos nucifera*) on an atoll in the Pacific with mainly native trees. The birds might avoid coconut palms because these trees don't offer

"platforms" to nest on and can house predatory rats, the team says.

Birds shied away from landing on the palms, instead nesting and roosting eight times more densely in forests

Since birds typically shower the soil in nutrient-rich guano, their absence has deprived the ground of nitrate and phosphate, the researchers report. That depletion also caused some plant leaves to contain fewer nutrients, making them less appetising to herbivorous animals. In lab experiments, katydids ate 12 times more leaf material from a forest dominated by native trees than from coconut palm forests, and crabs ate 23 times as much.

The case of the coconut palm counters the usual notion that introduced plants add nutrients to the soil, the researchers say. Since this ubiquitous species can have such widespread ecological effects, they write, "the implications of the global expansion of the coconut should be more closely monitored and considered." – Roberta Kwok

Source: Young, H., McCauley, D., Dunbar, R., & Dirzo, R. (2010). Plants cause ecosystem nutrient depletion via the interruption of bird-derived spatial subsidies Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0914169107

# The Inconvenient Cassowary

Approximately 7am on 20th Dec another cassowary was killed on the roads at Mission Beach. This is barely a month after the last road fatality took the life of an estimated twenty year old female. The death occurred at the approach to Mission Beach as the road straightens out from the sharp bends of Fenby's Gap. It is a known crossing area where Queensland Parks and Wildlife staff often post "Recent Crossing" signs.

There have been other cassowary fatalities in this area. It is on a Main Roads section of road which displays an *advisory* speed limit of 60km/h within an 80 km/h zone.

This is another case of a cassowary being hit by a vehicle and the driver not stopping.

A couple travelling out of Mission Beach saw a cassowary standing next to something on the other side of the road bending down and touching it with its beak. They stopped and realised it was another cassowary.

They described the scene "It was standing over the other (dead) bird and it looked like it was trying to pull it up"

Another witness who stopped called the police to report the 'traffic hazard' because the other bird wouldn't go away. "It kept pecking it and nudging it. It would walk into the bush and come back out again"

When a wildlife Icarer arrived the bird was sitting a few metres away under the cover of the rainforest.

The dead bird was removed by a Queensland Parks and Wildlife ranger, more signs went up and life went back to normal... for the motorists, that is.



No one driving past the site would know that another (likely breeding) adult cassowary had been killed at this location and removed from the important population at Mission Beach. It was simply another wildlife road kill.

Why there were two birds on the scene raises some questions. Both of the birds were identified as similar in appearance being reasonably young adults i.e. had full colour, black plumage with well formed, relatively small casques.

Being a territorial species it is not common to see two adults being tolerant of each other unless it is the breeding season. December is getting very late in the season. Most of the birds being observed at this time of year are solitary or moving about the landscape

with their chicks which range from a few weeks to a few months old.



Picture taken by Nancy Lowe 11 Dec 09



Picture taken by Robert Tidey 12 Dec 09

So much is still unknown about the prehistoric umbrella species of the rainforest that we have the privilege to share our lives with. Yet there is complacency about their plight and even dislike of their presence from some local residents.

It has been said "I wish I had never heard of cassowaries, they are holding up progress" and even at the scene of the death a month ago a passing motorist said "Get it off the road, they are just a bloody nuisance".

Despite the knowledge that vehicle strike is a major threat to the survival of the cassowary, vehicle-producing development continues to be approved without traffic-calming measures to protect the endangered species.

The Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4) has been voicing their concerns to all levels of government for 20 years and yet urbanisation continues and with it increased traffic. At Mission Beach all traffic travels through cassowary habitat.

A recent report commissioned by the Federal Environment Agency found that there are more than 1100 vacant blocks of land and over 900 new units currently approved or being assessed at Mission Beach. The actual number is more.

A local real estate agent admits there is an oversupply of real estate at Mission Beach with many blocks going unsold at the regular land auctions now being held to try and increase sales.

The local business and tourism group promotes Mission Beach as an adventure playground and appears to play down the importance of the cassowary to the Mission Beach tourism economy ignoring the consequences of increased traffic to the area.

The cassowary once revered as an integral part of Mission Beach identity is now being seen by some as an inconvenience and a hindrance to 'progress'.

Cassowary Coast Council **must** start taking responsibility and show political will by acknowledging the importance of the cassowary population to the health of our rainforest, our community and our economy. Immediate steps need to be taken to manage and control the ongoing and increasing threats associated with the development being approved.



Read more - <http://www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au/Newpdf/>

## Cassowaries on Dunk and Hinchinbrook Islands — is it viable?

The article below was printed in a past edition of the Bulletin. The question continues to be raised not only from visitors to our area but from long term residents. We hope this can put to rest any idea of introducing cassowaries to the individually, and perhaps ecologically unique offshore islands along our coastline.

Mission Beach provides the ideal conditions for a robust population of cassowaries because of the outstanding diversity of ecosystems that support a high biodiversity of flora and fauna of which they play a vital role.

**We are privileged to live at a place that has an important population of the endangered cassowary. The real question ought to be — why aren't they being given a priority in the planning of our future?**

A question that's often asked C4 volunteers at the desk is 'why are there no Cassowaries on Dunk Island'? The answer is simple enough as Dunk is just too small with its National Park of 730 Ha., which is clearly not enough to support more than two or three birds with no opportunity for any offspring to flourish.

It is worth noting that E J Banfield who, of course, lived on the island for a couple of decades in the early 1990's recorded 129 species of bird but NO cassowaries. Banfield was there long before National Parks or resorts yet failed to find any evidence of the big birds swimming to the island during his tenure.

There are of course other factors such as seasonal food availability and a quick check of plant listings from Dunk will reveal a markedly lower diversity of rainforest fruiting trees on Dunk that can be found on the mainland. This may in part be explained by the presence of numerous fruit eating Pigeons who fly to the island easily and regularly. These birds disperse small fruit seeds from their guts, promoting the growth

Local, state and federal legislation is allowing for serious environmental harm to occur at Mission Beach. C4 urgently calls for a temporary freeze on more development approval especially those that disregard the FNQ 2031 plan.

We ask the federal government to pay particular attention to the impact traffic will have on the continued presence of the cassowary when assessing any *current* and future developments in important cassowary population areas.

40% of cassowary habitat at Mission Beach is not protected.

C4 has already raised \$80,000 to buyback and protect forever cassowary habitat. We recently entered into a fundraising partnership with renowned Rainforest Rescue.

Bob Irwin is our champion and is encouraging people to please donate to help secure essential cassowary habitat in the lowland tropical rainforests of Mission Beach.

We hope State and Federal governments will match donations from the public, which seems fair given cassowaries are listed as endangered under their legislation;

*although that could be an inconvenient truth.*

these species in an identical manner to the Cassowary on the mainland. This practice alone reduces the chance of the larger fruiting species being found commonly on the island and as these Laurels, Lillypillies etc. provide the bulk of cassowary sustenance it's hardly surprising that the birds can't survive life on Dunk. As Fruit Bats would also be responsible for some of Dunk's natural vegetation this idea is reinforced.

In summary, Dunk just ain't big enough, lacks the botanical diversity and the area to maintain a viable cassowary population and so any considerations to shift birds there should be regarded as untenable.

Like wise Hinchinbrook Island, which despite it's greater size, remains barely half that needed for a genetically viable population. Much of the island is wet sclerophyll or paperbark forest, neither of which of course provide food for Cassowaries and these factors alone render Hinchinbrook unsuitable now and at any time in the future.

Sally Moroney

# Public Expression



The message in the defacing of the Oasis development sign at the entrance to Mission Beach is unclear and open to interpretation. A forensic officer was on site taking sample evidence from the bold graffiti statement.

Graffiti is against the law and carries a penalty.

In a small town of approx 3,000 'locals' there are many organisations prepared to hear your voice.

C4 welcomes anyone who would like to become involved and help with the work needed to ensure the natural areas and lifestyle we know and love will be protected now and for our future generations.

A good suggestion or idea may make all the difference.

Current legislation does not protect Mission Beach and the CCRC needs all the help from the community they can get to help design a plan that will truly reflect the majority view to keep Mission Beach 'magic'.

**Your voice does count** and **many hands make light work**.

The graffiti at Oasis may be ambiguous but the one just west of the hardware store at the entrance to Mission Beach is not. There have been several sightings of birds crossing the road at different places here. At one stage there were two sets of 'recent crossings' signs posted within a short distance of each other. Unfortunately the one just east of the 60kph advisory speed sign coming out of Fenby's Gap was the site of the second adult cassowary road death within a month at the end of 2009.



As a result of the deaths, a workshop was held by Main Roads and the CCRC on the 18th of February to discuss strategies and possible road treatment solutions for trialling in the Mission Beach area.

Thankyou to all those people who attended. It was great to see a wide cross section of the community and government agencies including three representatives from the DEWHA Queensland Assessment Team.

Everyone was there because they wanted to find a way to stop cassowaries being killed on the roads at Mission Beach.



Just to make **sure** everyone knew why they were there, a cassowary walked into the open area to forage from palm seeds growing next to the community hall. A short time later it was observed by all making a dash to cross the busy South Mission Beach Road, a road on which EPA records show there have been multiple deaths.



The outcome of the workshop was a unanimous decision to trial a section of road at 'Garrett's Corridor' with a speed reduction and signage warning of a regular crossing.



Karl Depak original photo

The final design of the crossing is still to be determined. Perhaps a solution such as the above would be '**cassowary dreaming**'

# Changing face of Mission Beach

There has been a lot of discussion and comment about the development that will forever be the backdrop to the Mission Beach village. As shown on page 2, the promotional brochures and the reality are somewhat different.

MiCorp promote sensitivity to the environment in their approach to the many property interests they have at Mission Beach. MiCorp director Mrs Mort was quoted in the Sept 2006 Financial review, "But unlike some areas on Australia's east coast, Mission Beach has a major opportunity to attract quality and sensitive low-rise property developments and to avoid the excesses of over-development". MiCorp state their commitment to a philosophy of balancing development with protection of the natural environment. They say they intend to "introduce change to landscapes only when the change integrates well with the natural environment", and adds that "the environs of Mission Beach offer this unique opportunity".

Promotional material and reality may contradict that philosophy. Mi Corp director James Mort, in a grab from a video published on their website, explains how his company's development benefits Mission Beach.



**"This is the biggest thing to come out of the ground between Cairns and Townsville"**

Melbourne Real Estate published another Financial Review article in 2006 after the devastating cyclone 'Larry' which could be viewed on the original Oasis resort website and quotes Mi Corp director, Mrs Mort, "Larry was a blessing in disguise. "It put a lot of life in the place, it gave it energy". The article

further quoted "Some locals even go so far as to refer to the cyclone, which caused billions of dollars worth of damage across Far North Queensland, as St Larry":

MiCorp have concentrated their development expansion in the high density market at Mission Beach. Dunk Island View Caravan Park now has approval for high density town housing being one of MiCorp's first investments in our area.

Nearly all the caravan parks on the coastal belt have been lost to unit development and the trend has prompted moves for some parks to be placed on the heritage list. Unfortunately local planning laws have not yet identified the need to protect caravan parks from being targeted by developers and at least three are now in line for high density development.

The Council is considering leasing the Council Caravan Park on the foreshore at Mission Beach to private enterprise. This should be objected to in very strong terms. The facility probably needs an upgrade but that could be done with little expense as an extension of the foreshore rehabilitation project joining the park and market area, both integral to the village atmosphere of North Mission Beach.

The latest MiCorp development application is for a Material Change of use to amalgamate two house lots into one to build a multiple dwelling at Seafarer Street, South Mission Beach.

The major emphasis in the 2031 Plan is for constraint in development at Mission Beach and for it to be kept low rise and low density. If increased density, resulting from applications such as this is allowed to continue, there will be nothing stopping the population to eventually reach the projected 18,000 allowed for in the present planning schemes.

With a new CCRC plan still five years away there are compelling reasons for the Council to make a Temporary Planning Instrument to review inconsistencies between the desired outcome of the 2031 Plan and the potential for excessive over-development that will continue to create serious environmental harm under current legislation.

## Witt's End

**Here we go again -Economic growth - Community & Environmental Loss**



Every time favourable economic conditions spark development opportunities, the short term (unsustainable) benefits have been for a few and the disadvantages for many.

Every time the authorities on a local, state and federal level consider development during an economic growth period, the mesh of plans, policies and legislation always results in a diminishing and degradation of natural areas and lifestyle.

It is a time when local businesses can take advantage of increased income but they are the first in line to lose out by the collapse of unrealistic aspirations of investors often imposing inappropriate development such as Warren Witt's Ziva resort/residential an the out of character three and a half story concrete units which have not been built for the environment, instead relying on air conditioning for cooling.

How many Mission Beach businesses have suffered financially because of the collapse and liquidation of Warren Witt's company Racebuilt. Word around town has it there are many.

Mission Beach has an oversupply of real estate with at least 1100 new building lots and over 900 units approved and for sale. As shown below with the Cavanah lots, land is not selling even at the many auctions now being favoured as a way to trigger sales.

The question mostly being asked these days is "what are all these extra people being encouraged to move to Mission Beach going to do for jobs"? If it means there is an increase in traffic for people to commute to jobs in Innisfail and Tully, the two centres identified as the "growth" areas in the CCR then once again it clearly undermines the intent of the FNQ 2031 Plan.



## THE VALUE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO VISITORS



The beaches were the most visited and valued attribute of Mission Beach, followed by the rainforests.

When choosing to visit Mission Beach, the natural attributes of the area were the most important deciding factors for visitors.

The majority tended to say they would be very unlikely to

return if the natural attributes were negatively affected by human activities. Accommodation and places to eat were also important, though it appears that what visitors want is variety, not quantity.

The majority were concerned about over-development.

Finally there seems to be a good amount of general information regarding the natural environment available to tourists, however more information on specific attributes was welcomed. The report including survey method, results, discussion and recommendations for improving the survey method are available from Terrain's website [www.terrain.org.au/missionbeach](http://www.terrain.org.au/missionbeach).

A survey was recently developed and conducted by James Cook University Masters student Annette Fischel-Quiros to investigate the value of the Mission Beach natural environment to visitors. The survey was supervised by Terrain NRM and the results can help inform future environmental management and tourism planning at Mission Beach.

The survey was distributed to a cross-section of accommodation types as well as the Visitor Information Centre and C4 for one week during September 2009. A total of 48 surveys were completed by visitors. At least 100 completed surveys are necessary to obtain statistically significant trends. Nevertheless, preliminary trends were identified, e.g. 95% of respondents gave the same response to some questions.

## Glimpse from the past — where we are now—what will we do?

Often taking a look at the past puts everything in perspective and looking through some of the old Bulletins, part of Bob Jones's comment stood out.

The following is taken from the March 07 edition when there was reason for hope to have input at a time of change. The sacked Council was gone, an Administrator was at the helm and a new State Regional Plan offered opportunity for protection of high ecological areas.

**Learn from the past - March 2007 Bulletin**  
*As impetus I'll recount this story. A number of years back the Beattie government announced its intention to implement the Vegetation Management Act. It was a worthy idea, designed to protect valuable habitat throughout Queensland. It didn't go far enough, but was right-headed in many ways.*

*Problem is: Beattie announced the proposal well in advance of Government ratification. Almost everybody will spot the flaw. As the (then) Secretary of C4 I wrote the Premier advising him in the strongest terms to declare a moratorium on clearing until the Act came into force, arguing that without a moratorium land would be cleared at a greatly accelerated rate in expectation of the Act. Sadly, too few concerned citizens did the same. No moratorium was declared.*

*In my estimate, Beattie's announcement prompted one of the biggest spates of clearing Queensland has ever seen. Don't let that happen again. Don't let the prospect of a new Regional Plan, plus the confusion brought on by an interim administrator, result in massive adverse development at Mission Beach. Make your wishes known.*

**Bob Jones**

Unfortunately the legacy of the administration was less than visionary except to approve any development application

lodged, and for Mission Beach, that meant the loss and fragmentation of valuable natural habitat and rural properties to residential housing.

The rush to get development applications in before the deadline of the FNQ 2031 Plan resulted in an oversupply of real estate and to a large extent has threatened to undermine the intent of the FNQ 2031 plan for our high biodiversity area.

As a result there is a need now, to have much greater restraint on type and density of development to realise the vision outlined for Mission Beach.

The vision of the FNQ 2031 Regional Plan is generally good for Mission Beach and has the opportunity for regulatory provisions protecting natural values to be incorporated into the new CCRC Planning Scheme.

Mission Beach has suffered enormous blows when it comes to natural areas being cleared, fragmented and degraded. Over time, one plan has overridden another, and with it there has always been a net loss for the environment, taking with it any gains that may have historically been achieved.

There will now need to be equal action given to rehabilitation to regain the balance.

**We need the CCRC to show they are a committed to protect the special values of Mission Beach by using their discretionary powers when making decisions that may affect that balance.**

**Appropriate conditions imposed on developments would reflect that commitment.**

Liz Gallie



### NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN MARCH

Alphitonia (al-fit-O-nee-a) philippinensis  
 Alpina (al-PIN-ee-a) caerulea  
 Commersonia (com-er-SO-nee-a) bartramia  
 Intsia (INT-see-a) bijuga  
 Leea (LEE-a) indica  
 Phaleria (fal-EAR-ee-a) clerodendron  
 Polyscias (polly-SY-as) australiana  
 Rhus (RUSS) taitensis  
 Scaevola (SEE-vo-la)  
 Tabernaemontana pandacaqui  
 Viticipremna queenslandica

*Hairy Ash*  
*Native Ginger*  
*Brown Kurrajong*  
*Kwila*  
*Bandicoot Berry*  
*Scented Daphne*  
*Ivory Basswood*  
*Sumac*  
*Beach Lettuce*  
*Banana Bush*  
*Vitex*

### NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN APRIL

Alpina (al-PIN-ee-a) caerulea  
 Arytera (arr-it-EER-a) paciflora  
 Bischofia (bish- OFF-ee-a) javanica  
 Casuarina (caz-yoo-a-REE-na) cunninghamiana  
 Cerbera (SEER-er-a) manghas  
 Commersonia ( com-er-SO-nee-a) bartramia  
 Cordia (CORD-ee-a) subcordata  
 Glochidion (glo-KID-e-on) sumatranum  
 Helicia (hel-ISH-ee-a) nortoniana  
 Hibiscus (hy-BIS-cus) tiliaceus  
 Intsia (INT-see-a) bijuga  
 Leea (LEE-a) indica  
 Lophostemon suaveolens  
 Phaleria (fal-EAR-ee-a) clerodendron  
 Polyscias (polly-SY-as) australiana  
 Rhodomyrtus (ro-do-MERT-us) pervagata  
 Scaevola (SEE-vo-la) frutescens  
 Terminalia (ter-min-AIL-ee-a) cattapa  
 Vitex (VY-tex) trifolia

*Native Ginger*  
*Small-leaf Tamarind*  
*Java Cedar*  
*River Oak*  
*Milkwood*  
*Brown Kurrajong*  
*Sea Trumpet*  
*Buttonwood*  
*Norton's Oak*  
*Beach Hibiscus*  
*Kwila*  
*Bandicoot Berry*  
*Swamp Box*  
*Scented Daphne, Rosy Apple*  
*Ivory Basswood*  
*Ironwood*  
*Beach lettuce*  
*Indian Almond, Sea Almond*  
*Common Blue Vitex*

### NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN MAY

Acumena divaricate  
 Archidendron (ar-kee-DEN-dron) vaillantii  
 Bischofia (bish-OFF-eea) javanica  
 Castanospermum (cas-ta-no-SPERM-um) australe  
 Cerbera (SERB-er-a) floribunda  
 Commersonia (com-er-SO-nee-a) bartramia  
 Cryptocarya (crip-to-CAIR-ee-a) mackinnoniana  
 Elaeocarpus (ell-ee-o-CARP-us) augustifolius  
 Elaeocarpus bancroftii  
 Endiandra (en-dee-AND-ra) montana  
 Fagraea (fa-GREE-e) cambagei  
 Ficus (FY-cus) drupacea  
 Ficus hispida  
 Ficus racemosa  
 Ficus septica  
 Ficus superba var. henncanna  
 Ficus virens  
 Melia (MEEL-ee-a) azeda  
 Mischocarpus (mis-co-CARP-us) exangulatus  
 Phaleria (fal-EAR-ee-a) clerodendron  
 Rhus (RUSS) taitensis  
 Syzygium (siz-IDG-ee-um) alliligneum  
 Syzygium gustavoides  
 Viticipremna queenslandica

*Cassowary Gum*  
*Salmon Bean*  
*Java Cedar*  
*Black Bean*  
*Cassowary Plum*  
*Brown Kurrajong*  
*Rusty Laurel*  
*Blue Quandong*  
*Johnstone River Almond*  
*Brown Walnut*  
*Pink Jitta*  
*Hairy Fig*  
*Boombil*  
*Cluster Fig*  
*Septic Fig*  
*Superb Fig*  
*Banyan*  
*White Cedar*  
*Red Bell*  
*Scented Daphne, Rosy Apple*  
*Sumac*  
*Onionwood*  
*Grey Satinash*



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

# Help Bob Irwin save the cassowaries

Give a gift that will last for generations!

Time is running out



Your donation will  
secure essential  
cassowary habitat for our  
children's children's children

**Please give generously\***

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For more information;  
T. (07) 4068 7197

E. [C4@cassowaryconservation.asn.au](mailto:C4@cassowaryconservation.asn.au)

W. [www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au](http://www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au)

\*donations over \$2 tax deductible