



MISSION BEACH

BULLETIN

Your community newsletter about your environment



- Ninney Rise on Heritage register
- Clump Point Special values
- New dog and cat laws
- Cassowary Identification Project
- Mission Beach Film Festival

Boat Bay is Unique — Lets keep it that way



C4 President's Report

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Except where credited, photos/graphics/
layout— Liz Gallie

Recent events following the C4 AGM in June resulted in a high level of focus on, and some criticism of, the C4 organisation. I would like to clarify the situation and assure the members and the wider community that C4 continues to work for the best outcome for the environment in line with its aims and objectives.

Due to an oversight at the AGM only three executives were installed, not the full management committee of ten. This was never intended. Despite repeated personal requests and two formal written requisitions from 41 concerned members, the acting secretary refused to respond in a timely manner to hold a special meeting to rectify the error.

This was not acceptable as it denies the proper checks and balances and the full participation and potential input of members essential for a healthy organisation. The lack of action on environmental issues during this period and the risk of a hostile takeover was too great to allow the situation to continue.

C4 is a community organisation supported by some 180 members who now have the opportunity, at a special meeting on 2 October, to elect a full management committee in line with the wishes and expectations of the members.

This is a wonderful time of the year and a particularly good year for the environment. The area is full of birdsong, from the cooing of Torres Strait pigeons, the intermittent call of koels, the harshness of plovers, the melody of mud larks, the early morning tune of drongos to the mournful cries of curlews. The cassowaries are out with chicks and there are some interesting combinations as explained in an article in this edition. The rain has given an abundance of native fruits. It is a great time to walk in the forest and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. There is no more enthralling pastimes for those who take the time to enjoy this very special place.

I have enjoyed my short term in this role and thanks again to all, who in their own way, continue to support keeping the beauty of Mission Beach.

Maurice Franklin
Interim President

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Decision on Woolworths Sunday trading good news for small business at Mission Beach

In handing down the decision earlier this year the Industrial Relations Commission considered community input and decided that;

- ◆ the existing shops cater adequately for the needs of both the local and tourist population.
- ◆ many tourists are drawn to the area because of its particular "culture" and its village-like atmosphere.
- ◆ in considering the interests of small business there was compelling evidence from small traders of the need to preserve the unique circumstances surrounding the Mission Beach region.
- ◆ the impact on cassowaries of the extra traffic flow from the Northern villages en route to Wongaling Beach.

The decision is in line with the vision for Mission Beach in the FNQ 2031 Plan. By retaining the separate village nodes it secures continuity for many small businesses, maintains the character of Mission Beach which in turn retains tourism appeal. It also helps to generate jobs within the community, for the community and can help to reduce traffic on roads cutting through cassowary habitat.



C4 Computers

The old computers at C4 finally died but the good news is that we had already received funds from the Australian Government Volunteer Grants Initiative to purchase new ones. After some research and help from Steve Howard, we found that Dell had some good specials which we customised to suit our needs including a 3 year on site warranty.

We purchased two computers with 20" monitors (ideal when eyes are not as good as they use to be) One computer will go in the office, the other on front counter for all volunteers ease in researching information about questions asked by visitors. Both computers will be linked to the printer making it easy to disseminate information as it is required.

We also registered with a company call DonorTec who supply software to non profit organisations at a small administration fee for each program.

So with the help of Peter Smith we got all the software we need and in two years we can order more software to update our computers.

Thanks again to Steve Howard and Peter Smith for your advice and help in getting these computers up and running.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Meet Kylie, who is in her 4th year of study for a Bachelor of Social Science majoring in Environmental Studies and Anthropology at Cairns JCU University.



Kylie volunteers at the C4 environment centre one day a week meeting local, national and visitors from all over the world. In between greeting visitors Kylie is able to work on her studies although it is the busy time of year now and she is not getting much work done while at the centre lately.



If you enjoy meeting people and care about local environmental issues why not consider becoming a volunteer at the C4 Display Centre.

Our volunteers usually do a half or full shift between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm, whichever suits best and training is provided.

During the quieter, hotter months we usually close around 2 pm.

If you are interested to learn more, and help educate others about our unique environment please phone the centre on 4068 7197.



Farewell 'Annie'

A sad day on the passing of Sal's beautiful stripey possum 'Annie'. 'Annie' enthralled many a student and visitor to the C4 Environment Centre and was always the star of the show when she was there.

Thank you Sal for so often responding to the call to help make the school visits that much more special for the kids. (See page 9)

Ninney Rise on State Heritage Register



The plaque placed on a rock at Ninney Point, Bingil Bay by Judith Wright in memory of John Büssst overlooks the coral sea.

It reminds us of how the efforts of pioneer conservationists saved the Great Barrier Reef from being mined for both lime and oil.

Margaret Thorsborne wears a 'save the reef' campaign T shirt at the new Heritage listed site at Mission Beach. Margaret is holding one of her prized possessions, a John Büssst self portrait.

In 2004 C4 nominated John Büssst's home at Bingil Bay for the State Heritage Register.

The State found that **Ninney Rise and John Büssst Memorial** satisfied three criteria for the listing.

A) The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland's history

E) The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

H) The place has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social cultural or spiritual reasons

"Places entered in the Queensland Heritage Register reflect the pattern of Queensland's history and regional development. They illustrate the key human endeavours that have determined our economic development, and the fundamental political, social and cultural forces that have shaped our society."

Entry in the Queensland Heritage Register means that a place is of particular importance to the people of Queensland and enriches our understanding of our history and heritage"

The State listing of Ninney Rise acknowledges the importance of efforts by community groups and individuals to influence change in policies of the day.

The listing reinforces the will of, and inspires a community that continues to strive for better protection of the natural environment.

The most fitting use for the new heritage site would be to develop a Conservation Museum celebrating the enormous efforts which influenced and eventually culminated in the Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef becoming World Heritage areas.

Potential cancer drug found in Australian rainforest

In June this year it was announced that a potential cancer drug developed from an Australian rainforest plant is set to progress to human trials after fighting off inoperable tumours in pets.

Queensland firm QBiotech Ltd said its drug EBC-46, derived from the seeds of a tropical rainforest shrub, was ready to be tested on humans after successfully treating solid tumours in more than 100 dogs, cats and horses.

"We've treated over 150 animals ... with a variety of tumours and we're prepared to move into human studies," chief executive Victoria Gordon told AFP.

Dr Gordon said the results so far indicated the drug could work to counter a range of malignant growths, such as skin cancers, head and neck cancer, breast cancer and beneficial white cells to begin to fight and destroy the cancer.

The company has spent six years developing the drug since the previously unknown molecule in the native Australian plant blushwood was discovered, and hopes to raise enough funds to begin human trials in 2011. EBC-46 would be the first drug discovered from Australia's unique rainforests to enter human clinical trials.

Gordon said the compound proves the value of retaining Australia's tropical rainforests.

"The world's rainforests are an amazing biological



resource which we need to conserve and cherish," she said in a statement.

"Not only may they hold the secret to many new drugs, they are the home of more than half of all other species with which we share the planet."

This new discovery reinforces the message of the John Büssst address to the Tully Rotary Club forty four years ago published in the last Bulletin

To quote Dr. L. J. Webb – ***"On one single acre of North Queensland Tropical Rain Forest, there are more than 100 different species of trees, yet in one acre of eucalypts in Western Australia, there are less than a handful of species"***.

The need for the preservation of what little is left of our tropical rainforest is therefore both urgent and vital"

Wildlife safe during sustainability film festival



Cassowaries, echidnas and other wildlife crossing roads during the busy Mission Beach Film Festival were safer thanks to Mission Beach State School. The Year 6 students designed the roadside signage to promote driver awareness of wildlife. Terrain NRM coordinated the project.

Many people helped make it happen. Mission Beach State School did the great artwork. Liz Gallie graphically enhanced the artwork for driver visibility. Terry Keven printed the signs at cost. C4 paid for the printing. Niall and Mandy MacMillan helped install the signs. Transport & Main Roads permitted the temporary signs. Tom Orr photographed the project. Anton Whitehead organised media. Mission Beach Film Festival Steering Committee welcomed the project.

Post-festival, the signs are on display at C4.



Mission Beach students with Daryl Hannah and Malcolm Turnbull proudly show off their designs

More on Film Festival page 8

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not."

— Dr. Seuss, from *The Lorax*



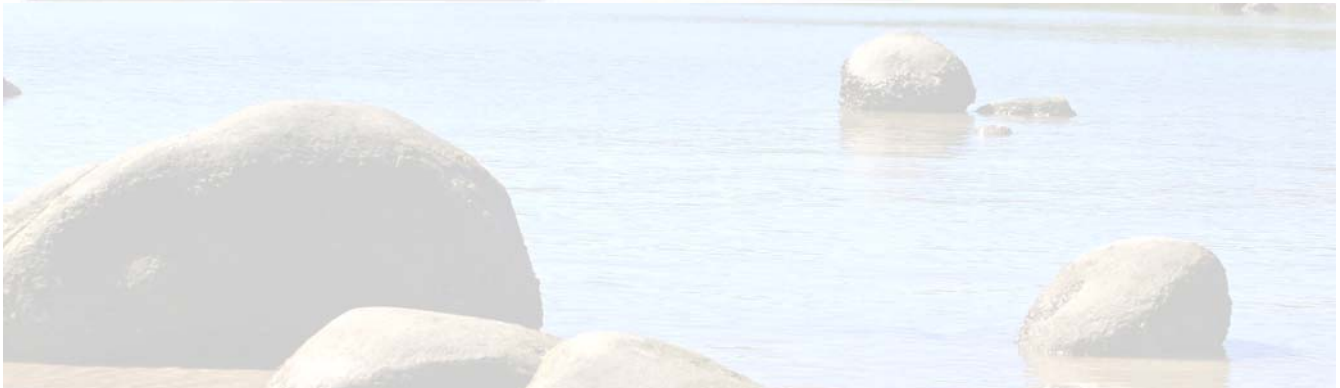
What's so special about Boat Bay and Clump Point?

Clump Point is the only basalt headland in the whole of Queensland's Wet Tropics.

- Basalt is a volcanic rock; the vegetation types associated with it include remnant rainforest, mangrove and grassland.
- These vegetation types grow on basalt by the beach nowhere else in the Wet Tropics.
- The Clump Point and Boat Bay area is clearly very beautiful, with its sweeping seascape bordered by rich mangroves meeting the rainforest growing right by the beach.
- The vegetation on Clump Point directly filters and improves run-off water entering Boat Bay.
- Boat Bay is the larger of two north-facing shallow embayments sheltered by Clump Point – the bay provides high quality water conditions for marine and freshwater fauna, including EPBC-listed threatened species such as marine turtles and dugong. At least 283 species of fishes are known to inhabit

- coastal waters in the region (between Cardwell and Bramston Beach) but it has not yet been determined how many of these inhabit the waters around Clump Point and Boat Bay. Five species of the IUCN-listed fish family Syngnathidae (seahorses and pipefishes) are known from the general area some of these may occur in Boat Bay.
- Only two aquatic surveys appear to have been carried out in the Bay and around Clump Point. Clayton, Jackes and Pearson (1990) reported on the mangrove, littoral and reef zone fauna after a single day's survey. They noted that "*This area was regarded as quite spectacular, not because of the rarity of any species recorded, but because of the diversity of the fauna in a small area with ready access, and it is seen as an asset to the immediate region*" [my italics]. Roder, Lee Long, McKenzie and Roelofs (1998) carried out two days' survey work, with an emphasis on seagrass cover.





- The mangroves growing in the tidal area of Boat Bay include five species in a rather small area, growing among the sand, mud and basalt boulders – a unique assemblage.
- The fauna of the mangroves includes a wide range of animals from mud-lobsters (“yabbies”, *Callinassa*) to mudskippers (*Periophthalmus*).
- Five seagrass species are known to grow in Boat Bay: *Cymodocea*, *Enhalus*, *Halodule* (one species each) and *Halophila* (two species) (Roder et al. 1998). Seagrass is “dugong food”.
- Brown algae dominate the subtidal waters, wherever dead coral or rock occurs for attachment – *Sargassum* being the largest and most conspicuous species. *Sargassum* beds form important fish habitat, especially for juveniles and small species such as pipefishes.
- Any construction such as a jetty or sea-wall built out from Clump Point will have clear and direct

impacts upon the flora, fauna, sediment movement and water flow within the bay.

- The mangroves and sand/mudflats will show the first effects and may not recover, along with their associated fauna, depending upon what is done to the structure of the bay.
- The Clump Point and Boat Bay area is a major asset which should be promoted for its own (present) values, as Clayton et al. (1990) pointed out in their conclusions to their report. The long-term effects of any development of the area are those that must be considered first and foremost.

<')////==<
 Dr Helen K. Larson
Curator Emeritus, Fishes
 Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
Research Associate,
 Museum of Tropical Queensland | Queensland
 Museum, Townsville
Adjunct Associate Professor,
 School of Marine and Tropical Biology, James Cook
 University, Townsville, Qld



MISSION BEACH FILM FESTIVAL 2010

The second Mission Beach Film Festival was held on the weekend of the 17th of September, 2010. This year the date of the Festival was brought forward to a better time of the year for weather and although there was some rain it didn't affect the event. The event was also centralised within the Mission Beach Resort to make logistics easier.

The organisers were very pleased to see a solid increase in the number of people participating in the event. In 2009, there were just over 1000 participants but this year that number increased to 1800. Again sustainability was the theme and this year a number of panel discussions were staged. Following the screening of David Hannan's "Coral Sea Dreaming" a panel including world reef expert Dr Charlie Veron discussed the future of the reef.

The importance of this subject is illustrated with a recent story from the Visitor Information Centre. A couple with a young family asked about a trip to the Great Barrier Reef - they said they wanted to "see it before it was gone".

Hollywood star and environmentalist, Daryl Hannah opened the Festival with an advanced screening of the widely acclaimed film, "The Tree". Malcolm Turnbull MP introduced "Farewell" and former Chairman of C4, Peter Salleras gave a very engaging address following "The Real Dirt on Farmer John".

Children were well looked after in their own cinema. There were six children's films, Hands on Wildlife and Face Painting. The kids were also able to vote for their favourite film.

The Stills Exhibition was sponsored by the Mission Beach Community Bank, in all 534 votes were cast in the three categories of the competition.



A survey conducted during the festival by Tracy Chamlin was most enlightening for the organisers. It revealed that although there was a slight increase in the number of locals, there were people attending from 42 other post-codes and this boosted the overall numbers at the event!

Planning for next year's Mission Beach Film Festival is already underway. With useful feedback to work on, refinements will be made, but the size of the event will probably be about the same next year. Instead, the Steering Committee is working on bringing the Festival to a much wider audience via the internet. Panel discussions may well be up loaded to the Festival website in real time. Sustainability, the need to address climate change, pollution reduction and global food production requires important debate and guest speakers from all over the world may be attracted here.

The Mission Beach Film Festival, Australia's first sustainable film festival, is well placed to make a significant contribution.

Preston Clothier



Peter Salleras, former Chairman of C4 and leading innovative local farmer, addresses a capacity audience at the film festival .

Where The Wild Things Really Are!

tales of our rescued feathered and furry friends
by Sal Badcock



~ THE STORY OF ROCKY RACCOON ~

Thursday morning I received a phone call from friends saying they'd found one of their resident Bush Stone-Curlew family members lying listless on the ground. When I checked him for injuries, I discovered a large paralysis tick under his eye.

The vet gave him an injection of anti-venene, he said all going well, our feathered friend should be recovered within 48 hours, but to keep him for an extra 24 just to make sure.

Rocky Raccoon (cos he has a fab bandit mask) is one of the most beautiful birds I've had the



privilege to care for, with a personality to match, and the most stunning eyes.

We kept him in a small basket for the first 24 hours. In the beginning he could barely hold his head up, but by that afternoon, he was sitting up. I fed him a liquid mixture of emergency food high in protein, glucose and essential vitamins. By Friday morning he was sitting on his "knees" looking alert. He improved during the day, but Friday night he was very sleepy and listless again. I sat with him until 1:30am, stroking, talking and willing him to live. I thought I was losing him, I was so sad when I went to bed! However, in the morning, there he was sitting up calling to me. For the rest of the day, he became stronger, and shouted at me any time I left the room. When I stroked his head, he settled down, and went to sleep. This was so cute!

Because he was looking so strong yesterday afternoon, we tried to release him last night. But he staggered around like an old drunk, finally flopping to the ground, so we brought him home for another night in rehab.

Today, was very different, he was vocal and gorgeous. We took him back to his home at 5pm today. After sitting with me for a while he hopped out of his basket, and walked off, looking perfectly healthy. We look forward to updates from our friends to let us know that he's happy with his family. I am still smiling at a perfect ending to a beautiful rescue job. Thank you for sharing 'Rocky Raccoon'. Safe journey!

MISSION BEACH WILDCARE INC.

When you see an injured or orphaned bird or wallaby ... what do you do???

When you find a special tropical possum or glider ... what do you do???

When you find an injured bat or flying fox ... what do you do???

**MISSION BEACH WILDCARE INC.
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO ATTEND A
ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON BASIC RESCUE
TECHNIQUES FOR OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE.**

WHEN: Sun. 3 Oct 2010 - 9:30am-3:30pm

WHERE: our new shed at 39 Boyett Rd,
Mission Beach (next to Meals on Wheels)

TOPICS:

Birds 09:30 – 10:30am

break

Possums & Gliders 11:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Flying Foxes & Bats 12:15 – 13:15 p.m.
lunch

Wallabies 14:30 – 15:30 p.m.

You are welcome to attend all sessions or just the session you feel you are most interested in. Tea & coffee and a light lunch will be provided.

The workshop is free to paid Wildcare members and \$10 per person for non-members.

Please RSVP to Cherie:

ph: 40653330 email: cherie@fnq.biz

**~ ANNIE THE STRIPED POSSUM ~
For those of you have had the pleasure
to meet our beautiful Annie:**



Our darling Annie came to us as a half blind old age pensioner after Cyclone Larry.

After 4 years in care, Annie became older and frailer. On the 12th July 2010, after cuddles with us in bed in her warm polar fleece bag, she slipped peacefully away.

**R.I.P my beautiful Annie
we miss you heaps
and thank you for sharing your life with us!**

Mission Beach Wildcare Inc. 4068 7272 - THANK YOU FOR HELPING US CARE

New State dog and cat regulations

New State dog and cat laws will be introduced on the 1st December 2010. Local Council will be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the new Animal Management Act.

Under the Act all dogs and cats are required to be registered and micro chipped including rural dogs which are currently exempt.

Many dogs being bred for pig hunting are crossed with restricted breeds e.g. the 'Bandog' is a cross between a Pit Bull, Mastiff and Rottweiler. Several breeds of dogs are referred to as pit bull types or Bully breeds. Dogs advertised as part 'Bully' or red nose bully can generally be assumed to mean Pit Bull.

There are currently no laws governing backyard breeding or keeping of such dogs. Earlier this year the courts decided that the American Bull Terrier was in fact a Pit Bull Terrier but the decision was later challenged and overturned.

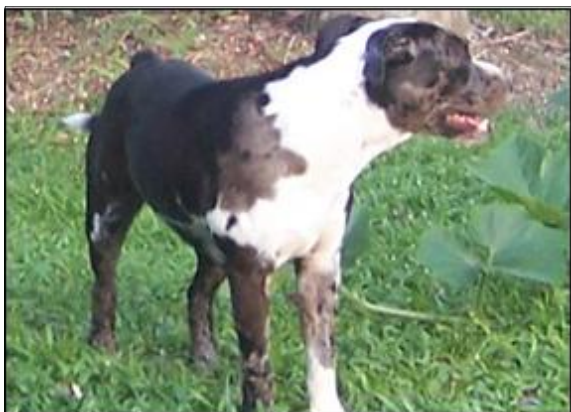
It shows the difficulty in identifying the breed of a dog to place it in a 'restricted' or 'dangerous' dog category.

In an attempt to help curb back yard breeding of such dogs a 'menacing' category has been included in the new legislation. If a dog causes fear to a person or animal it may be declared a 'menacing' dog and special conditions will apply including being muzzled when in public, more secure enclosures and higher registration fees.

There appears to be a cultural shift from the blue heeler on the back of the ute to cages holding very large dogs, bred for their killing ability.

Pig hunting is becoming an increasingly popular sport with regular weekend meetings rotating at country pubs. Pig hunting in this area often requires dogs to be released into high ecological areas and is not covered by any regulation. Dogs can become lost during hunts and may go feral surviving on killing native animals.

The new State laws will focus on dog behaviour and responsible animal ownership. Registration and micro chipping will enable a lost dog to be returned to its owner.



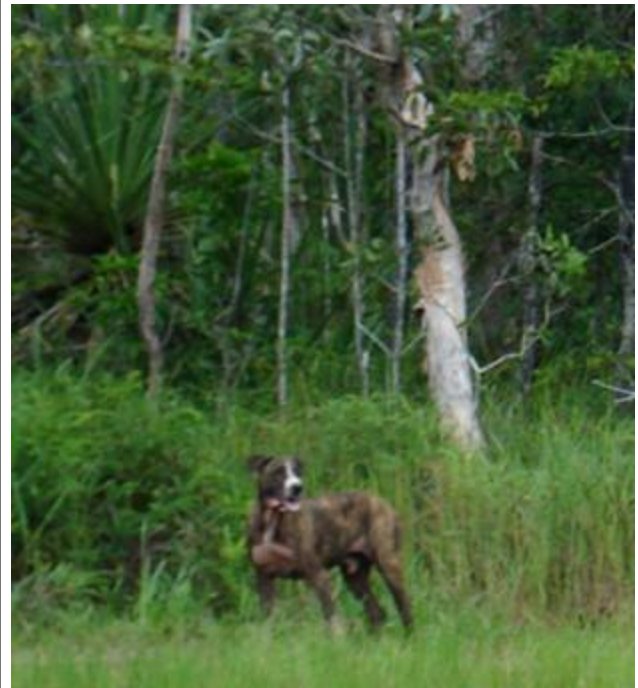
Opposite big cassowary at Wongaling Beach



Kurrajong Close

The natural areas at Mission Beach, whether protected or otherwise, have World Heritage values and support a high number of native species vulnerable to predatory exotic animals.

The Council does not have the resources to adequately enforce the current laws so there will be difficulty implementing the new legislation. The State should be asked for assistance given their recognition of Mission Beach as a priority conservation high biodiversity area and the endangered status of many species at risk of dog or cat attack.



Tully/Mission Beach Road 2 k's east East Feluga turnoff

The CCRC have approved an inspection program allowing animal control officers to enter a property to check if animal owners have appropriate enclosures. There will also be an information brochure circulated informing residents of their responsibilities as dog and cat owners.

Liz Gallie

JCU is researching wild dogs in the region. Contact Damian Marrant to report activity, scats, etc on 4053 6249 or damian.marrant@jcu.edu.au

Report roaming or menacing dogs to the CCRC on 4043 9140 or 4030 2222

Nursery/Arboretum



More plants go in the ground

St Patrick's College Townsville high school boarders and day students recently planted over 300 trees as part of our Coastcare project. We'd only dug holes for 50 trees but they got so excited we had to go back to C4 nursery and get another ute load of plants. We also went to Boat Bay and talked about the environmental values of the place. The kids did an environmental impact project.

They were shocked that development could be considered when it could impact negatively on dugongs, turtles and other environmental and cultural values. They wanted to know what they could do to help and prayed for vast forests, crystal clear oceans and healthy reefs. They also prayed for the plants and revegetation and the people who planted the plants. Overall a great day for the environment.



2010 International Year of Biodiversity
<http://www.cbd.int/>



Biodiversity and Tourism

Tourists are attracted by natural landscapes which harbour significant biodiversity.

Tourists in coastal areas enjoy swimming in clean waters among the fish and coral reefs, and watching whales and seabirds.

Others go on safaris to watch wildlife. All these activities require intact and healthy ecosystems. National parks rely on functioning ecosystems to provide visitors recreation, education, culture and fun.

Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries and can be a sustainable alternative to economic activities that would be damaging to biodiversity.

It can be a sustainable alternative to more damaging industries. The money that tourists spend can serve nature, society and culture in the form of protected areas and other attractions.

Sustainable tourism can also make communities proud of maintaining and sharing their traditions,

knowledge, and art, which contribute to the sustainable use of local biodiversity.

Tourism can have a variety of negative impacts on biodiversity, particularly when there is no adequate management. Irresponsible and unsustainable tourism can damage nature through habitat destruction, overexploitation of local resources, waste and pollution, invasive alien species, infrastructure development, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Tourists expect a clean environment and they will not return to polluted or degraded destinations, which will cause economic losses.

Travellers, the tourism industry, governments and investors all have an interest in the conservation and sustainable use of resources. Biodiversity keeps tourism going, not to mention that it meets our most basic needs by supplying food, drinking water and medicines.

Sustainable tourism is in everybody's interest.

Fast Facts

- ◆ Tourism contributes about 8% of global GDP, and one in 12 jobs world-wide
- ◆ In 2007, global international tourist arrivals grew to 898 million, 6% over 2006 levels. Arrivals in developing countries, however, grew by 8%. In spite of the economic crisis, there is no change in long-term growth projections of the UNWTO, the World Tourism Organisation
- ◆ 46% of the workforce in tourism are women, as their percentages of employment in most countries are higher than in the workforce in general (34-40% are women, ILO data)
- ◆ Carbon dioxide emissions from tourism account for approximately 7% of total global emissions, a problem compounded by the unpredictable nature of emissions in the higher atmosphere.

ACTION AT MISSION BEACH

Wildlife safe during sustainability film festival (see page 5)



Dogs and cassowaries

The Cassowary Recovery Plan identifies dog attack as a significant threat. On the other hand, many responsible dog owners say dogs and cassowaries can happily co-exist. Terrain is preparing a “Dogs and cassowaries” community discussion paper, similar to the “Potential solutions to cassowary roadkill” article published in the previous Bulletin. The paper will aim to bring together everyone’s ideas and experiences about dogs and cassowaries at Mission Beach.



Topics will include the following:
 dog rights, dog size, dog breed, urban dogs, rural dogs, rural residential dogs, pig dogs, wild dogs, dog packs, desexed dogs, non-contact impacts like barking, seasonal and day/night factors, vulnerability of chicks, dogs in new developments, off leash areas, cassowaries attacking dogs, dog attack data, and legislation and its implementation.

A common theme is the importance of responsible dog ownership. Everyone’s welcome to contribute to the discussion. See below for contact details.

Funds for private habitat

Private landholders make a huge contribution to wildlife habitat at Mission Beach. Terrain recently applied for \$1.5M Caring For Our Country funding from the Australian government for local landholders for weed and pig control and revegetation. We’re awaiting news.



Photo courtesy Peter Salleras

Learning from accidents

Congratulations to DERM for preparing a template for recording details of significant cassowary incidents such as collision with vehicles and dog attack. DERM will systematically record details about the cassowary and the environment at the time of the incident so that we might see common contributing factors and solutions. DERM acknowledge that the Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Committee was an important impetus for the development of the template.

Native landscaping

Terrain has produced a landscaping guideline for Mission Beach to encourage planting of local native species in parks, gardens, streetscapes, new developments, etc. The guideline identifies suitable trees, shrubs, palms, cycads, gingers, cordylines, tree ferns, ferns, lilies, orchids, vines, sedges, etc. Mission Beach is a natural greenhouse with incredible native plant diversity to choose from, particularly luxuriant rainforest species. Native landscaping will help maintain and restore the natural unspoilt look and feel of Mission Beach. Wildlife will benefit too. Standard landscaping safety procedures always apply, e.g. planting trees adjacent to structures isn't recommended.



Native lasiandra:
Melastoma malabathricum



Box fruit: *Barringtonia asiatica*



Crinum lily:
Crinum pedunculatum



Bingil Bay palm/Arenga



Coral tree:
Erythrina variegata



Banana bush:
Tabernaemontana orientalis



Flame tree: *Brachychiton acerifolius*



Zamia palm: *Lepidozamia*



October Glory: *Faradaya splendida*

Native hibiscus/Cottonwood: *Hibiscus tiliaceus*

For further information on any of the above please phone 4043 8026, email tonyo@terrain.org.au or visit www.terrain.org.au/missionbeach

C4 Cassowary Identification Project

C4 is asking for anyone who sees cassowaries regularly in their neighbourhood to sign up for our "Cassowary Identification Project" All you need to do is keep a diary of what time, what direction and more particularly take notice of the birds appearance so we can positively identify individuals. Digital cameras have made it so much easier to observe our wildlife at close range.

Conch St/Oasis

Many birds are moving about now with chicks such as this male with four very young stripeys. The photo below was sent into C4 so that the "awesome sight" of this new family could be shared. It was taken near the vegetation line on the southern side of Conch Street.



Photo Doug Pidgen

A resident whose property is in the middle of a habitat corridor nearby has seen this bird and the female it mates with each year for the last 13 years. The birds were already both adults when he moved into the neighbourhood so with a four year maturity time they would be at least 17 years of age.

Late afternoon a few days after the above photo was taken, a resident in Conch Street rang to say they had a stripey on its own in the yard. It was one of the four chicks and the rest of the family was no where to be seen.



Photo Lynne Scaffidi

Everyone in the vicinity was alerted to call if they saw the birds in the hope the family could be reunited.

After spending the night and most of the next day alone in a cage (near the chook pen for company) the phone call finally came. QPWS ranger Dan and the Conch St resident met on site where the dad and his three other chicks were passing through.

When the dad heard the sound of the chick he rushed to the vehicle where ranger Dan had to

hurriedly release the chick which was very happy to be back where it belonged.



Photo Lynne Scaffidi

A big thanks to Dan, Lynne, John and all those who worked to help make this a happy ending. If Doug had not shared his delight at seeing the new family go through his yard by sending in the photos we would not have been able to act so quickly to reunite them.

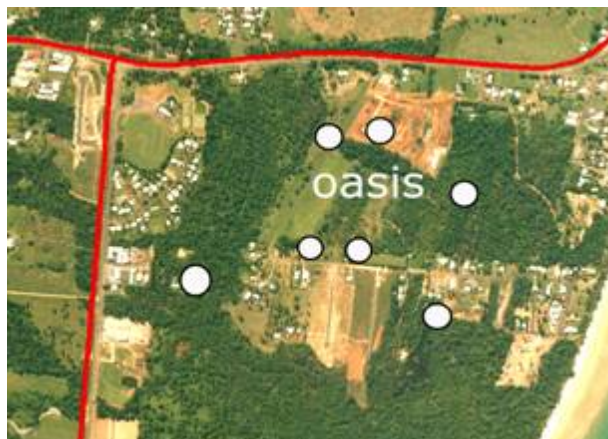


Photo Doug Pidgen

The male is very easy to identify as he has no wattles. We checked photos of the bird with two chicks photographed trapped inside the Oasis fence last year.

Yes, it is the same bird, reinforced by the photos Doug sent showing him last year with two chicks.

This bird has been ranging in the same area all its life. The introduction of fencing associated with residential development has placed an enormous barrier to free movement and increases the threats of interaction with not only cars, humans, and dogs but in their natural order, conflict with other cassowaries. The map below shows where there has been positive identification of the bird with no wattles. We suspect that it also crosses the road over to Royal Palms Estate as there were reported sightings of an adult with two chicks around the time of the one trapped in Oasis.



This important information will help to inform future local area planning and strategic revegetation projects to ensure the best possible outcome for wild-life reliant on habitat connectivity in our high biodiversity area.

Bingil Bay/Garners Beach

Over at Bingil Bay/Garners Beach way a very interesting situation is being observed.

Early in August C4 received a phone call from a driver who stopped to let two adult cassowaries with three chicks cross Garners Beach Road. It was the first report of chicks for the season and several residents in the area were subsequently alerted and delighted by the sight of the family together.



Photo Margaret Johnson

The male, easily recognised by his slightly deformed left foot had not been seen for three months. The family are seen regularly now as they continue to range together. Both the birds are well known in the area, the very large female is known as 'Bella' and the male as 'Dad'



We had a chance to photograph 'Bella' after a phone call from a resident reporting a cassowary with two chicks sitting under a tree at a property near Plantation Drive.

The huge bird was immediately recognisable by her tall straight casque and very large wattles with slight damage

to the one on the left.

It is not unusual for the male and female to pair up again for a few weeks after the chicks have hatched. Without knowing that it was 'Bella', one would assume any bird seen with chicks was a male but now two months after they were first seen together it appears the male and female are sharing the parenting role. They have been seen separately twice now and with a different number of chicks.



We look forward to following the progress of this family.

Carmoo

A male cassowary has been seen with five chicks. Crossing the road at Sellar's farm.

Cassowaries are known to rear up to five chicks but this case is unusual as three chicks are stripeys and two are older and already brown coloured. It isn't known which of the chicks belong to the parent but it is clear some of them are adopted.

There is some concern about a male known to residents in the area that has not been seen around.

There are reports of three roaming dogs in the vicinity of Carmoo which have been seen at various places along the bush line to as far as the South Mission Turnoff. These dogs, if feral, would be surviving by killing wildlife.

Narragon



Photo Preston Clothier

A seldom seen sight these days at Mission Beach of a cassowary accessing the beach (Above at Narragon Bch). The Clump Point area has some of the best developed littoral rainforest in Australia. The high density of plant species growing down onto the beach offers a wide variety of fruits. Protein from marine life such as crustaceans including crabs contribute to the balance of the diet and health of the species.

A large cassowary was seen recently at the mouth of Wongaling Creek, (commonly known as Porter's Creek). The vegetation is critically endangered littoral rainforest including wetlands and connects to the World Heritage Area on the Walter Hill Range. Only a few habitat linkages still exist across Cassowary Drive, the widest being Garrett Corridor.

The less developed areas of Garners Beach and Lugger Bay also offer the opportunity for birds to access the beaches.

Liz Gallie

Please call C4 on 4068 7197 if you have a story to tell of a cassowary near you.



Rural Rave

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food miles are currently a topic of discussion for environmentalists and farmers alike; where food is rated on the distance it travels and also on the impact on the environment during its production. In Australia we have the opportunity to purchase food from all over the world, oranges from California, apples from New Zealand, basa (catfish) from Asia, wines, dried and preserved food from all over the world. There is probably very few countries not represented on the supermarket shelves. Rapid transport, refrigeration and preserving techniques have made this possible. Some nutritionist recommends that we eat local and in season but this is not the case generally.



Civilizations have long transported food to cities but the distances were short or the food was high value or essential (salt) and not found close. Long supply lines were always vulnerable to attack from enemies and fresh food would decay. These civilizations choose to bring the seed or plant to their own country and cultivate it locally. Hence food crops, and some pests and diseases, have travelled all over the world.

Modern food production in the western world tends to be agribusiness and this to me has a lack of connection, a remoteness, which removes any obligation to the consumer in terms of nutrition or taste as the food cannot be easily traced to its



source. The producer for his part cannot enjoy the appreciation felt by the consumer. It is far different to a local market where the consumer can converse with the farmer or his spouse. To have some concept of how food is grown consumers are now looking at free-range chickens and range feed beef, and organic foods have a certification mark vetted by a third party.



Australia has very few renowned native foods; macadamia nut, banana (the native is not commercial), bunya pine, Davison plum, native guava, native ginger, Burdekin plum and noni spring to mind. There are others but there seems little opportunity for commercialisation. The black bean is interesting but difficult to prepare being toxic in its raw state. Our diet would be very different if it were not for plants from other countries.



Black Bean

Maize is the most produced grain worldwide though most of its production is not used directly for human food rather as animal feed to indirectly feed humans. It is the most widely cultivated of the grains being in most countries. One of the benefits of maize is that it has a high return of product on a single seed when compared to other grains. Maize originated in the Americas where the natives grew it as Indian corn and it was a valuable part of their diet.

Rice is believed to have originated at the foothills of the Himalayas in both China and India, though there is also a West African variety, and spread throughout Asia. Rice provides one fifth of the calories consumed worldwide by humans and is generally considered second in production after maize.

Wheat is thought to have originated in Turkey since ancient varieties still survive there and its origin can, in that area, be dated back about 9000 years BC. Wheat is the leading source of vegetable protein in the world. It was valuable to the early civilizations because it could be easily stored, transported and grown. Wheat has formed the basic food source of many of the well-known civilizations.

Amaranth is a gluten free grain found both in Africa and South America. Mentioned here because it is surprisingly important and formed an important part of the Aztec food and culture.



Grapes originated in the Mediterranean and central Asia, found in Iran in 5,000 BC, and were carried to France by the Phoenicians around 1,000 BC. However the Roman agriculturist Pliny the Elder (died AD79 in the eruption of Vesuvius: Pompeii) is usually credited with enabling a wine industry in France and elsewhere, having written an entire book on viticulture and wine making which was the text book for centuries. Prior to this wine making was a haphazard affair with uncertain outcomes.

Grapes are also native to America being first recorded by Vikings, well before Columbus. These varieties became important to France and European viticulturists in the 1860's when an aphid decimated the vines and the industry had to graft

onto predominantly native American rootstock. It is interesting that Spain has the largest area under wine grape production (11,750 Km²) though Italy is the largest producer of wine grapes followed by China, USA, France and then Spain. About 71% of the worlds grape production is used for wine making.

The food we eat has originated from all over the world and its development and dissemination has had input from a great number of agriculturalists, horticulturists, explorers, and adventurers. A few of the countries and their native food are listed below.

China; cauliflower, apricots, peaches, longans and lychees.

Britain; pears.

Egypt; garlic, radish, onions.

Holland; carrots.

Ethiopia; coffee.

Africa; watermelon

South and Central America; tomatoes, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, pineapple, papaya, peanut, cashew, avocado, passionfruit, cocoa, guava, pecan nut, vanilla plus many lesser known fruits such as soursop, rollinia, sapote, blueberry, feijoa, asian arrowroot, cape gooseberry, and the list goes on.

In my next grace I shall thank not only the farmers for providing the food but give thanks to the countries from which the plant originated.

Maurice Franklin

What is a Keystone?



The literal meaning of keystone is the essential architectural piece at the crown of an arch which locks the other pieces into position and holds the arch in place. The figurative use of the term keystone refers to a central aspect of a larger framework or system without which the whole structure would collapse.

A keystone *species* is a species that plays a critical role in maintaining the structure of an ecological community.

Keystone species, because of their proportionately large influence on species diversity and community structure, have become a popular target for conservation efforts. The reasoning is sound: protect one, key species and in doing so stabilize an entire community.

The cassowary is considered a keystone species. They "stand out as being crucial dispersers for a large subset of the plant community. The cassowary is the 'the frugivore with the highest importance ranking, because it "is highly effective as a disperser. Cassowaries appear to be a keystone frugivore, especially for large-fruited plant species." Andrew L Mack, Debra D Wright

If the cassowary is denied access to its essential habitat, the unique Wet Tropic rainforest it played an integral role in developing over more than 16 million years would be significantly changed and so too the biodiversity within it.

Mission Beach is a high biodiversity area. **That's** what all the fuss is about.

In Your Garden

Invasive Weeds



SINGAPORE DAISY

Weeds are plants growing out of place. Weeds have the function of occupying space and rebuilding the soil in that area. Usually weeds have a season or year when they are prolific then that particular weed all but disappears in subsequent years, their task being completed.

Singapore Daisy is in a class of its own. It is a native to Mexico and here has no natural predators thriving in the higher rainfall areas. No animals eat it in any significant way as the leaf is bitter and deters attack from all leaf eaters. It spreads via runners of the parent plant and/or pieces of stork containing a root nodule carried by animals or equipment (mowers). It will grow over bushes 2 meters high and grow in semi-shade.

The plant gives out root exudates that inhibit the growth of other plants. No other plant seems to tolerate Singapore Daisy and hence it becomes not just dominant but the only plant in an area. It has overrun every plant I have tried using to smother it, including guinea grass, molasses grass, brachiaria, pinto, velvet bean and others.

The plant has only two weaknesses, the seed is not highly viable and it is shallow rooted. Hence small areas can be effectively hand weeded. The soil is quite fertile when the daisy is removed and other plants quickly return. It is resistant to most herbicides with Brush Off and Associate being the two which are recommended as effective though it takes about 5 weeks to kill, and has to be revisited.

Maurice Franklin



We had a visit from some locals at the C4 centre recently asking about the Ixora plant. They thought it was a native plant to our area. Here are the facts about...

Ixora Coccinea

The Ixora plant also known as Jungle Geranium, Flame of the Woods and Jungle Flame. It is a common flowering shrub, native to Asia.

It has become a very popular plant here producing dramatic flowers, adding colour to our tropical gardens. It also attracts many butterflies including the beautiful Ulysses Butterfly.



The favourite food plant for the Ulysses Caterpillar is the Euodia-- a handsome tree with clusters of small pink flowers growing straight out of the branches and it's floral rewards are also the favourite of many birds. Planting a native Euodia with an undergrowth of Ixoras will not just add dimension and colour but will also provide plant food for many butterflies and birds.

Sue Tidey



NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN OCTOBER

Acacia leptocarpa	
Acacia mangium	
Acacia oraria	
Alphitonia (al-fit-O-nee-a) excelsa	<i>Red Ash</i>
Alyxia (a-lix-ez-a) spicata	
Arytera divaricate	<i>Rose Tamarind</i>
Bellschmiedia recurve	
Carallia (ca-RALL-ee-a) brachiata	<i>Corkwood</i>
Cardwellia sublimis	<i>Northern Silky Oak</i>
Casuarina (caz-yoo-a-REE-na) cunninghamiana	<i>River Oak</i>
Chionanthus (ky-o-NAN-thus) ramiflorus	<i>Native Olive</i>
Decaspermum humile	<i>Brown Myrtle</i>
Diploglotis (dip-lo-GLOT-iss) diphylostegia	<i>Northern Tamarind</i>
Dysoxylum (dis-OX-il-um) papuanum	
Dysoxylum pettigrewianum	<i>Spur Mahogany</i>
Endiandra wolfei	
Eucalyptus (yoo-ca-LIP-tus) intermedia	<i>Pink Bloodwood</i>
Ficus (FY-cus) benjamina	<i>Weeping Fig</i>
Ficus macrocarpa	
Ficus racemosa	<i>Cluster Fig</i>
Hibiscus (hy-BIS-cus) tilaccus	<i>Cottonwood</i>
Lophostemon conferta	<i>Brush Box</i>
Myristica (my-RIST-ic-a) insipida	<i>Native Nutmeg</i>
Planchonella (plan-shon-ELL-a) obvoidea	<i>Yellow Teak</i>
Sterculia (ster-KEW-lee-a) quadrifida	<i>Peanut Tree</i>
Syzygium (siz-IDG-ee-um) cormiflorum	<i>Bumpy Satinash</i>

NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN NOVEMBER

Acacia aulacarpa	<i>Hickory wattle</i>
Acacia crassicaarpa	<i>Brown Salwood</i>
Acmenosperma clauiflorum	<i>Grey Satinash</i>
Alyxia (a-lix-ez-a) spicata	<i>Chain Fruit</i>
Argyrodendron (ar-jir-o-DEN-dron) polyandrum	<i>Brown Tulip Oak</i>
Bridelia (brid-EEL-ee-a) penangiana	
Carallia (ca-RALL-ee-a) brachiata	<i>Corkwood</i>
Castanospora (cos-tan-OS—por-a) alphanthii	<i>Brown Tamarind</i>
Crinum (CRY-num) pudunculatum	<i>Swamp Lily</i>
Cryptocarya (crip-to-CAIN-re-a) hypospodia	<i>White walnut</i>
Cryptocarya murrayi	<i>Murray's Laurel</i>
Cupaniopsis (keu-pay-nee-OP-sis) anacardioides	<i>Tuckeroo</i>
Deplanchea (de-PLAN-she-a) tetraphylla	<i>Golden Bouquet</i>
Diospyros (di-OS-pi-ros) hebecarpa	<i>Scrub Ebony</i>
Diploglotis (dip-lo-GLOT-iss) diphylostegia	<i>Northern Tamarind</i>
Dysoxylum (dis-OX-il-um) goudichaudianum	<i>Ivory Mahogany</i>
Dysoxylum latifolium	
Eucalyptus (yoo-ca-LIP-tus) tessellaris	<i>Moreton Bay Ash</i>
Exocarpos (ex-o-CARP-os) latifolius	<i>Native Cherry</i>
Ficus (FY-cus) benjamina	<i>Weeping Fig</i>
Ficus copiosa	<i>Plentiful Fig</i>
Ficus racemosa	<i>Cluster Fig</i>
Ficus variegata	<i>Variegated Fig</i>
Ficus virent	<i>Banyan</i>
Ficus Virgata	<i>Figwood</i>
Harpullia (har-Pull-ee-a) pendula	<i>Tulip Wood</i>
Hernandia (her-NAND-ee-a) nymphaeifolia	<i>Beach Cudgerio</i>
Litsea (LIT-see-a) leefeana	<i>Bollywood</i>
Lophostemon grandiflorus	<i>Northern Swamp Mahogany</i>
Macaranga (mac-a-RANG-ga) tanarius	<i>Brush Macaranga</i>
Mallotus (mal-O-tus) mollissimus	<i>Soft Kamala</i>
Medinella (med-ee-NILL-a) balls-hedleyi	<i>Daintree Medinella</i>
Melaleuca (mel-a-LOO-ca) leucadendra	<i>Weeping Paperbark</i>
Micromelum (my-cro-MEEL-um) minutum	<i>Lime Berry</i>
Mimusops (MIM-yoo-sops) elegngi	<i>Red Coondoo</i>
Myristica (my-RIST-ic-a) insipida	<i>Native Nutmeg</i>
Myrtella obtuse	
Olea (O-le-a) paniculata	<i>Native Olive</i>
Pittosporum (pit-OS-por-um) ferrugineum	<i>Rusty Pittosporum</i>
Planchonella (plan-shon-ELL-a) chartace	
Podocarpus (pod-o-CARP-us) grayea	<i>Brown Pine</i>
Rhysotoechia (riss-o-TEEK-ee-a) robertsonii	<i>Robert's Tuckeroo</i>
Sophora (soff-OR-a) tomentosa	<i>Silver bush</i>
Sterculia (ster-KEW-lee-a) quadrifida	<i>Peanut Tree</i>
Syzygium (siz-IDG-ee-um) cormiflorum	<i>Bumpy Satinash</i>
Syzygium fibrosum	<i>Fibrous Satinash</i>
Taranna (ta-REN-a) dallachiana	<i>Tree Ixora</i>
Terminalia (ter-min-AIL-ee-a) muelleri	<i>Mueller's Damson</i>
Toechima (tee-Ky-ma) daemelianum	<i>Cape Tamarind</i>
Toechima erythrocarpum	<i>Pink Tamarind</i>

NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN DECEMBER

Aceratium (ay-ser-Fy-she-um) megalospermum	<i>Bolly Carabee</i>
Acmenosperma clauiflorum	<i>Grey Satinash</i>
Argyrodendron (ar-jir-o-DEN-dron) polyandrum	<i>Brown TulipOak</i>
Barringtonia (barr-ing-TO-nee-a) asiatica	<i>Fish Killer Tree</i>
Blepharacarya (bleff-a-ro-CAIR-ee-a) involuerigera	<i>Rose Butternut</i>
Bombax ceiba	<i>Kapok Tree</i>
Buchanania (buck-a-Nay-nee-a) arborescens	<i>Little Gooseberry</i>
Bursaria (bur-SAIR-ee-a) tenuifolia	<i>Sweet Blackthorn</i>
Carallia (ca-RALL-ee-a) brachiata	<i>Corkwood</i>
Casuarina (caz-yoo-a-REE-na) cunninghamiana	<i>River Oak</i>
Chionanthus (ky-o-NAN-thus) ramiflorus	<i>Native Olive</i>
Cleistanthus (cly-STANTH—us)	<i>Weeping Cleistanthus</i>
Cordia (CORD-ee-a) subcordata	<i>Sea Trumpet</i>
Cryptocarya (crip-to-CAIN-re-a) pleurosperma	<i>Poison Laurel</i>
Cryptocarya triplinervis	<i>Brown Laurel</i>
Cupaniopsis (keu-pay-nee-OP-sis) anacardioides	<i>Beach Tamarind</i>
Cupaniopsis flagellisformis	<i>Brown Tuckeroo</i>
Cynometra (sy-no-MET-ra) iripa	

Dimocarpus (di-mo-CARP-us) australiensis	<i>Native Lychee</i>
Diploglotis (dip-lo-GLOT-iss) smithii	<i>Smith's Tamarind</i>
Drypetes (DRIP-et-eez) lasiogyne var. australiensis	
Dysoxylum (dis-OX-il-um) muelleri	<i>Red Bean</i>
Emmenosperma (em-en-o-SPERM-a) alphitonoides	<i>Yellow Ash</i>
Eucalyptus (yoo-ca-LIP-tus) platyphylla	<i>Poplar Gum</i>
Eucalyptus tessellaris	<i>Moreton Bay Ash</i>
Eucalyptus torelliana	<i>Cadago</i>
Ficus (FY-cus) congesta	<i>Cluster Fig</i>
Ficus leptoclada	<i>Figwood</i>
Ficus virens	<i>Banyan</i>
Ganophyllum (gan-o-FILL-um) falcatum	<i>Scaly Ash</i>
Guettardella (get-ARD-ee-la) tenuiflora	
Ixora (ix-OR-a) klanderiana	<i>Ixora</i>
Jagera (JAY-ger-a) pseudorhus	<i>Pink Tamarind</i>
Litsea (LIT-see-a) glutinosa	<i>Bolly Beech</i>
Lophostemon	<i>Swamp Mahogany</i>
Mallotus (mal-O-tus) mollissimus	<i>Soft Kamala</i>
Mallotus philippensis	<i>Red Kamala</i>
Melicope (mee-li-Coo-pee) stipitate	<i>Mountain Turkey</i>
Bush	
Micromelum (my-cro-MEEL-um) minutum	<i>Lime Berry</i>
Ormosia ormondii	<i>Yellow Bean</i>
Pararchidendron pruinatum	<i>Snow Wood</i>
Planchonia (plan-SHO-nee-a) careya	<i>Billy Goat Plum</i>
Podocarpus (pod-o-CARP-us) grayea	<i>Northern Brown Pine</i>
Polyalthia (poly-ALTH-ee-a) nitidissima	<i>Canary Beech</i>
Pothos (POTH-os) longipes	
Premna (PREM-na) serratifolia	<i>Coastal Premna</i>
Rhysotoechia (riss-o-TEEK-ee-a) robertsonii	<i>Robert's Tuckeroo</i>
Santalum (SANT-al-um) lanceolatum	<i>Sandalwood</i>
Sarcopteryx (sar-COP-ter-ix) martyana	
Symplocos (SIM-plok-os) paucistaminea	<i>Hazelwood</i>
Synima (sin-l-ma) macrophylla	<i>Topaz Tamarind</i>
Syzygium (siz-IDG-ee-um) suborbiculara	<i>Forest Satinash</i>
Terminalia (ter-min-AIL-ee-a) sericocarpa	<i>Damson</i>
Waterhousia hedraiophylla	<i>Gully Satinash</i>
Xanthostemon (zanth-O-STEEM-on) chrysonthus	<i>Golden Penda</i>
Zylopia (zy-LO-pe-a) maccreai	

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





*Helping Mission
Beach
grow
naturally*



**Enquire now about native plants
for your garden**

4068 7197

**“Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world.
For, indeed, that’s all who ever have.”
—Margaret Mead**

Environment Centre



Learn about the special values of Mission Beach and find out how you can help protect those values.

Everyone welcome

visitor centre, theatrette, school visits, meetings, etc

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS...

The C4 Display Centre has a wide range of interesting books for sale. Some of these are written by local authors and a children's section is included. Here is a list of some of the titles available;

- FRUITS OF THE AUSTRALIAN TROPICAL RAINFOREST
- SLATERS GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN BIRDS, 2ND EDITION
- PLANTS OF TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND
- GROWN YOUR OWN BUSHFOODS
- A HANDBOOK TO AUSTRALIAN SEASHELLS
- WILD FOOD – WET TROPICS
- AUSTRALIAN CAPE YORK PENINSULA
- AUSTRALIAN TROPICAL REEF LIFE

and for children :

- KOOKABURRA SCHOOL
- CURIOSITY OF A CLOWNFISH
- NAUTILUS "PEARL OF THE DEEP"
- ELMO THE ORPHAN
- CASSY'S TALE
- GLISSANDRA THE GLIDER
- CASSOWARY COAST COUNT ON COUNTRY
- AUSTRALIAN FROGS



Also for sale are a range of postcards, t-shirts, locally made jewellery and toy Cassowaries.

**Open Monday—Friday 10am to 4pm, Saturday
10am—1pm
Tel 4068 7197**

Porter Promenade, Mission Beach, next to the Information Centre