



MISSION BEACH  
**BULLETIN**



- Bob Irwin and Rainforest Rescue in town
- Woolworths - choice or no choice - your vote
- Festival time for Mission Beach
- Cassowary Summit
- Coastal rainforest cleared for views

*Mission Beach is special - is it sustainable?*



## C4 Update

### A call for action

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Cover: Rainforest Rescue and Bob Irwin team up to protect cassowaries at Mission Beach (see page 9)

Our Mission Beach lifestyle is under threat more now than ever before. Woolworths has applied for Sunday trading. If they are successful, the AUR in the Mission Beach village have said their business will not be viable and will close. With the supermarket gone, the “footflow” to other retailers will diminish and as has happened in many regional towns, the business centre becomes dominated by the multi national supermarket giant.

Our village atmosphere, and social cohesion is at risk and our way of life will be irreversibly altered. Mission Beach tourism appeal, the mainstay of our economy, will be forever compromised. Please join us at the next Council meeting held in El Arish Community Hall on the 12<sup>th</sup> November at 9.00am to voice your concern.

The CEO of Rainforest Rescue, Kelvin Davies and Bob Irwin will be in town this Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November. All the community is welcome to come and meet them at a free BBQ at 12.00 noon in the C4 Breezeway.

You will be aware that this edition of The Bulletin has been delayed. In the interim the C4 24 page colour booklet “Cassowaries at Mission Beach Recovery or Extinction” was produced. This booklet was made possible with a Grant from Envirofund and the Community Gambling Fund. It has attracted attention from government agencies and environmental groups and C4 hopes it will alert politicians, local government and our community to the real threat posed to cassowaries with the increasing development taking place at Mission Beach and environs.

Cassowaries are not the only species under threat and C4 applauds the efforts of the Tully and District branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, in producing a new brochure to help save the endangered Mahogany Glider. It is inspiring to know that throughout our region there are people of such caring and dedication to our wildlife.

The C4 Management Team has had a full agenda these past months, attending the Cassowary Summit, with a power point presentation which led to the production of Cassowaries Recovery or Extinction booklet, involvement with the Mission Beach Film festival, a co-operative plant out with Councils’ re-veg unit to strengthen a cassowary corridor, the ongoing work of the Habitat Team (see page 14), and now the partnering with Rainforest Rescue for Buy Back.

Only with action will we achieve change. Please make your voice heard!

On behalf of the C4 management Team please have a safe and happy festive season.

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## Cassowary Summit



Cassowary Coast Regional Council Mayor Bill Shannon takes the microphone at the Cassowary Summit supporting buyback at Mission Beach (left) while familiar faces such as veteran conservation campaigner Margaret Thorsbourne (below) continues to network for overall better outcomes for the environment (Page 20)



### Where's Dunk?

Visitors enjoying a day at the beach with not so visible Dunk Island backdrop. As World leaders met to discuss global warming at the UN headquarters in New York, the haze from dust storms in South Australia diminished tourist appeal and posed health problems locally, thousands of kilometers from the source. Dust storm has now being incorporated as part of our weather report. Is this a global warming wakeup call or will it be 'business as usual'?

### Cassowary scat survey

In October CSIRO conducted another cassowary scat DNA collection at Mission Beach. Dry weather conditions and the nesting season may have contributed to the low level of scats collected this time around.

The data recorded is valuable information that will build on our understanding of the ecology of the endangered species and will aid in the long term protection of our adopted regional icon.



### C4 Education Centre

Since opening the doors to the newly re-furbished Environment Centre, the display, theatrette and nursery have had a steady stream of school visits.

Students from Kurrimine Primary, Mirrawinni and East Feluga Primary have enjoyed a day out to C4, we have received two visits from St Margarets high school students based in Melbourne.

We have also had two visits from the School for Field Studies on the Atherton Tablelands. This US based school has campuses in many countries, with the Australian school specialising in rainforest studies. It has university students from all over America who come to Australia for a three month study period, which is credited to their University degree back in the U.S.

Each group is met and guided through C4 by a member of the Management Committee, providing information kits, posters and information relevant to the requirements of the teachers and the age of the students.

C4 was also invited to speak to Year 5/6 at Mission Beach Primary School on the topic 'What is a Community Group?'

This was a lively and entertaining exchange with great questions from the students who showed real interest in the aims and objectives of a conservation organisation.

One of the primary objectives of C4 is to educate and inform about the environmental values of our area.

All school enquiries are welcome.

Our facility caters for a wide cross section of the community and many groups take advantage of the pleasant atmosphere of the theatrette (now air-conditioned) and breezeway for meetings, get-togethers and seminars. C4 can provide tea and coffee making facilities and we encourage members of the community to consider our venue.



# Nursery/Arboretum

## Fridays are the happening day down at the C4 Nursery!!

We've had the pleasure of 15 or so adult and children volunteers coming down to help at the nursery on Fridays, preparing and planting seeds, potting up seedlings, weeding and planting trees. And all this work and love from the volunteers is showing in the strong, vigorous growth of the plants.

The nursery is bursting with happy plants and is buzzing with life!

We have almost finished the little revegetation project down the side of the nursery, where small growing plants such as Dianella Flax lilies, Blue gingers and Cordylines are finding their feet by the creek. This planting is already reducing the weed problem which was at the site previously. Volunteers have also prepared the area at the back of the seed germinating igloo and car park, and this is ready to be planted out now. (Thanks Jack and Carol!)

Our fantastic volunteers have also constructed a concrete potting mix bay to reduce the amount of weed seed in our mix. Big thanks to Nick, Noah, Peter and Mick for doing the hard work with the potting mix bay! The grant from the Community Gambling Benefit Fund



is now being finalised. The funding was used for nursery plumbing and irrigation and a new photocopier to be used to produce the Bulletin. The seed raising igloo is now growing thousands of seedlings thanks to the new irrigation and shelving. We would like to gratefully acknowledge the funding assistance provided by the Australian Government's Community Gambling Benefit Fund, to help us increase the amount of local plants to be planted this Wet season in the Mission Beach area.

In the next few weeks we will be working with the Tully CCRC Reveg Nursery and the Revegetation unit to weed the foreshore area between C4 and Clump Point.



We are aiming to greatly reduce/eliminate the weeds from the foreshore so it will be ready to plant out with all the coastal species grown in the nursery, in time for the rain.

So if you are interested in coming to help us weed the foreshore, come down to the nursery on Friday to learn more about dates...

**Every Friday is either a volunteer day in the nursery or out on site, weeding or planting trees!!!**

We have a number of sites which we will be revegetating this Wet season. As part of the Mission

Beach Film Festival, we will be aiming to offset the carbon produced by the Festival, by planting 1000 trees at a site in conjunction with OPWS. During the festival, film goers can plant a tree or two to offset their carbon footprint in the coastal zone behind C4. When the rains come, we will also be planting trees along the coastal foreshore and on private properties in the area, to reduce erosion, widen cassowary corridors and increase habitat for wildlife. All these trees need hands to plant them! (details of plant outs page 7) See you there!



**PLANTS AVAILABLE FROM THE NURSERY READY TO PLANT IN YOUR GARDEN NOW@ ONLY \$2 EACH!!!!**

**Dianella, Blue Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea*)** – a lily growing to 2m with beautiful tiny purple flowers and purple blue fruits attracting birds all year long.

**Blush Satinash, Broad-leaved Lillypilly - *Acmena hemilampra*** – beautiful tree or shrub growing large in the forest, with white flowers and edible white fruit.

**Cordyline - *Cordyline cannifolia*** – good garden plant growing to 2m with showy bright red fruit, attracting cassowaries.

**Blue ginger - *Alpinia caerulea***– another great small growing garden plant providing food for birds.

**Melicope rubra, Melicope elleryana** – host plants for the Ulysses butterflies! Pink showy flowers growing along branches.

**Native Gardenia – *Attractocarpus fitzlanii*** – Beautiful garden shrub or tree with fragrant white flowers and large yellow fruits loved by cassowaries. (Flowering now along the road on Cassowary Drive)  
**Alexandra Palms – (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*)**– Solitary palm with red fruits attracting birds.  
***Aristolochia acuminata*** – Birdwing butterfly host plant.

**AND MORE!!** Come down to the nursery on Fridays and we can help you find the right plant for your garden...

### SEED WISH LIST

These are some of the seeds which are ready now to be collected. Keep your eyes out for these species' seeds, and drop them into the nursery so we can plant them back as trees in the local area:

***Dillenia alata*** – Red beech tree – A beautiful tree with redish papery bark, yellow flowers and a red flower-shaped seed capsule containing black seeds covered in a white aril. Common near the beach and at the Mission Beach Market park.

***Grevillea pteridifolia*** (Fern leaved grevillea, Golden grevillea) – Beautiful local native grevillea flowing now. Seeds will be ready very soon!!

***Macaranga mallotus***

***Acacia mangium*** – Broadleaf Salwood, Wattle

**Solitare palm (*Ptychosperma elegans*)**

**Figs** (a variety fruiting now)

***Melaleuca leucadendra*** (Weeping paperbark)

***Lepidozamia hopeii***

Milky Pine (flowering now, but will be fruiting soon)

***Lomandra longifolia*** (Spiny-headed Mat Rush)

**Native Jasmine – *Jasminun sp.***

Nina

## Film Festival contributes to rehabilitation of foreshore

Coordinator for the Mission Beach Film Festival, Dee Cameron was on hand to help plant the first trees as part of the carbon footprint offset of the event.

Joining Dee are Truus Biddlecombe, and Melissa Thurgood, while Nina, C4 Nursery Coordinator, oversees the project and selects appropriate plants for the site.

The site, directly to the east of the C4 centre was specifically prepared for the occasion because of it's importance in maintaining the biodiversity of our area.

The planting will expand and enhance the naturally



## Ross Overton Park/Norm Byrnes Arboretum

Bob Jones gave a talk explaining the history of the Arboretum to the volunteers from the Mission Beach Visitor Centre during their 'famil' to C4 in October.



The arboretum is a credit to the combined vision of the local community and council at the time, headed by chairman Ross Overton. It was established, with the help of many volunteers, by plant expert Norm Byrnes. Both Ross and Norm are acknowledged in the naming of the park.

The area was once used as the local primary school sports ground before the school was moved to it's present location at Wongaling Beach. The cricket pitch is still evident at the northern end of the park.

The hard work of establishing and maintaining the public space, is a legacy to all those who have volunteered their time and effort and has culminated in a park of excellence that visitors can enjoy a stroll through while being educated about the diverse vegetation of our high biodiversity area. It is evolving as a natural extension to the existing littoral habitat (now listed as a critically endangered ecosystem).

It provides, as part of the original concept, a valuable resource of seeds for propagation in the C4 nursery. A reference tree list is available at the C4 centre next door.

Bob is dedicated to the job of managing the park and continues to liaise with the Council to further the vision by ongoing foreshore rehabilitation projects.



# All about community

## Festivals galore

### Adrenalin festival, Music festival, Film festival

Congratulations go to the organisers of the Music Festival, the Adrenalin Festival and the Film Festival which were held over the space of three weeks in late October/early November



Each one has been hailed a big success appealing to a cross section of the community and all are planned to be held again next year.

It is wonderful to see such a sense of participation and professionalism being realised in these three events — a **creative expression of the Mission Beach community.**

Vanessa Bromley reported in the Grapevine, "A 700 strong crowd of punters, performers, volunteers and kids descended on Dundee Pk for the inaugural Mission Evolve Music Fest."

"Along with the delicious food that just kept pouring out of the kitchen, the amazing fire show and workshops ranging from song writing, circus play and funky dance moves, the first ever Mission Evolve Music Fest was a resounding success! "



## Community focus on environment

With a theme of '**sustainability**' the - Mission Beach Film festival presented a selection of movies and documentaries which entertained, informed and at times confronted the viewers.

The Castaways outdoor venue was teased by the weather on the opening night but thankfully the rain held off until after the weekend to allow the screenings to go ahead.

The photo exhibition gave a wonderful insight into our special environment and the short film entries were a diverse collection of three minute movies presenting different perspectives of what sustainability means.



There was a mixed reaction to some of the films that dealt with climate change as the subject continues to be controversial with skeptics denying all the evidence.

The festival organisers did a full carbon audit which included the measurement of electricity, waste, transport, paper and other resources to determine the carbon footprint of the event.

The greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the Mission Beach Film Festival have been offset to ensure carbon neutrality and accreditation as 'climate friendly'

The event has been described as a huge success and planning is already underway for 2010.



Photo Ron Darlington

### Wildlife safe during film festival

Terrain's Mission Beach Local Area Planning Officer, Tony O'Malley, engaged the local school children to design wildlife awareness signs which brightened up local roadsides for the two days of the Mission Beach Film Festival.

Year 6 students designed the signs to help wildlife cross roads safely during the busy festival.

The temporary signs were approved by Main Roads and copies were on display at Castaways alongside the People's Choice Stills Photographic Exhibition.

Terrain organised the project to help with the festival's sustainability theme. C4 sponsored the sign printing with Liz Gallie photo-shopping the original artwork to enhance visibility to drivers.



### C4 plants trees for film festival sustainability

C4 donated 1000 native plants to help make the Mission Beach Film Festival an ecologically sustainable event. The trees will be planted at three sites to help create more wildlife habitat and offset some carbon emissions locally.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife provided two sites for planting. Revegetation of the redundant electricity transmission line clearing in Clump Mountain National Park will reconnect the Bicton Hill section with the rest of the park. The other National Park revegetation site is at Alligators Nest near Tully.

Cassowary Coast Regional Council is providing a revegetation site along Wongaling Creek near Marcs Park. This planting will enhance the cassowary corridor identified in the Wongaling Creek Habitat Linkages report. Council is contributing native plants for this site to add to C4's donated plants.



The first tree planting will be held at Marcs Park on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December as part of CCRC's Planet Ark Tropical Tree Day beginning at 9AM followed by a midday BBQ. Everyone is welcome to plant some native trees for habitat. Please phone Council on 4068 0055 or C4 on 40687197 for further information.



## More about community

### Help save our Village from unfair competition

Talking about carbon footprint, how much do the blazing lights of Woolworths contribute to global warming? Neighbours to the newly established development are certainly feeling the impact of the floodlights that burn throughout the night and are having to introduce blinds to shield the lights.

The very existence of Woolworths at Mission Beach has diminished our tourist appeal, as is evidenced by the many new and return visitors who comment how out of place Woolworths is and especially how it dominates the entrance to what used to be rural/village scenery.

Woolworth's practice is to move into a community, usually adjacent to an established trading centre, undercut prices resulting in the closure of local shops.

At Wongaling Beach, five businesses closed, with another in the Mission Beach village.

#### **Woolworths has now applied for Sunday Trading.**

The AUR Supermarket in Mission Beach is set to close if the Woolworth's bid for extended trading is successful.

The flow on effect would be felt throughout the villages of Mission Beach. The anticipated domino effect would see the further loss of locally owned and run businesses in our area.

Locals and visitors from Garners Beach, Brookes Beach and Bingil Bay would need to travel to Wongaling Beach for essential groceries. This would result in more petrol consumption adding to greenhouse emissions. The increased traffic on Cassowary Drive would increase the threats to safe cassowary movement at known wildlife crossing points. It would mean Wongaling Beach would become the centre of town, essentially **be** Mission Beach. There would no longer be separate villages. It would break down the very fabric of our community.

#### **Community— A Sense of Place**

The impact Woolworths has had on our community will be remembered as a significant time of change for Mission Beach.

The controversial decision by the previous Council to allow the retail giant to set up in our small rural area known for its village

atmosphere and spectacular natural environment was very short sighted.

Research shows that large supermarket retailers, like Woolworths, do not provide more jobs - there is a net loss of jobs in the community.

It is found that small independent supermarkets provide over five times as many full time equivalent jobs per unit of turnover as do the large players.

There is a growing sentiment across the country against the advances of the retail food giant using bullying tactics to take over and control the eco-



conomic base and way of life of established communities.

In many cases the presence of a Woolworths centre denies choice and reduces ability to buy local produce. The profits are taken out of local community and often, as is a classic case at Mission Beach, the visual amenity and village atmosphere is greatly diminished.

#### **Call for action**

The Council holds their meetings at different venues to give the voters in the Cassowary Coast Region a chance to understand the process of local government. The next Council meeting will be held at El Arish in the Community Hall at 9am on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Members of our community who believe in maintaining fair competition and our sense of place are asked to come to the meeting and show community support for local business and by our presence indicate the objection to the Council's position of *'not having a position.'*

**We would like to invite all those who can make it to the Council meeting to join us at C4 afterwards for a barbeque at 12 noon**

## Cover Story



### Rainforest Rescue extends to Mission Beach

Rainforest Rescue is a not-for-profit organisation that has been protecting and restoring rainforests in Australia and internationally since 1998 by providing opportunities for individuals and businesses to Protect Rainforests Forever.

The organisation's projects re-establish rainforests through planting, maintenance and restoration programs, as well as purchasing and protecting high conservation value rainforest and preserving its biodiversity.

Rainforest Rescue is supported by donations from individuals, philanthropists, business sponsorship and foundation grants. Because Rainforest Rescue does not seek government funding, it is 100% free to focus on their only concern - saving rainforests.

They have projects in the Daintree, Ecuador, Indonesia, Byron Bay and Sri Lanka.

In recognition of the increasing threats to the high biodiversity values of our area, they have now turned a most welcomed focus on Mission Beach.

Rainforest Rescue website now includes the **Mission Beach Cassowary Care Project** which will identify and purchase rainforest habitat at risk of development and then protect it forever in a conservation reserve.

Rainforest Rescue started in 1998 when Kelvin Davies and Dr Tony Parkes met to bring together their ideas for rainforest conservation.

Kelvin Davies will be visiting Mission Beach with Bob Irwin on Thursday 12th November.

**Please join us to meet and welcome Kelvin and Bob for a chat and barbeque at C4 from 12 noon**

**This is your chance to show your support to protect the special values of our area.**

For online donations to the Mission Beach Cassowary Care Project please visit [www.rainforestrescue.org.au](http://www.rainforestrescue.org.au)

### Bob Irwin calls for urgent Rainforest Buy Back to save the endangered Cassowary

The continuing and increasing threats to the survival of the cassowary at Mission Beach has gained Bob Irwin's attention.

The population of Mission Beach is approximately 4000 people yet current zoning allows for an increase up to 18,000. Land already available for development has been described by a local real estate agent as an 'oversupply'.

The cassowary is already endangered so once the vacant and undeveloped land is developed the associated threats of habitat loss and fragmentation, increase in traffic and dogs, and inappropriate fencing will be unsustainable for the cassowary population.

Introduction of legislation on all tiers of government to protect the cassowary from the known threats are either not forthcoming or may be too slow to save the endangered species at Mission Beach

Bob Irwin heads a not-for-profit conservation organisation affiliated with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Queensland, which is dedicated to the preservation of all wildlife and its habitat for future generations.

Through the Bob Irwin Wildlife Fund, Bob hopes to continue his commitment to conserve our amazing planet and its wild inhabitants by opening the greater community's eyes to the beauty and value of our environment and its wildlife, thereby generating their desire to protect it.

Inspired by Steve Irwin's passion for conservation, the organisation is committed to continuing his vision to leave this world a better place.

They recognise the beauty and value of our natural world and intend to assist projects and organisations that have the courage to find and implement positive solutions to environmental challenges.

"We hope to motivate and encourage like-minded people to join with us, so that together, we may recognize and protect the magnificence of our delicate world, for the sake of our children and generations to come." ([www.bobirwinwildlife.com](http://www.bobirwinwildlife.com)).



**We welcome Bob to Mission Beach**

# LITTLE GREEN LIES

## (Greenwashing)

Environment ministers and officials will soon meet at a UN conference in Copenhagen to thrash out a global deal on climate change. The subject is being hotly debated in Australia, especially as the government's ETS legislation was recently defeated in the Senate. Recent polls suggest that the community wants action. Low impact environmentally friendly products are in greater demand and indeed the state government was keen to invest in the forthcoming Mission Beach Film Festival because it had a strong environmental theme.

This demand for clean and green means that there is also a corresponding increase in the unscrupulous practice of claiming green credentials, when in fact there are none, or very little. This practice has become known as '**greenwashing**', a term that is derived from 'whitewashing' and 'green' the colloquial name adopted for all things associated with a healthy environment.

Greenwashing can be defined as the misleading act of companies, industries, governments, organisations and individuals trying to conceal abuse of the environment in order to present a positive public image. The 10th edition of the Concise Oxford Dictionary defined greenwash as "disinformation disseminated by an organisation so as to present an environmentally responsible public image".

Other terms like "sustainable" and "eco-friendly" are also bandied about as companies disingenuously spin their products and policies as environmentally friendly. These days companies revealed as ecologically unsound, unsustainable or polluting, are likely to be punished by clients, consumers and the stock market.



The term greenwashing is believed to have been coined in 1986 when environmentalist Jay Westerveld observed the practice of hotels encouraging guests to reuse bath towels ostensibly to "save the environment". It gave the impression that hotels were pursuing efforts to be more ecologically sound. The reality was that they had no other environmentally positive policies in place like waste recycling. The hoteliers simply saved massive amounts of money on laundry costs.

## Spotting the "10 Signs of Greenwash"

In the "U.K. Guide to Greenwash," Futerra Sustainability Communications conducted an analysis of friendly" online, print, broadcast, and in-person communication to distill 10 signs of greenwash. The signs are intended to enable consumers to spot it, companies to avoid it, and others to prevent it.

### 1 Fluffy language

Words or terms with no clear meaning (e.g. "**eco-2 Green products vs. dirty company**").

Such as efficient lightbulbs made in a factory that pollutes rivers.

### 3 Suggestive pictures

Green images that indicate a (unjustified) green impact (e.g. flowers blooming from exhaust pipes).

### 4 Irrelevant claims

Emphasising one tiny green attribute when everything else is not green.

### 5 Best in class

Declaring you are slightly greener than the rest, even if the rest are pretty terrible.

### 6 Just not credible

"Eco-friendly" cigarettes, anyone? "Greening" a dangerous product doesn't make it safe.

### 7 Jargon

Information that only a scientist could check or understand.

### 8 Imaginary friends

A "label" that looks like third party endorsement - except that it's made up.

### 9 No proof

It could be right, but where's the evidence?

### 10 Out-right lying

Totally fabricated claims or data.

The three areas of consumer goods that attract the greatest level of greenwashing are children's products, cosmetics, and cleaning products. In all three cases, marketers manipulate a consumer's safety concerns and fears by capitalising on the supposed health and safety benefits of "green" living.

In the case of children's products, one might look primarily to toys and baby products like "biodegradable" building blocks or BPA-free bottles\*. For cosmetics, companies often use labels such as "naturally pure" to offer a seemingly "organic" personal care product. Finally, the greenwashing in cleaning products is evident in the "biodegradable" toilet paper, or the "non-toxic" bleach, or the "100 percent recycled" paper towels."

Across the three product platforms of marketing, vague and ambiguous labelling allows a consumer to believe he or she is purchasing a product with greater eco-friendly benefits. Yet just as greenwashing misleads, these labels do not always carry substantial accreditation or scientific backing to prove the assertions, this only exacerbates the backlash against green marketing.

There's a fair amount of greenwashing that goes on in the motor industry too. For example, in 2007 Saab produced a "Grrrrreen" advertising campaign, which made a deceptive claim that "every Saab is green." An ad for one model running on a part ethanol mix, proclaimed it is "fueled by nature: enjoy more power with a cleaner conscience". NSW Green member of parliament Lee Rhiannon argued that according to Australian government data, Saab cars have relatively poor environmental performance. Saab's best performing car was ranked 33rd.

The Rudd Government has promised to make major "green car" investments in Australia as a result of a new automotive industry assistance package worth a total of \$6.2 billion over the next 13 years. Australian made cars would become 20% more efficient by 2010.

This won't be much of an improvement if we are still driving Falcons and Commodores. The latest Ford Falcon produces over 230g of carbon dioxide per Km. The EU is currently at 140g/Km and moving lower to 120g/Kw.

Australia needs to do a lot better; car manufacturer's here, like their US counterparts have been very slow to get the message about peak oil and the need for a reduction in Co2 emissions.

As an example of what is possible, the CO2 emissions output of the current Toyota Prius is stated at 106g/km – good enough for Toyota's petrol-electric icon to top the federal government's official Green Vehicle Guide.

**Greenpeace** has developed a website dedicated exclusively to exposing greenwash, particularly in the energy sector. The site educates consumers about greenwash, its symptoms and causes. [www.stopgreenwash.org](http://www.stopgreenwash.org)

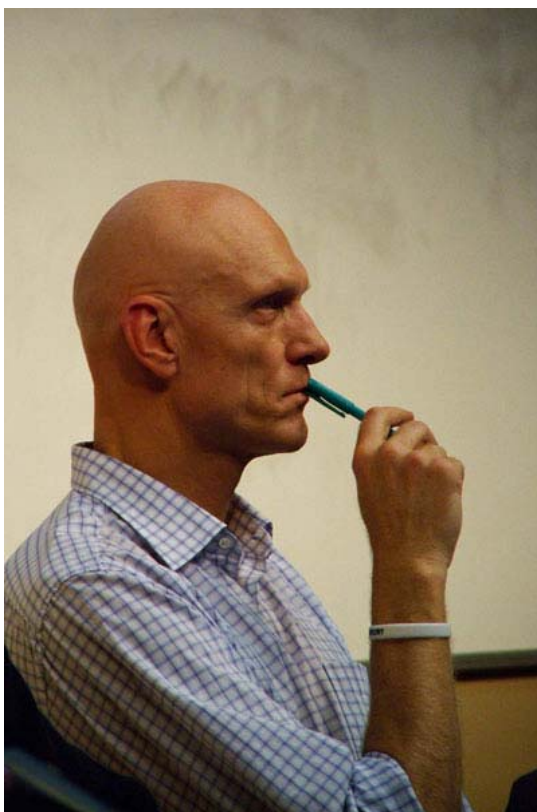
While it is impossible to directly link any particular weather event to climate change, recent tsunami and earthquake disasters in our region only serve to focus on the issue.

Business needs to improve its own environmental reputation - greenwash by an individual company not only harms that particular entity, but adds to the deteriorating trust of businesses overall. Therefore, companies collectively must end greenwash in order to establish a new role in society where stewarding efforts towards a more sustainable planet earns trust and respect. It may follow that governments will be more positive about legislation like the ETS that is sorely needed if the people of this world are to have a sustainable future.

\***Bisphenol-A** is a hormone-disrupting chemical considered to be potentially harmful to human health and the environment. It has been known that scratched and worn polycarbonate feeding bottles will leach this chemical into liquids.

Preston Clothier

## SUSTAINABLE GROWTH = AN OXYMORON



"In relation to the reports that we have about climate change, there's a need to really work proactively in a collaborative fashion - to work with farmers, conservation organisations, the scientific community and State Governments - to build a fantastic fence, of interconnected areas, whether they be National Parks or farms, where there are conservation agreements, working with indigenous communities, to really giving our native plants and animals a fighting chance with climate change and the impacts we've been seeing for the last 100 years - so that we've got 100 years' worth of good-looking for the populations not only living in these places, but those to come".

The Hon Peter Garrett



# Djiru Country

## DJIRU ARTIST LEONARD ANDY AND JIRRBAL ARTISTS ARTWORKS ACQUIRED BY PALIAMENT HOUSE



The recognition of these artists who are represented by Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre is a major coup for them.

Leonard's artwork reflects his strong attachment to culture, his concerns for the fragile environment in which he lives, and the escalating impact of urbanisation on wildlife, particularly the cassowary which features in the artwork *Djiru Gunduy* sold to Parliament House.

Alison Murray's painting *Jawun* and a woven traditional bicornual basket *Jawun* by Tonya Grant reflect traditional practices and knowledge.

For enquires about Leonard, Alison and Tonya's or work of other Giringun artists please contact Giringun Aboriginal Corporation in Cardwell on 4066 8300



Photos courtesy Giringun Corporation

### Giringun artists hit it big in Canberra

Three Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre artists have had artworks purchased for the Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra .

Leonard Andy, Djiru Traditional Owner and local of the Mission Beach area, Alison Murray and Tonya Grant, Jirrbal artists from Murray Upper and Jumbun Community have had artwork selected for inclusion into the prestigious Parliament House Art Collection.

or by email [arts@giringun.com.au](mailto:arts@giringun.com.au) or [artsmanager@giringun.com.au](mailto:artsmanager@giringun.com.au).

## Mission Beach Community Raffle

A raffle with a difference is currently underway in Mission Beach. It is to raise funds to replace the Clump Point lookout sign. As most will know it was stolen about 12 months ago. The sign tells of the aboriginal significance of the area so as a community we are very keen to have it back in place. This signage was produced as part of the 'Djiru Cultural Landscapes of the Clump Point Area' project, funded by Envirofund, and was unveiled in 2006.



The response in donations has been fantastic. Business and individuals are all digging deep in this difficult financial time to show their support.

If anyone who hasn't been approached would like the opportunity to donate a prize it is not too late. Just call Janine on 4068 8209. Tickets are currently on sale at Healthy Harvest and the C4 Centre. For one dollar you have a chance to win many prizes. Lets all get in and show our support as a community.

Current prizes have been donated by, Yoko Yasui, Mission Beach Pharmacy, Mission Beach Organic Hair Studio, 100th Monkey Café, Healthy Harvest Organic Whole Foods, Flame Café, Nina Dawson (Birdtribe), Noddin Off, Janine Ewens, The Elandra, Liz Gallie, Northern Smallgoods Butcher, Ibu

and Bean, Tucker Truck, Mission Beach Garden Centre, Calypso sea legs, Beach Bums, Jason Dean, Mission Beach Information Station, Corey, Sally Maroney (Wild Things), Shrubbery, Blarney's Restaurant, Friends Restaurant, Piccolo Paradiso, Nana Thai Café, Lookin Good Beauty Salon, Mission Beach Optometrist, Wobbly Frog, Hair Strand Salon, Pamela Duel (Hubba Hubba Ding Da), Scotties Bar and Grill, Mission Beach Resort, Susan Kelly, Same, Same but Different, Sweet as Travel, Jettys Restaurant and Wine Bar, Mint Bar, Cheeky Dog, Iggulden's, Connors Corner Store, Cafe Coconutz, Wendy Hansen, (Ulysses Yoga and Massage), Danielle Wilson and Drift Spa.

**We look forward to seeing the sign back at Clump Point Lookout.**

Janine Ewens



# Rural Rave

In 1972 when I first came to Mission Beach it was essentially a farming community. There was no township; no town water and dirt roads went to Tully and through Bingil Bay to El Arish(not even gravel).

The road to El Arish through Fenby Gap was a sandy track inaccessible except to 4WD. There was a post office which worked from a house – this is now Shrubbery, a few weekend cottages and a few old pensioners living unobtrusively in small shacks around the area; the South Johnstone Mill Workers Hut was still in use near Clump Point Jetty and Jack Romano had just built the Moonglow Motel (Castaways site) with a liquor licence for diners, selling fuel, milk, bread, and the papers. The general consensus was that Jack was crazy with no water and only a dirt road into the place.



There was however electricity and a strong community spirit. A tribute to this strong community is the progress hall, which was built by volunteers on land provided by the council. Indeed we felt fortunate when compared to the early settlers, for Cutten Brothers had offered land to anyone who would build and live at Bingil Bay.

The community of Mission Beach has since grown as less viable and unused agricultural land was subdivided, but a very large proportion of the freehold land at Mission Beach is still farmland. The farmers have lived in harmony with nature, in particularly, the cassowary for over 100 years and the birds here today have descended from birds which at one time or another have had contact with farmers with a few cassowaries and other wild things being nursed back to health at times.

One of the features of Mission Beach is the village and rural aspect of the environs. The road from Tully and El Arish come through state forest, or grazing country if via Bingil Bay. The drive down Seaview Street has a tree line on the northern boundary. This tree line is privately owned by the Campbell family, as is the grazing land directly behind the post office.

A look at a photo of the area will show that all farmers provide valuable habitat either from wind breaks, riparian belts or areas deliberately left and/or open space where wildlife may wander unimpeded. Many visitors comment on the calmness and rural nature of this area describing it as a lovely seaside holiday place with rural surrounds.

There is little or no reward to those who have preserved a piece of paradise. Indeed the reverse is true as the increased rates (due in a large part to

differential rating) and urban encroachment has caused extra problems with farming. Government laws continue to impinge on the ability to farm successfully and have led to pre-emptive clearing in the past. **History shows that those who cleared land have been well rewarded financially while those who preserved some natural habitat have been severely disadvantaged, with the value of the land severely eroded because it is uncleared and restrictions on maintenance clearing.**

There was a recent example of the clearing of a headland prior to the introduction of restrictions on re-growth clearing. The area in question was to be planted with more suitable windbreak trees. A less intrusive way to achieve this would have been to plant better species amongst the existing under-growth to be removed later. Given the risk that no removal would be allowed sometime in the future the option of total removal was taken. There has to be some balance and recognition given to farming.

One way of maintaining or even improving our environment and the attractiveness of Mission Beach is to encourage and support farmers to continue farming in this area and show appreciation for their efforts in providing open space and habitat. We all need to strive hard to keep the very things that make Mission Beach so special.

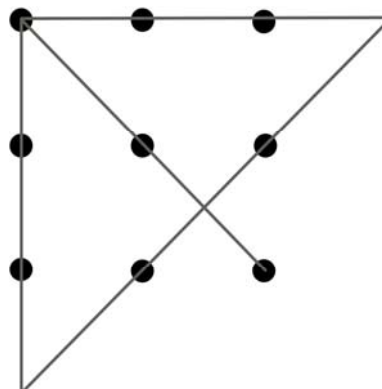
The views expressed here are those of our rural representative and not necessarily those of C4 Management

Maurice Franklin

As promised – a solution to the “nine dots” challenge printed in the previous Bulletin. Joining all nine dots with four straight lines, without lifting the pen would have to be easy wouldn't it? I found getting 8 was easy, though trying harder only resulted in more ways of getting 8 again. The luckiest number for some Asian cultures, but not in this case.

The only way to get the elusive 9 is to venture outside of the perceived box. This puzzle is where the “Thinking outside the Square” term comes from.

Though we often talk about thinking outside the square (or box) we clearly have difficulty putting it into practice, and will almost always follow predictable pathways when looking for solutions to problems, even when we know they have previously failed.



If nine black dots and four lines on a white page can stump us so easily, what opportunities in everyday life are we missing when we so often only exercise our same ol,' same ol' approach?

Peter Salleras.



# Habitat Matters

## Application for road closure

We were pleased to see the Council did not give approval to a proposal to procure private ownership of private property

An application by Castaways Resort to extend the resort further into the public domain with decking to incorporate an alfresco dining area was refused because it is currently being used as public space, will be needed as part of the bikeway / walkway system and will be needed for a future traffic turnaround area.

A substantial amount of the lawned area in front of castaways is on public land. It is illegal under the Johnstone Shire Council laws to remove, plant or interfere with council managed land without permits.

(see page 16)

## Unsustainable Growth

There are 35 *known* sites at Mission Beach that had development applications lodged before the FNO 2031 Plan deadline. We are told that they must be assessed under the existing town plans until the local planning schemes come up for review.

It appears that the existing planning schemes have very few limitations as we see development being approved outside the designated urban zones and encroaching further into natural areas.

Applications for variations to the schemes and Council discretionary powers allow development to occur in almost any location including land zoned 'Conservation' and 'Good Quality Agricultural Land'

Mission Beach is identified on all levels of government as a high biodiversity area and many reports have been written about the importance of the natural values of our area. We can only wonder why our local authority is not recognising the need to introduce local planning laws that will protect those values. Approvals are being granted that still allow for the destruction of the local environment, the mainstay of the economy and sense of place for the the community.

Lengthy public consultation was entered into last year and the local community had a lot to say about their vision for the future. The FNO2031 Plan is a reflection of that process and identifies Mission Beach as a special place and recommends development constraint.

Recent approvals by the Cassowary Coast Regional Council are demonstrating a 'Business as usual' approach, one which shows no intent or will to protect the special values of our area. Neither does there seem to be any consideration given to recommendations in the Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Plan which has been adopted by the Council as the environmental guideline in the Shire's Corporate Plan.

The latest Council approval is for a residential development on land zoned conservation. We have been told that it has gone through a very long process and has been substantially altered before gaining final approval.

The compromise still allows for the destruction of more natural vegetation situated in a crucial vegetation corridor linking Tam O'Shanter National Park to the Hull River. This will compromise the integrity of yet another of the rapidly diminishing habitat linkages connecting the ranges to the coastal lowlands. The following is the EPA advice on the proposal.

*"The proposed reconfiguration and development of Lot 4 RP747 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. The 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 their 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"*

It is hard to understand how a development can proceed given this advice.

The development application is currently being assessed by the Federal Environment Agency under the EPBC Act.

If it is allowed to proceed, it can be anticipated the associated road works that will be required, will substantially widen the road at a crucial wildlife corridor.

There is no doubt that little Council consideration was given to the MBHNAP in making this decision as the Wongaling/South Mission Beach Habitat Linkages report clearly identifies this block as a crucial corridor. Regardless of whether the report had been finalized by the approval date it had already been commissioned and was in draft form for the MBHNA group to see. The CCRC is represented on that group. Development decisions such as these undermine the intent of current plans already in place and ones being developed which seek to protect the biodiversity of our area.



We can only hope the federal environment agency recognises the impact this development will have on matters of National Environmental Significance and calls for further environmental reports to determine the sites importance to the needs of the cassowary.

## Lot 66 Revisited

The 'Garrett Corridor' new development application has been declared a 'controlled action'. It will now go through a process of assessment under the EPBC Act called 'Assessment by Public Environment Report'.



The process will require further environmental reports and allows for public comment.

Lot 66 is a good example of the inadequacy of our planning schemes to protect valuable cassowary habitat. It is recognised as an important cassowary corridor within the planning scheme and part of the block is zoned conservation containing a wetland.

The lot has been removed from the urban footprint in the FNQ 2031 Plan in recognition of its ecological values.

It is a great disappointment that this land is still being considered for development given the overwhelming evidence of its environmental importance and shows how all tiers of government fail to protect our national and in some cases international natural treasures.

The proponent knew when acquiring the lot there would be significant environmental hurdles to overcome to gain approval for any development to proceed despite the zoning.

**It is in a key Mission Beach wildlife corridor and we call on the local, state and federal governments to support a voluntary acquisition of this block to secure it in perpetuity.**

## Jewel in the Crown Shattered

C4 received an overwhelming number of calls from the public who, while walking the Kennedy track, have been shocked at the vegetation destruction in front of the Elandra Resort. The trees have been cut up and left where they fell. The clearing has been carried out on private land and apparently has **no official** environmental value.

On arrival to Mission Beach, the new owners of the resort held a cocktail party to introduce themselves to the community. On the night, they acknowledged the resort was the '**jewel in the crown**' of Mission Beach and reassured the guests that there was a commitment to the community to respect that.

The site has always been considered a location of pride for the Mission Beach people. The magnificent views across to the islands and Tam O'Shanter headland from the accommodation rooms and pool deck/restaurant area were framed by dense coastal rainforest vegetation.

It is sad to note that much of the clearing of our rain forested foreshores is being carried out by newcomers to our area who in many cases arrive from places that have strict tree preservation laws.

Three leading beachfront resorts are showing their disregard for our special environment by clearing beachfront vegetation for views.

Most of the vegetation in the Mission Beach area including the foreshore has not been officially surveyed to identify the complexity of ecosystems. In many cases it is likely to be rare or endangered such as the recently listed critically endangered littoral rainforest and coastal vine



thickets, that may support equally rare and endangered species.

While in this instance the clearing may have been carried out on private land, a lot of clearing for views is occurring on public land. Any such clearing shows a lack of respect for our special place.

How can we impress on those who continue to disregard the natural environment of our high biodiversity area that it is not replaceable and there is not much left. Each jewel is precious and unique.

C4 supports Council policy of introducing a shame board deterrent to this shameful practice.

### The Story of Mick the Striped Possum (*Dactylopsila trivirgata*)

Cute little Mick came into care after he had an unfortunate incident with a car. He is most certainly one of the lucky few animals who meet with cars and survive to tell the tale.

Mick was found lying in the middle of the road, while many people drive on by, he was lucky to find a rescuer who was thoughtful enough to stop to check if he was alive. When she brought him to me he looked terrible, he had obviously been hit on the face and he had blood all around his mouth and his tongue was protruding from the side of his mouth. I cleaned him gently so we could have a look at the damage. His tongue was severely damaged and because of swelling and the blood it was impossible to see any other damage.

I popped him into a nice warm blanket with a heat pack to warm his cold little body, mixed up some special emergency formula and dripped a little into his mouth, he was very thirsty. Then I tucked him into his blankets and left him for the night, fully expecting the poor little fellow not to make it through the night.

However, our young Mick was obviously a little fighter, he was still very much alive and kicking when I gingerly uncovered him in the morning! I fed him some more of the cereal mix using a pipette as his tongue was still extremely swollen and hanging out of his mouth. I packed him up and took him to the Vet, still half expecting that he would have some terrible damage that was not obvious, because as we all know...wildlife and cars don't mix.

Dr Graham the Vet gave Mick a little anaesthetic so we could have a proper look at him. He decided that it was possible that only Mick's tongue was damaged. He gave him a shot of antibiotic, and told me to continue to care for him as I had been. He also warned me that if Mick's tongue did not recover, that he would have to be euthanized as striped possum tongues are very important for their feeding habits.

They use their long thin tongues to get insect larvae from logs and to collect nectar from flowers.

Mick had 2 weeks to see what would happen. I was so hoping that his tongue would shrink back to normal size, as the thought of having him for 2 weeks and then having to have him put to sleep was awful.

Over the next few days I fed him a slurry mix of high-protein cereal, vitamins and baby fruit variety's, along with warm water & baby juice. He was the most amazing little critter, who happily let us help him. He stayed in his "hospital bed" lined with soft blankets with his heat pack. Each morning he would have climbed out of his possum bag and be waiting for me to uncover him, lining up for his cereal. I held



him like a baby to feed him using a pipette as he could not lick anything. He started grabbing the pipette with his little hands if I was not fast enough.

Then a week later I discovered a happy possum with his tongue firmly in his mouth right where it should be. He then graduated from "hospital bed" to cage.

He spent the next six weeks recovering and regaining his strength and gradually being introduced to normal possum food, a slow process as his mouth was still very sore.

After seven weeks in care, he became restless and it became obvious that he was raring to go. So we went into our rainforest and selected a suitable release spot and cleared track in so we could find it at night. The evening of release came, we made sure that he had eaten and was happy, then we popped him into his possum bag and grabbed our torches and took him into the forest. We sat at the base of a fabulous big Black Bean tree with him and let him get used to the smells. Gradually he came out and hopped onto

the trunk. He climbed slowly away from us, leaping onto a vine where he sat for a few minutes looking back at us, it was almost as if he was saying thanks. He then slowly climbed up and we could hear him leaping from tree to tree.

As usual it was an honour to take care of one of our special creatures, and Mick was most certainly very special, we become very attached to his dear little personality. We hope that he is now having a happy life back in the forest where he belongs... and that he stays away from roads.

Please remember to stop and check if you hit anything on the road or if you see something that looks like it might be alive. They might be the lucky one that survives to be rehabilitated, or if it is not a happy ending, then at least you have saved them from dying a horrid slow death on the side of the road. Take care of our wildlife, it is truly awesome!

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

## Glass Cassowary

Susan Hawthorne

where they land is all important

in the government museum in Chennai  
a bird in a glass case

no ordinary bird this  
it's in the room marked  
foreign

beside it a tiger  
a bear

all on its own  
a cassowary in a glass case

encased in glass  
a territory hardly big enough  
to turn around in

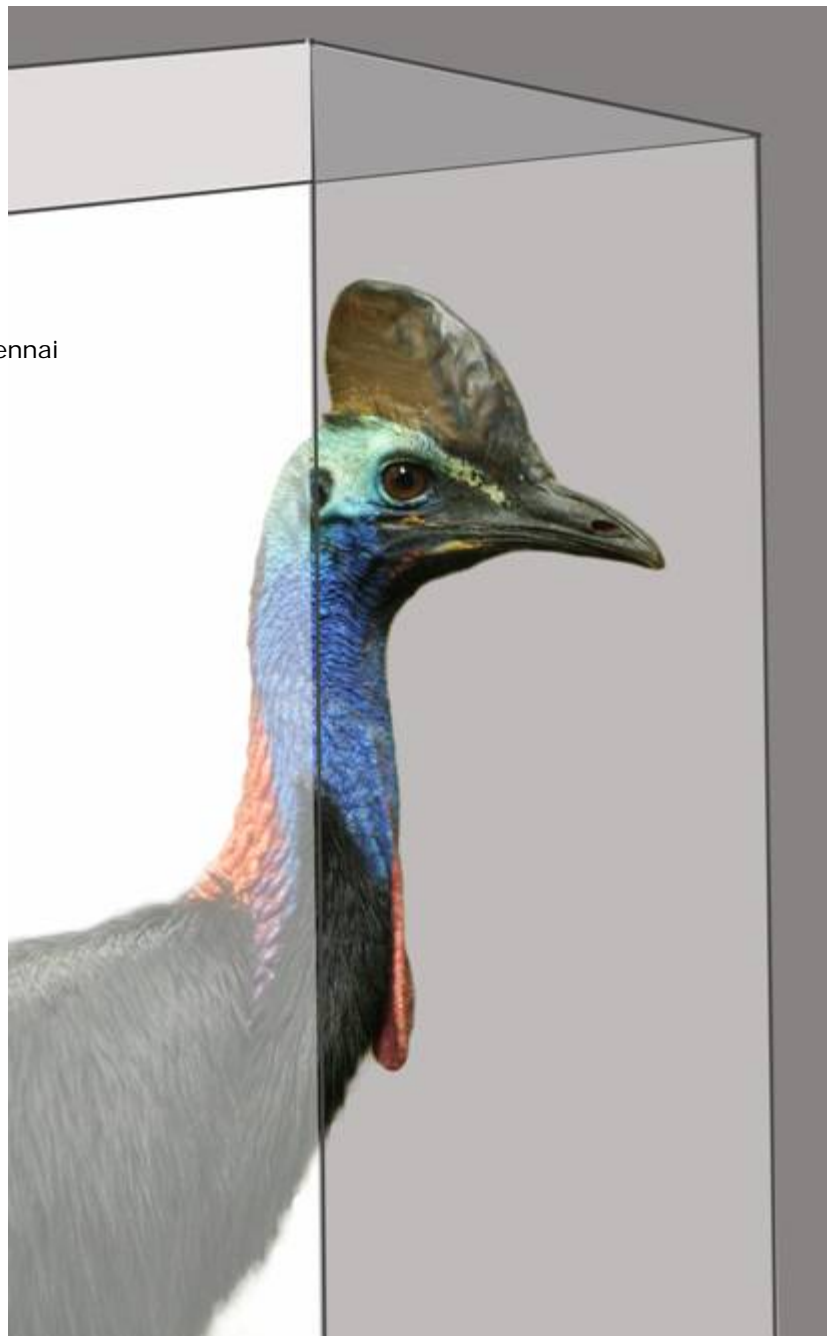
let alone disperse seed  
hold up the rainforest

nothing to eat  
no shade  
no where to go

bring back the birds  
bring home their bones  
the feathers  
their poor stuffed carcasses

allow this bird to rot  
in the humus of the forest

I stumble out backwards  
something caught in my throat





## Unlawful clearing of vegetation on the increase

Officers from the Cassowary Coast Regional Council have reported an increase in the incidence of unlawful clearing of vegetation on beach fronts across the region.

Mr. Paul Devine, Manager of Parks and Natural Environment with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council said that over the last six months his officers had been called to investigate clearing at Tully Heads, South Mission Beach, Wongaling Beach, Clump Point, Kurrimine Beach and Coconuts.

He said, "most clearing is done by adjacent landholders to gain views of the ocean and it generally takes the form of the slow and insidious removal of all understory plants by pruning, poisoning or mowing or the more dramatic removal of large trees by poisoning or ringbarking."

Mr. Devine said, "whilst all incidences of clearing are investigated it was often difficult to gather enough evidence to move towards a prosecution under either Local Laws or State Legislation".



"But while that process is going on, 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 said, "most of the community is outraged by this sort of behaviour and are highly supportive of the work that is being undertaken by groups such as the Friends of Bingil Bay and C4 who in partnership with Council and Terrain NRM are implementing the Bingil Bay and Clump Point Reserve Management Plans by carrying out weed control and revegetation of foreshore areas."

"Imagine their disappointment when after all the hard work of restoring these areas they see others blatantly trying to destroy it ", he said.

"Council will be focussing on this issue in the lead up to the wet season with letter-box drops, one-on-ones and monitoring programs planned for some of the hot-spot areas", Mr. Devine said.

"We will also be writing to all tree lopping contractors and reminding them that if they are caught damaging trees on public land they will be prosecuted", he said.

"If contractors are in doubt as to what they are being asked to do, don't take the word of the landholder but contact Council", he said.

"Council has a program of pruning or removing trees on reserves that may be considered to be posing a threat to private property, but landholders are not to take these decisions themselves but should also contact Council". "If trees do have to be removed they will be replaced with an appropriate species in an agreed location", he said.

Mr. Devine welcomed the Federal Governments recent listing of the Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia as nationally threatened ecological communities under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) 1999.

He said, "much of the coastal vegetation in the Mission Beach area would be classified as littoral rainforest and while it was unfortunate that these particular communities are now under such impact that they are listed as critically endangered it did mean that any unlawful clearing in those areas would attract the attention of the Commonwealth Governments Department of Environment, Water, Arts and Heritage who have indicated that they wish to keep a close eye on these type of issues in this area."

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.



Cleared, landscaped and privately maintained public land with signs that intimidate public use.



# TERRAIN PROJECTS HAPPENING AT MISSION BEACH

## Wongaling-South Mission Beach Habitat Linkages

A new report has been released identifying habitat linkages in the area between Wongaling Beach and South Mission Beach. The report focuses on potential corridors for cassowaries and follows on from a similar project that mapped habitat linkages between Wongaling Beach and Mission Beach. Both reports can be viewed in full on [www.terrain.org.au/missionbeach](http://www.terrain.org.au/missionbeach). The new report was prepared by Biotropica Australia with funding by the Australian Government (DEWHA) and project management by Terrain. The habitat linkages are shown on the attached map. The following text is an extract from the report.

"The study area is generally distinguished by relatively large blocks of habitat in good ecological condition and in state ownership. It supports one of the main habitat linkages from the coast to the highlands in the Wet Tropics bioregion. The network of habitat linkages in the study area enables cassowaries to access a diversity of habitat types and resources, including coastal and hinterland resources, thereby enhancing the ecological viability of the important Mission Beach cassowary population.

Conservation of these linkages would have significant benefits for cassowaries and other wildlife. Linkage conservation would protect significant lowland rainforests, including littoral rainforests, and link coastal forests to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and highland forests. The restoration of riparian vegetation would also be expected to contribute to an improvement in water quality entering the adjacent Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Subject to Native Title Claim outcomes and provisions, State Land supporting habitat linkages should be protected for conservation. Moreover, the valuable contribution of private landholders who have maintained habitat on their property should be acknowledged. Owners of freehold land supporting habitat linkages should be offered voluntary incentives (e.g. funding) to encourage ongoing conservation of the habitat linkages. The ecological functions of habitat linkages would generally be enhanced by protecting existing native vegetation, revegetating strategic cleared or degraded areas, excluding domestic animals, managing pest species, in addition to providing a low traffic speed environment. Cassowary road kill in the study area is significant."

### Habitat Network Action Plan progress

The two-month consultation period on the draft Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Plan ended on 9th October. Approximately sixty responses were received. Thank you for your comments. Many comments concerned the need to ensure that future development is compatible with the natural environment. CSIRO, Terrain and the Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Committee are now considering the comments and will amend the plan to reflect the comments and improve the plan. The final plan is expected in a few months. It is a voluntary plan available for all to use, e.g. in applying for funding to assist landowners to maintain habitat on their property.

### Feedback on the Draft Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Plan

The Public Consultation Draft elicited substantial community interest. Fifty-seven submissions were received from individuals and a further seven from community, industry and government organisations.

The Draft Plan received overall strong support for its direction in strengthening habitat conservation efforts, while many submissions recognised the need for improvement. A minority of responses didn't support the need for enhanced habitat conservation effort.



Much of the feedback endorsed the current strategies and projects set out in the Draft Plan. The topics that received most comment were: laws for conservation and planning; dog and cat management; targeting of incentives for landholders; and habitat friendly farming.

Three levels of changes in response to the feedback received are proposed:

1. Restructuring of the document to make it shorter, clearer and simpler;
2. Prioritisation of project portfolio and increased development of key projects, including where topics received a lot of comment; and
3. Revision of strategies and projects to address detailed comments.

The finalised Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Plan is expected in February 2010.

Tony O'Malley  
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Terrain Natural Resource Management  
M: 0437 728 190  
E: [tonyo@terrain.org.au](mailto:tonyo@terrain.org.au) W. [www.terrain.org.au](http://www.terrain.org.au)

## Summit - or Last supper ?



The Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) hosted a Cassowary Summit at the Tanks Art Centre in Cairns in September

Keynote guest speakers Dr Andy Mac and Dr Debra Wright have 25 years experience of studying cassowaries in New Guinea. Cassowaries are heavily hunted in New Guinea so sightings of the birds are rare. Most of their research was gained by scat analysis.

Both scientists were thrilled to be able to photograph a cassowary in the wild on their visit to Mission Beach the day before the summit. C4 was able to show them around our area.

There was a good attendance at the summit. Local, state and federal agencies, individuals and organizations met to discuss the plight of the cassowary in the Wet Tropics.

C4 chairman Peter Salleras gave a presentation that, as is his style, uses wit and analogy to put his point across. Although it got a little scrambled by technology on the day, Peter still managed to gain a lot of attention by comparing the "bureaucrats, departments and authorities with a bowl of spaghetti bolognese — a limp, doughy, uncoordinated tangle with a few meaty bits".

C4's official presentation was a essay of photographic slides highlighting the shortcoming in legislation by all tiers of government that allows the known threats to the cassowary to not only continue, but increase.

C4 secured grants from the Federal Envirofund and from the State Gambling Fund to produce a 24 page booklet that summarises the presentation. 3,300 copies of the booklet were distributed locally as an insert in the Tully Times. A short film has also been produced that was shown at the Mission Beach Film Festival at the Hideaway Caravan Park on Saturday 7th Nov.

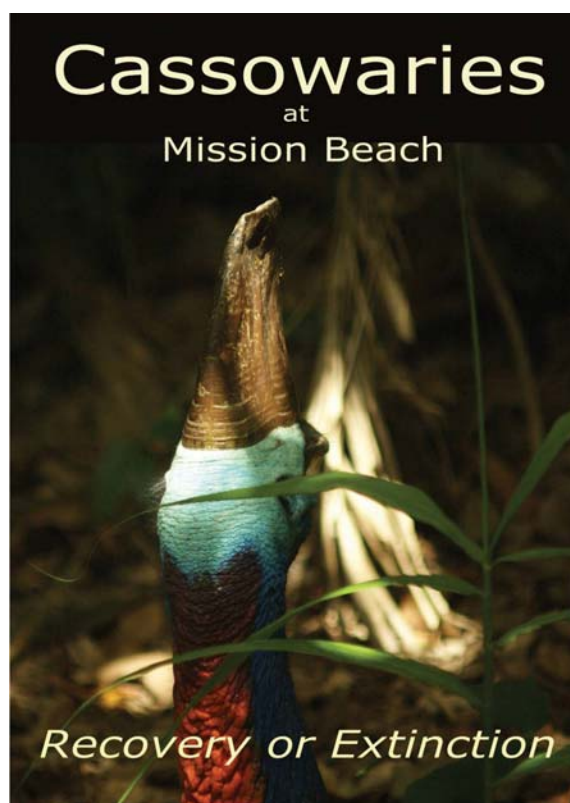
The aim of the book is to raise awareness of the plight of the cassowary at Mission Beach. We ask for donations to a land gift fund to secure cassowary habitat at Mission Beach.

It also encourages as many people as possible to send a letter to their local, state and federal representatives asking for action to be taken to introduce legislation that will address the known threats to our iconic endangered cassowary from sliding into extinction.

Outcomes of the Summit will be discussed at the next Cassowary Recovery Team meeting scheduled for early December.

C4 is represented on the Team and will be asking to present the movie version of the booklet.

**Congratulations to Peter Salleras for winning the WTMA Cassowary Award under the category of 'World Heritage Neighbour'**  
**"For your passion and enthusiasm in practicing sustainable farming and sharing your knowledge with others"**



You can view an electronic version on [www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au](http://www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au)



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

## Visual Amenity of Mission Beach.

The Visual Amenity Advisory Group which consists of members from C4, MBCA, Development Industry, Planning Industry, Tourism Industry, Construction Industry, Tropical Coast Business Women's Network, Terrain, Mission Beach Artists, Traditional Owners and Council officers and myself, continues to meet regularly to discuss issues of significance in relation to the Visual Amenity of Mission Beach.

It is the intention of the group to provide long term input and information into the combining of the current two planning schemes in force for the Cassowary Coast Regional Council. Great co-operation has been extended by Council Directors and Officers in the early stages of this process.

In the here and now though, concern still exists about a number of sites around our area both on private land and public land that in short – need a tidy up for all sorts of good reasons. Weed management, rat infestation and just because we all like our part of the world to look like it should.

Whilst Council officers can place an order on properties that are neglected and offering rat harbourage – unless that is the case – it is difficult to force owners of undeveloped land particularly to keep the land in a cared for manner. Various sites in Mission Beach and Wongaling Beach don't reflect well on the appearance of our special part of the world.

The group recently discussed promoting a competition for businesses that stand out in terms of how they present their premises and congratulate some businesses locally who have taken the trouble to green and vegetate appropriately their business premises. It says so much about how one fits into the community and how much pride one displays about living in the most beautiful part of the world – Mission Beach. Tropical Coast Builders would receive the award currently!

It is pleasing to note that since being contacted by the group, Woolworths have planted more gardens around the ubiquitous tanks.

The Village Green update has also caused some concern. Inappropriate use of the new and larger bins with the dumping of fish scraps as well as the imposing effect of the large bins has led to calls to have the bins replaced with a smaller and more 'green' style of bin. This will be carried out shortly.

A major visual impact in our region is the use of Sandwich Board signage. This style of signage which seems to have multiplied in recent times causes access problems for people with disabilities and mothers with prams and there are cases of people tripping and hurting themselves as well.

Recently myself and two Council officers had discussions with traders in the Village Green and they are keen to self regulate, and replace sandwich boards with an upright style of sign. By doing this, they will reduce the visual impact of the multi-coloured signage and allow the openness of the Village Green to reflect the ocean behind it. The Village Green traders are to be congratulated. They have come together as a group and offered their thoughts and suggestions in a very positive manner. Extensive landscaping and re-vegetation has been done to enhance this very special space to locals and visitors; and shortly there will be a chess set in place for all to enjoy.

The Visual Amenity Advisory Group has had discussions with Main Roads and Council Officers about the corner where Mission Beach Commercial Heights development is occurring. As soon as the roadworks are completed, it is planned to have further discussions about beautifying that corner – the entrance to our Villages and currently something that no-one is proud of.

One of the initiatives that the group will insist on in the new planning scheme is appropriate screening of industrial sites, and other commercial installations (sewerage pumping stations and generators etc.) with an increased amount of native vegetation screening. The current screening allowances are not sufficient.

The group faces a lot of challenges however the existence of such a group is a positive step for our Community and I personally thank all the members who give of their time, make suggestions, and report back to the organisations they represent. A community can only move forward in positive directions when all the partners come together with a shared vision.

I welcome feedback from the community on this topic or any other and can be contacted on 0400 330 870 or email: [jdowns@ccrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:jdowns@ccrc.qld.gov.au).

*Jennifer Downs.*

# Rapidly Changing face of Mission Beach

## Artists impression



## Reality.....



## Quotable quotes;

**'Be part of the phenomenal long term growth assured here'** (local real estate website) Nov 2009

## Is this your dog?

The majority of dog owners at Mission Beach are responsible.

Unfortunately many dogs are still allowed to roam in public areas.

Even if your dog seems harmless to you they can still be a threat to, and intimidate, wildlife.

If they team up with other dogs, they then roam as a pack.

Our wildlife has little chance when targeted by more than one dog.

There have been several reports of two wolfhounds around the Carmoo area roaming day and night chasing wildlife. It has been reported that a dog was seen chasing a male cassowary with two chicks in the Licuala area.

It is not just our wildlife. Recently a domestic dog was attacked and killed by two hunting dogs at Bingil Bay. The dogs responsible for the attack have been known to roam at night from a farm at Bingil Bay.

The community of Bingil Bay in the vicinity of the attack are now fearful for their children and are no longer relaxed in their own yards. One of the dogs was captured by a neighbour and delivered to the pound. The other, apparently the more dangerous of the two, is still with its owner and no action has been taken.

A formal complaint must be made to Council before they are able to act on reports such as this.



## Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre—Update

The centre is still running with a skeleton staff with the local wildlife officer overseeing the facility from Innisfail.

Reggie, the cassowary that notoriously featured in the 'Cassowaries' documentary being tranquillised and relocated from South Mission Beach post cyclone Larry because of her 'demanding behaviour' has been in the 'rehabilitation centre' since that time. Her behaviour was a result of the desperate situation when the cyclone destroyed the natural food source. There was a time lapse of a month before food stations were placed around the area. Once they were established the incidence of '*problem cassowaries*' was generally resolved.

Her condition, which resulted in the loss of quills has gone undiagnosed despite exhaustive tests. With no chance of being released into the wild, QPW have concluded her quality of life is diminished and so she will be euthanized.

Many visitors to C4 from overseas ask about Reggie, as they saw the documentary in England.

The other adult female cassowary at the facility, suffering from a bad infection, has not responded to treatment. An altercation with a cassowary from outside the pen recently has exacerbated the condition. The cassowary will be euthanized.

Rocky, the stripey also a star of the documentary 'Cassowaries' and who has been in captivity for most of it's life is now being considered for release into the wild.

Cassowaries have a long period of guidance from their parent in foraging before establishing their own territory once abandoned and which they maintain for life. It would be hard to imagine how a bird so inexperienced in survival in the wild would have a chance when it would probably have to vie for a territory in unknown country and most likely be occupied by another bird.

Perhaps it would be more appropriate for Rocky to be placed in a zoo.

The future of the rehabilitation centre is unknown.

As development encroaches into natural areas and poses an unsustainable level of threat to the wildlife of our area, at least one full time officer needs to be posted at Mission beach as was envisaged by Mrs Jorrison in her bequest of her property.

John Büsst and Frieda Jorrison would probably agree were they still alive to comment.

**For injured wildlife please contact QPW on 1300 130 372**

### 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>
Crinium (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) diphyllostegia	<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>Variogated 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) chartacea	
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>
Xanthastemen (zanth-0-STEEM-on) chrysonthus	<i>Golden Penda</i>

## NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN DECEMBER

Aceratium (ay-ser-Fy-she-um) megalospermum  
 Acmenosperma clauiflorum  
 Argyrodendron (ar-jir-o-DEN-dron) polyandrum  
 Barringtonia (barr-ing-TO-nee-a) asiatica  
 Blepharacarya (bleff-a-ro-CAIR-ee-a) involuerigera  
 Bombax ceiba  
 Buchanania (buck-a-Nay-nee-a) arborescens  
 Bursaria (bur-SAIR-ee-a) tenuifolia  
 Carallia (ca-RALL-ee-a) brachiata  
 Casuarina (caz-yoo-a-REE-na) cunninghamiana  
 Chionanthus (ky-o-NAN-thus) ramiflorus  
 Cleistanthus (cly-STANTH-us)  
 Cordia (CORD-ee-a) subcordata  
 Cryptocarya (crip-to-CAIN-re-a) pleurosperma  
 Cryptocarya triplinervis  
 Cupaniopsis (keu-pay-nee-OP-sis) anacardioides  
 Cupaniopsis flagellisformis  
 Cynometra (sy-no-MET-ra) iripa  
 Dimocarpus (di-mo-CARP-us) australiensis  
 Diploglotis (dip-lo-GLOT-iss) smithii  
 Drypetes (DRIP-et-eez) lasiogyna var. australiensis  
 Dysoxylum (dis-OX-il-um) muelleri  
 Emmenosperma (em-en-o-SPERM-a) alphonitioides  
 Eucalyptus (yoo-ca-LIP-tus) platyphylla  
 Eucalyptus tessellaris  
 Eucalyptus torelliana  
 Ficus (FY-cus) congesta  
 Ficus leptoclada  
 Ficus virens  
 Ganophyllum (gan-o-FILL-um) falcatum  
 Guettardella (get-ARD-ee-la) tenuiflora  
 Ixora (ix-OR-a) klanderiana  
 Jagera (JAY-ger-a) psuedorhus  
 Litsea (LIT-see-a) glutinosa  
 Lophostemon  
 Mallotus (mal-O-tus) mollissimus  
 Mallotus philippensis  
 Melicope (mee-li-Coo-pee) stipitata  
 Micromelum (my-cro-MEEL-um) minutum  
 Ormosia ormondii  
 Pararchidendron pruinatum  
 Planchonia (plan-SHO-nee-a) careya  
 Polyalthia (polly-ALTH-ee-a) nitidissima  
 Pothos (POTH-os) longipes  
 Premna (PREM-na) serratifolia  
 Rhysotoechia (riss-o-TEEK-ee-a) robertsonii  
 Santalum (SANT-al-um) lanceolatum  
 Sarcopteryx (sar-COP-ter-ix) martyana  
 Symplocos (SIM-plok-os) paucistaminea  
 Synima (sin-I-ma) macrophylla  
 Syzygium (siz-IDG-ee-um) suborbiculara  
 Terminalia (ter-min-AIL-ee-a) sericocarpa  
 Waterhousia hedraiohylla  
 Xanthastemon (zanth-O-STEEM-on) chrysonthus  
 Zylophia (zy-LO-pe-a) maccreal

*Bolly Carabee*  
*Grey Satinash*  
*Brown Tulip Oak*  
*Fish Killer Tree*  
*Rose Butternut*  
*Kapok Tree*  
*Little Gooseberry*  
*Sweet Blackthorn*  
*Corkwood*  
*River Oak*  
*Native Olive*  
*Weeping Cleistanthus*  
*Sea Trumpet*  
*Poison Laurel*  
*Brown Laurel*  
*Beach Tamarind*  
*Brown Tuckeroo*

*Native Lychee*  
*Smith's Tamarind*

*Red Bean*  
*Yellow Ash*  
*Poplar Gum*  
*Moreton Bay Ash*  
*Cadago*  
*Cluster Fig*  
*Figwood*  
*Banyan*  
*Scaly Ash*

*Ixora*  
*Pink Tamarind*  
*Bolly Beech*  
*Swamp Mahogany*  
*Soft Kamala*  
*Red Kamala*  
*Mountain Turkey Bush*  
*Lime Berry*  
*Yellow Bean*  
*Snow Wood*  
*Northern Brown Pine*  
*Canary Beech*

*Coastal Premna*  
*Robert's Tuckeroo*  
*Sandalwood*

*Hazelwood*  
*Topaz Tamarind*  
*Forest Satinash*  
*Damson*  
*Gully Satinash*  
*Golden Penda*

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



**FLOWERING NOW!!**

### WHITE APPLE (*Syzygium forte*)

At Marks Park and along the beach at Narragon the white flowers of the White Apple are blooming. The flowers of this tree also provide food for birds, butterflies and bats. Following the flowers, come large fleshy white fruits loved by Spectacled flying-foxes, cassowaries and other birds. *Syzygium forte* is found in rainforest, vine thickets and littoral rainforest from the Torres Strait to Ingham. It is also found in Northern Territory and in Papua New Guinea.

### BLACK BEAN (*Castanospermum australe*)

Look out for the bright red and yellow flowers growing along the branches of the Black Bean trees on Cassowary Drive. This is a very attractive rainforest tree has flowers which produce nectar food for birds and butterflies. In the next few months, the trees will produce large seed pods with 1-5 large, brown seeds within, which are eaten by Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos. The black bean seeds have provided North Queensland Aboriginal people with staple food for thousands of years. However the poisonous seeds of the Black Bean needed to be specially prepared and left in running water for a number of days before the toxins were removed and it was ready to eat. The Black Bean is also highly prized for its dark brown, coarse grained timber. Before synthetic materials were commonly available, black bean was used for electrical switchboards because of its particularly high resistance to the passage of electrical current. (AB & JW Cribb, Useful Wild Plants in Australia, 1982)

BOTH OF THESE SPECIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE C4 NURSERY NOW...



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