

C4 ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

The Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation is a not-for-profit, voluntary, environmental organization based at Mission Beach. Volunteers maintain a website, facebook, arboretum, nursery, display centre, theatrette and publish the Bulletin. In addition volunteers manage the accounts to maintain C4's status as a GST registered Deductible Gift Recipient, Charitable Institution and Incorporated Organization with Income Tax Concession. The income generated by the nursery, hire of the theatrette, sales and donations from the display area allow C4 to function. It is only with the time and effort generously given by volunteers that C4 is able to achieve any of the outcomes in this report. The support with rent and repairs from the Cassowary Coast Regional Council is appreciated.

C4 is committed to the cassowary Recovery Plan of which wildlife corridors form a vital part. In 2011 C4 made application for a grant under Caring for Country (Federal Government) to purchase Lot66 to gift to QPWS which would complete the longest east-west corridor on the East Coast. In July 2013 we were advised that application was unsuccessful. Over several years C4 has raised in excess of \$260,000 for Land Buy-back and due to the importance of this project we remain committed and will continue to raise funds from private and corporate sponsors.

For many years members of C4 have been promoting the concept of Mission Beach as a centre for nature-based tourism, and in May 2013, C4 and Mission Beach Tourism signed a MOU stating "MBT and C4 share a mutual desire to work together to promote eco-tourism in the Mission Beach area." This will lead to benefits to both parties and the community.

In February 2012, C4 signed a joint position statement with Djiru Traditional Owners and Commercial Boat Owners of Mission Beach (CBOMB) on the restoration of the Clump Point Jetty after Cyclone Yasi. C4, Djiru, CBOMB and MBT took this to CCRC and the Queensland Government to emphasis the economic, social and environmental importance of the jetty and the Clump Point area to the community. The jetty is now almost complete and C4 is pleased that CBOMB remained involved in the project.

C4 developed a low-cost, 3 ramp proposal with road upgrade and increased trailer parking for Clump Point which will have no adverse impact on the cultural and environmental values of this sensitive area. C4's proposal, being low-cost, will allow funding to upgrade the boat ramp to give better access for commercial operations and provide economic benefits to the community. The proposal is supported by Djiru, CBOMB, Friends of Boat Bay, MBT and CCRC. C4's proposal was to counter a proposal to have a massive rock breakwater constructed here, requiring the taking out of protected mangroves and on-going high cost of dredging. This would cause massive impact on the sensitive turtle and dugong feeding areas in Boat Bay. The CCRC has supported a road up-grade similar to our proposal and State Development is due to announce design concepts before the end of the year. We are hopeful of a favourable outcome.

In March 2013 C4 gave a donation to the Cassowary Coast Local Advisory Committee to help fund a JCU jellyfish-monitoring program at Mission Beach.

The C4 website has been redesigned and the Facebook page maintained and significantly improved during the year. The growing importance of this media for information dissemination and feedback is recognised by the Management Committee.

During this year the Mission Beach Community Association restarted the Visual Amenities Advisory Group, which is designed to gather ideas on beautification and enhancement of the natural values of the area and to provide a reference point for CCRC. C4 is an active supporting member of the group.

During May and June C4 hosted 7 visits for USA universities under the AUIP program. We also hosted several Australian schools from as far away as Melbourne. The Environmental Management students from the University of Queensland visit C4 in July each year. All these visits provide an opportunity to influence our future policy and decision makers.

The Qld Government under Caring for Communities gave a grant to refurbish the theatrette and this is now complete. The theatrette will form a vital role in education and presentation of environmental issues as well as providing an excellent venue for movies for the community.

In July C4 received a grant from the Gambling Benefits Fund (Reef Casino) to upgrade the nursery. The work is well under way thanks to enthusiastic volunteers.

On 10th March, C4 hosted a QPWS Marine Strandings Workshop which trained volunteers to rescue and report marine strandings. Some 20 volunteers are available in this area and MBT coordinates after hour responses. The Turtle Foundation donated turtle rescue gear which has been stored in a shed at C4. The local Vet has volunteered his time and the Rotary Club of Mission Beach has allowed community volunteers to place the 1300 stickers from RSPCA on the stinger bottles on the 15km of coastline at Mission Beach. LMAC has supported the program and organised the 1300 stickers.

On July 5th C4 hosted a lunch for the board of WTMA and planted a tree for World Environment Day. This was an opportunity to discuss projects, cement our relationship and thank WTMA for their continuing support.