

Newsletter March 10, 2017

JOIN IN, THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Help fix the longest east-west rainforest corridor in the land!

Everybody, including and especially C4 members, is welcome at a Tree Planting and information sharing day at Smith's Gap on Old Tully Road, Maadi, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Saturday March 11 (including sausage sizzle). The event, organised by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service with the support of Crazy About Cassowaries members (Terrain NRM, C4, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Girringun Aboriginal Corporation and Wet Tropics Management Authority), will see an area of unused grassland added to the National Park rainforest of Smith's Gap.

This ecologically significant area forms part of the longest east-west rainforest corridor in Australia. It links the lowland cassowary habitat at Wongaling Beach each through the Walter Hill Range to the East Evelyn rainforest of the southern Atherton Tableland.

Site Map. Get directions online at: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1n9QhuEN-qbdyZF5Wq-pEq8uSTTLk&ll=-17.851594895046453%2C145.984869&z=18>



Treat member Mark McCaffrey outlines the history of the plantings at Kenny Road, Evelyn. See "Inspiration from the west" next page.

Or, from Bruce Highway, follow Old Tully Road south from Jackson Road or north from Schumann Road.

Bring: hat, sunscreen, chair, drinking water and gloves, plant a tree or a few and find out more about why this is a special part of our environment and worth repairing.

Promising signs in Carmoo traffic trial

The speed alert signs installed last year at the cassowary black spot at Lindsay Road intersection with Tully Mission Beach Road continue to slow down traffic, according to the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The February 28 meet-

ing of the Cassowary Recovery Team was told it was feared that the effect might wear off after the initial speed reduction recorded.

But records for the early part of this year showed that drivers were continuing to respond

and speed continued to decline. The signs, including unique road marking, warn of wildlife crossing and an illuminated sign in each direction advises drivers of their speed if it exceeds the limit as they enter the reduced speed zone.

Counting on Cassowaries

The question of exactly how many cassowaries exist in the Wet Tropics is being tackled from many angles.

These were outlined during a workshop last month (February 24) at C4, where Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, C4, Mission Beach Cassowaries and others discussed the methods of collecting and recording numbers of this endangered species.

CSIRO has undertaken extensive modelling and analysis to produce a broad-picture view of cassowary numbers but more specific information is being assembled by researchers using Queensland Wildnet to capture data collected by DEHP and other agency officers working in the field, veterinarians and reports from the public made to C4 and Mission Beach Cassowaries.

The latest cassowary recording method is a mobile phone app being developed by local former wildlife ranger, David Bender, which he outlined during the workshop.

Locals line up for last crocodile hunter



Mission Beach residents lined up to get signed copies of Bob Irwin's book, *The Last Crocodile Hunter*. The book, co-authored by Amanda French, is a retrospective of Irwin's life and his famous late son, Steve. Proceeds from the book sales went to C4's Land Gift fund for purchase and repair of critical cassowary and other wildlife habitat.

Clump Point marine facilities process

Despite C4's continued advocacy for a shorter breakwater with no permanent pen berths, the final draft of the proposed development includes five berths and two pontoons behind a 140m rock wall.

The Perry Harvey Jetty will continue to be the largest fishing platform owned and funded by ratepayers.

For details of the development, see the link on C4's website or facebook.

INSPIRATION IN THE MISTY MOUNTAINS

C4 members joined about 40 Tableland volunteers and staff from TREAT, WTMA and Terrain in the land of mist on February 25 to see the results of habitat restoration at the top end of the Walter Hill corridor at Evelyn.

A site on Kenny Road is being restored from dairy farm pasture back to rainforest to create a wildlife link to an isolated area of upland rainforest. The land is owned by various parties including South Endeavour Trust, a philanthropic organisation which acquires and restores important habitat.

This area is expected to be an important refuge for plants and wildlife threatened by rising temperatures and changing climate.

Members of TREAT (Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands) and others have planted more than 50,000 trees so far.

The vital attention to preparation and maintenance



Field day participants view the successful three-year-old planting at Rock Road, East Evelyn.

nance has resulted in canopy closure in parts of the planting within five years and the three-year-old planting is an inspiration to anyone seeking to repair habitat.