



# Be Aware for Cassowaries

August, 2019

Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation

www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au

President: Peter Rowles

Secretary: Peter Trott

Treasurer: Maurice Franklin

55A Porter Promenade, PO Box 132, Mission Beach, Q. 4852. Ph: 4068 7197. email: c4mission@gmail.com

## Working at both ends of conservation spectrum

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and our donors, C4 has been very active this year not only in securing and enhancing cassowary corridors and habitat but also physically caring for orphaned and injured cassowaries.

We have started the revegetation of 7ha of former banana farm on Old Tully Road, Maadi, in a joint project with Queensland Trust for Nature. The cleared area is part of a 16ha property for which C4's Land Gift Fund contributed money.

The land has been identified as an important link in providing a wildlife connection at Smith's Gap through the Walter Hill Range section of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. This forms part

of Australia's longest east-west tropical rainforest from Wongaling Beach to the Evelyn Tableland.

In another development, C4 has, in collaboration with Rainforest Reserves Australia, taken over the day-to-day operation of the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Facility. The operation, funded by RRA and Queensland Department of Environment, Science and the Arts, has two long-term young cassowaries which have been growing well and are being prepared for release. A sub-adult which had been hit by a car also spent a few weeks under care before it was released back into the wild.

C4 president Peter Rowles praised the volunteers who had made this valuable service possible.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM is to be held at C4 Theatre on Saturday August 31, starting at 5.30pm. Financial and activity reports will be presented and elections for all management committee positions held, nomination forms available at C4 office. Drinks and supper to follow. Please bring something to share. Guest speaker Tanya Pritchard of QTFN (*see below*).

## ANT PLANT FIELD DAY!



Come along to our field day at Ant Plant Nature Refuge! Wander through the reserve with QTFN ecologists and learn about how to improve habitat for the Mahogany Glider and Cassowary. Kerrie McGrath from the Mahogany Glider Recovery Team will discuss current initiatives in terms of population surveys and management of Mahogany Glider Habitat.

When: **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, meet at 9am**

Where: Ant Plant Nature Refuge, end of McIntosh Road off East Feluga Road.



COMMUNITY FOR COASTAL AND CASSOWARY CONSERVATION

## Smith's Gap Landbridge hopes rise

The vision to create a safe cassowary corridor across Bruce Highway with a landbridge at Smith's Gap north of Tully received a boost at this month's Cassowary Recovery Team meeting.

Transport and Main Roads' Manager of Project Planning and Corridor Management, Darryl Jones, said that a land bridge was in the planning as part of an upgrade of the highway to include a passing lane heading south where trucks are slowed by the climb.

The landbridge idea fits well with the QTFN-C4 purchase of a 16ha partly-forested property, now called "Gurrbum" after the Djiru and Gulnay name for the Emerald Dove. The first half hectare of grassland has been planted to trees over four community plantings this year, aided by QTFN, Brettacorp Inc and Cassowary Coast Regional Council. The remaining 6.5ha is to be planted over the next three years to secure registration as a Nature Refuge so the land can be sold as a single residential property and the money released back to C4 and QTFN for further habitat buyback.

## AGM guest speaker Tanya Pritchard

Tanya has worked in the public and private sectors to deliver conservation outcomes for protected areas, threatened species and ecosystems, for the past five years as Conservation Manager with QTFN.

Tanya loves Australia's wild places and is committed to protecting the natural and cultural values of Queensland for future generations.

Her presentation will outline QTFN's approach to protecting Queensland's biodiversity with on-the-ground work with species ranging from koalas and sea turtles to cassowaries and mahogany gliders. Through the revolving (land buyback) fund, education programs, partnerships and engagement in environmental markets, QTFN is leading the way in terms of biodiversity protection.

"Our activities have directly contributed to the protection of one quarter of Queensland's 955 threatened species across 104,000 hectares since 2006," she said.

Tanya will talk about QTFN's signature programs and properties and provide some case studies involving sustainable land management practices, examples of innovative solutions to conservation land management issues and how we can better demonstrate our conservation impact to engage the landholders and the wider community.

## Volunteers welcome

C4's range of activities mean that people interested in joining a community of conservation-minded people can choose from a variety of activities which are all essential to achieving our programs.

Our Environment Display provides the public face of C4 with merchandise (including one of the best environmental bookshops in the region) and interpretive information.

The Nursery provides thousands of local native rainforest plants each year for our revegetation programs and for sale to the public.

We have several revegetation and corridor repair projects on the go. These depend on volunteers for preparation, planting and maintenance.

Food preparation and delivery to birds at the Garkers Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Facility requires volunteers who are willing to undertake Department of Environment Science and the Arts induction to ensure correct procedures in working in the vicinity of cassowaries.

Many hands make light work and this affords involvement with a friendly group of dedicated people.

## Mission Beach Cassowary Festival

C4 and other conservation groups have displays and activities booked for the festival but some spaces are still available. See [www.cassowaryfestival.com](http://www.cassowaryfestival.com)

