



## Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation Inc.

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*President: Peter Rowles*

*Secretary: Peter Trott*

*Treasurer: Maurice Franklin*

### NEWSLETTER May 19, 2015

#### Important dates

Community Tree Planting at Lot 66, **SUNDAY MAY 24, 8.30AM** (That is this Sunday)

World Cassowary Day 2015, Saturday September 26, at C4, Mission Beach.

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## Bring an appetite, plant some trees

The rain has come (a little), and the soil is still warm.

This means that we have perfect conditions for planting trees, according to C4 president, Peter Rowles.

So come along to Lot 66 (near Mission Circle on Tully Mission Beach Road, Wongaling Beach), from 8.30am on Sunday and join us for a bit of tree planting and some bacon and eggs.

Our former president and now keeper of the treasury, Maurice Franklin, is working on the menu and will be stoking up the barbecue, on site, to ensure that planters can enjoy rebuilding the landscape and at the same time, share a congenial breakfast-brunch on the job.

The work is part of C4's program of transforming the former planned 41-lot development site into a nature refuge attractive to a conservation-minded

buyer who will maintain the integrity of the critical cassowary corridor which connects coastal lowland habitat to the Djiru National Park and has been identified as an essential link between the coast and the Atherton Tablelands.

A 10-year campaign by C4 to save "Garrett Corridor" from development was achieved last year when the money raised by C4 was boosted by Queensland Trust for Nature who enabled the purchase of the land.

Lot 66 is now for sale.

In keeping with the efforts of the many people who have donated time and money to securing the corridor, C4 has been coordinating a program of rehabilitation to replace weeds with native vegetation and ensure the corridor's future as a valuable wildlife habitat.

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## More consultation on Ulysses Link \$40,000 bridge plan

C4 has been advised that further public consultation will be held on the plan to build a bridge to create a short cut in the Ulysses Link walking track.

The \$40,000 plan has been opposed by C4, Mission Beach Business and Tourism, the Mission Beach Visual Amenity Reference Group.

In fact it is hard to find locals who support it, C4 president Peter Rowles said.

The plan involves cutting through recovering littoral rainforest between the C4 nursery and the beach to create a short cut instead of using the existing bridge between the Progress Hall

and the Visitor Information Centre.

It has been strenuously opposed by C4 since it was mooted in the Mission Beach Foreshore Management Plan.

But despite representations to councillors, the council voted 4-3 to go ahead with what C4 committee regards as an irresponsible waste of public money.

"The area is very fragile with deep beds of pumice lodged by past storm events," Peter said.

"Since Cyclone Yasi in 2011, the vegetation has started to come back to create a piece of littoral rainforest which is needed to protect the fore-

shore from further erosion.

"Access to construct the bridge will destroy part of this revegetation and the bridge and track will most likely need to be repaired and replaced every time there is a major storm event — and for what point?"

After Yasi, a gaping hole extended back 10m from the creek mouth as the tide surge undermined the pumice.

Peter urged everyone to let councillors know that there is widespread opposition to the bridge at a time when there is not enough money to undertake more urgently needed work in the region.

# WORLDWIDE PARTY FOR BIG BIRDS

Zoos from around the world which have cassowaries in their collections are linking with Wet Tropics-based organisers of the second annual World Cassowary Day on September 26.

The Saturday event will provide a mix of high-profile guests and experts with a range of environmental displays, food and entertainment in the park-like setting around C4's environmental centre at Mission Beach.

Terrain NRM will hold a threatened species forum as part of the event so that community groups, traditional owners, scientists, businesses and government can share knowledge and develop better solutions for the recovery of threatened Wet Tropics species.

Kuranda conservationist Paul Webster, who steered the event into being last year, said the inspiration was the fact that so few people in southern



Paul Webster, Peter Rowles and Tony O'Malley after the first planning meeting of World Cassowary Day 2015. - picture Yvonne Cunningham

Australia knew anything about cassowaries.

"We know cassowaries are on the brink," he said. "But we really hope that if more people know about them, the threat of extinction can be pushed back."

C4 president Peter Rowles said a World Cassowary Day 2015 group was developing the program which would include a presentation by a high profile conservation figure.

"We want it to be a catalyst for con-

certed action to save one of our most valuable creatures," he said.

Peter said the fruit-eating birds, whose numbers have plummeted since clearing for agriculture and housing began, are critical to the survival of many rainforest tree species with big seeds dispersed only by cassowaries.

As well as being a keystone ecological species, the Southern Cassowary is an important attraction for visitors to the region. Its impressive size (up to 2m), combined with its black plumage, blue and red neck and wattles and a distinctive 'horn' (casque) make the cassowary a memorable sight.

The Southern Cassowary's range in Australia is limited to the rainforests between Townsville and the Daintree, with Mission Beach being one of the most likely places for people to see a cassowary in the wild.

If you would like to help, please contact C4 on 07 40685362 or 0429 179152.



## Changing face of Lot 66

Guinea grass, dead trees and debris have been disappearing from the edges of Lot 66 thanks to the combined efforts of C4 members, Green Army and Break Thru workers, and contractors funded by grants secured by C4.

These pictures by Jeff Larson show (top) the work getting under way on the north-east corner.

The bottom picture shows the finished landscaping with grass cleared up to the edge of the existing forest. Most of the ground has now been replanted with native species from the C4 nursery.

Landscaping is also under way near the end of Mission Circle where a scaffold is being built to show prospective buyers the outlook from floor level of a house within the building envelope.

It is hoped the 25ha parcel will soon be sold as covenanted nature reserve and the funds which were invested in Lot 66 recycled for purchase of other critical cassowary corridor or habitat.