

17 days after Yasi

Hi All,

In Innisfail we know how lucky we have been to have escaped the full strength of TC Yasi. However, the damage to the rainforest around Innisfail is every bit as bad as it was after TC Larry.



The cassowaries can be heard vocalizing with deep threatening honks and when seen immediately display aggression by raising their feathers. The birds are starving. Dee Wilson briefly sighted a young male with two large chicks at almost subadult stage. This bird has not been recorded before and could have come from Etty Bay or may be a bird that has remained in the forest. The cassowaries were very timid and ran off as soon as they saw Dee. They have not been sighted again. If any good can come out of all this is that it will again give us an opportunity to get a good hold on the number of Cassowaries in the Wet Tropics Region. It would be interesting to compare them with the figures Dave Benda calculated after TC Winifred. I will certainly be able to do it for Coquette Point and numbers appear to be down by 40%; mainly due to the debacle by National Parks after TC Larry.



Pigs are a real problem. The neighbour across the road came home to three feral pigs outside his front door. They did not want to move. John Wilson had eight in his orchard and he managed to shoot two. One of them must have been from the lot that spend most nights digging up around the nursery. Their number has been reduced to four, the sour is missing. The whole place stinks of pig urine and poo.

Have you noticed the fan palms *Licuala ramsayii* is flowering, even in Canecutter Court in Innisfail. Induced flowering after a shock is a management tool used by horticulturists. Obviously observed in nature.

The CCRC are back working on the upgrade to the sewerage farm opposite the proposed Sea Haven development. One wonders how many tipper-trucks are in the shire as truck after truck full of fill is working on the sewerage upgrade. Everywhere else you look tipper-truck are removing cyclone debris from footpaths.

The terns, the metallic starlings and the nutmeg pigeons have left for northern waters. Without them the forest and beach is so quite. Even the drongos are not their normal, noisy selves and their tail feathers hang askew and bedraggled. A wompoo pigeon often sits on a bare, broken branch on the hill. I have not heard it make a sound since the cyclone. The Lorikeets squabble as they tackle the newly formed baby nuts high in the coconuts. There is nothing else for them to eat. Only the curlews and the scrub fowls have their normal voice.

Cheers for now

Yvonne C.