

19 Mar 2011

Hi all,

Did you see the man in the moon tonight? Bit hazy with a watery ring around it but at 15% larger than we normally see, what a sight! How great to see a full moon on this 1 in 20 close moon orbit. Last night the sky was completely clear let's hope we have a good view to-morrow night.



The hazy ring around the sun to-day portends of more wet weather to come; at least we can be thankful of a few fine days.

30 Black Cockatoos are raiding the rainforest at Flying Fish Point. They pop across the river and check out my trees for feed. So many to feed and so little to go around.



Adrian Hogg the Environmental Officer for Ella Bay visited me this week and told me the forest at Ella Bay is virtually undamaged. Yasi's wind came from the SW and NW and the Seymour Range protected Ella Bay from the wind. Apparently lots of food there and the cassowaries are all happy. This clearly demonstrates how important rainforest refugia areas, like Ella Bay in this instant, are to the long term survival of the Wet Tropics rainforest.

Dad 4 has started to break with the chicks and he leaves them behind in the nursery and they whistle for hours.



The two sub-adult cassowaries visit every day. Dad4 will not tolerate 'Little Runt' and it is quite exciting when he chases him, particularly if they decide to run through the nursery. However Dad 4 allows the other siblings 'Big Sis' to feed from the station and hang about in the vicinity. This seems to indicate that the larger of the siblings is a female.

The crocodile 'Charleen' that calls my beach home appears to have grown .5 of a metre in the last month; perhaps because of all the barramundi in the river. She was on the beach on Friday at the same time as Dad4 and the chicks. When I went down all that could be seen were the tracks.



Bill Farnsworth, who lives at the top of the range, was chased by Dad 1 and the two little chicks while he was on his morning walk this week. People at the top of the hill at Coquette Point are hand feeding the cassowaries because there is no feeding station there. The birds go door to door looking for food. Even the Telstra technician this week told me he gave the cassowaries his lunch.



The green ants are busy with their recovery from cyclone 'Yasi' and I counted six new nests on my trees.



Carien has got my March 'Growing' newsletter up on the web, <http://violets-and-lace-.com/> you may like to read the article on rainforest recovery, it is being reprinted by Terrain, C4 and the CCRC recovery team. Let's hope the message gets through this time and we do not see the burning and 'tidying up' of the rainforest that we saw after TC Larry.

Cheers Yvonne C.



Cassowary tracks on beach



Green guava & little else in scat

