

December 2018  
In the public interest  
*FREE*



Your community voice for an eco sustainable future



## *Welcome to the New Bulletin.*

As the year closes, so does the 30th anniversary of the Wet Tropics becoming World Heritage listed. Click on the image (below right) to read the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre's (CAFNEC) special edition of Ecotone packed full of stories of how the Rainforests of North Queensland became World Heritage listed and of the people who helped make it happen.

In this first issue we bid a final goodbye to Margaret Thorsborne AO who died on 16th October 2018 at the age of 95. Margaret's inspiring presence and gracious leadership in environmental advocacy closes another link in the unbroken chain of community conservation history beginning with E J Banfield's life on Dunk Island in the 1920's followed by John Busst's exceptional contribution to the listing of both the rainforests and the reef as World Heritage Areas and continues today with the efforts by community groups and individuals whose work to protect our wildlife and natural environment has established a strong sense of identity for our region.

The passion of our local communities is reflected in the visions outlined in plans and strategies developed to guide our future. The strong and consistent message over decades of community consultation has been to protect the natural environment and relaxed village character of Mission Beach yet the development/conservation conflicts are increasing. We can become complacent and take for granted living in such a beautiful place and not notice how even small changes can detract from the intrinsic values that are the core of our community identity. As more people move into the Cassowary Coast, and particularly Mission Beach, each change that reduces the natural environment and allows buildings to dominate the landscape, lowers the bar on the so called **'balance' between environmental protection and development. The incremental loss (a death by a thousand cuts) continually changes the point from which the 'balance' is gauged. At what point in time is the balance taken from?**

**Our local government has taken a new broom approach to a fiercely proactive 'economic activation' agenda, in many ways starkly contrasting with community vision. Developments are being approved that conflict with the intent of State regional planning for the Cassowary Coast which was developed with extensive public consultation. Commercial development is being placed in residential areas, building heights and footprints grossly exceed codes, development is being allowed in 'at risk' flood, foreshore erosion and acid sulphate locations. Good quality Agricultural land is being placed under housing and public assets such as caravan parks are being released to private enterprise. The ad hoc approach with 'economic benefit' taking precedence over planning guidelines, is ignoring public concerns, and threatening our natural and cultural values.**

Tourism, particularly at Mission Beach is being targeted as the main economic driver. So what kind of tourism is right for the Cassowary Coast? Plans and strategies such as the Tourism strategy and the Mission Beach strategic Master Plan are opportunities to reinforce community sense of place and identity and set in place guidelines to ensure an ecologically sustainable future. We take a look at the recently written draft [Cassowary Coast Tourism Strategy](#) to see how it stacks up against community vision and the growing global awareness of the need for governments and tourism industry leaders to take responsibility for the impacts tourism can have on the social and environmental fabric of places targeted as tourism destinations; and how changes can be made to achieve meaningful sustainable tourism. (Pages 7 and 8). We are also anxious to see what approach has been taken with the draft Mission Beach Master Plan which is due for completion early Dec. [LA3 architects](#) who specialise in urban and city design scapes were engaged for the Cardwell foreshore redevelopment. We hope the architects understand the importance of developing within world heritage environments. It is very important the community takes an interest in this project at every step to ensure it fully reflects their vision and **low key 'natural' character. of our village.**

We shine a spotlight on the challenges facing communities as governments have adjusted legislation and the assessment processes excluding the public from being consulted and avoiding environmental impact studies to facilitate development that **always** results in **a net loss to environments already under immense pressure. (Page 18)** The Queensland Government's invitation to the tourism industry to not only allow private development of National Parks but provide public funds for base infrastructure has ignited local community outrage and brings attention to the **Palaszczuk Government's broken election promises to fully reinstate the environmental laws** the Campbell Newman government slashed during his time in office. See Page 6 for a link to action you can take to help protect Hinchinbrook Island (and all our National Parks) from private development.

Congratulations to the new group Cassowary Coast Sustainability (CCS) for their initiative to work toward a sustainable future. If you are contributing in some way, no matter how small, to help achieve an ecologically sustainable future, CCS would love to hear from you (contact details on Page 4) and so would we. Should you wish to have an article considered for inclusion in the New Bulletin please email [missionbeachbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:missionbeachbulletin@gmail.com)

We wish you a very happy festive season. Please enjoy [this visual celebration](#) of our regions spectacular landscapes and wildlife that was put together at the end of 2012. In 6 years we have witnessed the resilience of our environments to regenerate through natural processes but it is only our collective voice that will ensure it continues to thrive and is protected in perpetuity.

Liz Gallie  
On behalf of the Cassowary Coast Alliance







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AO 1927-2018 6



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**DON'T ROCK OUR**  
**COMMUNITY 18-19**

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## YOUR VOICE OUR FUTURE

*Ensure plans and strategies reflect community values*



## MISSION BEACH — NATURALLY

# Group aspires to a sustainable future



Brian Puckey with organically grown produce from his own Bingil Bay Exotics business.

Cassowary Coast Sustainability (CCS) is a new community group that has been put together by Brian Puckey and other community members.

The initial objective of CCS is to combine and share ideas about creating a more sustainable community in Mission Beach and the Cassowary Coast region.

The first meeting was held on wed 7<sup>th</sup> of Nov with a number of community members bringing their ideas to the table. A community garden was agreed to be one of the first projects to undertake, an opportunity for people to experience growing their own food and meet and share ideas with others. The location for the garden is yet to be confirmed, although it will be in the Bingil Bay area.

The group also agreed to make available recycling drop off spots in the Mission Beach area. This is a fund raising incentive, as CCS will transport the recycling to the centre in Tully and cash them in. The funds will go towards community projects.



Other ideas shared were living off grid, community barter system, unified alliance to ask our council to be more community minded. Anyone interested in being involved in these initial projects, if you have other sustainability ideas the community could be involved in or if you just want come along and see what the group is about, you are welcome to attend the next meeting which will be held at Ninney Rise, Bingil Bay at 6.30, 5th December.

CCS will also gratefully receive donations of equipment, materials etc. that could be used for community projects. If you would like to donate you can contact us via [CCS facebook page](#) or via [email brian\\_puckey@gmail.com](mailto:brian_puckey@gmail.com) to arrange collection.



Penny Bell





# MISSION BEACH WILDCARE INC.

## New turtle rehabilitation facility for Mission

After being involved with Marine Strandings for the last few years and our dedication to rescuing and rehabilitating all walks of wildlife, the idea of setting up a facility in Mission Beach came to fruition.

After consultation and guidance with our friend and mentor [Jennie Gilbert](#) at [Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre](#), other members including Paul who is the technical wiz, it has now become a reality.

This brings us to the next part of the story. On Thursday 22/11 we received a call as their had been a turtle found floating by a couple of guys fishing between Normanby Island and Flora Reef. Jeremy Edwards and Brad Green found "Niki" the adult Flatback turtle in trouble being circled by predators in the form of small sharks and what else would you do, time to rescue.

Made a call to 1300animal(1300264625) and spent the next twenty five minutes to board a 70kg turtle on to the boat, no easy feat! After loading her into the car we arranged to meet and brought her back to the facility where she is resting in the smaller tank for now with Floater Syndrome. Yes plastics digested from the sea causing an obstruction, pleased to report as of this post has already passed two pieces of thick orange plastic. Enough for now will post some footage of her later but hopefully a good outcome will be achieved.

There is a cost involved with raising our wildlife and anyone who would like to contribute anything no matter how small, Mission Beach Wildcare Inc. has an account at Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Account Number 134896778 and a donate button on the Wildcare page, have already had generous people donating recyclables to raise funds.



Would like to thank Graham Walton and [Ashleigh Walton](#) from Silkwood Post Office for providing us with the large tank and Dan from Mission Beach Generator Hire for letting us use his trailer to bring it back, that was a fun trip! Peter Vlieg did an awesome job cutting the tank and giving us a hand getting it around the back, he and [Lisa Vlieg](#) long term commitment to our marine life is appreciated. Along with some fencing panels donated by [Rae Young](#), Bunnings Innisfail donated two hundred dollars towards fencing Mission Beach Wildcare Inc. funds and our own money and time viola!



Finally there is a very generous person who also had something to do with this, [David Williams](#) our good friend who we all know as "Turtle" from [Turtles Pool and Spa Technologies](#) was called to see if he wanted to be involved as with a name like that who else would we call.



Probably forgot to mention a whole heap of info but will catch up in our next update.

Oh and Turtle nesting season is upon us and we would like to record nesting locations in the area so please contact us on 0439687272, thanks!

Steve and Sharon McGuinness

# Vale Margaret Thorsborne (1927-2018)

– a humble lady who made the world a better place.

With the passing of Margaret Thorsborne we mourn the loss of one of Queensland's most revered and beloved champions of our wildlife and natural heritage.

Seeing herself as a “protector not a protestor”, Margaret Grace Thorsborne was tireless in her defence of all wildlife species and their habitats, particularly those most vulnerable to human pressures.

Margaret was imbued by her parents – both veterans of the First World War – with a great compassion for others, respect for life in all its forms, and a deep love of nature with which came an immense sense of responsibility.

Her marriage to schoolteacher Arthur Thorsborne in 1963 created the enduring partnership that was to become famous in conservation circles.

In 1965, inspired by such figures as artist and conservationist Kathleen McArthur and naturalist David Fleay, Margaret and Arthur became active members of the newly-formed Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.



In 1964, the couple made their first visit to North Queensland to camp on Hinchinbrook Island and were the first to bring to attention the plight of the Pied (Torresian) Imperial-Pigeons being shot out of existence at their breeding colony on North Brook Island. This began what has become one of the world's longest-running wildlife population surveys, the remarkable story of which is told in the 2015 documentary The Coming of the White Birds.

It was not until after Arthur's death in 1991 that Margaret faced her greatest challenge in resisting the threats posed to her beloved island, its waters and wildlife by the Port Hinchinbrook marina/ resort development. Her courage, determination, resourcefulness and resilience were simply outstanding while her gentle smile and unfailing courtesy concealed a steely resolve.

Margaret continued to work unceasingly for threatened species and habitat and, in 2001, became Wildlife Queensland's patron, successor to the Society's founder, Judith Wright. Margaret's extensive and dedicated efforts brought numerous awards culminating, in 2011, in her investiture as an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Throughout her life Margaret displayed moral and physical courage, unflinching resolve and remarkable generosity and hospitality. Her advocacy was always honest, courteous and meticulously researched. She was respected by governments, decision-makers and the media, and constantly engaged with the community, its organisations and Indigenous people, working as a self-effacing team member and imparting her message with patience and understanding. Her talents as a writer and artist conveyed the conservation message far and wide.

*“Sometimes there is no need for us to visit wild places – just knowing they exist is all that matters”.*

Margaret Thorsborne AO

There are so many ways we can reflect on Margaret's life: by looking above and watching her adored, magnificent, migratory pigeons now returning to healthy numbers; walking along the seashore of Edmund Kennedy National Park; visiting the ancient forests of the Daintree; or camping under the giant, arching limbs of a Beach Calophyllum tree on Hinchinbrook Island – all of which she had a part to play in protecting.

Her favourite saying was, “sometimes there is no need for us to visit wild places—just knowing they exist is all that matters”.

By Liz Downes and Steven Nowakowski



Conservationists are calling for a reversal of the changes Newman made to the Conservation Act to reinstate protection of our National Parks including the planned development of the Thorsborne Trail on Hinchinbrook Island. If you would like to help you can sign the petition and/or send a letter to the minister. For more information see next page and [www.hinchinbrook.com](http://www.hinchinbrook.com)



# 110 YEARS OF QUEENSLAND NATIONAL PARKS SOLD OUT BY GODFREY AND JONES

The only way to protect Hinchinbrook Island and ALL national parks is for the Palaszczuk Government to REVERSE the Newman amendments to the Nature Conservation Act.

That is EXACTLY WHAT THEY PROMISED when they were in opposition – **AND DIDN'T DO.**

“ As the Shadow Minister for National Parks I expressed Queensland Labor's opposition to these regressive changes to protected area management. I believe there is a real danger in broadening the object of the act to include other purposes, particularly through the introduction of a 'commercial use' clause. The current object is powerful in its simplicity and these changes are in effect a disavowal of the act's original intent.

The amendments to the protected area tenure system are also highly concerning and threaten to weaken existing protections within our national parks and other areas managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. I made clear during debate on the bill that Labor would repeal these changes as soon as we return to government.



HERE IS THE MOST RECENT (2017) PRE-ELECTION PROMISE MADE BY THE LABOR PARTY:

5.40 Labor will ensure that National Parks and the protected area estate is managed in accordance with the Cardinal Principle.

5.41 Labor supports the use of National Parks for appropriate and ecologically sensitive activities. To avoid adverse impacts, Labor will ensure that intensive development required to support the appropriate and ecologically sensitive use of National Parks is located outside of the boundary of protected areas.

5.42 Labor will ensure that development and other types of activities within National Parks and the protected area estate are managed in accordance with the Cardinal Principle.

5.43 Labor will continue to ensure the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is adequately resourced to enable National Parks and the protected area estate to be properly managed.

5.44 Labor will ensure that comprehensive scientific management plans are established for all National Parks and the protected area estate (including Marine Parks).

## AND THEY DIDN'T HONOUR IT

There is NOTHING we can do to protect Hinchinbrook Island, unless the Palaszczuk government honours this pre-election commitment.



Old Government appointed  
CEO Tourism Queensland  
Brett Godfrey



Tourism Minister Hon Kate Jones

The incoming Labor Government 2014 (Environment Minister Miles) thought they'd fool the conservation movement by re-amending only the Object Clause of the *Nature Conservation Act*, leaving in the Act the other Newman amendments that allow virtually any activity in a national park.

This month we've heard the ambitious and innovating Kate Jones crowing on ABC TV - "*the Nature Conservation Act allows it!*" – showing her determination to dishonour the Labor Party promises, the Labor Party itself, and the Cardinal Principle of national park management.

Margaret Moorhouse  
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For more information see [www.hinchinbrook.com](http://www.hinchinbrook.com)



Black shoes – "Former rivals Geoff Dixon and Brett Godfrey partner in walking tourism venture" [AFReview](http://AFReview.com) 24 Nov 2016

# Nature Refuge protects Lot 66



MISSION BEACH conservationists celebrated recently as a long-running campaign to save a critical patch of cassowary habitat culminated in a new nature refuge.



Community members gathered for the unveiling of a nature refuge sign on Tuesday at Lot 66 - a section of remnant rainforest which grabbed national headlines 10 years ago when former Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett pre-empted state and local government decision-making processes to rule out plans for a subdivision.

Queensland Trust for Nature's Tanya Pritchard said the recent change in tenure to a nature refuge meant the Mission Beach community's campaign to protect the 24ha site was now complete. "It's great to see Lot 66 join the 500 other nature refuges that have been gazetted in Queensland," she said.

C4 president Peter Rowles said ongoing protection on strategic private land was critical to connecting large areas of publicly **owned habitat**. He said Lot 66, also known as Garrett's Corridor gave cassowaries access to seasonal coastal food supplies.

Mission Beach Cassowaries' Liz Gallie, a major player in the campaign to save the land, paid tribute to decades of community commitment and cassowary focused partnerships. She said other important cassowary corridors at Mission Beach also needed protection.

Terrain NRM's Tony O'Malley said Lot 66 was a critical link in the longest and widest east-west rainforest corridor in Australia, a stretch of land along Walter Hill Range from Mission Beach to Ravenshoe. Terrain commissioned a report that identified cassowary corridors at Mission Beach and contributed to Mr Garrett protecting Lot 66 from residential subdivision, and helped with the partnership between Queensland Trust for Nature and C4. "These groups have made an amazing contribution to the Cassowary Coast environmental landscape," Mr O'Malley said

**QTFN's TANYA PRITCHARD said. "We encourage governments** to consider rates discounts for landowners with nature refuge agreements, as Douglas Shire does." Ms Pritchard called on landholders interested in conserving important habitats on their land to contact the Queensland Trust for Nature.

Terrain NRM

[Read the full Lot 66 story here](#)



Picture: Tanya Pritchard. Members of C4, Queensland Trust for Nature, Mission Beach Cassowaries, Terrain NRM, Department of Environment and Science, Cassowary Coast Regional Council and Djiru celebrating lot 66's new nature refuge status.





# Friends of Ninney Rise

Friends of Ninney Rise (FoNR) is into the 4th year of a 5 year lease on Ninney Rise owned by the Dept of Qld Parks and Wildlife. Over the last four years FoNR has been maintaining the property and steadily working toward the long term aim of opening the property for public use presenting the history of the heritage listed home of John and Ali Büss. FoNR has raised funds and secured grants to firstly develop a Conservation Plan outlining the projects needed to bring the property up to the required standard and return it to the heritage of the Büss era. A detailed fabric study was the first project completed which has identified critical projects for repair and protection of Ninney Rise. A vegetation audit and Colour Study have also been completed.

Since managing the property, the 'Friends' have held open days, conferences and celebrations such as the [50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#) to save Ellison Reef held last year which attracted a number of high profile scientists, conservationists and tourism representatives.



John Büss painting Courtesy Karen Schmidt

Ninney Rise is available for meetings and small scale conferences for a modest fee and has also been used for meetings by Government agencies and other groups whose particular interests include environmental science, history or creative endeavours

Ninney Rise and art are synonymous, John Büss was a recognised

artist, with many of his paintings in private collections; we are most grateful to have three of his paintings now hanging in Ninney Rise generous donations by Virginia Edlington, Karen Schmidt and Margaret Thorsborne. The verandahs of Ninney Rise have also provided space for art projects such as the Cassowary sculptures made to welcome the Commonwealth Games Baton Relay to Mission Beach and again for the Cassowary Festival. Mission Arts have also held life drawing classes in the house and verandahs.



Cr Wayne Kimberley unveils the new interpretive sign for the John Büss Memorial plaque

In 2016 we were given a wonderful collection of photographs of Ninney Rise et al, originally belonging to Ali Büss and bequeathed to Virginia Edlington, a niece by marriage. Virginia sent an amazing box of treasures to FoNR which has given us a much greater insight into the Büss' life both at Bingil Bay and earlier when they lived on Bedarra Island. The collection, named the [Virginia Edlington Collection](#), which can be viewed on [our website](#), included a full set of slides showing the construction of Ninney Rise from ground up. They have been an invaluable reference for the architects and professionals who have been involved in the various Management Plan projects.



FoNR Secretary Sandal Hayes with ABC cameraman

We encourage anyone who has any memory or stories of the John and Ali Büss era to please check out the photos to see if you recognise anyone or contact us through the website forms or email [friendsofninneyrise@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofninneyrise@gmail.com). We would love to hear your stories or recollections.

Ninney Rise is proud to house the Margaret Thorsborne library, which she donated to FoNR in 2016. It is a library of great importance, with many unique and rare books, which will be of much interest when Ninney Rise can be accessed by visitors in the future. In 2016 was proud to have won the Cassowary Coast Australia Day Senior Conservation Award. We have raised awareness of the enormous role the Büsss played in the protection of the North Queensland rainforests and World Heritage listing of the Great Barrier Reef in responding to media enquiries and gaining TV coverage on Queensland Weekender, ABC, and on the Ernie Dingo series Going there. The most recent interest has been from the Film Production company who produce Grand Designs Australia who filmed Ninney Rise and the John Büss plaque for their new series 'From City to Country'.

There is now a interpretive sign at the Bingil Bay camp ground outlining the history of the plaque dedicated to John Büss which is set into the rocks on Ninney Point.

We would like to acknowledge with thanks the moral and financial support we have received from QPWS and hope to complete the repair (some of them urgent) needed to meet contemporary standards during 2019. Once this is completed and an Interpretive Plan set in place for showcasing Ninney Rise we will finally be open to all.

Sandal Hayes, Secretary, FoNR



The new interpretive sign for the John Büss Memorial plaque at Bingil Bay campground

# Wildlife Crossings – do they really work?

Kennedy, far north Queensland 2018

In many places across Australia and around the world people are asking the same question – Do wildlife crossings really work or are they a waste of money?

It is a very important question when there is limited money available to spend we need to be sure that the dollars are well spent on projects that will really make a difference.

In the far north tropics we have been working on installing glider poles to assist an endangered gliding possum. The tall poles are installed on either side of the gaps created by roads and highways. The poles mimic the height of tall trees that would have provided a safe launch and landing platform for the endangered mahogany glider and other gliding possums that share this habitat.



**The mahogany glider is listed as endangered and is one of Australia's most threatened mammals with only 1500-2000 animals estimated to remain in the wild.**

Mahogany gliders are only found in a narrow strip of tropical coastal Eucalypt and Melaleuca woodland from Hull River near Tully south to Ollera Creek (approximately 40 km south of Ingham), in North Queensland. They are about four times the size of their better known and more common cousin the sugar glider. Mahogany gliders do not live in rainforest and have not been found above 120m elevation. This makes the open coastal woodland essential for their survival.

One of the major threatening processes for this species is the fragmentation of its remaining habitat and part of this fragmentation is caused by roads, highways, powerlines and railways. *Glide poles really can assist gliders in safely crossing these gaps.*

Wildlife Queensland, with assistance from Ergon Energy and funded by public donations has installed glider poles on Kennedy Creek Road at Kennedy. The first two 22m high poles were installed in mid-November 2016. Remote cameras on top of the poles monitor movement, and use the 3G mobile network to download images to a base managed by volunteers. Kennedy State School students have also taken part in the project throughout 2016-18.

The first glider image appeared on the cameras on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, less than a month after installation. The first image was of a sugar glider. Then on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2016, the first mahogany glider, a female, appeared on the crossing, with a male a few nights later. Images of mahogany gliders using the crossing have been regularly captured throughout 2017 – 2018, providing proof of regular use of this crossing.

Volunteers have been amazed at how quickly the gliders appeared on the crossing and thrilled to see them using the crossing on a regular



basis. A second smaller crossing was installed on HQ plantation over Christmas 2017, again with the great assistance of the Ergon Energy Tully crew. This crossing is within a second project funded by a 3 year, **Qld government "Everyone's Environment" grant that has funded the restoration of the Bairds Creek- Glenbora Mahogany Glider Corridor to link the Kennedy Creek pole crossing and Whitfield Creek to habitat to the south.** Images collected verify mahogany glider on the poles in Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 only one month after installation – an amazing result!

None of these local projects could be completed without the help of dedicated volunteers, donations and partnerships between local communities, graziers, Wildlife Qld, Girringun Rangers, HQ plantations, CCRC, Terrain, DMR, students at Kennedy State School and Energy QLD. It is also good to recognise that these projects assist our communities by providing contract employment to locals and where at all possible project materials are purchased locally.



So the answer to the question of whether the wildlife pole crossings work is YES! - wildlife crossings do work and around Australia images are now available to show that both rope bridges and glider poles can assist in the movement of some of Australia's most endangered animals.

Daryl Dickson - Wildlife Qld - Cassowary Coast – Hinchinbrook Branch





The Wet Tropics region is recognised as a global biodiversity hotspot and while 894,420 hectares are protected as Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WHA), a significant amount of land with high biodiversity value is privately owned. For example, 32% of mesophyll rainforests, 46% of palm leaf rainforests, 62% of eucalypt forests and woodlands, and 72% of melaleuca forests and woodlands in the Wet Tropics bioregion occur outside protected areas. Therefore, partnerships are vital.

Improving the condition and connectivity of our ecosystems to protect our region's biodiversity is a central goal of the **Wet Tropics Plan for People & Country** (our region's plan for the management of our natural resources) [www.wettropicsplan.org.au/Regional-Themes/Biodiversity](http://www.wettropicsplan.org.au/Regional-Themes/Biodiversity). This plan guides the projects taking place in our region to build healthier landscapes and helps to inform where to focus our efforts.

**As well as conserving existing habitat, it's important to re-establish and expand habitat into agreed priority areas to help reverse the decline in the total area of Wet Tropics habitat and to benefit the many species that need habitat for survival and recovery.**

Buffering and improving connectivity between the WHAs can benefit threatened, iconic and other species such as cassowary, mahogany glider and tree kangaroo that have become symbols for the need to reverse forest fragmentation. Some threatened species recovery teams have identified priority corridors to revegetate. For cassowary, these include Smiths Gap, Kurrimine-Bingil, Eubenangee and Crater Lakes. For mahogany glider, different corridors have been identified because of their woodland habitat requirements.

Terrain NRM and partners are working with many private landholders to voluntarily establish connectivity corridors across many parcels of land between WHAs, for example Walter Hill Range. Willing private landholders contribute not only their land but a wealth of knowledge and practical solutions.

The recently completed National Landcare Program Phase 1 achieved an improvement in the extent, condition and connectivity of more than 900 hectares of mahogany glider, cassowary and Mabi forest habitat and corridors.

Work is also being done to identify priority areas for revegetation for a broad range of biodiversity and other outcomes, incorporating considerations of climate change. Climate change scientists support increased habitat and connectivity as part of the solution to climate

change impacts. Insights into climate refugia areas in the landscape help us plan where to invest in building landscape connectivity.

**Additional activities to help deliver our region's goals to protect our unique biodiversity include the following:**

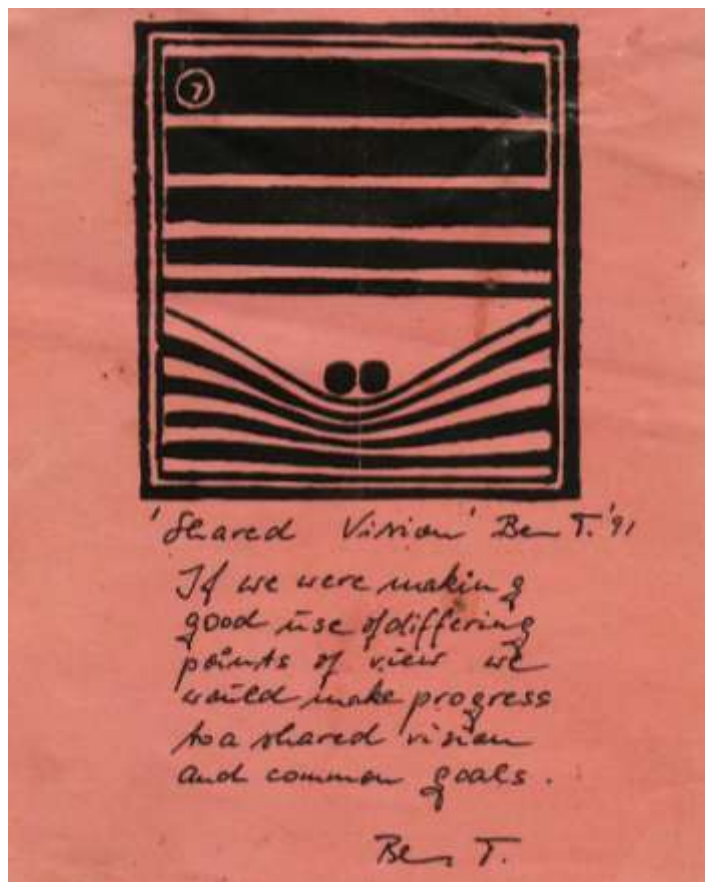
- ◆ providing input to policy development such as Australia's Strategy for Nature 2018-2030 and the current faunal extinction crisis Senate inquiry
- ◆ developing tools to accurately map threatened species and ecological communities' habitats and corridors
- ◆ assisting local governments with their biodiversity strategies, e.g. incorporating threatened species maps and provisions into planning schemes
- ◆ supporting threatened species recovery team members to implement their projects
- ◆ listing of the cassowary and mahogany glider as Australian Government priority species
- ◆ attracting funding into the region for on-ground work
- ◆ promoting on-going incentives for voluntary protection of habitat on private land.

Landscapes are a combination of natural and human-made environments and the interactions of nature and people over time. The ecosystems of the region have evolved over thousands of years through active Aboriginal interaction with the land, water and sea. Landscapes help to define identity and provide a sense of place and a context for **people's** lives and livelihoods. Building social and community connectivity will help maintain and improve ecological connectivity across the landscape. Group activities such as tree-planting can help develop relationships between diverse community interests founded on building a healthier landscape. Terrain acknowledges the work by Traditional Owners, community, industry, government and science in conserving the **region's biodiversity**.

*Terrain NRM is an independent not-for-profit organisation that works with the Wet Tropics to promote sustainable use of land and waterways, and protect environmental values.*

# SHARED VISION

In 1990, the constant pressure on Crown Land at Mission Beach, all of which is now mapped as essential cassowary habitat, was the impetus for a group of twelve locals to get together to form Mission Beach's first incorporated conservation group, the Movement For Responsible Coastal Development (MRCD).



MRCD held its first general meeting on 26th June 1990. Known locally as 'The Movement' the group continued its activities until June 1994 when it combined with the original C4 (Community Cassowary Consultative Committee) to form the current C4 (Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation).

During 1992, the original C4 became actively involved in the review of the town planning scheme. The review was bought about partly by the influence of C4 and the resulting Planning Scheme won an [ICLEI award](#). ICLEI was founded in 1990 as the 'International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' and is the world's leading association of cities and local governments dedicated to sustainable development.

*If we were making good use of differing points of view we would make progress to a shared vision and common goals.* Ben T

The Johnstone Shire Council (in collaboration with the Cardwell Shire Council) won the award for developing a planning scheme that had a strong focus on protection of an endangered species—the cassowary.

The Planning scheme established four main cassowary corridors within the Mission Beach area one of which is now secured in perpetuity with the placing of a nature refuge over [Lot 66](#).

In 1993 C4 set up an interpretive display in a small shop in the heart of Mission Beach village. The potential to teach, not only locals but the many visitors who came to Mission Beach, through the display, quickly became obvious.

The then Johnstone Shire Council initiated discussions with the Lands Department and Education Department to secure the empty school buildings left when a new school was established at Wongaling Beach. The land of the former school, was to be sold and C4 was offered the opportunity to move two of the buildings across the road to a beach front reserve which was formerly used as the school sports ground.

C4 sought the co-operation of the local tourism organisation and put in a joint submission to relocate the buildings to the site where the C4 environment centre and the visitor centre are now established.

The vision was for tourism and conservation to work together with a shared purpose.

Adapted from 'History of C4' by Jessica Federici

## Norm Burns Arboretum Ross Overton Park



What makes Mission Beach so special is it's diversity of landscapes supporting a very high diversity of species contained in a very small area and the cassowary's important role as a seed disperser.

Part of establishing the visitor centres was the planting of an arboretum to showcase the range of plants from the different vegetation types found at Mission Beach. Norm Burns, a botanist from the Northern Territory, dedicated his retirement to both planting the arboretum and running the native plant nursery used by C4 to revegetate and strengthen cassowary habitat corridors across the severely fragmented local landscape.

Named after Norm, the arboretum is also called the 'Ross Overton Park' in recognition of the then Chairperson of the Johnstone Shire Council's role in facilitating the allocation of the reserve for these community purposes.

As the trees have matured it has created a wonderful parkland, a quiet place of contemplation that adds significantly to the small waterway habitat corridor connecting two rare types of rainforest right down to the shore on basalt soil.



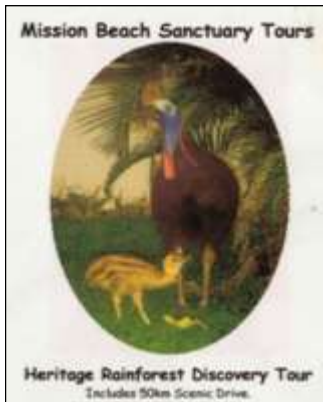
The corridor is recognised by the Federal Government as a 'matter of national environmental significance'.

Maintaining the nursery continues to be a core C4 activity propagating plants for ongoing revegetation projects. For more information on native plants or contacting C4 please see page 14.



# Mission Beach - a Sanctuary

In 1997, ahead of their time, C4 started the first eco tourism tours for Mission Beach. The 'Mission Beach Sanctuary Tours' were advertised in peak birding and conservation magazines with the intent of establishing Mission Beach as a premier eco sustainable tourism destination based on protection of the unique natural (World Heritage) and cultural values.



Twenty years later we see the Daintree rainforests internationally recognised as a unique eco tourism destination. Mission Beach has equally and unique natural attributes with an outstanding diversity of landscapes supporting an exceptional diversity of species, yet the tourism industry has not acknowledged its rightful niche in the market. Feedback from national and international travellers is also not being reflected in the destination marketing of Mission Beach.

In 2016, The Mission Beach Cassowaries group was awarded a grant by Terrain NRM and worked with tourism and other community stakeholders to produce a booklet with the branding '[Mission Beach Naturally](#)'.

The booklet, highlighting our points of difference, has been embraced by the community and endorsed by tourism leaders and the cassowary Coast Council. The message contained in the branding is not new, it outlines what is special about Mission Beach reinforcing the community's decades strong sense of identity with the natural environment and village character.

Local tourism bodies led by vested interests and our local council are opting for mass adventure tourism over appreciation and presentation of the world heritage environments of the Cassowary Coast. Community wishes are being ignored along with international warnings of the impacts mass tourism can have on sensitive natural environments.

One such warning was issued at a [Debate on "High-value, Low-impact Tourism" PATA event in Bhutan](#). *"The industrial model on which tourism is based is collapsing"... "Achieving higher yields and making less negative impact requires a shift in the operating model of tourism."*

So why is the community being ignored? The Tourism model being suggested will destroy the very thing that draws visitors to our area and that locals love about Mission Beach

We ask TCT and Cassowary Coast Council to please take another look at their tourism strategy and make the necessary changes to bring it in line with the 'High value, Low impact' trend international tourism is embracing and the consistent message received by the community.

Liz Gallie



## HELTER SHELTER DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS



No one knows how this shelter got to be placed right there. All we know is it's intrusive. It doesn't 'belong'.

The planning department didn't know.

"Everyone except you thinks its great" said our local representative.

The club's boss said it wasn't their decision. "Use it as an example of badly placed infrastructure compromising the high scenic value and sensitive environment". He said

The Environment officer said it wasn't his decision.

Signed off by someone acting in the back room?

The 'Skinny dipper' said there was broad community consultation and it's not considered an obstruction to the amenity of the area. "You should rely less on Social Media for advice as it and its aficionados are most inclined to offer gossip and innuendo that might be better characterised as fake news". he said

"Stop your whinging" said the little man at the market.

No longer able to enjoy that snapshot of natural beauty, silhouettes of people dwarfed by the shady green dune with that impossibly blue beyond.

No longer uninterrupted glimpses of the iconic island filtered through rainforest before it emerges proud within the dreamy ocean world and wide expanse of sand.

No longer, that short walk, imagining being the only one in this paradise.

No longer undeveloped  
No longer a photo opportunity

Management plans ignored  
Scenic amenity, landscape character - gone.  
Sense of place - gone

Natural, wilderness amenity stolen by the intruder.  
With its sharp hard lines.

Aesthetics? What's that?

This ad hoc approach  
This incremental loss  
This...just another cut.  
Till the magic is gone

Stop your whinging!

Liz Gallie 2019



# Cassowary Coast Region Tourism Strategy

## How does it stack up?

**Sustainable tourism/development** i.e how to balance a strong economy for our community without compromising the natural and cultural values that attract visitors is our biggest challenge.

It is a challenge being talked about globally. (See page 13). The Cassowary Coast has the opportunity to get it right but only if plans and strategies take **"...full account of current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities"**

Lets take a look at how the TCT and CCRC are approaching addressing sustainable tourism in the recently completed draft Tourism Strategy.

The CC Tourism Strategy lacks an Indigenous voice – the word **"indigenous"** only appears three times in the entire document and there is no acknowledgement at all that the Cassowary Coast is indigenous land.

The TCT Tourism strategy document lacks the community voice, its history and stories – it is industry only focused and given to **"tourism speak"**. The strategy should include the facts that there are community stories, history of artists and the islands, indigenous peoples, conservationists and farmers.

The 'What Makes Our Place Special' workshop held at Mission Beach hosted by Peter Kenyan and attended by many residents from every facet of our community, found that **"Cassowaries and environment are high priorities when it comes to Mission Beach tourism"**.

The CCRC Planning Scheme recognises the cassowary as an **"...iconic symbol of the Region...is extremely important...ensuring that conditions exist for its survival...reducing/minimising conflicts with urban development and associated impacts such as traffic."** The most asked question at the Mission Beach visitor centre is "Where can I see a cassowary?"

Yet the cassowary is only mentioned once in the entire document.

"The Birthplace of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park" is the catch phrase used by Mission Beach Tourism to attract visitors. [Ninney Rise](#) (Bingil Bay) is the place where the community met to save the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, yet the Strategy lacks any reference to the strong community sense of identity with this unique connection with the GBRMP or its associated history through Ninney Rise.



Contrary to the State Planning vision for Mission Beach, in the Strategy, the 2 storey height limit is seen as an impediment to the future instead of a mechanism to protect the special character and the natural and cultural values.

Various statements in the document show a great lack of understanding of what it means for Cassowary Coast residents to live and work across the edges of two World Heritage Areas.

The draft Plan is in blatant conflict with the recognised international values of the World Heritage Areas, with the Queensland Government's regional planning vision and the current CCRC Planning Scheme.

The TCT Strategy document lacks any indication of the strength of community identity that has been reinforced in the visions contained in decades of planning documents developed through extensive engagement with our community and relevant stakeholders. (See comments on Master Plan page 11)



The [Mission Beach Naturally](#) branding, adopted by Mission Beach Tourism as a byline in their marketing strategy and supported by tourism and industry groups and leaders including the CCRC, identifies our points of difference and our distinctive natural and cultural environment.

Instead of building on these obvious and unique attributes, the tourism model now presented is one that is in direct conflict with preserving the assets of the Cassowary Coast and particularly Mission Beach. The Tourism model in the strategy aspires towards the crowded multi-storey feel of Port Douglas instead of the laid-back slow-down feel of our villages.

China is singled out several times in this document. The TCT strategy appears to have been beguiled by the thought of thousands of well-heeled Chinese tourists coming on super yachts and cruise boats using what is now being termed the *Clump Point Marine Harbour* to access the wider Cassowary Coast region.

This is not the demographic identified in the National Landscapes Program (NLP) and is not a demographic attuned to 'slow' or nature tourism.



The current economic model being adopted by the Cassowary Coast Regional Council centres on Mission Beach as tourism's 'Jewel in the Crown' and focuses on 'Adventure tourism' with no management plan for impacts on the natural environment. The communities are largely being left out of the decision making which is being approached in an ad hoc manner, is vested interest driven and ignores local and regional planning schemes.

The TCT Strategy lacks management plans for the impacts of tourism activities on the sensitive land and sea environments being targeted for tourism expansion.

It is imperative that effective development of environmental management strategies be included in local plans and strategies particularly for nature-based and adventure tourism activities. Tourism operators are crucial to the implementation of environmental management strategies.

(See more about Sustainable Tourism page 14)

**“Local communities must have a right to participate in tourism decision-making”**

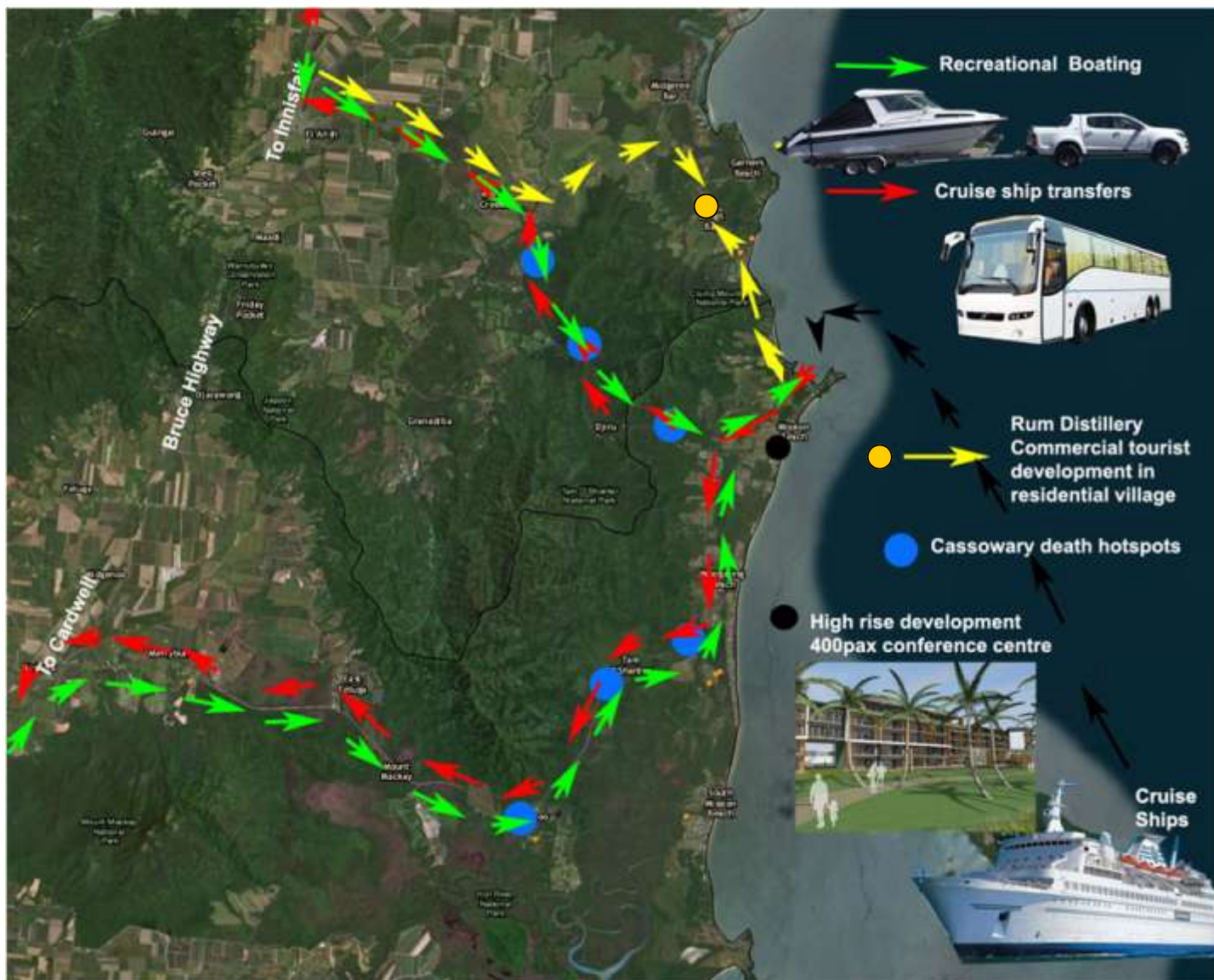
The vision outlined in the Strategy is a sharp deviation from the consistent community vision reflected in the countless past and present plans and strategies.

This article is based on a letter the Cassowary Coast Alliance sent to TCT and the CCRC requesting an extension of time for the community to provide input to this important document.

The comment period is now open until COB 7th December 2018.

We strongly encourage the community to read the Strategy and take time to write to the council. CCA has provided more information on their website to help you make informed comments.

Liz Gallie  
on behalf of the Cassowary Coast Alliance



[See presentation Increasing development/conservation conflicts here](#)

# Mission Beach Strategic Master Plan

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council is in the process of creating a [Master Plan for Mission Beach](#). *"The purpose of the project is to design a liveable and vibrant town centre for Mission Beach with a unique master plan that results in a prosperous and liveable region and attracts people to visit, live, work, play and invest in the Cassowary Coast."* What does this mean? This rhetoric says nothing about the village character, **it could be applied to any 'just another place'.**

*"Apart from providing a collaborative approach for the community to become involved in shaping its future, (?) the project represents a tangible way for Council to identify practical economic activation objectives"* This statement is similar to the Tourism Strategy, economy first, environment and community last.

**Will the Master Plan reflect the community's vision or the council's vision for the community?**

Building on the strengths of a community's natural and cultural heritage should underpin local and regional planning.

There is no need to rewrite the guidelines for the future if there has been a consistent message written into

every plan and strategy produced with community feed-back over decades of workshops and consultation. An example can be seen in the excerpts from the Mission Beach Foreshore Plan (FMP) below.

The [architect firm](#) chosen to develop the Master Plan also redeveloped the Cardwell Foreshore. This resulted in the 'concretisation' of the foreshore.

Many of the callophyllums that once dominated and defined the character of the shoreline have been isolated by concrete, inhibiting natural processes and dominated by signature style architecture. We hope Mission Beach will be designed to compliment the world heritage values and that ...

**... New structures, buildings and infrastructure in the foreshore do not dominate the natural environment, are low in scale and are architecturally innovative and representative of the coastal village character.** (from the MB FMP)

The community is encouraged to take an active interest in every step of the building of strategies and master plans to ensure their wishes are fully reflected in plans determining our future.

**“ Vision – The Council and community show leadership in the protection, restoration and sustainable use of the Greater Mission Beach foreshore and work together to preserve and manage the foreshore for its significant contribution to Mission Beach being renowned as a unique World Heritage Area and one of the best ecotourism destinations in the world.**



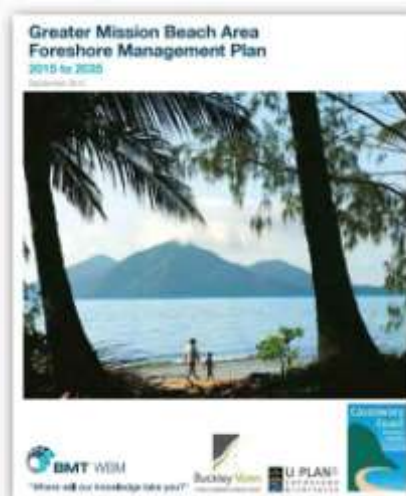
**The foreshore is culturally significant and highly valued by the Djiru Traditional Owners.**

**The foreshore is valued for its function as a protective buffer against coastal hazards.**

**The foreshore is highly valued for underpinning the identity, landscape character, scenic amenity and tropical lifestyle of its residents.**

**This means the sustainable use of our foreshore achieves a careful balance between the protection of our high heritage value and pristine beaches in a natural state, while allowing for appropriate recreation.**

**These values and features are the foundation of a vibrant and sustainable tourism industry that protects and celebrates the unique natural values and tourism assets of Mission Beach.**



**Maintaining and enhancing the scenic amenity and landscape character values of the foreshore is very important.**

**...best practice foreshore management and recognising that conservation, social values and economic well-being are firmly inter-dependent.**

**The foreshore is recognised as being essential for naturally occurring coastal and ecological processes.**

**The ongoing protection and stabilisation of the foreshore through best practice vegetation management and not placing people, infrastructure or development at unacceptable risk from coastal hazards is vital to the ecological, economic and social well-being of our communities both now and into the future.**

**”**



# Horses on Beaches

The Mission Beach [Foreshore Management Plan](#) was written to ensure that “...the sustainable use of our foreshore achieves a careful balance between the protection of our high heritage value and pristine beaches in a natural state, while allowing for appropriate recreation and commercial opportunities”.



Horse being taken along Ulysses Track and onto the beach access at Ulysses Park. Neither are designated horse use areas.

Recreational horse-riding is permitted on all beaches, but is discouraged from beach locations designated for:

- ◆ Bathing reserves;
- ◆ Preferred beach locations for dogs;
- ◆ Sky diving or land yachting activities;
- ◆ Use by or habitat for threatened species (e.g., turtle nesting areas); or
- ◆ Coastal dunes.

## Access

Access for horses to the foreshore is obtained from designated vehicle access points or boat launch and retrieval locations that are sign posted allowing for horse access.

## 2.2.1 Horse Use on Beaches

Under Council’s existing Local Law No. 4 – Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads (LL4) and Subordinate Local Law, bringing or riding a horse in a park, reserve or foreshore is currently identified as a permitted activity in locations where sign-posted for that purpose by the Council, or permitted if authorised under an approval for the prescribed activity.

Given the inherent nature of horses and their tendency to spook easily, this Foreshore Management Plan has adopted the sensible principle of separating horse riding activities from those foreshore uses that are likely to result in a direct conflict with horses or potentially endanger the safety of beach users. ([Foreshore Management Plan](#))

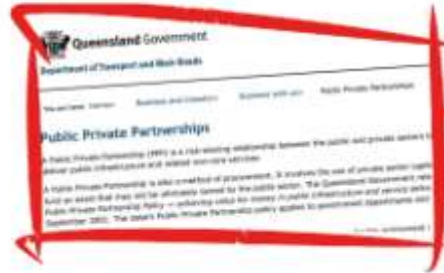


There are no horse access points north of the Perry Harvey Jetty.

# CLUMP POINT PORT/MARINA

AND YOU THOUGHT IT WAS  
ABOUT AN UPGRADE FOR  
RECREATIONAL BOATIES

...WRONG!!



## WHO IS CLUMP POINT BEING DEVELOPED FOR?

### How the Clump Point development evolved

For 30 years Boat Bay has been under pressure from developers wanting to build a marina. Community objection and legislation protected the high environmental and cultural values of the bay and headland from large scale development.

Post Cyclone Yasi the marina supporters and vested interests used the natural disaster to increase their pressure on governments for a marina facility in Boat Bay.

Going back just a little, during Anna Bligh's government, when the detailed Regional Coastal Management Plans were replaced with the Qld Coastal Plan 'Areas of State Significance' with the trigger of 'No Adverse Impact' that had protected Boat Bay from inappropriate development were removed. The then minister for Environment Kate Jones assured the conservation sector, who had extensive consultation with the government during the development of the Plan, that the new Plan would not reduce environmental protection. As you may remember the draft plan was released with a Marine Development Area (MDA) placed over the Boat Bay reserve. This was removed when the Plan was released but a document was produced with a **methodology to determine where MDA's could be established along the whole coast** which was to be tested to determine if, and where, **MDA's could be placed within the Cassowary Coast. We may never know, but we have little doubt the methodology would have allowed an MDA in Boat Bay.**

### Disaster Capitalism

In 2011, Cyclone Yasi intervened and while political focus was on Mission Beach, **vested interests, using Bob Katter's balance of power, forced the first big foot in the door to Boat Bay development** extracting a \$5.5m grant from Wayne Swan for a marine facility scoping study. From that point there was no stopping the direction any upgrade of the jetty or boat ramp at Clump Point would go. The Newman government then pledged another \$11.5m in an election **promise and once elected enacted a 'no holds barred' onslaught on environmental legislation** including the introduction of the **Coordinator General's right to declare certain developments 'Major Projects'** Once declared, a Major Projects could bypass public consultation and **avoid Environmental Impact Studies to 'fast track' approvals.** At that time both the Queensland Government and the Federal government governed by Newman and Abbott, waged a war on robust assessment processes which they called 'Cutting Green Tape'

The upgrade of the Jetty and the recreational boat ramp became a Major Project.

What no one except the tourism industry was aware of during the extensive consultation conservation groups were having with the Queensland Government on the Coastal Plan, was in 2010, the tourism industry had developed a wish list of 18 priority projects for the tropical north called the Tourism Opportunity Plan (the TOP). On the list was - • **Clump Point Safe Boat Haven.**

### Assessment process - predetermined outcome

Nothing will change the fact that for this large scale development to proceed it required legislation changes to remove environmental protection over Boat Bay. But this and declaring the development a Major Project still wasn't enough to get it over the line.

It took collusion between government departments and coercion and manipulation of the truth during a dodgy reference group process **which was said satisfied the 'scoping study' requirements of the \$5.5m initial grant and public consultation.** The Reference Group were not alerted to opportunities for public to make comment during the process such as on the referral under EPBC Act which was full of omissions and inaccuracies. The Palaszczuk government has taken full advantage of the Newman government's legislation changes to reduce environmental protection.

What started out as an upgrade to recreational boating facilities has resulted in a large scale port/marina development at the end of Clump Point. The approved development will consist of a 140 metre rock wall extended out into the open lee shore of a cyclone exposed coast. The half finished Perry Harvey Jetty has been abandoned with a council directive it is not to be used by any marine operators.

### Existing Local Marine Tourism Operators

*Not one of the marine tourism operators were consulted during the process. TMR provided a list of alternative ramp access locations in the Cassowary Coast, none of which are suitable for the marine operators that currently rely on the Clump Point Boat Ramp to conduct their businesses.*

In the TMR tender invitation to construction contractors, *all the businesses using the Clump Point Boat ramp except for one, who prefers to moor at Dunk Island, are referred to as "a small number of commercial operators..."* (See below)

Liz Gallie- Member Clump Point Boating Infrastructure Project Reference Group

### 3.2 Boat Ramp Access – Commercial

- A small number of commercial operators rely on the Clump Point facility for their business and there are no suitable alternative commercial ramps close by. On this basis, a long period of ramp closure is likely to have a high impact on their business which needs to be avoided.



# ***Don't rock our town!***

## **Community calls for rocks to be transported by barge**

As outlined below in the TMR Tender document there will be considerable disruption to local residents and businesses, threatening the livelihoods of the locally owned and operated boutique marine businesses, denying access to recreational boaters and increasing the risk to the endangered cassowary for the duration of the works. Construction is expected to take at least 9 months which could extend to 12 up to 18 months.

### **1. PURPOSE**

The Mission Beach Clump Point Boating Infrastructure Project represents a significant civil construction project for the Mission Beach area and regardless of final construction methodologies chosen by the construction contractor significant plant will have to be mobilised by road to the site and a significant number of trucking movements will need to transport raw and prefabricated materials to the site to complete the extent of works. In addition the contractor undertaking the works will need to utilise a significant portion of the site for construction sequencing which will greatly reduce access for the period of the works.

These elements of the work have the potential to impact on boat ramp users (commercial and recreational), local residents and businesses. In addition the increased trucking movements on local roads increase the risk of impacts on local fauna, particularly the Endangered Southern Cassowary.

The size and volume of rocks needed to build a rock wall that will support a road for fuel tankers and extend out into deep water will be significant. Some will be one rock per truck and there will be one truck every 25 minutes travelling to **and from Mission Beach through out townships. It's not known where the rocks will be transported from at this stage** but it has been suggested by a contractor familiar with the type of work, there is nowhere locally they could be sourced.

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

The Key objectives of this plan are;

1. Avoid any impacts to the Endangered Southern Cassowary as a result of Project.
2. Develop a construction strategy to minimise impacts on residents and local businesses from construction traffic and communicate this strategy clearly and early.
3. Develop a functioning strategy for the management of Clump Point Road – particularly the narrow access, to ensure the surrounding high conservation vegetation is not impacted (overhead canopy), access is maintained to the Ecovillage and construction traffic movements occur in a safe and efficient manner.
4. The construction strategy minimise the period of closure of the boat ramp to recreational users as much as practical
5. The construction strategy is to facilitate limited commercial boat ramp access during the works.
6. Develop a Communication Plan

The objectives are impossible to achieve. In part of the document it suggests the transport must avoid roads that have known cassowary crossings. Cassowaries cross all roads at Mission Beach. The significant impact posed to our community, businesses and the environment carting the rocks by road can be avoided by barge transport. This would minimise the disruption at the boat ramp, avoid the impact on our local community and businesses and on the cassowary. There is no reason why sea transport should not be used. The difference in cost, if any, could be offset by a reduction in some of the features that are not needed for current or foreseeable demand. The community's welfare should come first.

## ***Put the community first***

# ***Transport the rocks by barge!!***

### **3.1 Boat Ramp Access – Recreational**

- The ramp will have to be closed for the majority of the earthworks phase of the project (IE carpark expansion, boat ramp and boat breakwater upgrades). Because the works themselves will preclude access, but also because the contractor is likely to take up most of the available parking areas.

# SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IS NOT WORKING - HERE'S HOW WE CAN CHANGE THAT

## THE CONVERSATION

April 20, 2017 Freya Higgins-Desbiolles Senior Lecturer in Tourism, U of SA

This year is the United Nations' [International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development](#). UN World Tourism Organisation Secretary-General Taleb Rifai [declared](#) it gave:

*... a unique opportunity to advance the contribution of the tourism sector to the three pillars of sustainability – economic, social and environmental, while raising awareness of the true dimensions of a sector which is often undervalued.*

**“ environmental crises require we limit the demands we place on it, but our economies require endless growth ”**



Source <https://cleanmalaysia.com/>

Sustainable tourism comes from the concept of sustainable development, as set out in the [1987 Brundtland report](#). Sustainable development **is:... development which meets the needs of current generations** without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

British environmental activist George Monbiot [argued that](#), over the years, sustainable development has morphed into sustained growth. The essence of his argument is that little resolve exists to go beyond rhetoric. This is because environmental crises require we limit the demands we place on it, but our economies require endless growth.

[At the moment](#), economic growth trumps environmental limits, so sustainability remains elusive.

Tourism is important to our efforts to achieve sustainable development. It is a massive industry, and many countries rely on it for their economies.

In 2016, more than 1.2 billion people travelled as tourists internationally, and another 6 billion people travelled domestically.

[According to](#) the UN World Tourism Organisation, sustainable tourism is:

**... tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities.**

No place is off the tourism circuit, so tourism grows with few limits. Ironically, tourists even want to [tour Antarctica](#) to see its pristine environment before it disappears (“last-chance tourism”). This is despite their impacts [contributing](#) to global warming and threatening this last wild place.

How can tourism be made more sustainable? Tourism can be made more sustainable through several achievable measures. Some look to [technological solutions](#) so we can continue business as usual. Others highlight conscious consumerism and ideas like [Slow travel](#).



But in a world in which growing populations with endless consumer demands are pitted against a fragile environment, we require more concerted effort.

1) Governments must implement policies that foster sustainable development by overcoming the growth fetish. Tourism then should be developed only within sustainable development parameters. Governments must tackle the environmental limits to growth and climate change challenges we confront. Tourism development requires integrated planning. So, we need the government tourism authorities – such as Tourism Australia or state tourism commissions – focused equally on integrated planning as the marketing they currently emphasise.

### **“The tourism industry needs to assume greater responsibility”**

2) Consumers should be educated for responsible travel choices. For example, few realise that all-inclusive resorts result in economic benefits from tourism leaking out of the host economy back to the home economies of the big multinationals and corporations that often own such resorts (think Club Med). Civics education in schools could educate for responsible travel.

3) Local communities, often treated as only as one stakeholder among the many, must have a right to participate in tourism decision-making and have a say on if and how their communities become tourism destinations.

4) Workers of tourism must have [their rights](#) respected and given decent conditions. Tourism should not be allowed to continue as a low-wage and precarious source of employment.

5) The tourism industry needs to assume greater responsibility, submitting to local tax regimes and regulations so its presence builds thriving communities, rather than undermining them. This is increasingly essential as a social license to operate. The industry should also educate its clients on responsible tourism.

### **Debate on “High-value, Low-impact Tourism” takes place at PATA event in Bhutan**

Achieving higher yields and making less negative impact requires a shift in the operating model of tourism. The industrial model on which tourism is based is collapsing. As it matures, it produces diminishing net returns to all participants, and relies on volume growth to compensate for yield declines.”Ms. Pollok added: “As visitor volume increases, so do the costs associated with resource depletion, pollution, and wealth concentration. A positive, viable alternative model is needed that focuses on place rather than product, puts purpose before profit, understands that it is about personality as opposed to brand, focuses on value (yield) over volume (price discounting), and learns to pull in customers rather than push or promote to them.”

## **ECO TOURISM**

Ecotourism, or ecological tourism, is a type of tourism in which the travellers visit fragile, relatively pristine natural environments in such a way as to both minimize the impact on the environment and to actually benefit the environment and the local communities, with the later helping to provide an economic and social incentive to keep these local areas pristine. The term differs from sustainable tourism, responsible tourism, green tourism, and nature-based tourism in that ecotourism has the added dimension of actively benefiting the environment and the local communities (see below).

Ecotourism typically involves travel to destinations where flora, [fauna](#), and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. This low-impact, typically small-scale tourism supports conservation through education by offering tourists insight into the impact of [human beings](#) on the environment and fostering a greater appreciation of natural habitats. By improving the well-being of the local people, the communities have a vested interest in keeping the natural areas attractive to tourists. And ecotourism may also benefit the environment through direct financial contributions toward conservation.

### **“Ecotourism actively benefits the environment and the local communities”**

Given that ecotourism offers substantial economic incentives to protect environmental areas, it is often looked at as a great hope for both conservation and helping people, countering the exploitation of natural areas for personal economic gain. However, the term often is used simply as a marketing tool for practices that actually harm the environment or do not benefit the local communities. Furthermore, the success of ecotourism may also have unintended negative consequences for the environment or the local communities, unless responsibly managed. There also are intrinsic problems whereby “ecotourism companies” that keep more of their profits or pursue less environmentally friendly actions can gain competitive advantage over companies that invest more of their profits for conservation and helping the local communities



**“We howl through the forest as our speed is rewarded with natural root kickers”.**

A [2010 Canadian study](#) found that mountain biking causes a range of environmental impacts, including tyres chewing up the soil, causing compaction and erosion. This is a significant problem for fragile alpine vegetation in mountainous areas where many bikers like to explore.

# The importance of sand cays to seabirds

Seabirds such as terns and boobies depend upon secluded nesting and roosting sites; three species have been observed nesting on Taylor Cay (Bridled and Crested terns and Brown boobies). Seabird roosts will include adults as well as juveniles.

Disturbance by human activity, whether by walkers, boats, helicopters or sky-divers, can be greatly fatiguing and can cause the birds to completely abandon the nests and chicks.



Photo source ABC News



Brown boobies at Taylor Cay—photo courtesy Mission Beach Charters

Terns and gannets (boobies) use Taylor Cay as a much-needed resting and nesting site, despite its lack of vegetation.

The cay is large enough to remain emerged during most high tides and high enough that heavy birds such as Brown boobies can take off easily and all birds can see danger approaching.

Dr Helen K Larson



Terns at Taylor Cay—photo courtesy Mission Beach Charters

## Congratulations Sanctuary Retreat - named as one of Australia's best

THE Far North is gaining a name as the most relaxing corner of Australia. Sanctuary Retreat Mission Beach has been named among the country's best in the Lonely Planet's new book *Wellness Escapes*.

Mr Verity said one of the biggest drawcards for visitors was Sanctuary's positioning.

"We have 50 acres of forest and a private beach," he said.



"This retreat is really for people who love nature and who love being active."

He said people travelled to experience natural bliss.

Sanctuary Retreat owner Paul Verity said it was a pleasant surprise to find the tropical centre on the list.

"We're very surprised, but we're also one of Australia's largest retreats so it's a welcome surprise," he said.

"What we do appeals to a lot of budgets, which can range from very affordable to less budget-friendly, but there's something for everyone."

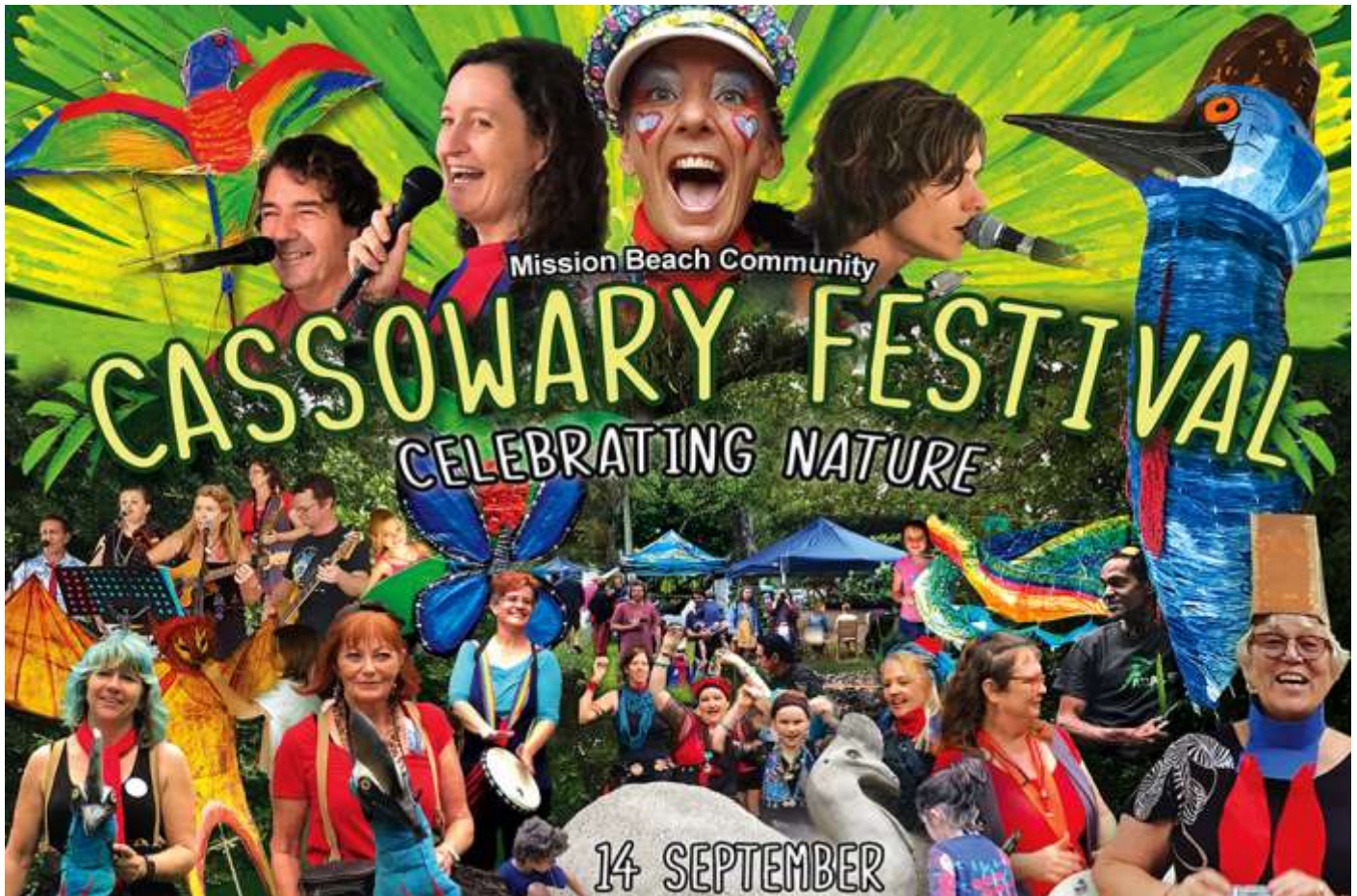
"We have a couple of adult cassowaries here and it's great for the guests to be able to see them in their natural habitats," he said.

Danaella Wivell, The Cairns Post—November 20, 2018



# Community Cassowary Festival

2019



*WE NEED YOU!*

Expressions of interested are invited from the whole community, young and old,  
to participate in the Cassowary Festival

We would love you to join us in a host of activities and entertainment to

*Come and Celebrate Nature with us*

Groups or individuals working with the natural environment, particularly wildlife  
will be sharing knowledge about the work they do.

Market stalls will showcase products and produce from the region

Music, theatre, comedy, circus, busking — let your imagination and creativity run free.

The focus is on;

- ♦ the cassowary
- ♦ ecologically sustainable tourism
  - ♦ wildlife protection
- ♦ homegrown/handmade and sustainable

If you would like to share your ideas or want more information, contact the festival committee

[cassowaryfestival@gmail.com](mailto:cassowaryfestival@gmail.com)

or message us on

Mission Beach Community Cassowary Festival facebook

[www.cassowaryfestival.com](http://www.cassowaryfestival.com)



# Native landscaping

Terrain has produced a landscaping guideline for Mission Beach to encourage planting of local native species in parks, gardens, streetscapes, new developments, etc. The guideline identifies suitable trees, shrubs, palms, cycads, gingers, cordylines, tree ferns, ferns, lilies, orchids, vines, sedges, etc. Mission Beach is a natural greenhouse with incredible native plant diversity to choose from, particularly luxuriant rainforest species. Native landscaping will help maintain and restore the natural unspoilt look and feel of Mission Beach. Wildlife will benefit too. Standard landscaping safety procedures always apply, e.g. planting trees adjacent to structures isn't recommended.

Some of the species are available from C4's nursery.



Native lasiandra:  
*Melastoma malabathricum*



Box fruit: *Barringtonia asiatica*



Crinum lily: *Crinum pedunculatum*



Bingil Bay palm/Arenga palm:  
*Arenga australasica*



Coral tree:  
*Erythrina variegata*



Banana bush:  
*Tabernaemontana*



Flame tree: *Brachychiton acerifolius*



Native hibiscus/Cottonwood: *Hibiscus tiliaceus*



Zamia palm: *Lepidozamia hopei*



October Glory: *Faradaya splendida*





## NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN NOVEMBER

Acacia aulacarpa  
Acacia crassicaarpa  
Acmenosperma clauiflorum  
Alyxia (a-lix-ez-a) spicata  
Argyrodendron (ar-jir-o-DEN-dron) polyandrum  
Bridellia (brid-EEL-ee-a) penangiana  
Carallia (ca-RALL-ee-a) brachiata  
Castanospora (cos-tan-OS—por-a) alphanthii  
Crinum (CRY-num) pudunculatum  
Cryptocarya (crip-to-CAIN-re-a) hypospodia  
Cryptocarya murrayi  
Cupaniopsis (keu-pay-nee-OP-sis) anacardioides  
Deplanchea (de-PLAN-she-a) tetraphylla  
Diospyros (di-OS-pi-ros) hebecarpa  
Diploglottis (dip-lo-GLOT-iss) diphyllostegia  
Dysoxylum (dis-OX-il-um) goudichaudianum

Dysoxylum latifolium  
Eucalyptus (yoo-ca-LIP-tus) tessellaris  
Exocarpos (ex-o-CARP-os) latifolius  
Ficus (FY-cus) benjamina  
Ficus copiosa  
Ficus racemosa  
Ficus variegata  
Ficus virent  
Ficus Virgata  
Harpullia (har-Pull-ee-a) pendula  
Hernandia (her-NAND-ee-a) nymphaeifolia  
Litsea (LIT-see-a) leefeana  
Lophostemon grandiflorus  
Macaranga (mac-a-RANG-ga) tanarius  
Mallotus (mal-O-tus) mollissimus  
Medinella (med-ee-NILL-a) balls-hedleyi  
Melaleuca (mel-a-LOO-ca) leucadendra  
Micromelum (my-cro-MEEL-um) minutum  
Mimusops (MIM-yoo-sops) elegnii  
Myristica (my-RIST-ic-a) insipida  
Myrtella obtuse  
Olea (O-le-a) paniculata  
Pittosporum (pit-OS-por-um) ferrugineum  
Planchonella (plan-shon-ELL-a) chartace  
Podocarpus (pod-o-CARP-us) grayea  
Rhysotoechia (riss-o-TEEK-ee-a) robertsonii  
Sophora (soff-OR-a) tomentosa  
Sterculia (ster-KEW-lee-a) quadrifida  
Xanthastemen (zanth-O-STEEM-on) chrysonthus

Hickory wattle  
Brown Salwood  
Grey Satinash  
Chain Fruit  
Brown Tulip Oak

Corkwood  
Brown Tamarind  
Swamp Lily  
White walnut  
**Murray's Laurel**  
Tuckeroo  
Golden Bouquet  
Scrub Ebony  
Northern Tamarind  
Ivory Mahogany

Moreton Bay Ash  
Native Cherry  
Weeping Fig  
Plentiful Fig  
Cluster Fig  
Variegated Fig  
Banyan  
Figwood  
Tulip Wood  
Beach Cudgerio  
Bollywood  
Northern Swamp Mahogany  
Brush Macaranga  
Soft Kamala  
Daintree Medinella  
Weeping Paperbark  
Lime Berry  
Red Coondoo  
Native Nutmeg

Native Olive  
Rusty Pittosporum

Brown Pine  
**Robert's Tuckeroo**  
Silver bush  
Peanut Tree  
Golden Penda

Syzygium (siz-IDG-ee-um) cormiflorum  
Syzygium fibrosum  
Taranna (ta-REN-a) dallachiana  
Terminalia (ter-min-AIL-ee-a) muelleri  
Toechima (tee-Ky-ma) daemelianum  
Toechima erythrocarpum  
Dimocarpus (di-mo-CARP-us) australiensis  
Diploglottis (dip-lo-GLOT-iss) smithii  
Drypetes (DRIP-et-eez) lasiogyna var. australiensis  
Dysoxylum (dis-OX-il-um) muelleri  
Emmenosperma (em-en-o-SPERM-a) alphonitoides  
Eucalyptus (yoo-ca-LIP-tus) platyphylla  
Eucalyptus tessellaris  
Eucalyptus torelliana  
Ficus (FY-cus) congesta  
Ficus leptoclada  
Ficus virens  
Ganophyllum (gan-o-FILL-um) falcatum  
Guettardella (get-ARD-ee-la) tenuiflora  
Ixora (ix-OR-a) klanderiana  
Jagera (JAY-ger-a) psuedorhus  
Litsea (LIT-see-a) glutinosa  
Lophostemon  
Mallotus (mal-O-tus) mollissimus  
Mallotus philippensis  
Melicope (mee-li-Coo-pee) stipitate  
Bush  
Micromelum (my-cro-MEEL-um) minutum  
Ormosia ormondii  
Pararchidendron pruinatum  
Planchonella (plan-SHO-nee-a) careya  
Podocarpus (pod-o-CARP-us) grayea  
Polyalthia (polly-ALTH-ee-a) nitidissima  
Pothos (POTH- os) longipes  
Premna (PREM-na) serratifolia  
Rhysotoechia (riss-o-TEEK-ee-a) robertsonii  
Santalum (SANT-al-um) lanceolatum  
Sarcopteryx (sar-COP-ter-ix) martyana  
Symplocos (SIM-plok-os) paucistaminea  
Synima (sin-I-ma) macrophylla  
Syzygium (siz-IDG-ee-um) suborbiculara  
Terminalia (ter-min-AIL-ee-a) sericocarpa  
Waterhousia hedraophylla  
Xanthastemon (zanth-O-STEEM-on) chrysonthus  
Zylopia (zy-LO-pe-a) maccraei

Bumpy Satinash  
Fibrous Satinash  
Tree Ixora  
**Mueller's Damson**  
Cape Tamarind  
Pink Tamarind  
Native Lychee  
**Smith's Tamarind**

Red Bean  
Yellow Ash  
Poplar Gum  
Moreton Bay Ash  
Cadago  
Cluster Fig  
Figwood  
Banyan  
Scaly Ash

Ixora  
Pink Tamarind  
Bolly Beech  
Swamp Mahogany  
Soft Kamala  
Red Kamala  
Mountain Turkey  
  
Lime Berry  
Yellow Bean  
Snow Wood  
Billy Goat Plum  
Northern Brown Pine  
Canary Beech

Coastal Premna  
**Robert's Tuckeroo**  
Sandalwood

Hazelwood  
Topaz Tamarind  
Forest Satinash  
Damson  
Gully Satinash  
Golden Penda

## NATIVE TREES IN FRUIT IN DECEMBER

Aceratium (ay-ser-Fy-she-um) megalospermum  
Acmenosperma clauiflorum  
Argyrodendron (ar-jir-o-DEN-dron) polyandrum  
Barringtonia (barr-ing-TO-nee-a) asiatica  
Blepharacarya (bleff-a-ro-CAIR-ee-a) involuerigera  
Bombax celiba  
Buchanania (buck-a-Nay-nee-a) arborescens  
Bursaria (bur-SAIR-ee-a) tenuifolia  
Carallia (ca-RALL-ee-a) brachiata  
Casuarina (caz-yoo-a-REE-na) cunninghamiana  
Chionanthus (ky-o-NAN-thus) ramiflorus  
Cleistanthus (cly-STANTH -us)  
Cordia (CORD-ee-a) subcordata  
Cryptocarya (crip-to-CAIN-re-a) pleuroperma  
Cryptocarya triplinervis  
Cupaniopsis (keu-pay-nee-OP-sis) anacardioides  
Cupaniopsis flagelliformis  
Cynometra (sy-no-MET-ra) iripa

Bolly Carabee  
Grey Satinash  
Brown Tulip Oak  
Fish Killer Tree  
Rose Butternut  
Kapok Tree  
Little Gooseberry  
Sweet Blackthorn  
Corkwood  
River Oak  
Native Olive  
Weeping Cleistanthus  
Sea Trumpet  
Poison Laurel  
Brown Laurel  
Beach Tamarind  
Brown Tuckeroo

# C4 Nursery

*Helping Mission Beach*

*grow naturally*

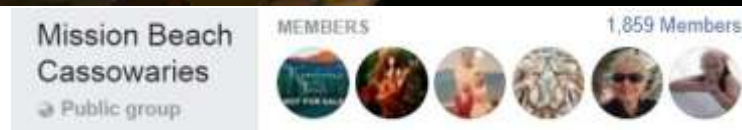
Enquire now about native plants  
for your garden  
4068 7197

The Seed list for the Johnstone Shire area was carried out by Kylie Freebody over a five-year period and is maintained by WTTFS Green Reserve.



## LEARN ABOUT CASSOWARIES

### Share your sightings, join the discussion



**Needs finishing** Mission Beach Cassowaries Inc established their facebook page as a community forum to share information for the Community Cassowary Identification and Tracking project ©. The information is filed and referenced to help identify individual cassowaries, their movement in the landscape, where they cross roads, interaction with other birds, mating habits and dispersal of juveniles. It can also identify regular pathways they use and understand what day to day activities or obstacles may place them at risk such as fencing, dogs, or interaction with people. It is a forum for discussion and education about our endangered rainforest inhabitant the Cassowary.

**All verified sightings are now uploaded onto Terrain's community mapping portal and included into the State Government's official Wilnet database. This is the only database governments refer to when making planning decisions.**

For reporting cassowary incidences or requesting a recent crossing sign call Call 1300 130 372 Follow prompt to injured cassowaries.



#### **Mission Beach Wildcare**

For all other wildlife including marine strandings and snake catchers, call Mission Beach Wildcare on 0439 687272.

*"love the  
place we  
live"*

The New Bulletin is collated and distributed by the Cassowary Coast Alliance (CCA)

CCA is a collaborative hub for entities and individuals who are actively seeking good quality and long term public interest outcomes for the world heritage listed Cassowary Coast in Far North Queensland. CCA's aim is to gain and disseminate information for effective input into future planning to protect the unique and diverse natural environments of our region.

Enquiries to: [missionbeachcassowaries@gmail.com](mailto:missionbeachcassowaries@gmail.com)  
[www.missionbeachcassowaries.com](http://www.missionbeachcassowaries.com)