

# FoNR

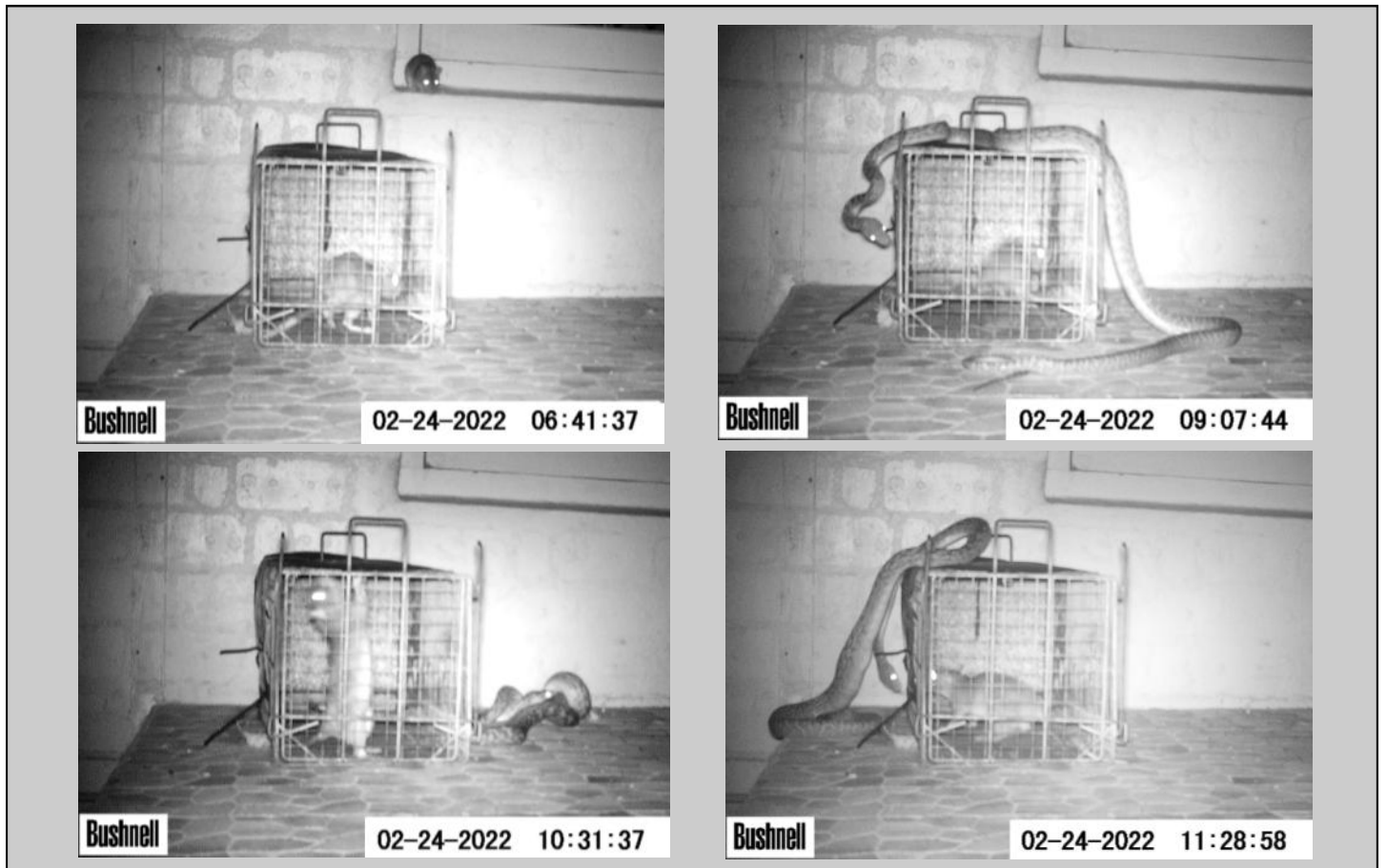


# NEWS

We acknowledge the Djiru Aboriginal People as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and recognise their connection to this cultural landscape. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.

## New rat catcher at Ninney Rise

During the year Friends of Ninney Rise (FoNR) has been concerned at the white tail rats making their way into the roof cavity of Ninney Rise. It is especially worrying given a total rewiring was required at Ninney Rise due to historic damage by rats. With the help of QPWS, some traps and a new rat catcher, the population is being kept under control. Thanks to QPWS ranger Ted Pearce for his help and these photos.



## Management of ICOLLS



Visiting riparian expert Ed Thexton dwarfed by the magnificent Calophyllum tree at Narragon Beach ICOLL

# Bingil Bay ICOLL

Intermittently closed and open lakes and lagoons (ICOLLs) are coastal lakes and lagoons that alternate between being open or closed to the ocean.

ICOLLs are separated from the ocean by a beach barrier. The entrance barrier forms or breaks down depending on the movement of sand and sediments by waves, tides, flood flows and wind.

ICOLLs are very complex environments and the impact of artificially opening entrances on fish species and fish habitats is not well understood.

Ideally, ICOLLs should be left to operate as close to natural as possible.

The main reason for artificially opening an ICOLL entrance is to mitigate and reduce the impacts of flooding. When water levels rise in a closed ICOLL, due to catchment rainfall, this can lead to an increased risk of flooding of urban development or public structures adjacent to and upstream of the ICOLL.

Artificial opening of the entrance barrier is undertaken to 'drain' the ICOLL to the ocean and lower its water levels. Should it be necessary, Council must carefully plan the opening of an ICOLL around tides, swell and rainfall conditions to mitigate negative ecological impacts.

In February visiting riparian expert Ed Thexton was in Bingil Bay to join the discussion on best practice management of ICOLLs.

Local Bingil Bay resident Jo Senior (photos below) has been recording the changes to the ICOLL at Bingil Bay for 20 years. In that time, each year the Council has been bulldozing a channel to release the lagoon. In 2021 the CCRC twice excavated a path. The second time damming the natural flow with a sand bank. The intervention caused erosion and collapse of the dune vegetation.

The high environmental values of the Bingil Bay/ Koombooloo Creeks ICOLL is mapped;

- An indigenous heritage site
- Heritage Protection area,
- a high restoration area,
- critically endangered Littoral Rainforest, and has:
- High ecological value under state legislation and,
- coastal protection constraints

Ed attended a meeting held on site with the CCRC CEO and Councillor Trudy Tschui to discuss community member concerns and a review of the current management of the lagoon at Bingil Bay.

LG Mission Beach Cassowaries



27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 excavation



L to R; CCRC CEO Andrew Graffen; Liz Gallie; Ed Thexton; Sandal Hayes; Tony O'Malley. Photo by Cr Trudy Tschui



Jan 2022 Severe erosion of dune vegetation



22 Jan 2022 Collapse of the she-oak tree.

## POOL REMOVAL

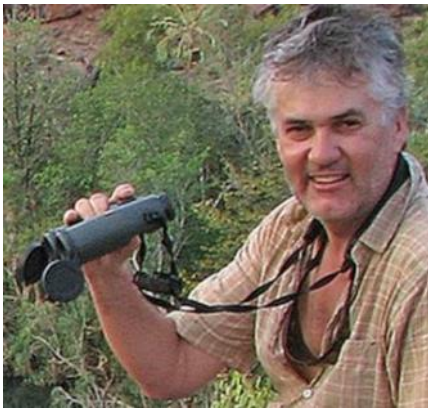
In July after some years of organising the heritage permission and planning, the Tode Swimming Pool fill-in finally came to fruition.

With wet weather stalling the job for several weeks, Teitzel and Son decided to go ahead despite the occasional shower.

The pool has long been out of use causing it to be both an eyesore and requiring high maintenance. The area is now free to be utilised as valuable function space.

We are indebted to honorary FoNR committee member Prof Iain McCalman for funding the works.





Terry Carmichael

## New President for Friends of Ninney Rise

In August 23 FoNR held a Zoom AGM for Ninney Rise 21-22. We are delighted to welcome Terry Carmichael from WTMA as our new President, a role he ably stepped into following the sad passing of Suzie Smith last year

Terry is a Senior Project Officer for the Wet Tropics Management Authority. His work involves Threatened Species Recovery, Climate Change Action Advocacy, Sustainable Tourism Advocacy, Nature/Wildlife- Guide, Presenter, Naturalist and Lecturer.

Terry is passionate about raising awareness of the history of Ninney Rise; and the considerable contribution John Busst along with fellow conservationists Len Webb and Judith Wright made in protection of the reef and rainforests.

## We also welcome two new committee members



Dr [Ben Oldroyd](#)  
Emeritus Professor for Behavioural Genetics, University of Sydney. Ben has authored over 300 scientific papers on honey bees and stingless bees and his papers have been cited over 15,000 times.

Ben is currently Chair of the Honey Bee and Pollination advisory Committee of Agrifutures. His current projects include completing a book on epigenetics to be published next year by Melbourne University Press, renovating a dilapidated B&B in Bingikl Bay in Queensland and dreaming about starting a pollination business.

Dr [Madeleine Beekman](#)  
Deputy Head in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences and Professor of Evolutionary Biology at Sydney University.

With more than 150 publications to her name, Dr Beekman is an impressive scientist with far reaching contributions to evolutionary biology.

In 2021 Madeleine switched her focus from teaching to popular science writing but is still connected to the University as Professor Emerita.



## Cataloguing of Margaret Thorsborne Library

In October Judy Heath and her terrific team of Library Volunteers completed the final chapter of the Margaret Thorsborne library cataloguing. A huge thank you for all your work. N.R. now has a Dewey System on file to assist academics and researchers in their use of the Library.



L to R; Judy Heath, Jan Cox and Dianne Bull

## Art project to focus on Ninney Rise history

In June, on the coldest day of the year we welcomed guests from JCU and University of Queensland Museum of Art (UQMoA) to discuss future projects at Ninney Rise.



Workshop at Ninney Rise

UQ's Jacquie Chlanda and Peta Rake returned in October with artist, writer and curator Rachael O'Reilly to hold a workshop (photo left) at Ninney Rise discussing environmental activism.

While at Mission Beach Rachael presented her feature length film ['Infractions'](#) at Mission Arts.

The film platforms important First Nation voices between Yallarm (Gladstone, Queensland)—where unconventional gas was first approved in Australia—and current struggles against shale gas fracking that threatens 51 per cent of the Northern Territory.

'Infractions' is the final work of a project by Rachel that has used poetry, drawing, moving image and lecture formats to explain the "...legal, aesthetic and technical conceits of 'unconventional' gas, in ongoing dialogue with Gooreng Gooreng elders and women environmental activists..."

Jacquie, Peta and Rachael will be returning to North Queensland in March 2023 to present screenings of 'Infractions' in Townsville and Cairns.



Rachael O'Reilly introduces 'Infractions' at Mission Arts



L to R Jackie Chandler, Peta Rake, Rachael O'Reilly, Sandal Hayes, Liz Gallie and Terry Carmichael.

In June Ninney Rise will be the venue for another workshop and discussions for a new artistic project Rachael is working on with UQMoA; the focus being, the reef, history of Ninney Rise and the climate crisis.

FoNR looks forward to participating in this project.

## Ninney Rise and Cassowaries feature on national TV

In October 2022 two FoNR committee members were featured in season 5 of Channel Nine's lifestyle program 'MY WAY'. The John Busst story was used to link the programs four segments filmed at Mission Beach. FoNR President, Terry Carmichael presented the efforts of John Busst and fellow conservationists Judith Wright and Len Web, as the beginning of the Australian conservation movement.

FoNR Treasurer and long term Mission Beach resident Liz Gallie, shared her passion for the beauty of Mission Beach, her art and involvement in cassowary conservation.



The program showcased Mission Beach as a premier nature based tourism destination highlighting the history of conservation and importance of cassowaries to community identity.

The national TV coverage raised awareness of the critical role John Busst and Ninney Rise played in the history of Australian conservation.

## Gathering of local Historical Societies at Ninney Rise

Every three months the historical societies of Innisfail, El Arish, Mission Beach and Cardwell meet up to exchange ideas, let each other know what projects they are working on, network and socialize. The meeting was held on September 28, 2022, in Mission Beach.(MBHS)



Trish Ernst's (President Innisfail & District Historical Society) presentation, Cassowary Coast Historical Societies get together, September 28, 2022

The informative networking event took place at Ninney Rise, Bingil Bay, followed by lunch at the Blues Bar & Cafe. MBHS would like to thank the Friends of Ninney Rise for providing the venue and warmly welcoming us.

The Mission Beach Historical Society was recently incorporated and will celebrate its 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary in October.

MBHS is reaching out to Cassowary Coast residents for old photographs taken in and around Mission Beach. If you have any photographs, but also stories and documents, that would assist us, please let us know.

Check our website [www.mbhs.com.au](http://www.mbhs.com.au) and follow us on Facebook. If you are keen on local history feel free to join the "Beach Historians".

Please contact 'Dr. Valerie Boll 0448 801 195 [valerieboll\\_27@hotmail.com](mailto:valerieboll_27@hotmail.com) or Mr Ken Gray 07 4068 7617 [kengray430@gmail.com](mailto:kengray430@gmail.com) (source Wet Tropic Times Oct 7 2022)

## "The white house stood on its own cliff ..."

With the pool now gone, the next project is for Ninney Rise to be painted.

FoNR has applied for a grant through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to paint the exterior of the house.

Patricia Clare, author of [Struggle for the Great Barrier Reef](#), wrote of Ninney Rise ...

"The white house stood on its own cliff, the rainforest behind it"

It's exciting to see Ninney Rise gradually being returned to how it looked during the Busst era.



## History of Ninney Rise inspires research

Dr Thomas Bristow, research fellow of UWA is currently working on a project involving a 3 to 5 year practical study of mangroves at Bingil Bay while pursuing the philosophy of coral sea in poetry.

Using Bingil Bay as his base Dr Bristow is working with fellow academics Prudence Gibson, Edward Scheer, and Monica Galiano, (with support from Leah Barclay).

Friends of Ninney Rise was able to accommodate Dr Bristow at Ninney Rise during their week long visit in November. They met with locals to discuss current conservation efforts. Dr Bristow returned for a short stay this month to further his research taking advantage of the excellent resource of the Margaret Thorsborne library.



Dr Tom Bristow at Ninney Rise

### Research Station and the Sound of Mangroves

by Prudence Gibson, Edward Scheer, Monica Gagliano, Thomas Bristow (with support from Leah Barclay).

The stretch of Bingil Bay coast is a connection place. The mangroves are a source, a protector, a lungful, the nexus between rainforest and reef. For our first visit, our team aimed to visit and listen to as many stories as possible, without prescribing any future projects.

We acknowledge and thank Sandal, Liz, Jo, Leonard and Helen for their kindness and openness to strangers.

The few days this team has spent there facilitated by the Friends of Ninney Rise have been productive and eye opening in the best traditions of scholarly research, bringing different perspectives on plant science and ecology, literary and poetic studies, political and environmental activist issues together in the context of a small remote location, which saw the successful collaboration of those disciplines engaged to protect the reef and the wet tropics from the depredations of multinational extractive industries and a rogue state government.

The rich history of Ninney Rise - its activism, poetry, science and writing - reflects our own group's interests and skills. It is the site of possibly one of the greatest successes of art science collaboration the world has ever seen.

Our team believes that this should be better understood and more widely celebrated; its secrets explored and disseminated to future generations of activists, scholars and environmentalists.

As a case study, the Bingil Bay mangrove seems to offer itself as a holdfast for new nature-writing. There is potential for performative writing, poetry, activist stories, Indigenous stories and even plant-sonic-nursery stories. The multitude of stories could include sound, interviews, poetry, eco-theory, performance ...all of which stitch together the community, both past and present.

Our discussions considered whether such localised new nature-narrative forms might fit into an *aesthetics of care*. *Aesthetics of care* is a conscious enactment of repair or regeneration or activism or mothering. It refers to the activation of narrative/art/design in order to care for our environments. When applied to the Bingil Bay mangrove, it could take the form of an interactive map, a lexicon, an olfactory laboratory, a labyrinth or an almanac. Or all of these things. Polyphony is key. Many voices.



The next steps of the process would begin to engage with the soundscapes of this wonderful location. We would like the opportunity to listen and develop methods and technologies in response to the site. We are talking about an ethical field recording and listening practice, it's really about a process of engaging with place and that means undertaking a consultation process, getting permission to listen to ensuring we are being respectful about how and when we record and bring technology to the site.

The technologies we intend to use are non-invasive and based on a decade of research into community engaged acoustics practices and ethical collaborations with communities. We are happy to share these technologies with the local community and facilitate workshops and listening sessions during our field work.

# The Conservation Exchange

In recognition of shared ecological interests and concerns in Far North Queensland and Bass Coast in Victoria, a group of conservationists came together in solidarity and mutual support.

The Conservation Exchange included:  
 Liz Gallie, Sandal Hayes - Mission Beach Cassowaries, Friends of Ninney Rise  
 Ed Thexton, John Cuttriss, Sophie Cuttriss - South Gippsland Conservation Society.  
 Terry Melvin, Laura Brearley - Phillip Island Conservation Society  
 Leonard Andy - Djiru Traditional Owner



Ed Thexton, John Cuttriss, Sophie Cuttriss, Laura Brearley and Terry Melvin

**“We honour the strength and beauty of Djiru Country and Bunurong/Boonwurrung Country. We thank the Elders and Ancestors for caring for these Countries for thousands of years”.**



Mission Beach



Phillip Island



Shearwaters / Bunurong/Boonwurrung Country -Cassowaries/ Djiru Country



Shearwater/cassowary children's conservation messages



# 'Five Senses' Judith Wright



Now my five senses gather into a meaning all acts, all presences; and as a lily gathers the elements together, in me this dark and shining, that stillness and that moving, these shapes that spring from nothing, become a rhythm that dances, a pure design

While I'm in my five senses they send me spinning all sounds and silences, all shape and colour as thread for that weaver, whose web within me growing follows beyond my knowing some pattern sprung from nothing - a rhythm that dances and is not mine

Judith Wright (1963) *Five Senses: Selected Poems*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney and London

## Media interest in Mission Beach



Many thanks to Eliot Rivkin from 4ZZZ Community radio who travelled from Brisbane to talk with two FoNR committee members about the history of Ninney Rise and about cassowaries. Eliot stayed overnight at Ninney Rise while at Mission Beach. Click on the images above to listen to the interviews.



## Become a Friend of Ninney Rise

### The aims of Friends of Ninney Rise are;

- ◆ to assist the conservation of the cultural heritage significance of Ninney Rise;
- ◆ to promote ecotourism at Mission Beach and ongoing reef and rainforest conservation through interpreting Ninney Rise's leading role in saving the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics rainforests;
- ◆ to assist retain Ninney Rise in public ownership with opportunities for appropriate public access particularly for tourism and conservation purposes;
- ◆ to assist the economically viable use of Ninney Rise;
- ◆ to facilitate tourism, conservation, community and government partnerships.

### Membership Fees (inclusive of GST)

\$30 – couple / family      \$20 – pensioner couple  
\$25.00 – single      \$15 - pensioner single

Payment can be made via direct deposit to;  
Friends of Ninney Rise Inc.  
BSB 633000  
Acc No 168 086 643

***Please make sure you include your name in the description field.***

Then email your name, address and phone number to [friendsofninneyrise@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofninneyrise@gmail.com)

We would love to welcome you as a member of Friends of Ninney Rise

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

0438 508 349



**In memory of Suzie Smith 1952-2021**