

25 June 2011

Hi All,

We have had over a month of spectacular weather now it look as if it is coming to an end. As if to reinforce the weather change a flock of Channel-billed cuckoos arrived this week to feed on the new crop of figs in the large strangler fig tree.



The channel-billed cuckoo is known as the 'storm-bird' and generally arrives prior to the wet season. Is it trying to tell us something by arriving so early this year?

My fig tree has been home to a family of fig parrots, about ten, one little fella was found on the ground. However, few hours in the safety of the cage and he was back to full strength and off to join his mates.



Lots of noise on the beach on Wednesday the Year 11 Marine Studies class from the State High School carried out exercises at Coquette Point. They had lots of fun and looked very impressive as they managed their boats in and out of the markers.



To my amazement on Thursday lunchtime there were two Jabirus on the beach. At this time of the year we normally see these magnificent birds in the sewerage farm paddocks adjacent to the Coquette Point road. With the upgrade to the sewerage works being carried out at the moment the birds have lost their winter home.



There is continuing interest in my pig cage and the local boys turn up to have a look. None of them want to catch a cassowary in their cage, if they do it is a lost opportunity to catch a pig. However, I am hearing an alarming number of stories about cassowaries in pig cages: far more than I would have expected.



It has been three weeks now since I set the cage and the cassowaries try every which way to get in to eat the food.



The more I hear about the involuntary catching of this threatened bird in pig cages, the more I realize that this is an animal welfare issue. If Terrain NRM do not act to withdraw 'trip mechanism' cages immediately I will make sure it is an animal welfare issue for them to deal with. Yes I am angry.

On Wednesday afternoon smelt then saw a dead pig at the Ninds Creek bridge. I looked carefully at it and there were no bullet holes. If 1080 baiting has recommenced at Coquette Point there are no signs erected to warn the public!



I rang the CCRC and reported the pig. It was gone the next day.

The wind is howling tonight and I can hear the surf breaking on the front beach. On nights like this it is good to be on land.

Love and peace,

Yvonne C.