

27 Nov 10

Hello All,

What a wet week! or should I say year. Thank God for Sloggers.

Martin had a few days in port this week due to the bad weather, not that he could get any maintenance done with the rain. He has been working on Brittomart reef and he advised that last week he saw only a few breeding age turtles on the reef however there were lots of small and midsize flatbacks and greens. The visibility is very poor and they had large hammerheads swimming with them for a few days. Also some very big gropers.

Caught a subadult cassowary in the pig trap even though there was only corn in the trap at the time. Of course it was very frightened. It is amazing how a bit of quite talking can calm an animal. I fixed a rope to the door and threaded it under the bars and pulled the door open from the rear of the cage. The cassowary slowly walked out and then took off into the mangroves none the worse.



The cassowary scats on the road and around my property consist mainly of pandanus. Most of the birds look a bit on the skinny side. Perhaps the rain has interfered with normal fruit set and the food is no longer there for the birds or the pigs. Maybe this is the reason we are seeing so many pigs, they are hungry. The rainforest is no longer producing food. Paul Barbagallo did say to me that the pigs we caught were very skinny. He also commented that the Coquette Point pigs were the hairiest pigs he has ever seen. "Real feral". The Coquette Point matriarch cassowary Jessie was feeding on fungus near the road when I went into town on Wednesday.

When I came home two hours later she was still there. She looked OK in my eyes. I have been told that Terrain is doing pig baiting around Innisfail, they have been knocking on doors telling people to lock up their dogs in case they take the baits. I just wonder how many hungry cassowaries will get the bait?

Also knocking on doors in Mena Creek this week has been a mining exploration team. Apparently there is bauxite in the red volcanic soil and they intend to dig test holes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Had an ashen faced customer last Sunday. They had seen what they thought was a log on the road, where the road crosses the little creek before the Ninds Creek bridge. They stopped the car and a two metre crocodile slowly saunter off the road and slipped into the water. They said it stayed their looking at them. The Ninds Creek crocodiles will have great fun soon when 'Sea Haven' provides them with a new lake and canal habitat.

Caught two more piglets this week but have not got the big girl that still visits every night. Lots of tracks on my beach this week: big pig tracks, cassowary prints, crocodile slide, wallaby tracks and lots of waders. My beach is a busy place.

Two lads from biosecurity took the Asian bee lure away from my front lawn. They only have enough staff to monitor three traps in the Flying Fish Point area. I wonder why?

Cheers Yvonne C.