

30 Jan 2011

Hi All,

Once again we play the waiting game with cyclones that could determine the fate of Queensland's horticulture industry. One thing is sure, with all the technology we have for forecasting, the Met predictions are only a guide, the weather will do as it chooses. However when Anna Bligh gives a press conference, following advice from the Bureau of Meteorology, you know we are in for a one in a 100 year event. TD09F as Fiji has listed the depression following 'Anthony' could be Queensland's nemesis. Let us all hope it does not develop.

On the up side the metallic starling babies have lost their juvenile plumage and are feasting on the ripe berries of the Alexandra palm. The red berries are the same colour as their eyes and in their haste to feed they knock more berries to the ground than they eat. The berries are just the right size for the cassowary chicks.

Got a glimpse of 'Bent Cone' on Friday. This is an old, male cassowary that I have watched at Coquette Point for over thirty years. He was looking in prime condition as he ducked between the houses at the top of the range. His casque is bent to the right, and he has what appears to be a bullet hole through his casque. His left wattle is slightly shorter than the right. Have old photos but nothing recent or in digital format.

A family of slaty grey snakes live in the wall cavity of my house. Every year I find babies in the house. This week one in the cupboard, how it got in there I have no idea, I accidentally closed the door on it but it seemed alright when I put it outside. Another I found on the floor in the kitchen. No matter how many I take outside they just keep appearing inside.



Red dragon flies are mating all over the nursery. Their favourite food is mosquitoes and with the new cases of dengue fever reported in Innisfail we certainly need lots of mosquito eaters.



Just as the blooms on the melaleuca were fading this week three crested hawks arrived to feast on the insects that were feeding on the flowers. All afternoon the hawks manoeuvred in the tree branches like crazed drongos while at the same time twittering like demented canaries. The show lasted for over three hours.

I spied a flush of red colour in the Coquette Point rainforest a few brachychiton, flame trees, are flowering. Also one on the road at the top of the hill. They normally flower in November. My old tree has still not lost its leaves but a few blossoms have appeared in the greenery, very strange. It is all quiet on the sandpit at Coquette Point, the little terns have left. Hopefully the four chicks hatched this year will return to nest one day.

cheers for now,
Yvonne C.