**June Norman on John Busst and Ninney Rise**

Reef Walk 2013

It started when we were planning the walk. Yvonne Cunningham mentioned Ninney Rise and John Busst, and Liz Gallie sent me links. I read about it and got excited about it as here we are going down the same road. In a way it’s a real shame having to do it (save the reef) again, seeing all the work John Busst did. It’s history repeating itself. The Walk is following the footsteps of this special man. He didn’t just protect Ellison Reef; he went on to get the whole reef protected.

I read up the bits and pieces (from the links) before the walk. When they announced they were trying to get permission for us to stay at Ninney Rise, it really pressed a button to actually be there. 10 or 11 of us stayed there. Everyone felt the same; it was such a privilege and honour to be staying there. We saw a cassowary through the bushes when we stayed there.

I intend to push this story all the way along. It’s a part of Australian history, as important as Burke and Wills. I’d like to see that part of history, that battle to get World Heritage listing of the Great Barrier Reef, taught through schools.

In one of the documents, John Busst stated that it’s only when it went national that it gained momentum. It was people power that got it saved. That’s the exact words I’ve been using. It’s only when people stand up and be counted and I feel very strongly we’ll win this one too. We need to do it in honour of John Busst; how can we let him down.

I felt the spirit of the place. There was a beautiful feeling being there and I could feel that a lot of good positive things have happened around that place. It’s confirmation and strengthening.



Reef Walk 2013 at Ninney Rise