

11 Jan 11

Hi All,

The Johnstone River has not had an opportunity to run clear this week, runoff from storms every day in the catchment has kept the silt flowing. Even on a 2.9m incoming tide the water is still red as the silt remains suspended in the water for at least five kilometres out to sea.

Dean who works in the nursery is a keen fisherman and he has been catching some very large mangrove jacks over the last week. They are washing out of the creeks and into the river. Incredibly there is no sign of Bundaberg disease on the fish this year. The fish Dean has been catching are brightly coloured, fat and healthy. Great news.

Male helmeted friar birds have been noisily chasing females along branches on trees in the nursery. They look so clumsy and yet they are so agile. Looking forward to seeing lots of nest building in the weeks ahead.

I found a young Amethystine python sunning itself on the head of a Balinese statue in the nursery yesterday, it had just shed its skin and was so soft. Once dried out it went chasing my green tree frogs.



Every downpipe in the nursery is occupied by a green tree frog and when the first raindrops enter the downpipes they sound off in a deafening cacophony of croaks. Now at the outlet on every downpipe there are pools of frothy eggs. Lots more frogs to come.

I had a phone call from Peter Uechtritz this week he is the Johnstone River Catchment Coordinator for Terrain NRM. He had asked me what I wanted to know about feral pigs.

He had heard I was I doing a press release on feral pig control operations in the Wet Tropics!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I told him I had no intention of doing a press release but I was preparing a submission to Biosecurity.

Today there was a PR press release from Terrain NRM in the Innisfail Advocate, obviously in damage control, so I have decided to attach my submission, to Biosecurity, which I have just finished, to this blog in the hope that the issues I have raised are not swept under the carpet.

Martin C. believes there is lots of rain on the way and possible floods for Innisfail. A low is expected to develop in the Gulf next week and move over the Atherton Tablelands. This is the catchment basin for the Johnstone River and the Town of Innisfail is built on its flood plain. Lets hope he is wrong.

cheers to all,

Yvonne C.