

9.1.11

Hi all,

The rain events in central Queensland continue with more surface and upper level low pressure systems moving in. Tully may lose the golden gum boot this year! Meanwhile this is the fourth day with no rain recorded at Coquette Point. A positive drought.

I wrote to the CCRC regarding a volunteer cassowary lookout during road-side maintenance operations but they ignored my letter and carried out the road-side maintenance on Friday. I stopped to speak to the traffic controller but he had not been told about the cassowary chicks. However the supervisor David Jones had been told of my letter. Still the road crew did not understand that the chicks do not always cross the road with the dad but more often several minutes later. When frightened they will squat down in the long grass and there is no hope of seeing them. Only 'lookouts' who can recognise the parent birds and are aware of the chicks could avert a possible disaster.



I stopped the car to watch the slasher and caught no 3 dad as he crossed the road behind the slasher visibly frightened of the noise.



Little Runt, the sibling of the subadult cassowary who was caught in the pig cage, is growing strongly. He was half the size of his sibling but is now catching up. His feet are now as big as his sibling's and I can no longer distinguish the birds by their footprints: they are both the same size. However, 'Little Runt' is still smaller in height.



The ketch floated off the Coquette Point spit on the 3m tide early Wednesday morning. They dug the sand out around the boat and waited for the tide to come in. The incoming waves are bringing fresh sand to fill the hole.



I again counted four terns leaving nests on the spit early Thursday morning.



The photo shows the nesting site in the foreground and the ketch at anchor in the river on the far left.



Unfortunately there were fresh dog and person prints across the spit and the tern nesting site see photo. There is no sign to warn anyone that this is a nesting site of an endangered species. However I live in hope: DERM are aware of the existence of this site.

Little sunbirds are in a nest-building frenzy around the nursery. One nest was built in five days and she was sitting in the nest on the sixth. I have never seen so many sunbird nests built over a two week period at the nursery.

Ants have been very active again this week, I drove into a swarm flying out of the national park on my way to town on Friday, not termites. Again around the nursery there are ant tracks heading westwards towards higher ground. Generally when I see this it means heavy rain coming. Not surprising seeing it is the wet season.

Keep cool,
cheers Yvonne C.