



THE Rainforest Leaflet

g r o w i n g c o n s e r v a t i o n r e s u l t s

© Andrew Gregory

There are less cassowaries living in the wild than the giant panda, of which there is international awareness and support for its survival. Our goal is to change this!



Saving Australia's Rainforest Dinosaur

RAINFOREST RESCUE IS LEADING A NATIONAL MULTI-ORGANISATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE PLIGHT OF THE SOUTHERN CASSOWARY (CASUARIUS CASUARIUS JOHNSONNII). THE CASSOWARY EVOLVED OVER 80 MILLION YEARS AGO AND IT IS ESTIMATED FEWER THAN 1,000 OF THESE 'LIVING DINOSAURS' ARE LEFT IN THE AUSTRALIAN WILD.

Juvenile cassowary in the wilds of the Daintree. They start to get their distinctive colour from around nine months of age – around the time they are starting to fend for themselves.

The cassowary's existence is vital to the rainforest's ecological functionality. Many species are entirely dependent on the cassowary dispersing seeds for their survival, yet rapid development in the tropical rainforests of far north Queensland has destroyed 85% of its habitat.

The *Save the Cassowary* campaign is a partnership between government departments, business partners, and 19 partner zoos and wildlife sanctuaries.

When launching the campaign, Rainforest Rescue's Director of Conservation, Jennifer Croes, also announced a new partnership with

the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation.

She explained "Cassowaries play not only a vital role in rainforest biodiversity, but also a significant cultural role in Indigenous traditions. The partnership will unite traditional owners and Indigenous knowledge and values with our long-term conservation goals".

At the launch, Will Meikle from Wild Life Sydney Zoo spoke of the role zoos play in helping to bring endangered species to the public's attention. To support this, signage will be displayed at partner zoos nationwide. A website also has been created for the campaign.

To date, the media coverage of



© Jonathan Munro Wild Watch

Cassowaries are 'rainforest gardeners', distributing seeds to maintain the rich diversity of the rainforest.

How we can save the Cassowary

Buy Back and Protect rainforests forever. We have already purchased 22 properties critical to create a wildlife corridor, but there are many more high conservation value properties in the Daintree Lowlands on our wish list.

Rescue and rehabilitate sick and injured cassowaries and orphaned chicks at the Garmers Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre, Mission Beach. We now manage this facility under a partnership with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) and the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation.

Research - collaborate with academic institutions and zoos to undertake much-needed research to learn more about this living dinosaur and its contribution to rainforest biodiversity.

Educate - information about the southern cassowary and the threats it faces www.savethecassowary.org.au



TO HELP RAINFOREST RESCUE SUPPORT OUR CASSOWARY CONSERVATION PROJECTS, PLEASE DONATE NOW

www.savethecassowary.org.au/support-us

the campaign has reached more than three million Australians with the simple message to **Save the Cassowary.**

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The *Rainforest Leaflet* is proudly printed on 100% post consumer waste recycled fibre, made with a carbon neutral manufacturing process, using vegetable based ink.



Leaves are central to the survival of life on earth. From the canopy of mighty rainforest trees to the shrubs, soft herbs and grasses that feed us all, leaves are the fundamental units of production and the ultimate expression of sustainability.

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Buying back the Daintree to Protect it Forever

RURAL RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUE TO BE THE GREATEST THREAT TO ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL ECOSYSTEMS IN THE WORLD - THE LOWLAND DAINTREE RAINFOREST. THAT'S WHY YOUR DONATIONS TO OUR DAINTREE BUY BACK AND PROTECT FOREVER PROJECT ARE SO CRITICAL.

What is happening on the land you've protected forever?

Cassowary Conservation Reserve

We are restoring Cassowary Conservation Reserve under our Daintree Plant a Rainforest Project. Rainforest Rescue's Land Manager, Joe Reichl, said the first trees planted about three years ago are growing

vigorously and have created a forest canopy – the falling leaf litter creates a healthy ecosystem and dropped seeds have begun shooting.

An estimated 180 tonnes of rubbish (nine semi-trailer loads) was removed from the Reserve in the last month – including 13 car bodies, a shed, tank stand, a 24 foot boat trailer and various rotting caravans! An additional five tonnes was carted by hand so as not to disturb delicate plants

Joe and his team of workers and volunteers have also destroyed all mature oil palm trees, he estimates there are still over 220 young oil palms left.

Baralba Corridor Nature Refuge

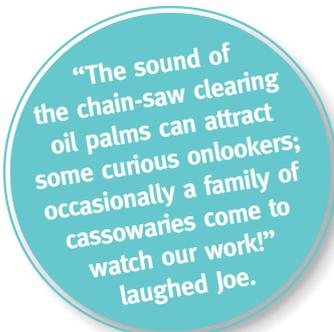
The Baralba Corridor Nature Refuge is formed by eight Rainforest Rescue properties in the Cow Bay area. This valuable wildlife corridor links two isolated areas of the Daintree National Park/ World Heritage area for the endangered southern cassowary. It also protects three vulnerable and 11 rare plants including the only known location of a previously thought extinct species of fern.

We purchased Lots 82 and 83 in Rosewood Road, Cow Bay thanks to donors support. Since then



Some of the 13 cars removed from Lot 46!

we have been gradually restoring these properties. In preparation for tree planting, Joe and his team have been weeding and removing invasive plant species and clearing more than 40 tonnes of debris. 🌿



These properties were purchased with the generous support from you, our donors; THANK YOU!

- Restoration at **Lot 46** is supported by funding from the Australian Government.
- Restoration at **Rosewood Road** is supported by a grant from the Queensland Government's Everyone's Environment grants – cleaning up our backyard program.



What you have helped us achieve on these key properties

- **planted over 25,000 trees**
- **removed over 245 tonnes of rubbish**
- **destroyed all mature oil palms**



Our ambitious vision is to buy back and protect all remaining high conservation value properties in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest by 2030.

Restoring the Daintree with tree planting

Dry weather in November and December was ideal for collecting seeds for cultivation in our nursery.

Our Daintree Land Management team reported that last year's dry season was particularly hot so many rainforest plants flowered and seeded (some twice) including about 20 species that haven't flowered in recent years. This gave our team the opportunity to collect many species for the nursery seed bank.

- we propagate and grow an average 15,000 plants annually from our seeds
- plants are used to restore habitats on our Daintree properties

Want to know more about our Daintree Rainforest properties?

www.rainforestrescue.org.au/daintree-properties

Help replant the Daintree 14-15 June

Where: Baralba Corridor Nature Refuge and Cassowary Conservation Reserve

We are opening three of our properties to people willing to get their hands dirty and help restore rainforest habitat. We will have done the hard work and dug the holes; but we need you to help us fill them with trees propagated in our nursery!

The land is located in the Daintree about two hours drive from Cairns. It is always a fun day out.

To find out more and register your interest, please visit www.rainforestrescue.org.au/events/plant-a-rainforest



Allen Sheather and Barbara Maslen

Assessing conservation value

Only high conservation value land is purchased by Rainforest Rescue. Prospective properties are assessed through a detailed survey undertaken by Advisors to the Board, Allen Sheather, and his partner Barbara Maslen.

Ten point 'balanced scorecard' criteria:

-  **Location** - does it have connectivity to other protected land?
-  **Vegetation** - can invasive weeds be controlled? How much regenerated or revegetated is required?
-  **Development risk** - does it have a building DA? Is the terrain suitable for development? Is it outside a gazetted conservation precinct?
-  **Habitat potential** - is it classified as essential habitat for the endangered southern cassowary? Have threatened species been identified on it?
-  **Clearing** - How much clearing and rubbish removal will be required?
-  **Value** - Value for money in the current property market.



The beauty of Forest Close has been protected forever thanks to your donations.

New plans to protect rainforest at Forest Creek

Last year we appealed for your donations in our Top 5 Buy Back campaign to purchase land we identified as having high conservation value and urgently requiring development protection.

Thanks to donations and grants we protected three of these properties. In November last year we settled on Lot 16 Forest Close, and we will settle on two properties adjacent to it, Lots 17 and 18 in late April.

These properties have high conservation value, and our surveys revealed an abundance of flora (128 species). Their proximity to the Daintree River also meant they were at very high risk of development.

We must still purchase 13 Forest Creek Road to maximise our conservation efforts at the **Rainforest Rescue Nature Refuge** and connect two areas of World Heritage Area/National Park.



The new 'art cup' from business partner BioPak. **20% of the profits from the sale of the cups will be donated to Save the Cassowary projects.** Look out for the cups at participating cafes and coffee shops nationally.

Help us connect the wildlife corridor



-  www.rainforestrescue.org.au
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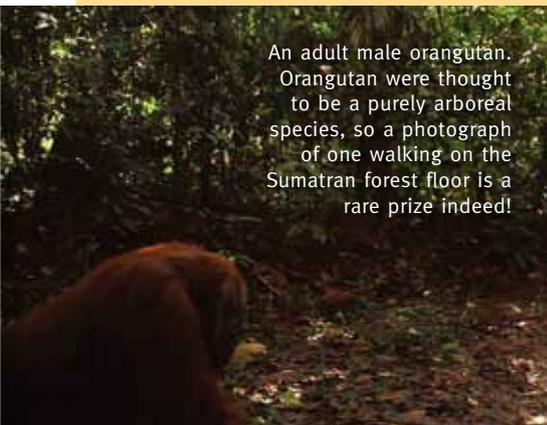
Rainforest Rescue's **Orangutan Habitat for Survival** Project is working in partnership with the Orangutan Information Centre in North Sumatra to save endangered animals, by restoring and protecting critical habitat in the Gunung Leuser National Park.

We are replanting rainforest species; removing illegally planted oil palms; and preventing further clearing of rainforest by providing alternative and sustainable employment through rainforest restoration to the local community.



Working together in Sumatra

A "selfie" from a pig-tailed macaque



An adult male orangutan. Orangutan were thought to be a purely arboreal species, so a photograph of one walking on the Sumatran forest floor is a rare prize indeed!

What we've done

- So far this financial year, Rainforest Rescue has contributed \$20,000 to the project.
- In collaboration with students from Cranbrook School in Sydney (who fundraised), we distributed five camera traps and GPS equipment in the Gunung Leuser National Park (Northern Sumatra).
- We distributed 20 camera traps and GPS equipment to the Alliance of Integrated Forest Conservation (ALeRT) for use in the Bambang Reforestation Area in Way Kambas National Park (Southern Sumatra).

What we've discovered

Camera traps show that critically endangered wildlife is returning to the Besitang reforestation site (formally an illegal palm oil plantation).

Gunung Leuser: Orangutans and Eurasian wild pigs have been captured on camera.

Way Kambas: 17 species have been captured on camera:

- Animals include: Sumatran elephant, red muntjac deer, large spotted civet, yellow-throated marten, Malayan porcupine, leopard cat, citred langur, and plantain squirrel
- Birds include: the great argus, crested fireback, and red junglefowl.



Conservation strategy: To Protect Rainforests Forever

Rainforest Rescue's five-year (2013 -2018) Conservation Strategy encompasses our projects to protect rainforests and biodiversity throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

The strategy is based on five pillars: **Restoration, Preservation, Biodiversity conservation, Research, Education**

For more information www.rainforestrescue.org.au/conservationstrategy

STAFF PROFILE Jennifer Croes, Director of Conservation

Rainforest Rescue's Director of Conservation, Jennifer Croes, was recently awarded the Sir Edward Weary Dunlop Fellowship in the University of Melbourne's AsiaLink Leaders Program. The scholarship enables her to work alongside mentors and other leaders on conservation challenges in Asia.

Jennifer left her early career as a corporate consultant to follow her passion and work on conservation projects in Bali, Borneo, Bolivia and China, before completing her Masters in Conservation Science at Imperial College, London.

Since joining Rainforest Rescue, Jennifer has worked with the Board to develop a Conservation Strategy to Protect Rainforests Forever. She is the driving force behind the **Save the Cassowary** campaign.



PHOTO: Anika Hoffmann

Jennifer prepares for the live TV cross to launch the Save the Cassowary campaign from within the Cassowary enclosure of Wild Life Sydney Zoo.

I want to save our priceless rainforest

(Rainforest Rescue is a not for profit organisation, funded entirely by donations from committed people like you)



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All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. Thank you

* We will only disclose information to you once personal details, such as date of birth, have been verified. Any personal information collected by Rainforest Rescue is protected by our Privacy Policy (www.rainforestrescue.org.au/privacy)

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