

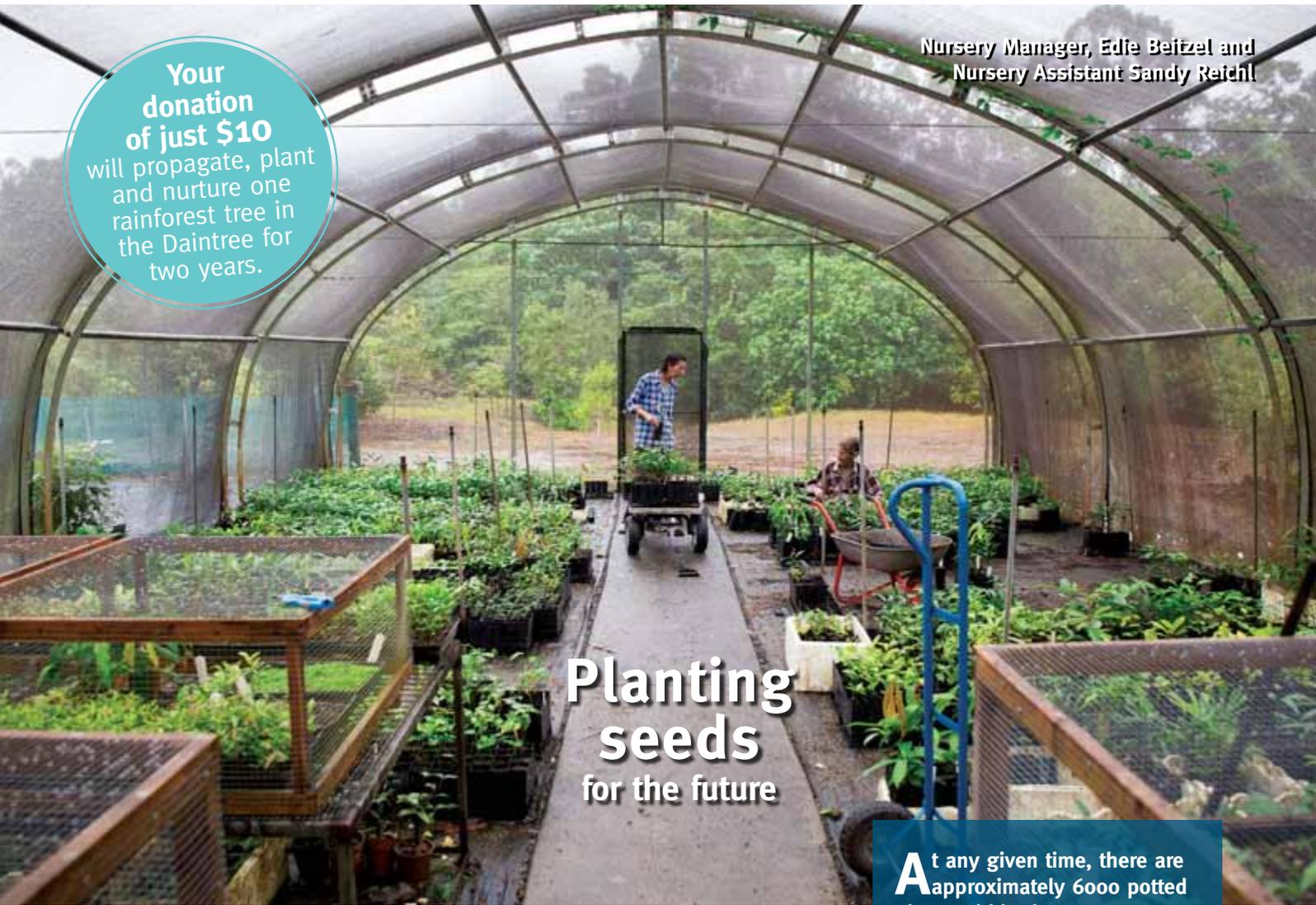


THE Rainforest Leaflet

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

Your donation of just \$10 will propagate, plant and nurture one rainforest tree in the Daintree for two years.

Nursery Manager, Edie Beitzel and Nursery Assistant Sandy Reichl



Planting seeds for the future

At any given time, there are approximately 6000 potted plants within the nursery shade house, and around 4000 in the sun hardening area. Propagation requires the collection of local seeds which are then sorted and catalogued prior to being sown for the germination process. The nursery has propagated 204 rainforest species. This is definitely a 'success story' as not all rainforest seeds germinate easily, and many seeds are available only intermittently.

OUR DAINTREE TEAM HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR THE UPCOMING RAINFOREST RESTORATION SEASON PROPAGATING RAINFOREST SEEDLINGS.

As all trees planted by the Rainforest Rescue crew and volunteers are grown at our nursery, the Nursery Manager must ensure at least 20,000 seedlings are propagated annually. Most will be planted on sites we are

restoring and a small quantity will be sold to local land holders restoring their own Daintree rainforest properties. "Seeds are collected in the later part of the year when trees are fruiting; all are from the Daintree lowlands rainforest ensuring local provenance. "Before restoring each property, we survey it and record the plant variety – helping us plan the appropriate species mix" said Joe Reichl, Land Manager. 🌿

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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.



***As long as you breathe
you should care about leaves***

The unfolding of a green leaf is a miracle of the earth. At its heart lies the secret of life itself. Each leaf is an economic unit powered by the sun. Supported by vessels that transport water and nutrients, a leaf transforms CO2 into carbon and oxygen, makes sugars from starches, and dissolves them in water to be transported through vessels to build cellulose; and then, more leaves, stems, flowers, fruits and seeds.

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.

As long as you breathe you should care about leaves.

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**Fundraise for
the rainforest**

If you love rainforests you'll want to help protect them forever...it's super easy to start your own fundraising campaign!

rainforestrescue.org.au/ILuvRainforest

THE HUM OF WINGBEATS IS WHAT YOU HEAR FIRST. BEATING AT CLOSE TO 80 STROKES PER SECOND, THE HUMMINGBIRD IS AUDIBLE LONG BEFORE YOU SEE IT.



The male violet tailed sylph with his long tail and beautiful colours

OVER 100 HUMMINGBIRD SPECIES LIVE IN THE CLOUD FORESTS OF ECUADOR.

These fast moving aerial acrobats boast an incredible variety of names like sylphs, emeralds, brilliants, violetears, and hermits.

With their hovering capacity and specialised beaks, they can easily harvest nectar from a wide range of the unique flowering plant species in the Cloud Forests.

They also have the unique distinction of being the only birds on the planet that can fly backwards!

With nearly 20% of the world's bird diversity living in the Ecuador Cloud Forest, we have partnered with Rainforest Concern to create a biodiversity corridor between the Cloud Forests and the lowland forests of the Awa Ethnic Reserve. ♪

The Cloud Forest needs you:

- it's in grave danger from logging, mining and farming
- it's home to an incredible variety of animals - jaguars, spectacled bears and many rare birds
- the pace and scale of destruction is edging species towards extinction

**Please donate
to save the
hummingbird's home**

Cassowary plum (*Cerbera floribunda*)

The cassowary plum produces one of the largest fruits in the Daintree rainforest. Measuring 9 - 11 cm in length and 4.5 - 5.5 cm in width, this beautiful blue fruit matches some of the cassowary's own colouring!

The cassowary ingests these fruits whole, eventually dispersing the seeds within a territorial range of anywhere up to seven square kilometres. Deposited on the forest floor, with fertiliser supplied, the cassowary plum seeds then take root, contributing to rainforest biodiversity, habitat and food sources.

- native to north Queensland tropics and New Guinea, the cassowary plum is most often found in lowland rainforest
- very large bright blue egg-shaped fruit
- cassowaries eat the fruit, and are unaffected by its milky sap that is said



to be poisonous. * evidence suggests that rodents and fruit bats can and do eat the flesh of the fruit, too.

The wet was late in arriving this season, slowing the start of our current restoration project within the upper north east section of Daintree National Park at Lot 96 Cape Tribulation Road.

Approx 1.84 hectares of the Daintree National Park had been cleared; some legally for an access road and some illegally for illicit crop production.

As no specific funding was available to the National Parks to carry out the project, we agreed to undertake this essential regeneration work on their behalf.

Over six months we will work to restore rainforest through revegetation work and the removal of debris and invasive species, both of which have severely restricted natural regeneration.

Rainforest Rescue has enjoyed a symbiotic relationship with the local National Parks department in the Daintree for many years; our nursery and seed propagation operations is built on national parks land, and in return we provide our expertise to restore cleared national park when they have not been able to secure specific funding. Knowing this land is permanently protected and preserved for future generations is our motivation.*

Illegal clearing

Holes are dug in preparation for the community tree planting day



*RAINFOREST RESCUE also provides a fee for restoration service for private landholders. For more information call 1300 763 611

Like all restoration sites, we first slashed the grasses and weeds leaving any remnant vegetation. The resulting mulch provides a very nutrient rich, weed suppressing layer of protection.

Some of the thicker growth included the unusual and long living coral fern *Gleichenia dicarpa* much prized by florists. Typical of ferns, it spreads by spores and rhizomes, and will continue to re-emerge for several years – one reason we maintain all restoration sites for at least two years is to ensure the seed bank of unwanted plants is destroyed.

We have planted 3500 seedlings from a variety of rainforest species. In total 9,600 trees will be planted. All will be

grown in our nursery from seeds with local provenance.

The restoration of Lot 96 will complete a key habitat corridor, linking rainforest to riparian and providing a vital biodiversity corridor between protected, preserved land managed by Rainforest Rescue and that of the greater Daintree National Park. 🌿

The final 3000 trees to complete this restoration project will be planted by volunteers at our Plant a Rainforest day on 24 May.

To get involved register at rainforestrescue.org.au/events



Cassowary chicks are progressing well

It has now been four months since three cassowary chicks came into care at the Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre.

They are rapidly growing, now eating around nine kilograms of fruit twice a day! Their food intake has nearly doubled in three months. After a recent health check the vet reported “They are all very bright and alert, with very typical wild cassowary chick behaviour.

“One is growing faster than the other two so we believe it may be female. I will be able to confirm this at my next check-up”. 🌿



All chicks have been microchipped, vaccinated and are regularly wormed.



You can ensure the successful release of these birds to the wild! Donate today

rainforestrescue.org.au/AdoptCassowaryOrphan

A large area of cleared rainforest is visible in the top left of this aerial photo of the Daintree rainforest



Why we focus on the Daintree rainforest

Please urgently donate to help us protect the Daintree lowlands forever.

The Daintree rainforest is of international conservation importance as one of the most significant regional ecosystems in the world.

Many people assume the creation of the Daintree National Park and World Heritage listing in 1988 would protect this unique environment.

Unfortunately an earlier subdivision approval in the heart of the Daintree lowland rainforest had seriously undermined the integrity of the rainforest and created the greatest threat to it and its biodiversity.

Approximately half of this rainforest has been cleared or selectively logged. The remaining intact rainforest is very limited and contains

many of the same high biodiversity and conservation value forests as the bordering World Heritage listed area.

Rainforest Rescue's **Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever** project purchases and protects high conservation value rainforest at risk of development. Nature Refuge status is then created which protects the properties forever under

covenants ratified by the Queensland parliament.

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

Imagine losing the Daintree rainforest to continuing rural residential development. Imagine losing the cassowary or Bennet's tree kangaroo.

The greater Daintree is home to:



- 30% of Australia's marsupial species
- 30% of Australia's frog species
- 60% of Australia's bat species
- 23% of Australia's reptile species
- 18% of Australia's bird species
- 62% of Australia's butterfly species

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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Ms / Mrs / Miss / Mr / Other _____ Name _____

Address _____ State _____ Postcode _____ Country _____

Tel (day) _____ Email _____

Please accept my gift to the rainforest \$30 \$50 \$100 My choice _____ My gift to the rainforest is Once off Monthly

Mastercard Visa Amex Card no _____ Exp _____ / _____

I enclose my cheque/money order made payable to Rainforest Rescue Signature _____

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

* Any personal information collected by Rainforest Rescue is protected by our Privacy Policy (www.rainforestrescue.org.au/privacy)

Please make your generous donation by one of these easy methods:



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