



# 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

Lot 83: this photo was taken just minutes before a group of volunteers started filling these holes with seedlings. This whole area had previously been taken up by five oil palms that covered a radius of close to one hectare! Nothing grows under the palms (including the usually unstoppable Singapore daisy).

### What we have achieved:

- 40 tonnes of debris removed - including sheds, cement slabs, tyres, caravans, water tanks and water tower
- 4,975m2 of land weeded
- 1.4 hectares of land planted with rainforest seedlings grown in our nursery
- 1,764 rainforest trees planted
- Equivalent of 31 days spent removing debris, weeds and oil palms



## Restoration completed on two more Daintree rainforest properties

RESTORING RAINFOREST TO ITS FORMER GLORY TAKES TIME AND LOTS OF BACK-BENDING BUT THE END RESULT IS INCREDIBLY REWARDING SAID OUR DAINTREE LAND MANAGER, JOE REICHL.

**IN EARLY 2012, GIFTS FROM OUR DONORS ENABLED US TO SECURE ANOTHER TWO PROPERTIES - LOTS 82 AND 83 ROSEWOOD ROAD, COW BAY – AND NOW JUST TWO YEARS ON WE HAVE FINISHED RESTORING THE RAINFOREST.**

Flora and fauna surveys of the two properties verified their high conservation value. The presence of rare plants with limited distribution (like the *Rhaphidophora hayi* vine),

significant sized buttress trees, and limited clearing (at the time we estimated 80% undisturbed rainforest), further increased our desire to protect this rainforest forever.

Once we had secured their purchase, restoring the cleared forest provided some interesting challenges for Joe and his team - work that they have just now completed after two and a half years of toiling in the heat and the wet.

Joe said “it was like someone took a cookie-cutter and removed a chunk of pristine rainforest from

each property”. These ‘chunks’ were destined to be house blocks (neither were built). Instead a massive stockpile of debris and sheds accumulated and were eventually overgrown with knee-high weeds.

Our purchases ensured this rainforest was not cleared and the properties are now protected forever.

There is no rest for Joe and his team of volunteers and part-time staff – they are now weeding and watering trees planted at Lot 46 and removing younger oil palms. 

The *Rainforest Leaflet* is a quarterly publication of



ABN: 61 086 885 154

[www.rainforestrescue.org.au](http://www.rainforestrescue.org.au)

[info@rainforestrescue.org.au](mailto:info@rainforestrescue.org.au)

PO Box 40  
Mullumbimby NSW 2482  
Australia

p 1300 763 611

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



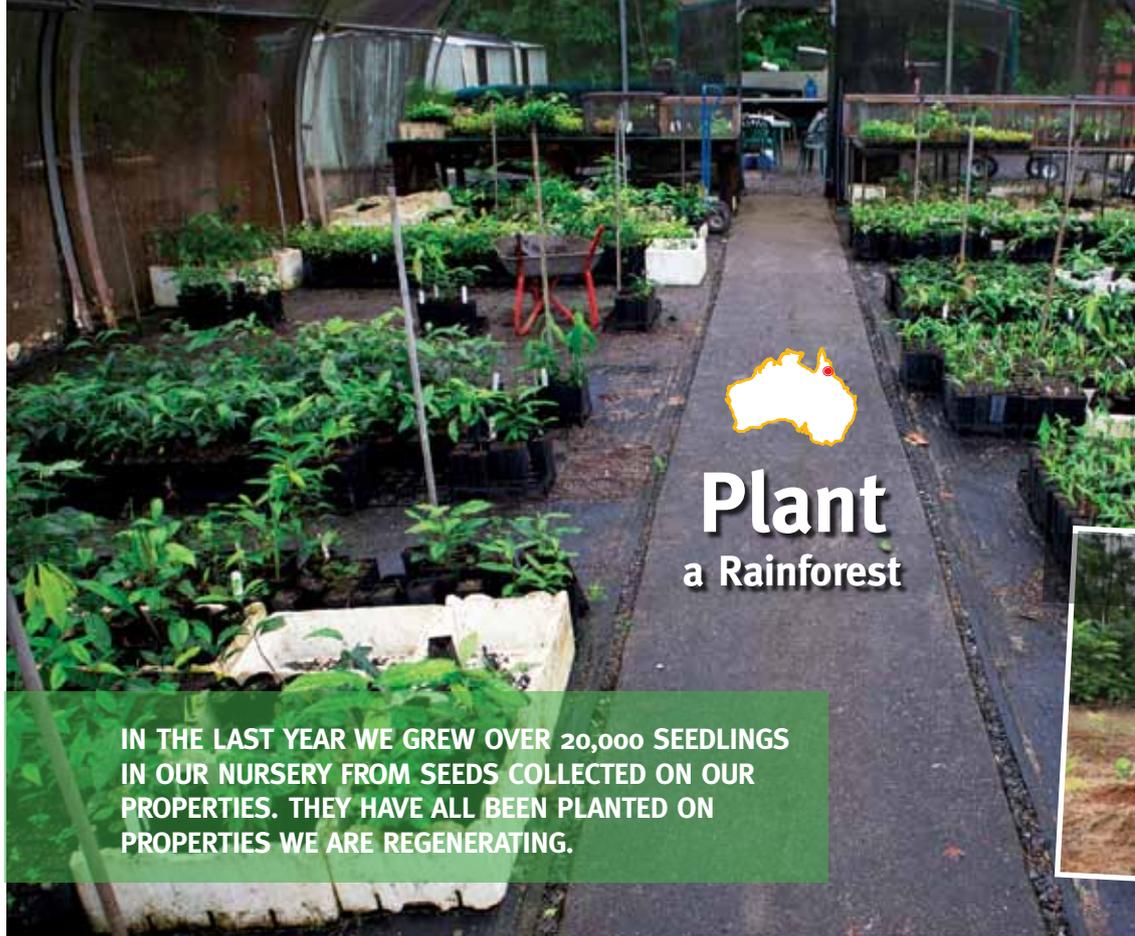
*As long as you breathe you should care about leaves*

*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.*

© Rainforest Rescue 2014



## Plant a Rainforest

IN THE LAST YEAR WE GREW OVER 20,000 SEEDLINGS IN OUR NURSERY FROM SEEDS COLLECTED ON OUR PROPERTIES. THEY HAVE ALL BEEN PLANTED ON PROPERTIES WE ARE REGENERATING.

**THE LAST WET SEASON WAS UNCOMMONLY WET IN THE DAINTREE; IN FACT OVER 4.5 METRES OF RAIN FELL IN SIX MONTHS.**

This made for muddy and slippery conditions for volunteers who attended our annual 'Plant a Rainforest' event.

In June nearly 70 volunteers, some of whom had travelled from as far away as Sydney, joined us for two days of tree planting, mud and puddles. We managed to plant nearly 2,000 trees, and would have planted many more except the auger used to dig the holes kept becoming bogged. The

positive side to all that rain is we haven't needed to water since the trees were planted!

Volunteers completed the regeneration of **Lot 83 Rosewood Road (Baralba Corridor Nature Refuge)** as well as planted some of the 5,000+ trees needed to revegetate Zone 6 of **Lot 46 Cape Tribulation Road**.

## Buy back the Daintree

Rainforest Rescue's vision is to buy back and protect all unprotected high conservation value rainforest in the Daintree lowlands by 2030.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors we are now two blocks closer to this goal. We recently exchanged contracts on Lots 13 Forest Creek Road and 38 Cape Tribulation Road, Daintree, and expect to finalise purchases in October and January respectively.

Both properties were at high risk of development; are Cassowary corridors; provide strong connectivity between other Rainforest Rescue Refuges and the Daintree National Park; and rate very highly for their conservation value. The vulnerably listed Bennett's tree kangaroo has also been sighted on lot 13 Forest Creek Road.

It is with relief and gratitude that we thank our donors. **Your support is helping connect rainforest corridors and saving our precious rainforest forever, thank you.**



Your support means we can protect the Daintree lowlands from further clearing

### Help us buy back the Daintree

 [www.rainforestrescue.org.au](http://www.rainforestrescue.org.au)  
 1300 763 611  
 Reply paid 40  
Mullumbimby NSW 2482



## Rainforest Rescue helps the Daintree National Park grow

Recently Rainforest Rescue gifted a property to the Qld Department of Environment and Heritage Protection that borders on the Daintree National Park, effectively growing the size of the Park.

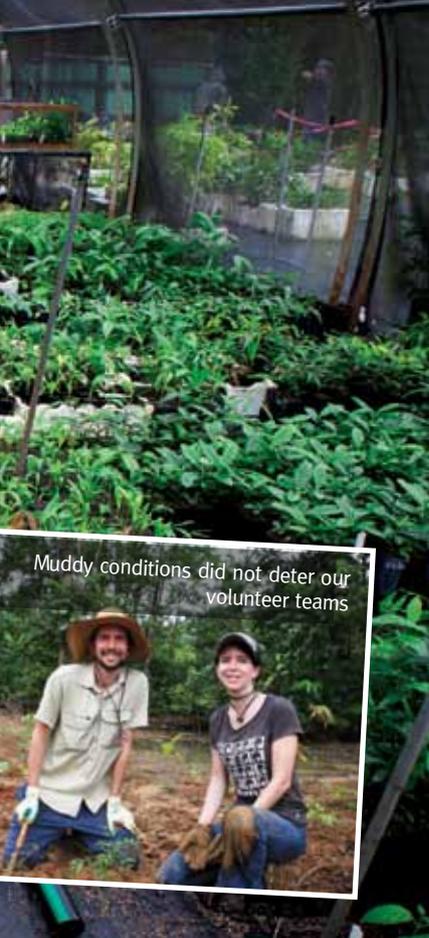
Lot 76 Rosewood Road Cow Bay (directly opposite Rainforest Rescue's **Baralba Corridor Nature Refuge**) is in near pristine condition, with only a small number of trees removed to create a driveway.

The gift ensures its permanent protection as it will now be within the boundaries of the Daintree National Park.

"We are not about building a portfolio of property assets – we are about protecting as much rainforest as we possibly can," said Grant Binns, Managing Director Rainforest Rescue.

"Gifting the property is an innovative way to protect and restore additional rainforest in the area. We pay council rates on all properties and a one off fee of approximately \$3,000 to place nature refuge status on each property – these savings will be used to protect more rainforest".

The gift and agreement were ratified by a Qld ministerial submission and ensures that if for any reason the property is no longer protected under National Parks status, the government is obliged to return the land to Rainforest Rescue.



Muddy conditions did not deter our volunteer teams

**MONITORING:**  
measuring  
success of large  
scale rainforest  
restoration

**Canopy cover, number of species, plant density, and rate of growth are key indicators of forest development.**

With the assistance of Dr Robert Kooyman, we are monitoring these factors and more to measure the success of a large scale rainforest restoration project on our signature property, **Lot 46 Cape Tribulation Road, Daintree.**

The property was cleared in the 1960s for cattle grazing and agriculture, and later for growing oil palms. More recently it had become a dumping ground and a haven for impenetrable weeds. In 2010 we secured the degraded property and set it on its long journey back to rainforest.

Different planting designs were used to establish the best methods to restore rainforest on the property. Care was taken to protect and enhance natural regeneration, including during the early

stages of weed control. We are monitoring based on periodic measurement of growth rates of both revegetated (planted) and regenerated (naturally growing 'wildling' tree) areas. The property was divided into working zones and seven 50 x 20m monitoring plots were laid out in the different zones.

In addition, twelve permanent photographic points were set up to allow consistent recording of rainforest re-development and growth over time.

Results to date have been extremely positive, showing remarkable growth rates and rapid canopy closure – the key to rainforest structure. We will continue monitoring until the rainforest is completely restored.



Robert with Madeleine Faught, Chair Rainforest Rescue, surrounded by newly planted seedlings on Lot 46.



Robert with Edie Beitzel, Nursery Manager, recording growth rates on Lot 46. These trees were planted in January 2014.

### DR ROBERT KOOYMAN – rainforest expert and key Rainforest Rescue advisor

Dr Robert Kooyman supports our vision to protect rainforest forever by providing input on how cutting edge science and innovation can improve conservation outcomes.

Robert is a Botanist and Evolutionary Ecologist with a passion for rainforest. He has more than 30 years of field and research experience in the

rainforests of Australia, and has worked in Asia, South America, and Madagascar. A Research Associate with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, and a Hon. Research Fellow with Macquarie University, he collaborates and publishes with scientists around the globe on the history, origins, and evolution of rainforests in Australia.

Madeleine Faught, Chair of Rainforest Rescue said "we are very fortunate to have an individual of Robert's calibre and extensive experience as a resource for Rainforest Rescue. Whenever we need his expert advice, he generously provides this - ensuring that everyone (including the rainforest) gains from his vast knowledge base".

## Wongaling Wetland Cassowary Corridor restoration project

Locals couldn't remember the last time Wongaling Creek flowed, but in collaboration with Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, we've completed the Wongaling Wetland Cassowary Corridor restoration project and the creek is now flowing again!

The Djiru Native Title Land at Mission Beach was choked with water weeds, guinea grass, lantana and Singapore daisy, and surrounded by urbanisation and development. The land was prioritised for restoration after it was identified as key cassowary habitat by the Traditional Owners.

The project also employed and trained Djiru Traditional Owners, many of whom had been displaced by Mission Beach's rapid development and soaring property prices.

"The Giringun nursery and restoration team and the Djiru restoration team thank you for your support to help heal our country," said Nina Dawson, Restoration Project Coordinator.



Before restoration began the area was dominated by invasive weeds smothering the trees.



The restored site planted with Giringun nursery trees and mulched.

### What we've achieved

- Removal of invasive Singapore daisy that had clogged the creek and prevented native species growth
- 1,500 rainforest trees planted
- Seed collection of cassowary food trees to be grown in the Giringun nursery
- Training of Djiru people – plant identification, seed collection and restoration and propagation techniques
- Wongaling Creek flowing again



The remnant of a massive old growth rainforest tree surrounded by illegally planted oil pams.

## Orangutan habitat for Survival

Rainforest Rescue has been working with project partner, Orangutan Information Centre (OIC) to restore illegally cleared national park in

Northern Sumatra since 2009.

Our recent site visit to the project in Sei Betung Besitang, Gunung Leuser National Park provided encouragement as it

demonstrated that it is possible to re-create a healthy ecosystem in an old growth rainforest previously decimated by illegal palm oil plantations.

OIC's revegetation work is similar to our Daintree operations. All trees are grown at their nursery from seeds sourced from the 'mother' trees (those that survived logging). A combination of slow and fast growing trees are planted to ensure rapid canopy enclosure, and all trees are tagged and growth rates measured every six months.

In a plot regenerated three years ago at Sei Betung Besitang, key species are

already returning. Elephant scats and orangutan nests demonstrate the rainforest now grows sufficient food for their survival. These animals also play a significant role in rainforest regeneration - orangutan disperse seeds over a larger range as they travel between trees and elephant scats provide fertiliser. 🍌

Help our work in North Sumatra to regenerate degraded rainforest by supporting the Orangutan Habitat for Survival Project



## I want to save our priceless rainforest

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



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](http://www.rainforestrescue.org.au/privacy))

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



Reply Paid 40 Mullumbimby NSW 2482 Australia  
1300 763 611 02 6684 6737  
[www.rainforestrescue.org.au](http://www.rainforestrescue.org.au)

