



rainforest rescue

supporter news *no.18*

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more trees planted

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18 years from now

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meet others who do

Protecting Rainforests Forever

rainforestrescue.org.au

Rainforest Rescue volunteer John Benfer at the Cassowary Conservation Reserve



chair report

Each year we genuinely look forward to conveying the ongoing achievements of our collective determination to protect rainforest and its biodiversity forever. Your support is crucial to these successes, and we honour your commitment to our shared vision. Together we bought new Daintree properties, contributed to the ongoing well being of Cassowaries, protected critically important rainforest habitat in Indonesia, and more which you'll read about on these pages. A busy and dynamic year.

On the home front, the Board instigated an organisational restructure; something that's been 'in the pipeline' for a while. The intent was to consolidate all our systems, creating a stronger platform for the organisation's ongoing growth

and capacity to achieve greater conservation outcomes. This new structure also frees our CEO, Kelvin Davies, to pursue greater exposure and partnerships for the organisation.

We've been fortunate in adding a skilled new Director to our Board – Leonie Gale. For over a decade Leonie was at the helm of the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. She brings a wealth of expertise and good common sense to the organisation.

In closing we would like to dedicate this newsletter to Krista Bernard – a valued staff member and last year's Sri Lanka Ride for the Rainforest tour leader. Krista held a passionate commitment to rainforest conservation, personifying our vision and mission. Her passing has filled us with sorrow.

Madeleine Faught
Chair, Rainforest Rescue Board of Directors

Madeleine Faught, Chair Rainforest Rescue



ceo report

In the past year we've broken through to a new way of thinking about our work in the Daintree Rainforest. The task of buying back all of the land carved up by the 1980's rural residential subdivision has seemed enormous. We now know this can be achieved.

It's been immensely satisfying buying and protecting each of the 16 properties we've saved to date. Yet with 180 properties threatened by development we've always known the scale of the task ahead. The early years of our Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project saw on average one block purchased and protected each year. It's taken some time to build up our momentum but now we're gathering some steam. In 2012, so far we've saved two properties and we have three more ready to be purchased and protected in the coming months. All of this has been achieved

through the partnership we have with you. With your help, in the coming years we will complete the vitally important work of protecting the Daintree Rainforest forever.

Rewilding is a term that's being more commonly used when discussing the conservation and restoration of the earth's most precious places previously impacted by our heavy hand. It refers to recreation of wilderness, and truly wild and free places for the natural world to exist. For the Daintree this means purchasing the freehold land and removing all development rights and when all the blocks are protected, closing roads that should never have been built in the precious Daintree Rainforest.

To achieve the vision we'll need to purchase upwards of ten properties each year by the year 2030. Watch this space!

Kelvin Davies
CEO, Rainforest Rescue

Kelvin Davies, CEO & Founding Director Rainforest Rescue

twin daintree properties protected forever

Two new rainforest properties have been purchased as part of Rainforest Rescue's Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project. Lot 83 Rosewood Road settled 19th January, 2012 and Lot 82 Rosewood Road settled 16th May, 2012. This brings the tally to 16 rescued properties.

"These blocks are located in Cow Bay, an area that we've been working towards protecting for more than a decade, and now it's all coming together," says Rainforest Rescue CEO & Founding Director Kelvin Davies.

"It's not only a win for the local wildlife and rainforest; it's a win for our supporters. These people and businesses have given not only their time and money, but their trust. They've shown faith in our motivations and strategies for purchasing properties. They've trusted us to make decisions in the best interest of the Daintree Rainforest and future generations of Australians."

Both properties purchased this year were ear-marked for development, but will now be protected forever.

"So what's happened is, we've safeguarded an existing wildlife corridor from future development and fragmentation. Lots 82 and 83 connect with five other properties already protected by Rainforest Rescue and increase the size of the Baralba Corridor Nature Refuge.

This corridor provides a vital link between two isolated parts of the Daintree National Park / World Heritage Area. It allows for the movement of wildlife such as the Endangered Cassowary... and it connects populations of plants, among them three vulnerable and 11 rare plant species," says Kelvin.

Assigned by local Aboriginal people, the kuku yalanji, the name Baralba means 'wildlife track'. "The biodiversity here is amazing," says Kelvin. "I have seen Cassowaries in this area. It is a real hotspot for Cassowaries."

Rainforest Rescue carefully chooses the properties it purchases and protects following thorough research into the conservation gains to be obtained. By strategically acquiring properties alongside one another we provide the habitat required for essential corridors for Cassowaries and other wildlife.

With each block purchased, regardless of size, further settlement in the Daintree is impacted; and it's the settlement pressures of increased

infrastructure, dogs and traffic that prove most devastating to local Cassowaries.

People settling in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest also bring garden plants that can invade the rainforest and become environmental weeds. We work to clear up these 'garden escapees' and keep on protecting more properties so that integrity is maintained and less settlement disturbs the Daintree.

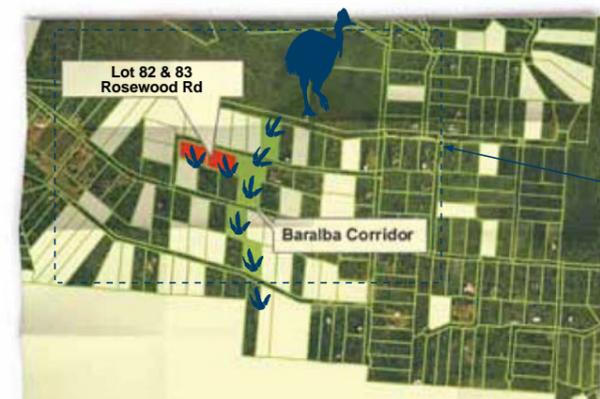
The suite of native plants and animals on Lots 82 and 83 is diverse and well worth protecting. A fauna and flora study revealed the presence of over 137 different species of plants on the properties including locally significant rare and threatened species *Haplostychanthus sp.* Cooper Creek (rare), *Normanbya normanbyi*, *Endiandra microneura* (rare), *Cleistanthus myrianthus* (rare) and *Hernandia albiflora*. Both properties are classified as essential habitat for the Endangered Southern Cassowary (*Casuarus casuarius johnsonii*) under the Queensland Vegetation Management Act 1999.



Rainforest Rescue volunteers Allen Sheather and Barbara Maslen at the Cassowary Conservation Reserve



The Baralba Corridor is a known wildlife track for the Endangered Southern Cassowary. Photo: Luke Jackson



These properties have been rescued thanks to the generosity of our supporters. We wish to thank our pro bono conveyancers Sparke Helmore, as well as Allen Sheather and Barbara Maslen who donate their time to provide flora surveys and vegetation assessments.



sowing the seeds of change

Hailing from country Victoria, Lorraine Watt doesn't live anywhere near the Daintree Rainforest and she's only visited once. Yet even before this visit, she had chosen to align her keen sense of conservation with the plight of the Cassowary and Daintree Rainforest by supporting Rainforest Rescue's work.

"I remember seeing a tiny ad in the paper with a picture of a Cassowary, asking for people to donate. I bought a couple of plots as corporate gifts, this was about six years ago and it started from there. I've just done little bits... when I've thought other people would like it and may become interested too.

Since childhood, I've always felt trees and forests are important. My father was a beekeeper and he had a great interest in and respect for the environment - the native flora and fauna, and the soil, water and air quality... I learned about the importance of biodiversity and the adverse consequences of deforestation. My love of the bush and interest in conservation grew from there.

In the past, I've worked as a social worker, did a science degree... Art is something that greatly interests me now and hopefully through my art I can get a message out that protecting and regenerating rainforests is important; it's important for the world.

Last August, while holidaying with family in North Queensland, I arranged to visit some Rainforest Rescue properties with Joe Reichl. I thought 'this is my opportunity' so I grabbed it and Erryn from head office kindly teed it all up. I don't know what I was expecting from Joe as Rainforest Rescue's Daintree Land Manager... someone in a suit? This wasn't the case. He shared his extensive knowledge of Rainforest Rescue's history,

current projects, processes involved in selecting properties for buy back and efforts to clear weeds and replant with local rainforest species. He showed us a property in the Baralba Corridor Nature Refuge and the Cassowary Conservation Reserve. We also visited the Daintree Rainforest Plant Nursery which I found fascinating and inspirational for use in my artwork back home.

It was a lovely sunny day and I took photos of the seeds and the seedlings, their leaves made the most beautiful patterns. I also took photos of a tall tree with a Strangler Fig... Those young trees I know one day will be beautiful big trees, doing their bit in the ecosystem, feeding Cassowaries and hosts of other animals. The trees will also breathe in lots of carbon dioxide.

For me, the enormity of the task ahead appeared obvious, almost overwhelming. The devastation caused by clearing virgin forest resulting in weed infestations (including invasive exotic species such as Oil Palms) shocked me. However, my visit to the nursery and replanted areas gave me great hope... the contribution of many individuals together will effect a real change."

"I realise change takes time but with a little information and encouragement everybody has the chance to be involved in the action."

Lorraine Watt visited properties that form part of the Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever self-drive tour. For a detailed map and information visit our website at www.rainforestrescue.org.au/ourprojects/daintree-self-drive-tour or call us on 1300 763 611.



Lorraine Watt takes inspiration from nature in her art work and is a passionate supporter of rainforest conservation. Photos Maxine Salvatore

daintree vision - 2030

By Kelvin Davies

Now that Rainforest Rescue has over 12 years of buy back experience in the Daintree Rainforest, I'm excited to announce our vision for the Daintree in 2030. It's clear, simple, undeniably ambitious and incredibly exciting.

But before I explain this vision to you, I want to acknowledge just how far we've come. In those 12 years, you have helped us save 16 rainforest properties. Together, we've demonstrated that ordinary people can and will buy back rainforest. We've had to pool our resources (money, time, skills and talents), be strategic in our purchase of land, and manage this land with the utmost care and respect. Together, we've done nothing less than alter the course of history for these parts of the Daintree Rainforest.

We now have the capacity to do more, people know us and trust us, have faith in us, and we've demonstrated that we can do the job.

So here's the challenge:

Between the Daintree River and Cape Tribulation there are 180 properties zoned for development. Each of these blocks supports tropical rainforest and is connected to the rainforest in the World Heritage listed Daintree National Park - they are part of this same forest. Their only 'crime' is that they are lower, flatter and were therefore more attractive to developers. These 180 blocks, like many that have already been sold, are at risk of rural residential development.

Our vision is clear and simple. In 2030 we want to say to our supporters, to all Australians and to the international community, that all of the available undeveloped freehold blocks in the Daintree Rainforest have been purchased.

That's 180 blocks rescued by 2030.

We want to say that we have closed down the network of roads and returned them to habitat.

Faced with the prospect of so many buy backs, I feel privileged to be living in a time when we have the opportunity to intervene. Like many of you who have supported our Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project, I choose not to feel overwhelmed, I simply feel compelled to act.

In the lead up to 2030, we have 18 years in which to purchase these blocks. With each year that passes, more houses are built so the race is on to buy back the Daintree before it is replaced by clearings and houses. Kick-started by our June 2012 appeal, we are ramping up our fundraising efforts to meet this challenge. Through our communications, you may have already been confronted with images or descriptions of two very different scenarios in 2030: Daintree saved versus Daintree developed. We are confident that with the support of our donors we can achieve this ambitious vision and protect the Daintree forever.

In 2030, I hope I will be saying thank you for playing such an important part in rescuing the Daintree Rainforest forever. I hope I will be sharing with you the great news that the rainforest is thriving and that the Cassowary population is now stable.

What could be more wonderful than announcing that all private land development on rainforest blocks has ended because together we were able to buy all 180 of them?



Daintree developed

VS



Daintree saved

Which future for the Daintree Rainforest will your children and grandchildren inherit?



Father and daughter Joe Reichl and Edie Beitzel oversee our activities in the Daintree

small nursery, big results

When it comes to taking credit for the Daintree Rainforest Plant Nursery's extraordinary outputs, Nursery Manager Edie Beitzel shies away from the spotlight. But Edie and her small band of volunteers must be doing something right - they propagated 6,000 rainforest plants last year growing up to 165 different rainforest species.

"We have 10 volunteers on the books doing various tasks, and about four come along regularly each week. They come for an enjoyable afternoon. They like to see the progress, from the seed stage, through to when they are planted in the ground.

On a typical day, I prepare the volunteers essential afternoon tea, move stock out to make space for new propagations, update the database, it's pretty varied...



A dedicated team of volunteers, both young and old, meet every Wednesday afternoon to propagate and look after seedlings used in our rainforest plantings



The nursery produced 6,000 rainforest plants last year growing up to 165 different rainforest species



As Rainforest Rescue's Daintree Land Manager, Joe Reichl oversees the planting and maintenance of our properties

devoted to the daintree

It takes a special kind of person to maintain Rainforest Rescue's properties in the Daintree Rainforest. Sure, hard work and technical know-how come with the territory but, as Rainforest Rescue's Daintree Land Manager, Joe Reichl's wacky sense of humour and unclouded vision endear him to his volunteers and keep him focused on the big picture.

"Visualising an established ecosystem really keeps me on the roll. In other words visualising an end result and being responsible for this.

The volunteers are involved with tree planting and are very good at this; the success of the trees is proof of this. As most of our volunteers are over 60 (and extremely dedicated) I need to keep them safe. Working in the field and outdoors is what I enjoy most, but when trees produce two to three metres of growth per year, seeing results is most satisfying.

"I have the greatest respect for nature and its elements."

One of the problems I have is introduced species, as is the case at our Cassowary Conservation Reserve where Oil Palms are emerging everywhere.

"It's a challenge to keep up the diversity of species."

For example, some species might only fruit every two years - so it's timing things for when we need them. We have to ensure there are enough species for projects, keep enough balance. For Cassowaries, it's supplying the trees that they need, so that there's always something fruiting.

I've been doing this job for a bit over two years. It's interesting, flexible, there is always something surprising... I love learning about the rainforest and working with the volunteers. I also have three kids and they love being part of it too."

They will dominate not only the property but surrounding areas - you can imagine removing a weed that is eight metres tall and half a metre in diameter!

Seeing results, imagining a restored rainforest, but most of all the compliments and positive comments from locals, tourists, peers and people who you have casual conversation with - these are the things that keep me motivated."



Tackling invasive weed species like *Brillantasia lamium* (Acanthaceae) is all in a day's work for Joe

planting trees for the daintree

A further 5,600 trees were planted in the Daintree this year bringing the total planted since 2007 to 29,696

There's something about Rainforest Rescue's Cassowary Conservation Reserve that inspires people to toil on its behalf, rain or shine... You could say it's the 'face of Rainforest Rescue' if a rainforest block could serve such as purpose. Certainly Lot 46 Cape Tribulation Road or, as it is better known, the Cassowary Conservation Reserve, is now receiving a lot of tender loving care.

The significance of the vegetation on the property is no secret to Rainforest Rescue; three Regional Ecosystems, Essential Cassowary Habitat, and many threatened plant and animal species make this site highly valuable in terms of its ecology. What's more, the property borders the Daintree National Park/World Heritage Area on its western boundary.

When Rainforest Rescue purchased the property in August 2010 (the 13th property purchased as part of our Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project), the future of the rainforest on and near the property was effectively re-written. In the late 1960's 20 hectares of the property had been cleared and an attempt made at farming bananas and pineapples. A trial Oil Palm plantation followed and then cattle grazing. Car bodies, overgrown paths, rubbish and derelict farm buildings littered the site.

Entrepreneur Christopher Skase owned the property in the 1980's and relocated most of the Oil Palms to the main street of Port Douglas and his Sheraton Mirage Resort. An avenue of Oil Palms still lines the driveway entrance, along with another row extending to the creek. In some places, the seedlings of this weedy species are proliferating.

Today, thanks to our supporters and the efforts of Rainforest Rescue workers and volunteers, this property is being converted back into rainforest. Debris and weeds are being removed, thousands of native trees have been planted, and the problematic Oil Palms are being tackled.

In February 2011 Cyclone Yasi hit the Daintree partially flattening an old farm shed on the property. A grant from the Commonwealth Bank gave us the means to remove the shed, a dozen car bodies and other debris from the property in May 2011.

Managing the reserve into the future

Activities on the site are now guided by a comprehensive three year management plan commissioned by Rainforest Rescue and completed in October 2011. The plan will see 89,600 trees established on the Reserve; 30,600 through physically planting trees and another 59,000 through removing weeds which will facilitate natural regeneration of the rainforest. Each newly-established tree will grow and sequester carbon throughout its life, providing a valuable ecological service.

Trees planted are of local provenance, the seeds having been collected locally and grown in our Daintree Rainforest Plant Nursery. Plants include a mix of pioneer and mature phase species, with many being Cassowary food plants. This in turn will promote further natural regeneration as Cassowaries eat the fruits and disperse the seeds.

In managing the Cassowary Conservation Reserve, Rainforest Rescue is:

- restoring the ecological integrity of important rainforest vegetation;
- providing habitat for wildlife including the Endangered Southern Cassowary (*Casuarus casuarus johnsonii*); and
- providing a demonstration site for Rainforest Rescue's work that you can visit.

Volunteers get stuck in

Under the direction of our Daintree Land Manager, Joe Reichl, a dedicated team of volunteers planted 3,600 trees at the Cassowary Conservation Reserve from February to May 2012. A further 2,000 trees were planted by volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia, under the management of Joe, on a property owned and managed by supporters the Daintree Discovery Centre. Planting in the Daintree coincides with the tropical wet season, typically starting in January and finishing in May.

A Community Tree Planting Day took place Sunday 27th May. Representatives from the local community, our sponsors Converga and the Taronga Conservation Society participated in this year's event.



The Commonwealth Bank Flood Assistance Programme enabled the removal of a dilapidated shed damaged by Cyclone Yasi along with other debris



Oil Palms proliferate the property and are the main focus of our efforts to rehabilitate the property



Cassowaries are seen frequently on the property



Local volunteers, as well as representatives from sponsors Converga and Taronga Zoo, planted 350 trees during our Community Tree Planting Day

"The volunteers come about once a week, even in driving rain. We can only plant this many trees because of them."

cassowaries in danger



Whether he knows it or not, Bob Irwin is as much on a mission as he is on an adventure these days. Well known for his pioneering role in Australia Zoo on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, Bob has long been captivated by native animals and their natural habitats.

Now, as Rainforest Rescue's Cassowary Conservation Ambassador, Bob is doing what he can to raise the profile of the Cassowary's plight in what has become a race against time.

"I firmly believe that the Cassowary is the most magnificent bird... and we are lucky to have it," says Bob simply. "I've been fortunate to have come across Cassowaries in the wild, I'd just like every Australian to have that."

Whether or not this dream is realised, only time will tell. Scientists now estimate that as few as 1,000 adult birds remain in all of Australia's north.

"Numbers are drastically low... around Mission Beach, it's really getting to a level where it's reaching a tipping point."

Known as the Cassowary Coast, Mission Beach has long been considered a strong-hold for the Cassowary. But according

"I think education is important. We have to find ways to get people to sit up and notice," says Bob.

'The gardener' of the rainforest

The Endangered Southern Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*) is one of the world's most prehistoric birds, and the third largest. It only inhabits the dense tropical rainforests of Far North Queensland. Crucial for rainforest ecology, the Cassowary is a major seed disperser for up to 238 rainforest plant species, some too large, others too poisonous to be dispersed by other animals. Around 70 to 100 plant species may depend entirely on the Cassowary to disperse their seeds in order for them to grow. The bird's unique digestive tract has evolved over 16 million years to allow seeds to be dispersed unharmed. Research has shown that Cassowaries typically transport 4% of the seeds they consume an average distance of 1.5km.

"Cassowaries are important to the rainforest. If we don't have them, then rainforest can't regenerate," says Bob Irwin.

to Bob, it could very soon be a coast with no Cassowaries.

"At Mission Beach, the road toll is the big issue. Cassowaries don't have any road sense. Most people in the area are very much aware of them... but there are always a few who just want to get from A to B as quickly as they can. It's an ongoing battle."

Add to that, the devastating impact of Cyclone Yasi. "There's nothing we can do about nature when she decides to let loose. Since Cyclone Yasi, we've all worked hard to get it back on track. When I visited recently, I was pleasantly surprised how things have come back. Everything is starting to grow again," says Bob.

Although he appreciates that cyclones are a part of the natural cycle of disturbance and renewal within Australia's tropical rainforests, Bob worries that, at any time, such an event could wipe out the very small Cassowary population.

He is convinced that as well as being a fight against time, it's a fight against complacency.

"These beautiful creatures don't have time. It's got to be done now. Let's not leave it too late."



Numbers of Cassowaries continue to decline in Mission Beach with 25 killed since Cyclone Yasi; 13 from car strike. Photo Andrew Sawyer



Over 40% of prime Cassowary habitat was destroyed by Cyclone Yasi in February 2011. Photo Liz Gallie



The Cassowary is known as the 'gardener of the rainforest' for its important role in dispersing seeds. Photo Jonathan Munro

mission possible: saving cassowaries

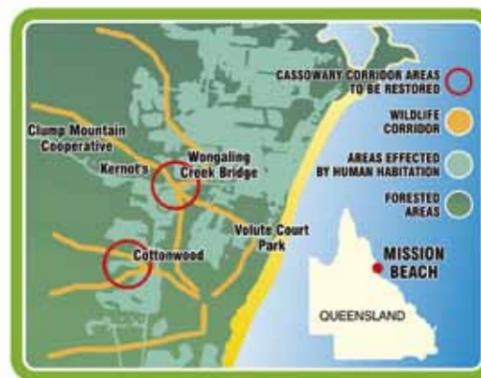
The surviving Cassowaries of Mission Beach have got a lot of people worried - and these people will do whatever it takes to give these magnificent birds a fighting chance.

When Category Five Cyclone Yasi crossed the North Queensland coast at Mission Beach in February last year, the impact was devastating. "This was a nightmare scenario for the already struggling Cassowary population," reflects Rainforest Rescue CEO Kelvin Davies. "Last reports are that 25 Cassowaries have died since the cyclone; 13 from car strikes."

"As few as 40 adult birds may be all that remain of the wild Mission Beach population; this is in an area long considered a strong-hold for the Endangered Southern Cassowary."

Immediately following the cyclone, Rainforest Rescue called its supporters to action. The generous response from supporters provided funds for the establishment of monitoring and emergency feed stations. The next vital step is now underway - to restore Cassowary habitat and the species' natural food supply at Mission Beach.

Efforts to restore and expand rainforest habitat have kicked off at 'Cottonwood'; a rural Mission Beach property with 1,400 trees planted and a further 2,550 trees to be established through facilitated natural regeneration. The 13.5 hectare property has been identified as providing a critical wildlife corridor between an adjoining nature reserve and the extensive forests of the Djiru National Park. The goal is for this critical corridor to provide habitat, food, and a safe passage for generations of Cassowaries to come, and increase resilience to future cyclonic impact.



We wish to thank all of our donors who sponsored trees to be planted for the Cassowaries at Mission Beach as well as supporters, North Queensland Wildlife Trust (NQWT), the Mazda Foundation, Taronga Conservation Society, and Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife

On April 27 this year, 43 volunteers converged at the site to undertake the first phase of the tree planting project. This community driven project has drawn together representatives from Rainforest Rescue, Terrain Natural Resource Management (NRM), Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4), Giringun Aboriginal Rangers, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Cassowary Coast Regional Council. Cassowary food trees such as Quandongs, Lilly Pillies and Bandicoot Berries were amongst the variety of tree species planted. A Cassowary was actually spotted on the property that very day adding further inspiration for the tree planters.

We've identified important locations for the corridors, a process which has involved mapping, liaising with local landholders and government to plan for strategic revegetation over the coming decade.

"The interest of Rainforest Rescue as a respected national organisation reminds local people at Mission Beach just how important our tropical lowland rainforest is", said Tony O'Malley of Terrain NRM. A further 800 trees will be planted at Cottonwood in the coming months, and ongoing maintenance will be undertaken over the next three years to ensure optimal tree survival and a closed rainforest canopy. Consultation with local landholders for future planting sites for Cassowary habitat restoration and corridors is underway and planting will continue in 2013.

Primary planting sites have been identified on a private property at Cottonwood and a public site at Bingil Bay Reserve



Alice Crabtree from Conservation Volunteers Australia was one of 43 volunteers who assisted in the Community Tree Planting Day



Tony O'Malley, Local Area Planner for Terrain NRM, and Peter Rowles from Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4), prepare the tree planting site



life in the big scrub

In its heyday, the Big Scrub was the greatest single stand of sub-tropical rainforest in the world. It covered 75,000 hectares; an area the size of metropolitan Sydney, encircling what is now Lismore, Ballina and Byron Bay.

Today, less than one percent remains. Rainforest Rescue and local community groups work hard to maintain and expand the remaining rainforest. These surviving rainforest remnants offer the only refuge for hundreds of species of rainforest plants and animals. In fact, north-east New South Wales is known to support one of the highest numbers of rare or threatened plant species in Australia.

Coxen's Fig-Parrot

One of Australia's rarest and most elusive birds, the Coxen's Fig-Parrot (*Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni*), a sub-species of the Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, is difficult to detect. Feeding quietly on the seeds of native figs, and possibly fig wasp larvae, this small, attractive parrot is virtually silent when moving about. The only clue to its presence may be the sound of discarded fruit pulp as it falls to the ground. Mostly green, with a very small tail and large head and bill, the Coxen's Fig-Parrot appears top heavy, not unlike an exotic lovebird. The subspecies, first described by Gould in 1867, is recognised under state legislation as Critically Endangered.

Little Bentwing-bat

The Little Bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*) is a tiny insectivorous bat, about 45mm long with thick brown-coloured fur. Little Bentwing-bats roost together during the day in caves or tree hollows and forage for small insects by night. Unlike Flying-foxes and other bat species, these microbats are known for their acrobatics as they hunt and capture insects mid-flight. They perform their amazing feats using echolocation; the bats emit high-pitched ultrasonic pulses which bounce back or 'echo' when they intercept an insect. Being mammals, baby bats drink their mother's milk. This species is recognised as Vulnerable under state legislation. Surviving colonies are vulnerable to disturbance to roosts and diminished feed and shelter due to habitat loss.

Rough-shelled Bush Nut

Almost everyone has heard of a macadamia nut. Growing to a height of 20m, the Rough-shelled Bush Nut (*Macadamia tetraphylla*) is one of two species of Macadamia in Australia with edible nuts. This bushy tree is striking in appearance, with its pink-red new growth and cream-pinkish flowers which hang in long strings among the leaves. Clearing, weeds and inappropriate fire regimes threaten the survival of the species, with the Rough-shelled Bush Nut listed as Vulnerable under the New South Wales Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Arrow-head Vine

Vines are synonymous with rainforests but species of vine can be threatened by clearing and other impacts in the same way many other rainforest plants are. The Arrow-head Vine (*Tinospora tinoporoides*), a tall woody climber found only in wetter sub-tropical rainforest in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland, survives in Big Scrub remnants. Assigned Vulnerable status under state and federal legislation, this species is a larval host plant for the Australian Laced Fritillary Butterfly (*Argyreus hyperbius*); recognised as Endangered by the New South Wales Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

At last, greater protection!

In November 2011 the remaining remnants of the Big Scrub Rainforest were listed as Critically Endangered under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

big scrub... big opportunities for hands on, heart-felt work

Rainforest Rescue has been restoring the Big Scrub Rainforest Remnants since 1999 and in 2008 we joined with the Madhima Gulgan Community Association and their bush regeneration team to continue this important work. This partnership has made terrific headways not only for the rainforest, but for the local Indigenous people employed to care for country they share a personal and historical connection with.

In the past six months, the small band of workers who make up the Madhima Gulgan Bush Regeneration Team have planted another 1,620 trees for Rainforest Rescue, bringing life back to farms in the Byron Bay hinterland. Team members have also been busy removing Madeira Vine and other invasive weeds. Removing weeds is not very appealing work, yet it is vitally important to the survival and regeneration of the rainforest.

Being a Madhima Gulgan bush regenerator

Employed as professional bush regenerators, team members build up extensive practical field experience preparing planting sites, removing weeds, planting trees and maintaining sites. Each has completed, or is working towards, a Certificate IV in Conservation Land Management. This is a unique opportunity, as the Madhima Gulgan Bush Regeneration Team is the only Indigenous bush regeneration team within the Byron and Tweed Shires.

With the help of our supporters, Rainforest Rescue is keen to support Madhima Gulgan Community Association into the future. We are grateful for their contribution to our Big Scrub Plant a Rainforest Project and look forward to this partnership continuing to grow and thrive.

Gaven Ivey Team member, Madhima Gulgan Bush Regeneration Team

"I've been part of the group since 2008. At the moment, we've been doing a fair bit of weed control, planting and maintenance. We also visit schools. I moved away, to Sydney, when I was 18. I wanted to get back to country, travel it and work it. This way, I get a hands-on feel for it. Being out in the rainforest... it's the most beautiful office I've ever been in.

"Every day you have these moments where you look around and think 'wow!'"

It's nice to work on places you've grown up in. Locals, Councils and others open up to us. We get the history of the country we're working on. You actually get a feeling about the site. Currently, it's about four of us working out in the field, then another two in the office. I want to do this for longer, get some more training... I'd love to work towards establishing a chemical-free branch to our group."

Trevor Jenkins Team Leader, Madhima Gulgan Bush Regeneration Team

"When we're able to offer employment for people, that's a good feeling. I also find the field work satisfying. You can look back at the end of the day, and can see how much better things will be two years on - with the weeds gone, you know those seedlings are going to get a burst.

These last 12 months have been a bit of a nightmare, with the rain and weeds, the rain can be good for the plantings but too much and we can't get into the sites.

Some of the places we go to for work are really beautiful... places we wouldn't normally get to.

"You look down into a valley and can picture in your head what it would have been like. We are trying to bring it back to what it was before."



A further 1,620 trees were planted within the Byron Shire hinterland in 2011/12



For Gavan Ivey, working in the Big Scrub Rainforest means getting back in touch with country



Trevor Jenkins leads of team of five undertaking restoration work within the Big Scrub and Byron Bay hinterland



Little Bentwing-bat. Photo Bruce Thomson, www.auswildlife.com



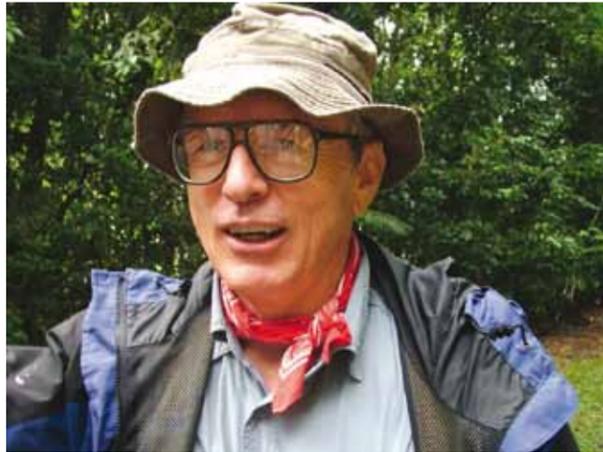
Rough-shelled Bush Nut. Photo Melburnian



Arrow-head Vine. Photo Black Diamond Images

our supporters

major donor andrew hall



When Andrew Hall surfed his first wave he probably had little idea that it would lead to rainforest conservation. Yet that's pretty much what happened.

"I spent a lot of my youth fishing and got an appreciation for the outdoors, for Mother Nature. I did a fair bit of body surfing, swimming, skiing... I was aware there was something outside of the house. I moved to Mullumbimby in 1979, bought a degraded dairy farm and started to revegetate it and got interested in rainforest. Rainforest Rescue came along 20 years later.

A friend mentioned Rainforest Rescue to me as a useful organisation. I liked that it has an end gain. It was about buying back the rainforest... and there was a sense of accomplishment from completing a task.

Giving is important to me. Rainforest Rescue is part of that.

I've worked as an osteopath since the mid-70s... so I have this belief that I can fix things. When I bought my old dairy farm it had a weed problem. Someone said plant trees, build up lots of canopy and shade out the weeds... so that's what I did. It gave me something to do [laughs].

Rainforest Rescue invited me to join a trip to Ecuador. Five of us spent an amazing three weeks there. That cemented me with Rainforest Rescue. Rainforest Rescue has done very well. It runs local programs, and creates a sense of interaction with the people. Being local, I'm liable to bump into Kelvin in the street. I consider him a friend."

nursery volunteer john benfer



For visual artist John Benfer, moving to North Queensland and volunteering at the Daintree Rainforest Plant Nursery for five years has been both a giving and personally healing experience.

"For me it's a positive way to contribute to my community and my environment.

I love the process of regeneration, collecting seeds and fruits, the awesome spectacle of germination, and watching plants grow.

We are blessed in seeing our small trees grow into forests. Also there is a wonderful social aspect to volunteering at the nursery. I am very grateful for the friendships I've made, the good conversation, stories and plenty of laughs.

I've always loved native indigenous plants and trees. For me, local flora is descriptive of the visual uniqueness of an environment. I was fortunate to grow up with material sufficiency and to learn conservation values from various people, including my parents. We lived in an era of vanishing wild places which also influenced me.

This environment in the Daintree is special because the warmth and high rainfall make it conducive to such a vast diversity of plant life and within Australia there are only small regions of tropical rainforest left.

I am concerned about the possibility of human induced global warming. I hope for nothing less than the evolution of our species into one which is in perfect balance within ourselves and with the extension of ourselves into our environment... where we overcome selfishness and greed and have honour for all life on the planet."

bequestor keith lemon



A supporter since 2009, Keith Lemon intends to nominate Rainforest Rescue as a beneficiary in his will. Ask Keith his reasons for supporting Rainforest Rescue and he'll tell it to you straight.

"Once you're dead, nobody cares about you. About the only significant thing I can do is leave something worthwhile behind.

I'm just an ordinary battler. I've managed to save a few dollars and I can't take it with me.

We run a few beef cows, about 40km south of Ipswich. This was originally dairy country. When I bought this place, it was just a cow paddock. I retired at age 65 and am now 86. Really, I'm a city slicker, I've worked in various places, including overseas.

My 15-year-old neighbour knew that if 100 cows are put into a 50-acre paddock, they will soon be in an unsustainable situation.

Business people, economists and politicians, worship the god of growth, which clearly is unsustainable with the planet's finite resources... And there are moral considerations which do not appear on people's radar. Surely it is not right to impair the planet's lungs by large-scale destruction of forests? In light of this, about all that concerned people can do is contribute to sustaining whatever is worthwhile on our planet.

Rainforest Rescue approached me, it came out of the blue and I responded."

ongoing supporters rebecca & grant kulmar



For nearly a decade, the Kulmars have made saving rainforests a part of their everyday life by donating monthly to Rainforest Rescue's Ongoing Giving program. Their support reflects their mutual love of nature and appreciation of balance as Rebecca Kulmar explains.

"I've always been interested in the garden and wildlife ever since I was a child. The plant kingdom has always fascinated me. It grows without judgement. I am now in horticulture and work in a nursery.

I believe we are very much like plants. We really need the simple things in life to grow happy and healthy.

Fresh air and water, shelter and a balanced environment. Rainforests are the lungs and filtering system of the earth and home to a vast amount of animal life. Without rainforests the whole world and the people within it will suffer if it is not kept in its natural balance."

Grant's connection with nature comes from bushwalking and he finds gardening and the tranquility of nature alleviate the pressures of his work overseeing art protection in an art gallery.

"Being involved with Rainforest Rescue gives us a chance to contribute to an organisation whose people are working tirelessly to do the right thing by the planet and its inhabitants.

The Ecuador and Indonesia projects interest us since we see every part of the Earth as being connected. These rainforests are a large breathing system for our earth. Every rainforest acts as a respiratory system for the whole entire planet."



not a hopeless case: sumatra's orangutans and rainforest

Donations from Rainforest Rescue supporters in 2011/12 have contributed to a further 40 hectares of rainforest replanted and the removal of a further 4,800 illegally planted Oil Palms.

Rainforest Rescue's Orangutan Habitat for Survival Project is making a real impact, not only for the Orangutans, but also for local communities that depend on the rainforest for their livelihood.

Since 2009 Rainforest Rescue has helped to expand habitat for the Critically Endangered Sumatran Orangutan and provide sustainable livelihoods for communities in Indonesia. We work with the Orangutan Information Centre (OIC) to stop deforestation. The OIC engages with local communities to protect and restore rainforest damaged by illegal clearing for Oil Palms in Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP), North Sumatra.

The World Heritage rainforest of GLNP is one of the few remaining strongholds for the Sumatran Orangutan. It is also home to the Critically Endangered Sumatran Tiger, Rhinoceros and Elephant.

Our focus over the past year has been the protection and restoration of 60 hectares of Orangutan habitat in the National Park. Funding provided by Rainforest Rescue has enabled staff from the OIC, along with volunteers, to replant a further 40 hectares including the removal of the last remaining 4,800 illegally-planted Oil Palms in the restoration site. They have also been able to provide ongoing maintenance of 20 hectares of rainforest that was replanted in 2010/11.

Over 90% of the Critically Endangered Sumatran Orangutans live in the Gunung Leuser National Park. Photo Robin Nagy



OIC Founder and Director Panut Hadisiswoyo. Photo courtesy of Sumatran Orangutan Society

Project components

The project is directed by Panut Hadisiswoyo, a Sumatran who is well regarded for his groundbreaking work in Orangutan conservation and education. In 2011, Panut was recognised by the United Nations as a finalist in its Hero of the Forests Award. The nomination acknowledged Panut's work as founder of the OIC and his efforts in aiding in the restoration of degraded areas and establishing action plans that support sustainable livelihoods as well as ecosystem protection.

Two key components of the project are:

- **Community-led protection.** A community farmers' group, known as 'Ketapel' (meaning 'Farmers Group of Leuser Protectors') patrols the rainforest, planting sites and Orangutan habitat, protecting them from poachers and illegal

deforestation. The group is made up of informed members of the local community, paid and voluntary, who are committed to rehabilitating the forest. Many also work in the palm oil industry and are able to exercise influence over where new Oil Palms are planted.

- **Planting and weeding techniques suited to the site.** After Oil Palms are removed, small patches of land are weeded at a time to make way for new seedlings. In addition to hand pulling weeds, the team uses a large wire 'foot' to stamp down the tall grass, killing the grass until new shoots sprout. The workers apply compost to the soil at the time of planting because of the soil's poor nutrient level. Following plantings, natural regeneration has been observed - for every 1,000 trees planted per hectare, a further 500 may grow.

In the past four years, Panut and his team have removed 500 hectares of Oil Palms and planted 398,682 trees over 196 hectares of National Park.



Deforestation for Oil Palm plantations is the number one threat to the Orangutan. Photo Stefan Ottomanski

Project impacts

The work of the OIC to protect and restore rainforest habitat in the Gunung Leuser National Park, where over 90% of the Critically Endangered Sumatran Orangutan population are found, is having a remarkable impact.

Recently Panut shared some of the year's highlights in a project update:

"In total we have 11 staff work on full time basis and around 45 volunteers from local community. The ongoing presence of the restoration team at the project site has been a major deterrent to illegal poachers and planting of Oil Palms with an absolute drop to zero of all encroachment on the National Park where the project site is located", reports Panut.

"We have also seen the return of wildlife to areas of rainforest that were replanted in 2010 through camera traps installed as part of our biodiversity monitoring project. In addition to wild elephants, long-tailed macaques, forest cats and many kinds of bird species, we have spotted three wild Orangutans in our restoration site. We have also released seven Orangutans that were isolated in



A wild male Sumatran Orangutan is spotted in the project restoration site

plantation areas back into our restoration site that has now been connected to climax forests.

Importantly the project is having a profound impact on local people. By participating in our project they are benefiting financially and gaining knowledge in nursery management, seed cultivation and improved planting methodology. So far 30 members of the local community have taken up mixed agroforestry on their farmlands, which offers a more sustainable and alternative source of income to palm oil.

The project site has also become an ecotourism attraction for OIC supporters and other interested parties from within Indonesia and internationally. Not only has this led to increased income for local communities but also given rise to improved state of village sanitation, running water facilities and rubbish collection."

The Oil Palm problem

The exploding development of Oil Palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) plantations is the single biggest threat to rainforests and Orangutans in Indonesia. Oil Palm companies cut down and burn the rainforest, using every inch of land, at times planting them illegally inside national parks. Oil Palm plantations were estimated to cover 7.8 million hectares in Indonesia in early 2011. This has had a devastating effect on many species including the Sumatran Orangutan, Tiger, Elephant and Rhinoceros which have all been listed as Critically Endangered.

The Sumatran Orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) could be the first 'great ape' species to suffer extinction in the wild. As few as 6,624 Sumatran Orangutans may remain in the wild, their survival primarily threatened by illegal logging and the establishment of Oil Palm plantations. Orangutans are regarded as a 'keystone' species for conservation due to the important role they play in rainforest regeneration through the dispersal of fruit and seeds they eat.



Members of the OIC Restoration Team and KETAPEL



The removal of illegally planted Oil Palms is undertaken manually with chainsaws



The restoration site is prepared for tree planting by manually pulling weeds and stamping down tall grass



Sumatran Rhinoceros. Photo Willem v Strien

life in the jungle

The Gunung Leuser National Park provides critical habitat for many Endangered and Critically Endangered species. The Park covers 1,094,692 hectares and forms part of the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra UNESCO World Heritage Site.

At least 4,000 species of plants grow here. The Park is also home to 350 species of birds, 194 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 129 species of mammals. The Leuser Ecosystem is the only place on earth where Critically Endangered species such as the Sumatran Orangutan, Sumatran Tiger, Sumatran Elephant and Sumatran Rhinoceros coexist. Indonesia has one of the highest rates of tropical rainforest loss in the world with 48% of rainforest in Sumatra destroyed in the last 25 years. Flora and fauna in this special part of the world need urgent protection.

Sumatran Rhinoceros

Of the five Rhinoceros species alive in the world today, the Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis sumatrensis*) is the smallest and most endangered. Individuals weigh up to 800kg and can live 40 years, consuming up to 50kg of food per day. Like the Orangutan, they are solitary creatures, with large territories. Numbers are critically low, and the Gunung Leuser National Park is believed to support the only viable population. The Sumatran Rhinoceros is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN. Much of the species' lowland habitat has already been lost to intensive development of human settlements.

Sumatran Tiger

The Sumatran Tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) is one of a handful of the world's 'big cats' to have not yet succumbed to extinction. As well as being formidable hunters, the Tigers are opportunistic eaters, taking advantage of smaller prey and carrion. Home ranges may be small where prey is abundant. They are mostly solitary and being competent swimmers, have been seen submerged in water to escape the midday heat. Presently, poaching and illegal killing, combined with habitat loss and diminished natural prey, threaten surviving populations. The Sumatran Tiger is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.

World's Largest Flower

Rafflesia arnoldii, commonly known as the Corpse Flower, only grows in the forests of Sumatra and the neighbouring island of Borneo. Weighing in at 11kg with petals up to a metre long when fully grown, this is the world's largest flower. The Corpse Flower has done away with the need for leaves, stems or roots by drawing its nutrition from the host plant to which it attaches. A parasitic plant, the Corpse Flower owes its name to its aroma of putrid, decaying flesh. While the smell may be off-putting to humans, the insects that pollinate the plant find it irresistible.

Wild Nutmeg

Indonesia is famous for its spices and in the Gunung Leuser National Park, Wild Nutmeg (*Myristica sp.*) grows in the beach and swamp forests. The seeds are dispersed by a species of green pigeon. To accommodate the huge nutmeg kernel, which is often larger than the pigeon's head, the bird is capable of unhitching its lower beak and widening its mouth. While larger seeds are regurgitated, smaller ones pass through and are later deposited in the bird's droppings. Nutmeg is valued around the world for its culinary and medicinal uses but only a small amount should be eaten since the flavour and aroma are due to the chemical myristica; a mild, poisonous narcotic.

Both humans and wildlife depend on the conservation of the Gunung Leuser National Park for their survival, with the forests providing livelihoods and resources for approximately four million people in communities in and around it. These resources include a regular food source, natural medicines, a fresh and reliable supply of water, soil erosion control, local climate regulation and eco-tourism.



Sumatran Tiger. Photo Roger Smith



Rafflesia arnoldii. Photo Christopher Maerten



Wild Nutmeg. Photo Glenn and Martha Vargas © California Academy of Sciences

sharing rainforest skills

When it comes to restoring rainforests, conservation workers in Australia and Indonesia have plenty to learn from one another.

Rainforest Rescue's support of conservation efforts in Indonesia has enabled us to forge a special working relationship with staff members from The Orangutan Information Centre (OIC) in North Sumatra. Like any relationship based on mutual respect and shared interests, this partnership is strengthening with time.

Back in March 2011, a group of Australians, amongst them Rainforest Rescue supporter and Bush Regenerator Dave Rawlins, visited Sumatra to experience rainforest restoration and Orangutan habitat first hand. The group planted trees, viewed Orangutans and made friends with local rainforest conservation staff and the community. Dave chose to stay for an extra 10 days in Sumatra where he was welcomed in a small village and on the project site in Gunung Leuser National Park. He worked alongside new friends from the OIC in the rainforest and on its degraded edge sharing his knowledge and lending a hand towards its restoration, while learning more about Indonesian culture.

Six months later, the OIC and Rainforest Rescue staff met up in northern New South Wales to devote two weeks to practical learning and sharing. The 'Rainforest Restoration Skill Exchange Tour' welcomed Ahmad Azhari (Ari) and Lismaidi Darjo Malau (Darjo) from the OIC.

Hosted by Dave, the tour involved Ari and Darjo joining local experts for rainforest regeneration activities at local properties, visits to local nurseries, and professional training in rainforest restoration, monitoring and evaluation and safe work practices. They attended the 2011 Big Scrub Rainforest Day and spoke with local media.

This was Ari's second visit. As Head of the OIC's Restoration Program, Ari's first visit a year prior involved presenting and information sharing, along with the OIC's Founding Director, Panut Hadieswoyo.

"Based on Ari's exposure to revegetation techniques used in the Daintree Rainforest, Ari has chosen to implement constructive changes back in Indonesia. He experimented with closer spacings between trees, and has reported faster tree growth and forest formation," says Alice Moffett, Rainforest Rescue's Conservation Projects Manager.

He was also excited to report that, for the first time, Orangutans had been seen in a remnant fig tree in one of the project's regeneration sites.

"Ari has been implementing new nursery techniques learned from his Australian counterparts, and is experiencing greater propagation success as a result."

"The 2011 tour was a great success and we wish to thank Ari and Darjo for participating and sharing their time, energy and commitment to conservation with us," says Alice.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the tour and who provided accommodation, transport, training and time to meet Ari and Darjo.

Read about Rainforest Rescue's Orangutan Habitat for Survival Project on page 14



Tour facilitator Dave Rawlins demonstrates bush regeneration techniques to Ahmad Azhari, head of the OIC's Restoration Program



Rainforest Rescue CEO Kelvin Davies with OIC representatives Ari and Darjo at the Crystal Castle Rainforest Walk



As part of the tour Ari visited local nurseries to learn propagation techniques that could be applied to the OIC nursery back in Sumatra



students go wild for Indonesia

Students, parents and teachers from Cranbrook School in Sydney are still reeling from their two week tour of wild Indonesia earlier this year. The action-packed itinerary had participants trekking through the jungle, rafting down the river, and learning about the rainforest of Gunung Leuser National Park. They visited wildlife sanctuaries and Rainforest Rescue sites, and encountered a myriad of creatures in the wild.

However, the real challenge had begun well before the adventurers left home, with each participant set the task of raising \$500 in support of Rainforest Rescue's Orangutan Habitat for Survival Project in Sumatra. The overall outcome of their efforts is that not only do the students appreciate the conservation threats facing Indonesia, but they know how to ride Elephants in the water and remove Leeches. Welcome to the Cranbrook Indonesian Wildlife Safari Charity Challenge 6-18 April 2012.

Isaac Elias – Year 9 Student

"The trip was really fun. I experienced a lot, getting into a different country, I have been overseas before but this was my first time in bushland, in a developing country.

For me, the best part was seeing the Orangutans for the first time in their natural habitat. I saw a group of two in the wild, in the trees.

I learned about the people's lifestyle, how the people there don't really know about conservation.

To raise money, we sent a funny message, an email, to work people, friends and family,

Facebook... things like that. I set up an Everyday Hero account and people could click on a link back to that - that's how they could donate. I haven't done anything like that before."

"I never thought \$1500 was going to come out of it. It was three times what I was aiming for."

Robin Nagy – Mathematics Teacher and Housemaster

"The trip was amazing. We had wall to wall experiences, some of which were planned and plenty which were not."

"We saw wild Orangutans, seven other species of primate... We also saw Helmeted and Rhinoceros Hornbills, many other types of birds, wild Pigs and Elephants, Sambar and Barking Deer, several Snakes, 10 Komodo Dragons and saw footprints of Tapiar, Sumatran Tiger, Sumatran Rhinoceros and Sun-bear.

My camera trap also caught a picture of a Malay Civet. We scuba dived and snorkelled with Manta Rays off Komodo as well as Black-tipped Reef Sharks, Hawksbill and Green Turtles and a school of Humphead Parrotfish and some Dogtooth Tuna.

I learned much Indonesian which I had forgotten since the last time I was there. There are some amazing projects and educated Indonesians who are doing something about protecting the rainforest and its animals.

I love seeing things through new eyes – taking students to areas of the world which I have already experienced is like reliving the first time experience.

I had been given a skydiving package as a leaving present from my ex-head boy (I am a Housemaster at Cranbrook) and in order to ensure I did it, I used it as a focus for sponsorship (that is, once people had given money for the cause I couldn't get out of doing it!). I raised \$1,000 easily using the Everyday Hero site which Rainforest Rescue set up."

Rainforest Rescue would like to thank Cranbrook School for choosing to devote its energy to achieving rainforest conservation. The \$10,000 raised will help the conservation of Orangutan habitat in the Gunung Leuser National Park, North Sumatra and also fund additional work in the Way Kambas National Park in South Sumatra. In particular we would like to thank John Baptiste, teacher at Cranbrook School and co-coordinator of the trek, and parents of the students, in particular Jennifer Atkins who inspired the tour. Thanks also to International Park Tours for facilitating the tour and tour leader Claire Oelrichs.



Isaac plants a tree at the Way Kambas Bungur Restoration Site, South Sumatra



Cranbrook School Housemaster Robin Nagy (far right) with students from Cranbrook School and staff at the Way Kambas Bungur Restoration site.

more rainforest saved in ecuador

Donations to Rainforest Rescue's Ecuador Save a Hectare Project are helping the project do exactly what it promises - save hectares of rainforest in Ecuador, South America. Our project partner Rainforest Concern shared the good news with us in a recent progress update:

"Thanks to Rainforest Rescue and other supporters, we have completed a new purchase in the southern area of the Choco-Andean Corridor this year. The area we have acquired comprises of 71 hectares (175 acres) of Tropical Montane Cloud Forest..."

The property is located in the Intag area, on the west of the Neblina Reserve and fills in an important gap in the Reserve."

The southern area of the Choco-Andean Corridor is located at the joining of two of the world's biological 'hot spots': the Choco-Darien and Tropical Andes.

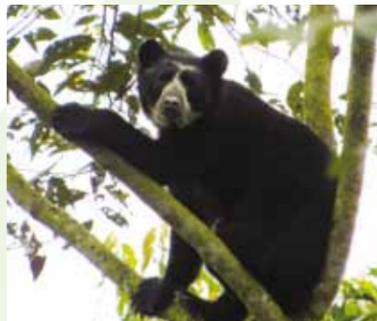
The team reports that in 2011, its acquisition of two pieces of land enabled the Neblina Reserve and Cotacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve to be connected.

The project is also providing local villagers with sustainable and alternative income through rainforest conservation.

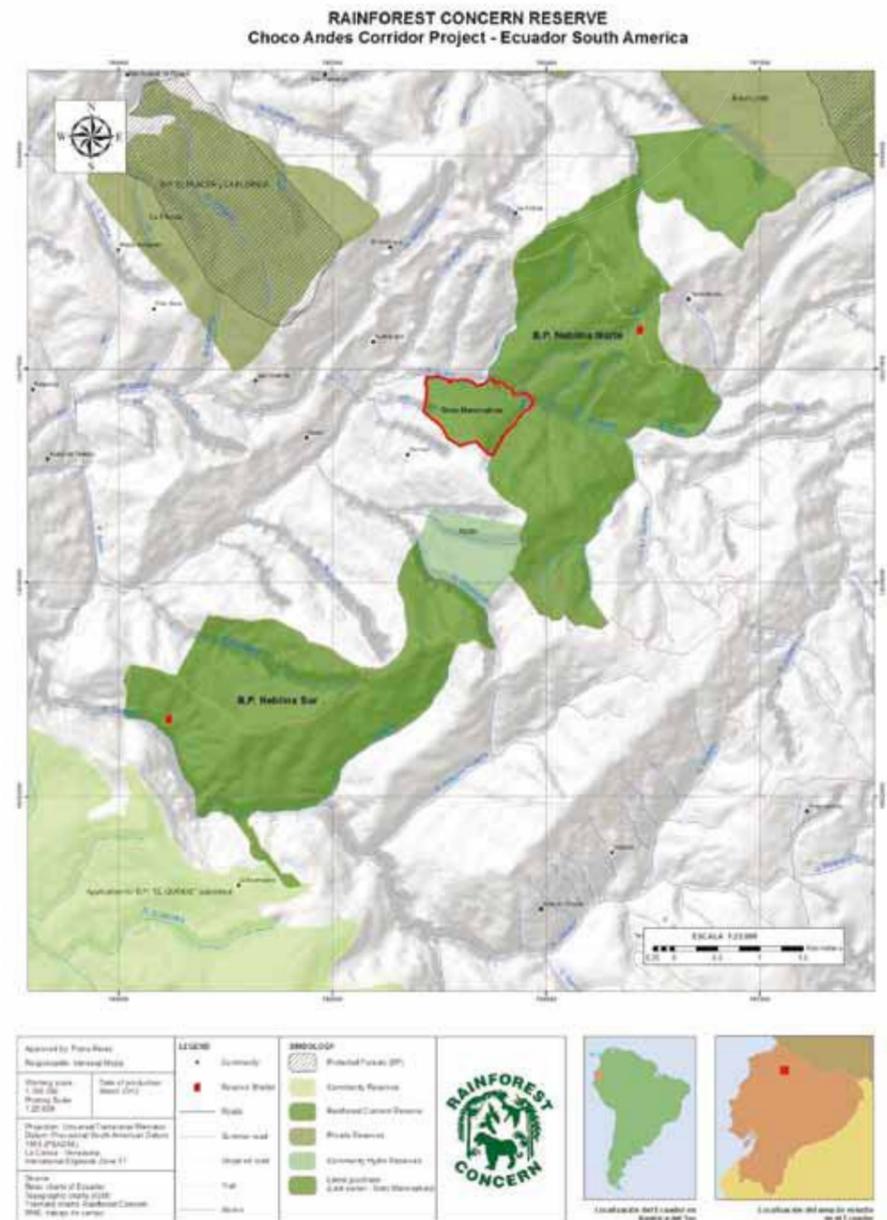
"We currently have two teams of forest wardens (Los Olivos and Flor de Bosque) made up from people from the surrounding communities. They rotate in order to patrol the reserve on a regular basis. This activity fits in well with their farming work and gives them a small additional income. More importantly they become Ambassadors for the reserve within their communities."



Rainforest Rescue has been supporting the efforts of Rainforest Concern since 2004 and together we have acquired 10 individual properties with a total of 1,584 hectares of humid montane forest. With further support, the project will widen the Neblina Reserve and we have identified a further 1,500 hectares in order to provide a more secure corridor.



The Spectacled Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), or Andean bear, is the only surviving species of bear native to South America, and are listed as Vulnerable with as few as 20,000 remaining in the wild. Photo Derek Etherton



Map showing recent purchase of Manosalvas 71 hectares outlined in red



The Endangered Grey Slender Loris (*Loris lydekkerianus*)



The Critically Endangered Morning Side Tree Frog (*Polyoedates fastigo*)



Over 246 species of land snails are found in Sri Lanka, 86% of them endemic to the Island nation



On going rainforest border clearing threatens Sri Lanka's last remaining forest patches

sri lanka's biodiversity corridor

Sri Lanka's rainforests are one of the most threatened ecosystems on the planet. Covering no more than a few thousand hectares, the rainforests have been reduced to 140 forest patches located in the deep south of the island.

Combining rainforest regeneration and community education, Rainforest Rescue's Sri Lanka Plant a Rainforest Project aims to develop a biodiversity corridor that will connect remnant forest patches.

Our project partner in Sri Lanka, Rainforest Rescue International, recently reported on its progress over the last 12 months: Work on the Sinharaja and Kanneliya Biodiversity Corridor saw ten people employed and 15 community people engaged with very encouraging results. In two planting sessions, completed during last year's Monsoon, 4,000 trees were planted and 10,000 trees were propagated. All up, the workers treated eight acres of land; ultimately they want to restore over 20 acres of forest patches and collect and grow out more than 35 species of native rainforest species.

In the coming year, funding provided by Rainforest Rescue will enable the restoration of a further ten acres in sites in Baddegama and Tawalama. Sri Lanka has the highest density of amphibian species in the world. In the past 100 years, however, over 96% of Sri Lanka's rainforest has been lost due to land use changes and agricultural production such as tea, rubber, coconut and palm oil.

The Sinharaja Reserve is regarded as one of the world's 25 biodiversity 'hot spots', with high levels of endemism. As well being a 'hotspot' for frogs, the Singharaja and Kanneliya Biodiversity Corridor provides habitat for the Vulnerable Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Endangered Grey Slendor Loris (*Loris lydekkerianus*), and Vulnerable Rusty-spotted Cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*).



Inspecting tree growth from 2011

thank you Krista, we miss you

This April, Rainforest Rescue lost a valued staff member, supporter and friend with the death of Krista Bernard. Although her connection to Rainforest Rescue goes back further, Krista had worked for us since 2010. Among other things, she was the talented wordsmith behind our last two supporter newsletters. Krista brought so much to the role; she was incredibly focused, passionate and a capable, experienced writer.

"The first time I met Krista she made an enormous impression on me," says Madeleine Faught, Chair of Rainforest Rescue Board of Directors. "She was not someone you would meet and easily forget. As a writer for Rainforest Rescue, Krista held a deep passion for what she was writing about. She got the message across really well. As a person she had a great humour and was a giver. She was very much admired and appreciated."

Krista's background provides some insight into just how focused and selfless she was. Last year (as supporters may remember), Krista led a group of nine cyclists on a 300km trek through Sri Lanka to raise funds for Rainforest Rescue's Sri Lanka Plant a Rainforest Project. The 'Ride for the Rainforest' team raised an incredible \$20,000 for the project.

In 2008, Krista and her partner Daniel Coward set off on a cycling adventure from London to the Himalayas. They covered 15,000km via Turkey, Kazakhstan and Pakistan, raising funds for Rainforest Rescue. In fact, epic cycling adventures were familiar territory for Krista, who in her 20s devised and embarked on a three year ride through 19 countries. On her return she was awarded Australian Geographic Society's 2000 Young Adventurer of the Year.

It's no secret that Krista had many friends and colleagues in Australia and overseas. Her love of music, art, singing, dancing and yoga accompanied her around the globe and she worked for other advocacy organisations in addition to Rainforest Rescue.

"Krista had integrity and ethics; she was a 'true believer' and was committed to making the world a better place.

She had a loving and supportive partner in Dan, and came from a close knit and loving family who admired her work and respected her beliefs" said Madeleine.



Krista Bernard
1971-2012

how can i support the work of rainforest rescue?

How will my donation benefit Rainforest Rescue?

Your donation helps us to purchase and protect high-conservation value rainforest; re-establish rainforests through planting, maintenance and restorations programs; and educate future generations on the importance of rainforests and their biodiversity.

Can I indicate a preference for where I want my donation to go?

Yes. If you wish, you can nominate the project of your choice.

Can I make a donation as a gift to friends or family?

Yes. You can do this by purchasing a Rainforest Gift online or over the phone. To acknowledge your support, we will send a special Rainforest Rescue Gift Card to your recipient of choice, anywhere in the world, with your own personalised message. Each card will contribute directly to achieving specific conservation outcomes for your project of choice.



Can I donate in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion?

Yes. You may prefer to do this instead of giving or receiving flowers and gifts. If required, we can send you donation forms and envelopes, and information on our projects, to distribute to your guests.

What is a Rainforest Rescuer and why are they so important to Rainforest Rescue?

Rainforest Rescuers support our work by donating on a monthly basis. In spreading the cost of their donation over the year they can make affordable monthly contributions that suit their individual circumstances. Rainforest Rescuers provide us with continuity on our conservation commitments, enabling us to effectively plan for the future.

How would leaving a bequest in my will benefit Rainforest Rescue?

Your generosity and foresight in leaving a bequest will not only assist us to confidently continue our work well into the future, it will also have a lasting impact on future generations who will benefit from your legacy in conserving our precious rainforests.

How can my business become involved in protecting rainforests forever?

Our Business Partnership Program is an excellent way for you to get involved and support a range of rainforest conservation initiatives. Partnering with us will help your business by boosting staff morale, demonstrating to customers the values of your business and creating good will in your community.

Can I fundraise on behalf of Rainforest Rescue?

Yes. You can set up a fundraising page on www.everydayhero.com.au and your contacts can make donations online (they will receive an automatic tax-deductible receipt). You can also join our special fundraising Rainforest Treks. See page 13 for details.

Are there any volunteer opportunities available with Rainforest Rescue?

You can volunteer at tree planting days held in the Daintree and northern NSW. These are advertised on our website and in the local media. You can also volunteer at our plant nursery in the Daintree. By signing up to our email newsletter we can keep you informed as to when volunteer opportunities arise.

How can I stay informed about the work of Rainforest Rescue?

You can sign-up to our online newsletter and blog by visiting our website. By supplying us with your postal address we can also send you our annual supporter newsletter, which details our conservation achievements. You can also join us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

You can also support the work of Rainforest Rescue by telling a friend about our projects.

For further information on how you can support the work of Rainforest Rescue please visit our website at www.rainforestrescue.org.au/howtohelp or call us on 1300 763 611.

thank you

Thanks to your generous support, we can continue to protect rainforests and their biodiversity forever.

Thank you to all of our supporters who supported us throughout 2011/12 including: our Rainforest Rescuers – your ongoing monthly donations provide us with continuity on our conservation commitments; those who have left a bequest to Rainforest Rescue in your Will – you have created a lasting legacy for future generations; those who have made gifts – we appreciate your generosity and support for our conservation projects.

We would also like to thank the supporters listed below. You have helped us achieve some fantastic outcomes for conservation:

Philanthropic Trusts & Foundations

Australian Ethical Investments, Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife, the George Lewin Foundation, Hunter Hall International Ltd, Mazda Foundation, North Queensland Wildlife Trust, NRMA Community Grants Program, Taronga Conservation Society, Tree Friends Pty Ltd.

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Thank you to our Board of Directors and Committee Members for volunteering your services and expertise over the past year:

Madeleine Faught (Chair); Frank Volckmar (Director); John Robinson (Member Finance & Audit Sub-Committee); Kelvin Davies (Director); Leonie Gale (Director); Robert Rosen (Member Public Fund Management Committee); Sue Higginson (Director); Tony Gilding (Director).

To our dedicated team of staff. Thank you for your passion and dedication

Alice Moffett (Conservation Projects Manager); Edie Beitzel (Daintree Nursery Manager); Erryn Stephens (Fundraising & Communications Manager); Grant Binns (Managing Director); Jack See (Supporter Relations Officer); Joe Reichl (Daintree Land Manager); Kaley Morrissey (Finance & Fundraising Administrator); Kathleen Barrett (Business Officer); Kelvin Davies (CEO & Founding Director); Sarah Crawford (Supporter Relations Officer); Sean O'Shannessey (Website Administrator).

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers who give tirelessly in the name of rainforest conservation

Alan Curtis; Allen Sheather; Barbara Maslen; Brenden Smith; Cecily McGee; Chris Deimel; Dave Rawlins; Delys Wilson; Greg Keith; John Benfer; Hari Elmo-Raj Turner; Fletcher Beitzel; Gill Savage; Lyall Naylor; Marina Gurtzis; Neville St John Wood; Phil Smith; Rudi Steinmetz; Unity Beitzel.

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