



AUSTRALIAN RAINFOREST FOUNDATION

DEDICATED TO EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND REHABILITATION FOR AUSTRALIA'S RAINFORESTS



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Patron

Lynne Cosgrove

Corporate Members

The Promotional Shop
Brazier Motti
EcoBiotics Limited
Proud Australia Group of Companies
Vision Training Australia
Smart Property Marketing
Training Systems Services
Down Under Tours
Cairns City Council

CONTENTS

1. THE YEAR AT A GLANCE	page	5
2. A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON	page	6
3. A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR	page	6
4. A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO	page	7
5. DAINTREE RAINFOREST CONSERVATION	page	8
6. LAND ACQUIRED	page	9
7. OPERATION BIG BIRD	page	12
8. CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS IN THE DAINTREE	page	15
9. BUILDING GLOBAL AWARENESS AND RAISING FUNDS	page	16
10. RESEARCH AND EDUCATION	page	17
11. A RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE	page	18
12. PROTECTING AND EXTENDING AUSTRALIA'S RAINFORESTS	page	18
13. BOARD AND STAFF CHANGES	page	19

AUDITED ACCOUNTS	[pages 1-14]
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I. APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A

*EVALUATION OF DAINTREE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (DCI) AND CASSOWARY
CONSERVATION PROJECT (CCP)*



I. THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

July 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a \$100,000 regional feral pig trapping program in response to the habitat destruction and increased feral pig activity following Tropical Cyclone Larry. Community consultation meeting held with residents in the Daintree, 60 local people attended.
August 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched 'General Peter Cosgrove' national media campaign to promote awareness of the importance of the Daintree and 'To save it we have to own it'.
September 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtained significant public support and donations for Daintree conservation
October 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaycar Electronics sponsor Daintree land John and Allison Kearney sponsor two rainforest blocks in the Daintree
November 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long standing Chairman Brigadier George Mansford AM (RL) retired. Dr. Victoria Gordon takes up the position of Chair Officially opened the ARF Interpretive Centre and gift shop on the Esplanade, Cairns.
December 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchased Lot 6 Cape Tribulation Road (86 ha) Purchased Lot 15 Cape Tribulation Road Island Coast Holden in Tully is the first local business to support the cassowary hospital at Garners Beach Appointed Conservation Officer for the Daintree region.
January 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed Conservation Officer for the Mission Beach area
February 07	
March 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cassowary Education Kit available on-line for all schools
April 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided funding to CSIRO for Cassowary DNA research.
May 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocated \$200,000 in a partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to improve delivery of cassowary recovery and treatment and to provide a caretaker / manager for the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Facility
June 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchased 60 hectares of important cassowary habitat at Leo Road/Maria Creek, near Mission Beach in the cassowary corridor

2. A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON



For more than a decade the Australian Rainforest Foundation has been fighting hard to protect and extend our rainforests, so that the rainforests in turn can continue to care for the only home we have - Earth. For more than five of those years, I have been proud and delighted to lend my support to the Foundation as its Patron. While the rainforests have survived for generations, now is the time they need *us* to protect *them*.

What's at stake is not just a whole lot of trees. Australia's rainforests are some of the most complex living systems on our earth, with an astonishing diversity of plant, animal and insect life. The Foundation does a fantastic job in protecting old growth forests, reclaiming and replanting rainforest land from private ownership and protecting rare and endangered species particularly in the Daintree and Wet Tropics region.

The result of literally millions of years of nature's hard work this ancient rainforest is a true global treasure and one that we can all enjoy and scientists can learn from; studying the critical role these delicately balanced ecosystems play in maintaining the world's climate, while at the same time searching these forests looking for cures for chronic diseases like cancer and AIDS.

We all know trees play a role in the fight against climate change – but not just any trees. What I have learned in working with the Foundation is just how important it is to plant *the right tree in the right place*, for the long-term, to generate maximum effect and ensure the trees will last the distance.

Last year my husband Peter lent a hand as the spokesperson for a national campaign to raise awareness about the need to protect Australia's Rainforests and I congratulate everyone who responded to that call to action. Our message, then as it is today, is that 'to save our rainforests we need to own them' and I encourage all Australian's to continue to support the work of the Australian Rainforest Foundation in whatever way they can and help protect our rainforest, a global treasure, for future generations.

Lynne Cosgrove, **Patron**

3. A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



This year has seen the Australian Rainforest Foundation go from strength to strength.

We successfully conserved large tracts of unique and megadiverse rainforest in the Daintree; made major contributions to protection of that icon of our tropical rainforests, the cassowary; assisted communities and farmers with the eradication and management of introduced species that threaten the very existence of our native flora and fauna; supported the discovery of new pharmaceuticals from the rainforest; and developed a scientifically sound program to help address the problem of climate change.

These impressive outcomes could not have been achieved without the committed team of people that comprise the Foundation - our Patron Lynne Cosgrove who generously takes time out from her busy routine to fly the ARF flag; our brilliant and hardworking Board of Directors; the man in the driving seat, our exceptional and gifted CEO Roger Phillips, Roger's tireless team of assistants, and you, our generous supporters and contributors. To all I extend a most heartfelt thanks.

The coming year promises to be very exciting and will see the Foundation extend our boundaries domestically, with planned activities in NSW and Tasmania, as well as internationally, with commencement a program to address conservation issues in the Solomon Islands.

Dr Victoria Gordon, **Chair**

4. A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Throughout the year the ARF's primary focus, as always, has been to build global awareness and support for Australia's rainforest.

To do this we were fortunate to have General Peter Cosgrove front a national media campaign, to encourage investment and sponsorship from corporate and private citizens and fund further relevant conservation, protection and enhancement programs.

With the recruitment of the first ARF Conservation Officers in the Daintree and Mission Beach areas we will continue to work with the local community to assist residents with conservation issues that have been raised, and that will emerge, including feral animals, weed identification and spraying, revegetation and fencing.

Through our partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, The ARF is funding the operation of the cassowary recovery facility at Garners Beach. This is a part of our increasing contribution to the cassowary protection program and it is making major in-roads in one of the most ambitious conservation plans in this nation's history – Operation Big Bird.

Through our new interpretive centre and gift shop, education kits, media strategy and corporate presentations around the country, we will encourage Australians and international visitors not only to support financially our aims but to visit our forests and gain first hand experience of its beauty and importance.

State and Federal legislation across Australia protects much of our rainforest from destruction, but at the same time there are many thousands of hectares that remain under private ownership and therefore are constantly under threat. The Australian Rainforest Foundation is addressing this problem.

We will continue to do everything we can to protect and rehabilitate Australia's rainforests and its inhabitants and encourage conversation and action regarding the overall environmental health of the planet.

At the same time the ARF supports biodiscovery research and we are all delighted that eminent scientist and long-time ARF board member, Dr Victoria Gordon has taken the position of Chair of the Foundation, following the resignation of long time Chairman and Life Member, George Mansford.

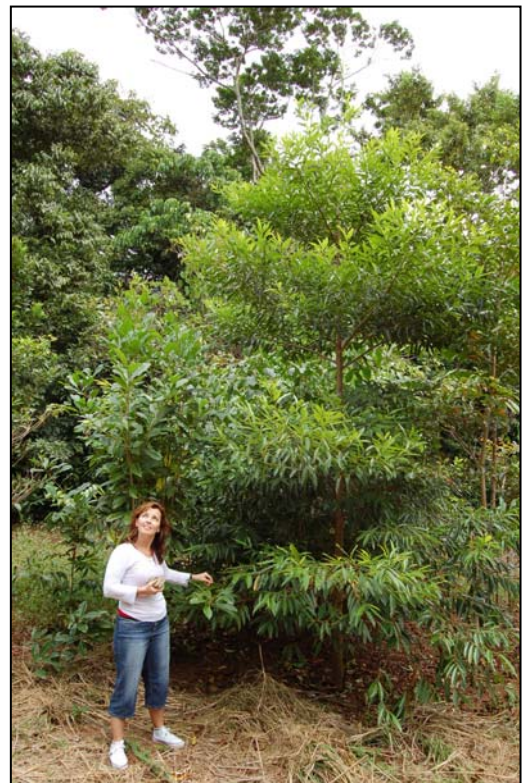
We look forward to Dr Gordon's continued direction and assistance in the hope that the ARF may play some part in securing scientific findings that will one day cure diseases and save lives. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Patron Lynne Cosgrove, the ARF Board, all ARF members and Cassowary Adopters for their continued support while also thanking everyone who has responded, and continues to respond to our hugely successful General Cosgrove campaign.

By owning, sponsoring or adopting your part of Australia's rainforests - we can save it.

Roger Phillips,
Chief Executive Officer

The ARF Give a Tree for Life program continues to grow.

Lynne and Peter Cosgrove plant a tree in August 2005 (right) and the ARF's Jacinta Allen (far right) inspects the tree in September 2006.



5. DAINTREE RAINFOREST CONSERVATION

The Daintree rainforest in Australia's tropical north Queensland is a remarkable global resource.

Mega diversity abounds in a tiny remnant of the world's tropical forests. But it is not just the mega diversity of plants and animals that attracts attention. It is a place of great controversy between governments and individuals on how best to protect the rainforest. On one hand there are those who abhor the presence of people living on private land in the rainforest and want the government to buy back the land and turn it to National Park. And at the other end of the argument are those that recognise the role people play in private conservation for public good. The Queensland and Australian governments, acting through the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council, accepted a report that recommended a limited buy back of private Daintree land and the acceptance of a smaller but viable community living in the area.

In 2001, Ministerial Council resolved to provide ARF with \$1 million in "seed" funding to buy back privately held rainforest in the Daintree, in accordance with the Daintree Futures Study recommendations. This program was due to finish on 30 June 2007 as extended until 30 June 2008.

The program was designed to:

- (1) Engage the private sector in seeking additional funds for Daintree conservation;
- (2) Use the seed funds provided to acquire, consolidate, protect and resell land in a revolving fund, thereby raising further funds for more land acquisition;
- (3) Set as a goal the reduction of development potential in the Daintree coast region by approximately 50%.

At the end of this financial year the ARF had acquired 12 properties.

In 2004, the Commonwealth Government announced \$5 million in funding to the ARF for further conservation initiatives in the Daintree. The funding matched the Queensland Government's \$5 million for Daintree land acquisition which was placed with Queensland's Environment Protection Agency. This contract was due to conclude on 30 June 2007 but has been extended until 2008.

Unlike the Queensland funding which is solely for land acquisition for the National Park, the Commonwealth contracted ARF to deliver a range of conservation outcomes. These would include landowner financial incentives for conservation works and assistance with conservation programs for landowners wishing to remain on the land. Provision was also made for land banking and land swaps along with transferable development rights if the local government planning scheme provide for this mechanism. A key component of the Commonwealth funding was the maintenance of a revolving land fund.

This approach was flexible and well received by the local Daintree community and many absent landowners who wished to build a home on their Daintree land.

ARF's mandate was to consolidate a number of lots (e.g. three or four into one lot with a reduction of development to a single dwelling). This meant that ARF would need to acquire blocks next to each other, or at least in a precinct where some blocks would have no development and others a single residential dwelling. At 30 June 2007, the ARF had acquired 26 blocks of land and sold one pristine rainforest block with a 100% conservation covenant protecting the land from any development.

From 25 blocks, 21 adjoin other blocks, with 18 being clustered in the Cooper Creek – Hutchinson Creek precinct while 19 of the blocks back onto the Wet Tropics World Heritage Listed Daintree National Park.

6. LAND ACQUIRED

The following Daintree lots have been purchased by the ARF with **Daintree VI** funding:

Precinct	Purchase (\$)	Valuation (\$)	Size (ha)
Cow Bay			
Cape Tribulation Rd	55,000	70,000	8.5
Cape Tribulation Rd	1,000*	40,000	1.6
Black Bean Rd	10,000*	30,000	1.0
Black Bean Rd	30,000	30,000	1.1
Cooper – Hutchinson Creek			
Turpentine Rd	80,000	100,000	1.1
Turpentine Rd	60,000	95,000	1.1
Turpentine Rd	45,000	45,000	1.5
Turpentine Rd	50,000	60,000	1.1
Turpentine Rd	60,000	60,000	1.3
Turpentine Rd	62,000	65,000	1.2
Stonewood Rd	40,000	40,000	1.0
Carbeen Rd	20,000	45,000	1.7
Total	\$533,000	\$680,000	22.2 ha

* Represents donated land



Lot 6 Cape Tribulation Rd

In December 2006 the ARF acquired 82 hectares of exceptionally important rainforest under a single title at Cape Tribulation.

This property was named the *George Mansford Rainforest Reserve* in honour of the Foundation's recently retired Chairman.

The following Daintree lots have been purchased by the ARF with **Daintree V2** funding:

Precinct	Purchase (\$)	Valuation (\$)	Size (ha)
Cow Bay			
Cape Tribulation Rd	34,000	35,000	1.0
Black Bean Rd	35,000	35,000	1.1
Cooper – Hutchinson Creek			
Turpentine Rd	365,000	350,000	15.2
Turpentine Rd	60,000	55,000	1.8
Stonewood Rd	58,000	60,000	1.0
Cape Tribulation Rd	200,000	280,000	9.4
Cape Tribulation Rd	170,000	150,000	8.8
Candlenut Rd	80,000	80,000	4.4
Candlenut Rd	50,000	55,000	2.4
Candlenut Rd	50,000	50,000	1.8
Candlenut Rd	75,000	90,000	5.6
Candlenut Rd	90,000	85,000	4.4
Cape Tribulation Rd	2,000,000	2,300,000	81.5
Cape Tribulation Rd	555,000	555,000	4.5
Total	\$3,822,000	\$4,180,000	165 ha

Over both Daintree programs the ARF has acquired 26 blocks of land, two of which were donated to ARF, one has been resold.



Lot 15 Cape Tribulation Rd

Also in December 2006 the ARF acquired an operating Bed and Breakfast facility on land strategically located next to three other ARF blocks in the Cooper Creek precinct.

This acquisition secured the land for future conservation and provided accommodation facilities for visiting researchers, members and staff. The CSIRO's visiting researcher and ARF scientists have used the facility during the year.

OTHER DAINTREE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

At a series of public consultation meetings with Daintree residents, the ARF identified three key actions in which conservation on private land for the public good, needed to be supported. These were the provision of expert on-site conservation advice (the Daintree rainforest community is located in remote far north Queensland and is without reticulated water, mains power, sewerage or waste collection); urgent action on feral pigs which were destroying both public and private rainforest; and help with invasive weeds. Rather than just work with individual landowners, the ARF also took a whole of area approach in response to these needs.

In early 2007, the ARF held discussions with the local council and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and committed to funding a joint, Daintree wide feral pig trapping program which would cover local government, State owned and private land. The program will commence in the second half of 2007.

The appointment of a Community Conservation Officer based at the ARF Bed and Breakfast facility in the Daintree, provided on-site conservation advice to the local community. This commenced in January 2007.

Significant planning has also been undertaken and preliminary work commenced on the production of Weed Identification Cards, a Weed Control Manual and a field training program to assist landowners deal with weeds on rainforest blocks.

Individual grants or 'stewardship payments' were made during the year to local landowners for a range of conservation on private land works.

The ARF commissioned an evaluation report on the Daintree Conservation Initiative (and the Cassowary Conservation Project) in May 2007. This is attached as Appendix A.

7. OPERATION BIG BIRD



The southern cassowary has become synonymous with the World Heritage listed rainforest of tropical north Queensland. This rare species is one of Australia's largest land animal and plays a unique role in the rainforest's ecology.

Many of the tree species in the rainforest depend on cassowaries to spread their seeds. Historically these birds have had few natural predators and were able to maintain stable population sizes.

However over the last 20 to 25 years an exponential decline in the cassowary population has resulted in the bird being officially listed as an endangered species. Recent estimates indicate that there may only be around 1,200 cassowaries left in Australia - about the same numbers as China's Giant Panda.

In one of the most ambitious conservation plans in the nation's history, the Australian Rainforest Foundation is bringing together all levels of government, community groups and individuals, scientists, land managers and the corporate sector to work cooperatively to save this magnificent bird. The Foundation is working to create a 250km wildlife corridor along the Wet Tropics coast of Queensland.

The Corridor will be a living green link between the far north Queensland resort city of Cairns and the southern coastal town of Cardwell, where World Heritage listed rainforest habitat has been fragmented by farms, tourism resorts and urban developments.

It will be the largest wildlife corridor ever established in Australia and will be a world-first pilot project demonstrating how an industrialised nation can sustain a viable wildlife population in its midst.

The Foundation was successful in obtaining \$1 million in seed funding from The Australian Government in 2005 to continue with this project.

Securing the Cassowary Corridor

The program involves the following activities

- Corridor vegetation and habitat mapping
- Establishing strategically located secure habitat areas
- DNA research to identify cassowary populations
- Land acquisition and landowner incentives
- Revegetation programs
- Feral animal management
- Community education
- A corporate fund raising campaign



The corridor mapping undertaken in the previous year provided the ground work for the project, identifying key areas where cassowary habitat needs protecting. Negotiations with rural landowners for revegetation or corridor linkages continued this year and were assisted by the appointment in late 2006 of a Community Conservation Officer based at Garners Beach.

PIG TRAPPING

There are many reasons why we should seek to eradicate feral pigs (pictured right). However for the ARF the real concern is the threat they pose to the endangered cassowary. Feral pigs compete for food, particularly when traditional food sources such as rainforest fruits are scarce following a cyclone and when small rainforest refuges are crowded with many native species.

Following the destruction by Cyclone Larry in the area the Foundation entered into a 6 month trial of a pig trapping program with Mission Beach company NQ Feral Pig Management Solutions Pty Ltd which commenced in June 2006.

Eleven pig traps were deployed in the area resulting in 327 pigs being caught and destroyed. ARF invested \$75,000 in this program which has prompted a further \$500,000 commitment by the Commonwealth Government to feral pig control in the region.



GARNERS BEACH CASSOWARY REHABILITATION FACILITY

The Garners Beach facility (pictured right) is owned by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Foundation is funding its running costs. The hospital is an important facility in dealing with injured and distressed cassowaries with a number of holding pens and veterinary treatment rooms.

The facility is also a forward base for ARF community partnership programs with the ARF's Community Conservation Officer based here performing the role of caretaker/manager. Funds of \$200,000 have been initially allocated to the program on a two year trial. The Foundation is actively seeking corporate support to offset these costs.



LOCAL SUPPORTERS

In December, Mr Brian Ernst (pictured centre), proprietor of Island Coast Holden made a substantial cash donation to the Foundation in support of the Garners Beach facility along with two discounted crew cab Holden Rodeos. The vehicles will be used for local conservation work in the Tully/Innisfail and Daintree regions by newly recruited ARF Conservation Officers, Steve Garrad (Tully/Innisfail) and Jolyon Ritchie (Daintree).

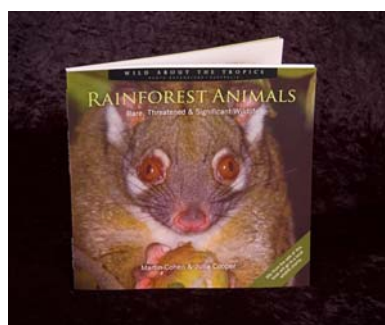


INTERPRETIVE CENTRE AND GIFT SHOP

In November the ARF, with the help of members, friends, and supporters gathered in Cairns to officially open the Foundation's first Interpretive Centre and gift shop.

The honour of cutting the ribbon went to 1950s Hollywood legend and ARF supporter Doris Goddard-Bishop. Doris has been a supporter of the Foundation for some years now and had recently made a further significant donation to the Foundation.

Proceeds from all sales made at the ARF Interpretive Centre and Gift shop, along with exclusive Operation Big Bird merchandise, will go towards helping save Australia's rainforests through ARF projects and initiatives.



Photos clockwise from above:

Operation Big Bird Merchandise; Informative books, Cassowary carving, Administration Assistant Sarah Harbrow shows ARF Patron, Lynne Cosgrove around the shop; Give a Tree for Life gift fulfilment.

All merchandise can be viewed on line at www.arf.net.au

8. CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

The Foundation recognises that many landowners don't want to sell their land and that they are already practicing good on-ground conservation in the Daintree. By forming Conservation Partnerships with these landowners and community groups, we can financially support agreed works that improve their land and the environment for everyone.

Over 60 Daintree residents attended a public meeting held at Diwan Community Centre in July 2006 to discuss and establish priorities for on-ground conservation projects with Daintree residents.

The meeting encouraged residents to propose the types of works they would like to see carried out in the area and on their land. All initiatives are aimed at reducing the impact of development.

Feral animals, weed identification and spraying, revegetation and fencing were all issues addressed as were the problems with remote area power supply; along with education programmes for tourism operators and assistance with planning 'Daintree friendly' housing.



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION OFFICERS – DAINTREE AND MISSION BEACH

As a direct result of community consultation and requests from local residents in the Daintree Coast area, the ARF has Community Conservation Officers for the Daintree and Mission Beach regions. These officers will be available to provide advice and deliver a range of conservation programs and training to landholders and residents including supervising the allocation of resources (i.e. weed sprayers, pig traps) for appropriate on-ground conservation works on private land.



The Daintree officer has been living live on-site since January 2007 at the ARF Community Conservation Centre at Lot 15, Cape Tribulation Rd, Diwan, a recently purchased block of land and bed and breakfast facility, formerly known as Daintree Drifters.

ROLE OF THE ARF CONSERVATION OFFICER

The primary role of this position will be to work with the local community to assist residents with conservation issues that have been raised, and that will emerge, including feral animals, weed identification and spraying, revegetation and fencing.

The Community Conservation Officer will also be the first point of contact for residents and experts to contribute the right advice on the best and most sustainable ways to live in the Daintree. From this we hope to produce a plain-English, easily updatable handbook that will assist residents, businesses and tourism operators practise the best and most sustainable ways to live in the Daintree.



9. BUILDING GLOBAL AWARENESS AND RAISING FUNDS – DAINTREE AND MISSION BEACH

In accordance with the terms of the Commonwealth funding, the ARF launched a major media campaign in July 2006, encouraging ordinary citizens and corporations to get involved in saving Australia's rainforests by buying, adopting or sponsoring Daintree rainforest for conservation.

The Foundation, with the support of its' Patron Lynne Cosgrove, enlisted the former Australian Defence Chief General Peter Cosgrove to be the face of the 'If we want to save it we need to own it' campaign. General Cosgrove volunteered his time and spent the day with a film crew on location in the Daintree.



NATIONAL COVERAGE

The TV ad was aired in southern capitals from September with the 'Community Service Announcement' in video, radio and print format distributed to media outlets across Australia with resounding success as over \$600,000 of media was provided at no cost to the Foundation and in excess of \$300,000 was raised through the campaign. As a direct result of the campaign a huge boost for conservation was made through major sponsorship by retired QC John Kearney and his wife Alison. This sponsorship by the Kearney's will allow the Foundation to significant funds into conserving this special place.



PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The ARF continues to inform and educate its' supporters, partners and the general public on initiatives and activities. The ARF website has begun its transformation with a new electronic newsletter to be circulated every two months. A 'Giving'

brochure was printed in November 2006 which has proved to be an informative and efficient fundraising tool, This will be updated and reprinted in 2007/8.

LOCAL TOUR THAT HELPS SAVE THE EARTH

On April 22, Earth Day is observed each year by more than 500 million people in over 175 countries. In Cairns, the ARF working with local Daintree tour operator, escorted a group of paying locals to the Daintree to plant over 100 native trees on a prime rainforest block owned by the ARF.

Along with the tree planting the Earth Day tour included a tour guide from Wilderness Challenge, a briefing by an ARF Conservation Officer on the rainforest and the regeneration process, a bbq lunch, afternoon tea and a refreshing swim. The Foundation hopes to offer the tour again next year.



10. RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

CASSOWARY DNA RESEARCH

The ARF is pleased to be able to support ongoing research by CSIRO scientist Dr. David Westcott.

Dr Westcott is undertaking research, to determine how many cassowaries there are in the Mission Beach area and how far they move over a season, as well as to learn their breeding patterns. To do this he is studying cassowary droppings, along with blood and feather samples.

By collecting cassowary droppings and studying its DNA, scientists may prevent its extinction, which in turn will help the regeneration of our tropical rainforests.

Dr Westcott is undertaking the research 'Development of genetic survey methodologies for cassowaries into determining the size of the cassowary population around Mission Beach' with CSIRO colleague Leo Joseph and Peter Latch from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.



CASSOWARY EDUCATION KIT

Through education, to audiences of all ages from all over the world, the Australian Rainforest Foundation aims to present our unique rainforests and their inhabitants to future generations, instilling the respect and recognition they deserve.



MYNA BIRD RESEARCH

The Foundation accepted a contract from the Commonwealth for \$130,000 to manage a research project into Indian Myna Birds, an imported pest variously described as the 'flying cane toad' due to its persistence and environmental damage.

The Australian National University was commissioned to undertake the research.

Dr. Chris Tiddeman, is in the second year of this research to see if he can build an artificial roost to attract large numbers of Myna birds.

Trials and field observations were carried out in Cairns and Canberra in an attempt to determine if a large mobile artificial roost could be successfully deployed to trap large numbers of the birds in communal roosts at night. If successful, this could be a method of capture and destruction available to local councils throughout Australia. The research will continue throughout 2007.



II. A RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

We all know trees play a role in the fight against climate change. What is most important is planting the right tree in the right place, for the long-term, to generate maximum effect.

In old forests, huge amounts of carbon taken from the air (almost 2.5 times the carbon in a plantation forest) are locked away not only in the tree trunks and branches, but also deep in the soil, where the carbon can stay for many centuries. When such a forest is cleared almost all of that stored carbon is eventually returned to the air in the form of carbon dioxide.

In extending our ancient rainforests, we are rejuvenating a complex, mega diverse natural system that is extremely effective in absorbing and storing carbon.

Businesses are under pressure to mitigate the impact of their operations on the environment and are increasingly seeking genuine green credentials.

To encourage corporations and their employees to first look to protecting the astonishing environmental treasures in their own backyard the ARF has spent some months researching and formulating a new fundraising program branded Hero2.

Hero2 gives businesses the opportunity to actively invest in protecting and extending Australia's ancient rainforests for the future.

Business and employees can become Hero₂s with tax-deductible donations through their payroll. Individuals can also become a Hero2 from as little as \$1 a day, through a one-off annual payment or a monthly payment with a credit card.



Tax-deductible contributions to Hero₂ go to:

- Protecting old growth forests, home to some of the world's richest plant and animal life
- Extending our rainforest by planting new mixed species rainforest trees to breathe life back into the environment; and
- Recovering rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

For example, an employee contributing \$5 from his or her payroll each week for

12 months will protect 54m² old-growth forest; plant 20 new trees (protected for the life of the trees); and contribute \$26 to operating costs for a wildlife hospital.

The Hero₂ program will be rolled out nationally in 2007/2008.

12. PROTECTING AND EXTENDING AUSTRALIA'S RAINFORESTS

Mainly thanks to the continued huge success of General Cosgrove Daintree media campaign in mid 2007 the ARF is turning its attention to further rainforests across Australia. Discussions have been held with groups in New South Wales and Victoria – on projects in those States and an exploratory trip to rainforests in the South Pacific is planned for later in 2007.

13. BOARD CHANGES

The ARF is an entity that we call a Foundation. It exists thanks to a dedicated, unpaid Board, generous members and numerous supporters. George Mansford was a founding father of the Australian Rainforest Foundation and served as its Chair for the next ten years until his retirement, due to illness in December 2006.

George was a professional soldier who started his Army career as a Private and retired after forty years of service as a Brigadier (General). His military service included Korea, the Malayan Emergency, Thai/Malaysia Border, Vietnam, New Guinea and Singapore.

He was awarded the Member of Order of Australia for his work in Cyclones Tracey and Althea and the Brisbane Floods; he was Cairns Citizen of the Year; and received the Paul Harris Award. He was awarded the Cassowary Award – Unsung Hero Class by the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

It was George's belief in the Foundation's goals and his straight forward speaking that delivered, among other things, \$6 million from the Commonwealth for cassowary and Daintree conservation. And it was his passionate speeches in support of the cassowary at corporate functions that delivered substantial donations to the cause.

Dr Victoria Gordon has taken up the position of Chair of the ARF after being a Director on the Board for the last four years. With a PhD in Microbiology and a Bachelor of Applied Science (Hons), Dr Gordon also has Diplomas in human and animal health and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is a member of the Queensland Biotechnology Advisory Council, the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility Advisory Council and the Queensland Science Education Taskforce.

Dr Gordon has held senior scientific and management positions in government and industry. Prior to establishing Queensland biodiscovery company EcoBiotics, she was a research scientist with the CSIRO where she achieved widespread recognition for her work on chemical ecology in tropical rainforests. She was Technology Director for one of Australia's largest companies with an integrated portfolio covering the natural resource, agribusiness and manufacturing sectors.

Dr Gordon was awarded one of two inaugural Bioneer awards in 2004 by Queensland Premier Peter Beattie for her significant contribution to the biotechnology industry in Queensland and was the winner of the 2003 Queensland Government's Smart Women – Smart State award for women in business, the community and the public sector.

The Foundation also farewelled long-standing Board Director Lestar Manning, retiring from his position after eight years due to the pressure of business activities.

Lestar runs a specialist planning and environment law practice in Maroochydore and Cairns but still found the time to guide the Foundation through its legal proceedings in the early days. Lestar drafted one of the first conservation covenants to be applied under what was in 2001, relatively new law for Queensland. The covenants were applied to land titles on blocks of rainforest resold by the Foundation in the Garners Beach cassowary corridor and have been a template for covenanting works since then.

The ARF welcomed new Board member Angus Love CEO, Direct Sales Division, Direct Group, Sydney.



George Mansford (centre) presents Lestar Manning (left) with a commemorative land title in recognition of his hard work, assisted by Roger Phillips.