

A close-up photograph of a toucan's head, facing forward. The bird has a prominent crest of yellow and black feathers. Its face is blue with large, orange-brown eyes. The background is a dark, out-of-focus forest. The text "2021 annual report" is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

2021 annual report

A close-up photograph of a person's legs and hands performing a traditional smoking ceremony. The person is standing over a fire that is burning on a large, light-colored log. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick white smoke rising from it. The person's hands are visible, one near the fire and the other holding a piece of wood. The ground is dry and brown, with some small plants and twigs scattered around. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the person's legs and the surrounding environment.

*Rainforest Rescue
acknowledges the
Traditional
Custodians of the
lands on which our
organisation is
located, where we
work and where we
live. We respect
ancestors and Elders
past, present and
emerging.*

'Smoking Ceremony' by Walkabout Cultural Adventures,
Jasmine Carey



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Rainforest Rescue is a charity
registered with the Australian
Charities and Not-for-profits
Commission ABN 61 086 885 154

about us

Rainforest Rescue is a not-for-profit organisation that has been protecting and restoring rainforests since March 1999 by providing opportunities for individuals and businesses to Protect Rainforests Forever.

Our projects re-establish rainforests through planting, maintenance, weed removal and restoration programs, as well as purchasing and protecting high conservation value rainforest and preserving its biodiversity.

our vision

To Protect Rainforests Forever

our mission

Rescue vulnerable rainforests by buying threatened properties;
Restore damaged and fragmented habitat through reforestation;
Conserve the biodiversity and cultural heritage of Rainforest; and
Learn from the forest, sharing and raising awareness.

our values

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Ethical | Working to the highest ethical standards both internally and with external stakeholders. |
| Sustainable | Ensuring Rainforest Rescue has a light footprint on the planet. |
| Professional | Working in a transparent, innovative, and agile way to get the best value for money. |
| Engaging | Proactively listening to our audiences and actively contributing to Rainforest conversations. |
| Respectful | Leading by example and ensuring our work reflects the special sense of place of rainforests. |
| Collaborative | Working in partnership to maximise synergies and impact to Protect Rainforest Forever. |



chair's report

It is a pleasure to introduce this Rainforest Rescue Annual Review. As the Chair of the organisation and a passionate supporter for many years, I am genuinely optimistic about its ongoing capacity to protect Australia's critically important rainforests and their rich biodiversity.

The past year continued to present covid and travel challenges, but throughout this time the organisation has sustained its focus on achieving conservation outcomes, adding 3 properties to our growing list of rainforest rescues. They offer exceptional old growth forest, connectivity to previous rescued properties, as well as shared boundaries with the national park. Together, these conservation wins build landscape connectivity and enhance the protection of important biodiverse habitat for fauna and flora.

Social distancing made our annual community tree planting a challenge. However, our Daintree team persevered and managed to get sufficient local volunteers to help plant another 3,215 rainforest seedlings, and these are now thriving.

Rainforest Rescue will soon be breaking ground on the construction of its high-capacity nursery. Our successful and dynamic restoration work to date has attracted an increasing demand for large-scale restoration on degraded rainforest land. Reforesting cleared areas within and adjacent to the Daintree will increase the area of rainforest in the Wet Tropics region, protect the intact Daintree rainforest refugia, contribute to the rainforest's habitat capacity for all species, and protect genetic diversity.

Our relationship with the Indigenous Eastern Kuku Yalanji of the Daintree has grown and developed through a partnership with the Jabalbina Corporation. This promises to be an enriching exchange of

knowledge and learning for one and all, contributing to the ongoing preservation of the critically important Daintree rainforest.

Currently we have 181 business Partners for Protection who are significant contributors and supporters of our efforts. Along with the numerous foundations who find us grant-worthy, our sincere thanks go out to them all for their ongoing relationships and commitments to rainforest conservation.

Our donors, whether they be longer term, monthly givers (Rainforest Guardians), or new donors make up an essential part of our rainforest family. We love that you share our passion and stories, along with the determination to protect rainforests forever. This is an important and uplifting shared journey!

The theme for this letter is all about growing. Growing our conservation wins, our capacity for restoration, our donor and business partnerships, and our positive connections and interactions with people and organisations. These relationships provide the foundation for our achievements and conservation outcomes. We are sincerely grateful for this growing support.

For the rainforests,

Madeleine Faught
Chair





'Rainforest Patchwork', Martin Stringer

ceo's report

This last year was notable for many reasons—not the least of which being the second year of a pandemic that saw our movements restricted, our ways of interacting changed and our concerns for each other, especially in our global community, heightened. And for the most part, we've been very fortunate here in Australia.

Nonetheless, with the growing support of Rainforest Rescuers like you, we've increased our positive impact for conservation and restoration in the World Heritage Daintree Rainforest.

In the last year alone we've rescued 42 acres of pristine rainforest habitat! And thanks to our very positive working relationship with Queensland Trust for Nature, we helped rescue a remarkable block that is almost 1,000 acres, right at the entrance to the Daintree. That's a biggie.

Our flagship restoration project, Lot 46, was granted Nature Refuge status by the Queensland Minister of the Environment. This is a great accomplishment as anyone familiar with the story knows. (See it on our website under Daintree Projects.) And more than that, the Kuku Yalanji Language Advisory Group have granted this restored rainforest with a new name in the local Kuku Yalanji language. Kuku Yalanji Elder, Andrew John Solomon, held a very special naming ceremony at Lot 46 after our largest annual community tree planting yet, and Lot 46 is now Kurranji Bubu—Cassowary Land in Yalanji language. We are grateful to the Yalanji Language Committee and also to Juan Bennett for that wonderful name.

We've planted well over 30,000 trees since I joined Rainforest Rescue in 2018. (Not due to me, of course. I've planted perhaps a couple of hundred trees in that time.) Many hands make light work, and our Land Management team is doing a great job of improving



our programs.

We're still going strong in our restoration at NightWings – a 15 hectare ex-sugar cane plantation. And we are also running a new restoration project near the headwaters of the Daintree River at Upper Daintree Valley. The property, Tranquility, will be the first of its kind to turn cattle-country back into its original state – Daintree rainforest.

We updated our current nursery in the Daintree with a new irrigation system, upgrading water storage, along with new material and tools, to make sure that our tree propagation is as efficient as it can be.

At HQ we've replaced ageing infrastructure and moved our computing operations into the cloud; future-proofing our efforts and enabling remote and COVID Safe working wherever our staff are.

New team members have joined us across the organisation, including additional positions to strengthen our stakeholder relationships, communications and financial governance and controls.

A new position in our Daintree operations will make our restoration and land management programs more effective, contributing to our positive conservation outcomes.

I am proud to say our team culture is one of openness, accountability, compassion and a shared vision for a greener future.



At the governance level we've renewed our general membership, bringing in new energy and creating a stronger community of support for Rainforest Rescue's board and management structure. While it's a requirement for charitable gift status that we have a minimum of 50 general members who attend an annual general meeting, it's also good governance.

Of great excitement, we've taken a leap - knowing that you have our backs - to plant more trees! As an organisation we have committed to building a large-scale nursery that will ultimately supply as many as 150,000 native trees annually, with a plan to grow over a million trees in the first ten years of operation.

This is a significant investment for Rainforest Rescue and an important step towards our efforts to support the mitigation of climate change by supporting the Daintree to grow, not shrink.

The outpouring of support for this new nursery is testament to its importance and its promise.

Partnerships have extended our capacity and created new possibilities. Queensland Trust for Nature contributed to the rescue of Lot 27 last year, as well as our plans for restoring Lot 83 with trees from our new nursery. Our relationship with Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation and the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people will help place Traditional Owners at our current as well as our new nursery, providing jobs and training, experience as well as skills and knowledge sharing. Their role in this new bloom of restoration work is central and essential and we are excited to be working together.

Meanwhile our work with not-for-profit carbon off-setter, GreenFleet, will help provide placement and care for the hundreds of thousands of trees— and ultimately millions—that will be planted in the

Daintree. We are also grateful to have the support of the Douglas Shire Council for the new nursery as well.

It's been quite a journey.

And it is only because of dedicated supporters like you, that we can achieve so much.

With your ongoing belief in what we do and your stellar support, we remain enthusiastic about Rainforest Rescue. This is an organisation that is growing and dedicated more than ever to best outcomes for nature.

In the year ahead, we've planned:

- More rescues to increase the area of established wildlife refuges and connections to the World Heritage Daintree National Park.
- More trees propagated—we're planning for 75,000 trees in the new year, and a capacity of 150,000 Daintree Rainforest trees annually thereafter.
- More restoration at NightWings to transform former cane fields into rainforest again.
- More restoration at Tranquility to transform cattle-country into rainforest again.
- New Nature Refuges established—with 11 in the pipeline at the moment, and wildlife corridors further developed, through our work with the Qld Department of Environment and Science.

It is a very exciting time—and you make this all possible.

I hope you can see how, because of you, we are growing, how we are improving, and how we continue to protect rainforest forever. You make this possible

For the rainforests,

Branden Barber
CEO



From little things, big things grow ...

how we've grown



324,068

RAINFOREST TREES PLANTED

291,068 in Australia
33,000 Overseas



39

PROPERTIES RESCUED

38 in the Daintree, Queensland
1 in Pyengana, Tasmania



1,756,551 m²

RAINFOREST RESCUED

947,151 m² in the Daintree



20

NATURE REFUGES CREATED

in Australia



23

YEARS OF OPERATION

Founded in 1999



the year in review

Annual Community Tree Planting at NightWings—record breaking 3200 trees planted!

Naming ceremony to welcome Lot 46 back to Country as Kurranji Bubu—‘Cassowary Land’.

‘Voices for the Rainforest’ launched in partnership with BioPak—a global awareness raising campaign. 18 global influencers shared their stories and artwork on recycled & compostable art series coffee cups.

‘Rainforest to Reef’—an exquisite book produced by ambassadors, Darren Jew & Jasmine Carey, was auctioned to raise funds for Rainforest Rescue.

Rainforest Rescue is invited to attend the historic handing back of 5 national parks—including the Daintree—to the Traditional Owners. “The joy and pride in everyone was palpable.”

Our first Tranquility Community Tree Planting—800 native trees planted at the top of the Upper Daintree Valley.

Lot 19 Forest Close rescued! Almost 7 hectares of pristine habitat, connected to the Daintree National Park connects 5 previous rescues, completing this wildlife corridor.

JAN

Complete renewal of our General Membership—welcoming 63 passionate members to support our work. New energy!

FEB

Rainforest Rescue featured on ABC Radio’s Nightlife.

MAR

Rainforest Rescue celebrated 22 years of Protecting Rainforests.

APR

Phase 1 of the new Native Nursery complete, with powerful partnerships formed with QTFN, Greenfleet and Jabalbina.

MAY

Lot 46 granted Nature Refuge status.

JUN

Rainforest Rescue features in environmental documentary series, ‘Refugia’, by actress and Ambassador Liana Cornell.

Front and centre at the Cairns Eco-Fiesta—Queensland’s premier sustainability festival.

JUL

Lot 18 Cape Kimberley Rd is rescued and protected forever! Almost 9 hectares of pristine, intact, amazing Daintree Rainforest.

AUG

Kurranji Bubu (formerly Lot 46) featured in an article by Sean Davey in The Guardian, ‘This is How it Should Be’: Replanting the Daintree Rainforest.

SEP

‘Keep Australia Beautiful’—a social media series & giveaway, with prizes donated by our business partners.

OCT

Cow Bay airstrip secured for new nursery site after Lot 83 proves too ecologically sensitive. We’ll help restore Lot 83 and put the nursery at the old airstrip. Win-win!

NOV

We received significant funding from the Ian Potter Foundation - our largest philanthropic grant to date - to support new nursery staffing and help launch the new propagation program.

DEC

No Appeal Rescue—Lot 36 Cape Tribulation Rd is rescued with funds left over from the tax appeal for Lot 18. More pristine habitat secured forever!



kurranji bubu, a restoration journey

Kurranji Bubu (Lot 46 Cape Tribulation Rd) now represents a best practice model of restoration studied by ecologists worldwide, and provides a scalable model for future rainforest restorations.

While it is just one parcel of land, the restoration of this block provides a vital contribution and connection to one of the oldest continuously surviving rainforest lineages in the world.

So, the next step in this journey was to ensure this land was forever protected.

In March 2021, Lot 46 was granted nature refuge status, a **legally binding conservation status** which ensures this land will be protected in perpetuity by Rainforest Rescue and the Queensland State Government.

KURRANJI BUBU

With Lot 46 successfully restored and protected, and well on its way to being folded back into the Daintree Rainforest, the Kuku Yalanji Language Advisory Group granted Lot 46 the traditional name of Kurranji Bubu (Cassowary Land).



Getting this important parcel in the heart of the Daintree well on its way to being restored to its former glory is an incredibly important moment and really speaks to the core purpose of Rainforest Rescue's work. Having the support of the Traditional Owners who've granted the land this beautiful name is a perfect capstone for this achievement. We're extremely fortunate and grateful to share this responsibility and success story of Kurranji Bubu with all our supporters.
Branden Barber, Rainforest Rescue CEO

Now considered a property synonymous with the Rainforest Rescue name, Kurranji Bubu continues to repay our efforts with extraordinary success.

HISTORY OF KURRANJI BUBU (LOT 46) RESTORATION

So how does a decrepit and abandoned oil palm plantation get restored to lush rainforest on the edge of the World Heritage-listed Daintree National Park?

Well, to start with – it doesn't happen overnight!

In 2010 Rainforest Rescue purchased the Lot 46, Cape Tribulation Road, Diwan, property in the heart of the Daintree Rainforest.

At just under 28 hectares, Lot 46 is watched over by towering Thornton's Peak which links the lowland rainforest with upland rainforest systems.

Properties in the Daintree Rainforest often hold special significance either:

- because of their location, size, connectivity to the World Heritage Rainforest, or;
- because of their need to be rehabilitated to create refuges and reconnect fragmented corridors.

Lot 46 met both of these requirements.

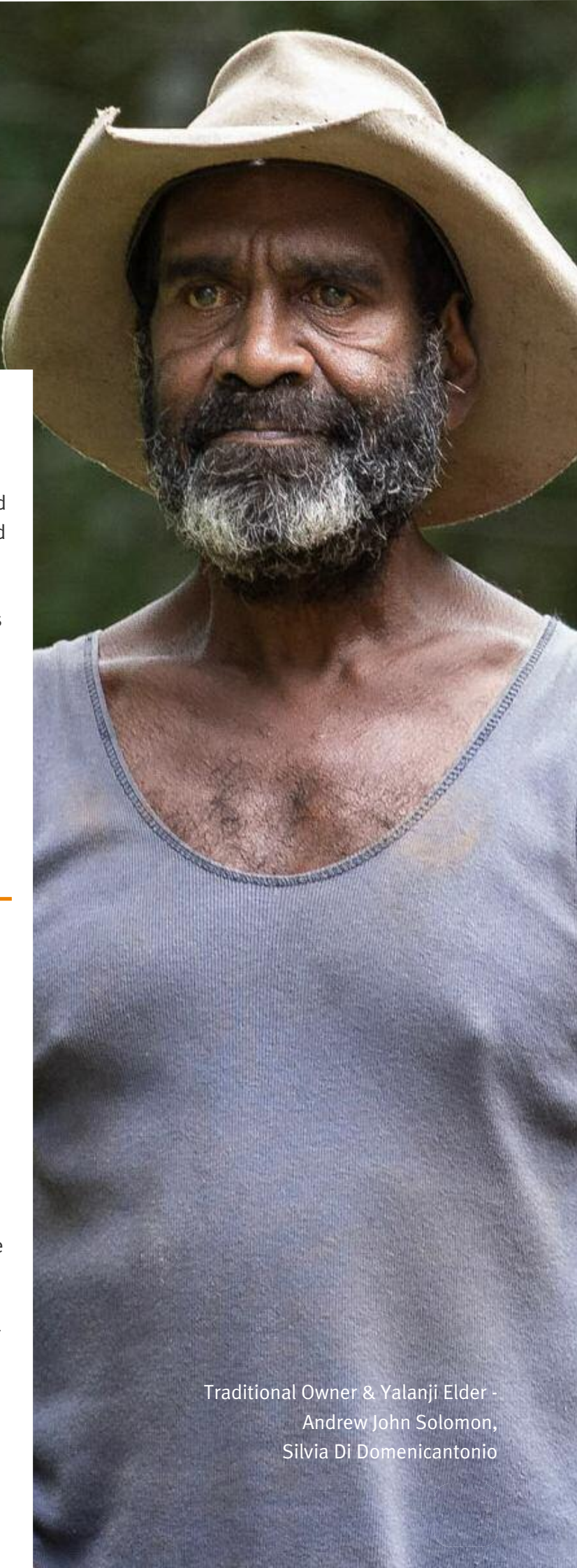
After a long history of abuse, this property sat neglected for many years, uncomfortable in the midst of the surrounding intact rainforest. Lot 46 was in serious need of restoration.

By purchasing this block, Rainforest Rescue was taking on a major obligation, but there was something about this property that resonated with us and steeled our determination.

To even begin the restoration project, 180 tonnes of rubbish including cars, caravans, boats, and decrepit farm equipment had to be removed.

Then came the restoration.



A close-up portrait of a traditional owner, likely an Indigenous Australian, wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a blue tank top. He has a grey beard and is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

In our Daintree nursery, we greatly increased our capacity to provide for Lot 46's needs.

Over more than 10 years 37,000 trees across 146 species were planted on-site by many, many staff and volunteers under the watchful eye of world-renowned rainforest ecologist **Dr. Robert Kooyman**, who was responsible for monitoring the planting design he implemented and assessing growth rates of the trees and canopy closure.

Slowly but steadily the rainforest canopy was restored, and over a decade later Lot 46 has now been returned to its rightful place as an ecologically significant parcel of rainforest land.

Watch ABC Landline's special report on the restoration of Lot 46 [here](#).



Having been involved in the restoration of this special piece of land since Rainforest Rescue purchased it over a decade ago, Lot 46 has secured a permanent place in my heart. I am enormously proud of what has been achieved. This beautiful young rainforest stands a proud tribute to what can be realised when passion, care, and recreating the rainforest structure come together.

Madeleine Faught, Rainforest Rescue Chair

Now, this ecological hot spot teems again with native plants and wildlife, including the Pygmy possum, Bennett's tree-kangaroo, and the endangered Southern Cassowary – a species worth preserving for its ancient history and extreme importance to the health of the rainforest as they are the only animal capable of eating the largest rainforest fruits and dispersing their seeds over great distances.

Traditional Owner & Yalanji Elder -
Andrew John Solomon,
Silvia Di Domenicantonio



Bennetts Tree Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus bennettianus*),
Jasmine Carey



volunteerism makes us stronger

Allen Sheather and Barbara Maslen volunteer with Rainforest Rescue; giving so much of their energy and sharing their local knowledge and ecological wisdom. We met with them to ask them about their dedication and why they believe we need to build the Daintree's largest nursery.

? Barbara and Allen, can you describe your role and involvement with Rainforest Rescue?

Allen: My working relationship with Rainforest Rescue began in the late 1990's when Rainforest Rescue contributed towards the purchases of land that later formed Baralba Corridor Nature Refuge. Later, I began helping Rainforest Rescue to identify suitable properties to purchase and ultimately undertook ecological surveys to ensure we were purchasing appropriate properties. I also established and ran the revegetation nursery with Barbara for many years, later gifting that nursery to Rainforest Rescue.

Barbara: My role in rainforest restoration is inextricably linked with my friendship with Allen. After years of encouragement from him, I finally had time to become a regular volunteer at the Daintree Cassowary Care Nursery in 2004. We managed the nursery together until the group made the decision to hand [it] over to Rainforest Rescue. Through all these years we were also growing trees at home for our own extensive revegetation project at 'Wild Wings & Swampy Things'. My role is now assisting Allen with property assessments and keeping a close eye on potential properties for Rainforest Rescue to purchase. I gain enormous personal satisfaction being involved in such a vibrant organisation that is achieving great outcomes.

? Why should people care about the Daintree Rainforest?

Allen: The rainforests of the Daintree Coast have long been recognised as the most significant area of plant diversity in Australia. This significance was instrumental in persuading UNESCO to list the Wet Tropics of Queensland as a World Heritage Area.

? Why do you believe Rainforest Rescue should build the Daintree's largest nursery?

Allen: History has shown me that if you grow the plants, they will find a home and the limit on plants available has always been an impediment towards repairing more rainforest. With the effects of Global Warming accelerating, we need to work harder and faster to not just slow forest loss, but to reverse the effects. Plus, you have to lead by example and the Daintree has always been a well noted example often leading the way with environmental efforts.

Barbara: The best way to achieve diversified rainforest restoration on a large scale is to have a local nursery producing the stock from locally sourced seed.

? Allen, as our Ecological Advisor, can you give a background to remediating rainforest?

Back in the early 90's two very good ecologists Nigel Tucker and Steve Goosem wrote a book called 'Repairing the Rainforest'. Until then little effort had been given towards reversing the catastrophic damage inflicted by activities like timber harvesting. The book inspired me to take up the challenge to make a real difference to the surrounding environment. It also became the cornerstone of what the Daintree Cassowary Care Group would use as their model for rainforest restoration, and we successfully used the 'framework planting method' for the 15 years we did community-based rainforest

restoration. I am very keen to see a more science-based approach towards establishing planting models that are cost-effective at scale and create a rainforest canopy that will one day be as good as the nearby remnants.

? What do you hope Rainforest Rescue will achieve in 12 months, five years and ten years' time?

Allen: Within 12 months I'm determined that Rainforest Rescue should have a functioning nursery on the airstrip property, to be well started with the restoration work at both Lot 83 (Jiwal Jiwal) and Upper Daintree property we have began planting on. Within five years, to be nearing the restoration completion of those two sites and to have started many more. I'm particularly proud of our achievements thus far at securing quality forest in a strategic fashion and ensuring its protection.

? Did your restoration work at 'NightWings' and Lot 46 surprise you how quickly rainforest can rejuvenate?

Allen: While I have worked at both Lot 46 and 'NightWings', I had previously coordinated the restoration work at Jindalba through the Daintree Cassowary Care Group which entailed restoring 32 hectares. Although our planting methods were different [to] Rainforest Rescue's, we had many years of marvelling at the speed with which we could restore an area, attaining canopy closure within two years.

Barbara: As we have both been working on revegetation projects for many years, we were not surprised by the tree growth in these restoration projects. It is very satisfying to see a rainforest habitat replace degraded cane farming land.

? What would you say to our supporters about why the nursery is needed and what kind of impact will it have?

Allen: To bring about change requires a certain amount of momentum. Often that momentum is derived from the success of fixing something that seems beyond your capabilities, like restoring very large areas of cleared land. You can only do that if you

can grow enough trees in a timely and cost-effective manner to make a real difference. We also need to be able to restore forest without having to go 'cap in hand' to the Government, which can be a very fickle stop/start process. This project will enable forest to be restored through carbon abatement, biodiversity offsets, cassowary credits and biodiversity co-contributions and ongoing philanthropic partnerships and our supporters. I have been astounded by the kind generosity of those who have already committed significant amounts towards this project. We are so close now to making the new nursery a reality and I know that those who have contributed will be glad they were able to be part of this worthy project. I always feel a strong sense of responsibility [to honour] the generosity of people who donate towards a project such as this by ensuring not only that it succeeds, but that it does so in a cost effective and environmentally appropriate manner.

Barbara: This tremendously exciting project provides the opportunity to make a positive contribution towards ameliorating the risks posed by our changing climate. While the politicians discuss and write 'papers', we are taking action and planting trees.

? How would you describe being in the rainforest; the sights, sounds, smells and spirit?

Allen: Walking through a patch of rainforest, particularly when it is wet and lush, has a sight and smell that delights the senses. Even the simplest of things restore your soul, a twisting liana snaking its way high up into the canopy, a musky rat kangaroo scampering across the forest floor or, if you are really lucky, an adult cassowary quietly going about the business of foraging for fruit.

Barbara: I find walking into rainforest is immediately calming. The magnificence of towering old trees, ancient cycads, light filtering through fabulous fan palms, bird calls and of course there is the minutiae of the forest floor. My spirit is immediately lifted by being amongst trees.

—Our deepest thanks to both Barbara and Allen.





from little things, rainforests grow

It was a big year for the Australian rainforest in 2021, with Rainforest Rescue stepping boldly into the supply space of reforestation that is needed to save our planet's forests.

Committing to a new nursery that would increase our rainforest tree stock by a whopping 1,150%, the team is throwing everything behind the adage "from little things, big things grow."

Current production in the Rainforest Rescue nursery is 12,000 trees per year. However with reforestation projects and buy backs tracking well, there is greater demand for more rainforest trees from our partner organisations such as Queensland Trust For Nature, Green Fleet, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and Daintree Life.

We are setting the goal of increasing our 12,000 rainforest trees per year to 150,000 trees per year.

These will be lovingly hand-raised in the new nursery and then go directly to where they're needed - in the ground, helping to reforest what used to be expansive ancient rainforest in Australia, through the work done by our amazing partner organisations and the

Rainforest Rescue team.

Climate change and global warming are not going away, unless we act now. With fundraising from our supporters and partners, we are taking action.

Our new nursery project will:

- Support restoration of the oldest rainforest in the world.
- Provide affordable rainforest trees to support the work of the organisations on the ground.
- Create jobs for locals and Traditional Owners.

Establishment of the nursery will support Rainforest Rescue to:

- Build community and a sense of agency and connection to this land.
- Increase habitat for the incredible creatures and plant species of our Australian rainforests
- Provide buffer for the Daintree Rainforest, which will help mitigate the damage of global warming.

If you or your organisation would like to get involved or donate, please visit our website:
<https://www.rainforestrescue.org.au>



we are setting the goal of increasing our 12,000 rainforest trees per year to 150,000 trees per year





guiding restoration

As a rainforest ecologist I have had a long research association with Australia's rainforests, including in terms of their ancestry, evolution, botany, and ecology. With colleagues in Australia and around the world I have published many papers describing the Gondwanan ancestry of the paleo-lineages still living in the Australian rainforests, and explored their current distribution and ecology. Together, we have traced the biogeographic history of movement of those lineages from deep time (late Cretaceous to Eocene; 70-40 mya) in Patagonia, Antarctica and Australia to the more recent movement of the paleo-Antarctic rainforest lineages (PARLs) into Southeast Asia (from the Miocene ~20mya to the present).



it is important to reconnect small and large forest areas to facilitate the movement of plants and animals

The Daintree rainforests harbour and protect many of these Gondwanan deep time travellers, mixed with the more recent arrivals into Australia from Southeast Asia. The Daintree region also protects the largest representation of the remaining lowland tropical rainforest in the World Heritage Wet Tropics bioregion of Australia, and those lowlands adjoin and connect to the upland rainforests that are rich in Gondwanan plant and animal lineages and evolutionary history.

My connection with Rainforest Rescue relates to providing scientific advice to guide their conservation initiatives to protect intact rainforest areas that are currently outside the conservation reserve system, and to restore areas previously cleared of rainforest or degraded by different land-uses. Rainforest areas



outside the current reserve system also have important conservation value, and protect the same outstanding universal values of the World Heritage area.

Where land clearing has made incursions into these remaining forests it is important to reconnect small and large forest areas to facilitate the movement of plants and animals, and to protect the functional integrity of the forests and enhance their capacity to be resilient in the face of climate shifts and other changes.

The factors contributing to the capacity of Rainforest Rescue to deliver conservation outcomes include using scientifically informed strategies for restoration of rainforest habitats, and being strategic in terms of intact forest acquisitions and the location of restoration projects.

By tracing the evolutionary and biogeographic history of the rainforests from deep time to the present we can better understand how these forests survived climate variation over millions of years and how we might better prepare as land managers for the changes coming. Sharing these incredible scientific research outcomes and the narratives that emerge from them about country and connection to country through time is fundamental to inspiring improved conservation outcomes.

Dr. Robert Kooyman
Scientific Advisor





Lot 18 Cape Kimberley Road, Martin Stringer

from the nursery

I would like to talk about the very first step and probably one of the most important steps of ecological restoration.

As you can see in the illustration below, the whole plant production at the nursery starts by collecting seeds ... but not any seeds, the right seeds. It is then crucial to understand the importance of genetic diversity when collecting for the purposes of revegetation.





the main focus of the nursery is to propagate and grow strong, resilient plants that will survive and adapt to an environment that is in constant evolution

All plants must be able to adapt and evolve into their environment but when species have genetic issues, their chances of adapting are compromised. Like humans, inbreeding in plant species can lead to gene and dysfunctional problems, which make them vulnerable and affect their survival over a few generations.

Inbreeding depression can be a bigger issue than outbreeding depression.

Inbreeding occurs when individuals or organisms, which are closely related genetically, are breeding. Inbreeding can cause a very poor germination rate, poor resistance to the weather and the temperature, premature death and failure to reach maturity, a struggle or failure to produce flowers, fruits and seeds, poor and weak growth and increase disease and predation.

The local provenance of a species has been often talked about in past numerous publications, emphasising the collection of seeds from a relatively small local area.

But current scientific research show that the “local provenance” might not be the best policy and can be much larger than we think. The genetic diversity of pioneer and early secondary species is currently not a major concern as they reproduce and regenerate from larger populations across the area. 203

Rainforest Rescue's has established good and ethical seed collection requirements, some of which are detailed in the infographic. When collecting seeds for the Rainforest Rescue Native Nursery, we make sure not to collect seeds from one single mother tree. Having a minimum of 10-20 mother trees genetically unrelated to collect from is needed, where possible, more is even better. We GPS mark all the trees we collect from and don't collect every year from the same trees, if possible.

Year after year we are expanding our list of seed provenances.

We never collect seeds in bulk and always make sure to collect no more than 20% of what is available at a certain time. It is important to leave enough fruits for the local fauna and natural regeneration.

Also, we don't collect seeds from diseased plants but always collect from healthy individuals.

The main focus of the nursery is to propagate and grow strong, resilient plants that will survive and adapt to an environment that is in constant evolution.

Marine Deliens

Daintree Nursery Manager





life on the land

The local male and female Cassowary have been utilising Kurrnji Bubu for the last 5 years as a refuge, feeding and raising young. It is an important corridor to move between other neighbouring properties throughout the year but also provides valuable food sources seasonally of fruit of all sizes from the chicks to the adult birds.

The maturity of the property has been prevalent with increased biodiversity in the under story. As a result, since November (2020), the Buff Breasted Paradise Kingfishers have returned from Papua New Guinea for breeding. Some pairs have taken up residence for feeding to refuel after the long trip but also have excavated several nest sites within the maturing termite mounds that grow from the forest floor. Conditions are perfect within the termite mounds as an air-conditioned nest, as the eggs are incubated and chicks grow. Breeding has been in full swing with the chicks hatched, growing fast and fledged for the big flight north to Papua New Guinea before the cool rains set in during April.



we have the privilege to be involved with the beginning of a complete regeneration of cattle pastures to rainforest

As of the end of February (2021), the natural calendar is passing into the third part of the Wet a bit earlier this year. Night temperatures are dropping and the rain has a cooler feel. Baby crocodiles are hatching, the butterflies are growing in diversity and the hungry caterpillars are feeding hard on the wet season's



bounty of new growth in the forests. It's the time of the bugs. Little protein packets to energise the last breeding run of local birds, the refuel needed for the migratory birds who have returned from the south before winter or for the sun chasers as they head back north from the Daintree. Incredible flora and fauna, whether they are long term residents or seasonal visitors, all thrive and flourish thanks to the protection and preservation of Rainforest Rescue properties ... forever.

A new project is kicking off at a property in the Upper Daintree Valley. At an awesome cattle property called 'Tranquillity', we have the privilege to be involved with the beginning of a complete regeneration of cattle pastures to Rainforest. A 3 hectare trial plot over 2 years along Ellis Creek has been plotted out to start stabilising the creek banks and extending the natural corridor from the cascading waters at the base of the range into the floodplains of the Daintree River. A very exciting time with collaboration and cooperation with Queensland Trust for Nature, Greenfleet, Universities, Jabalbina, families of the local Julaywarra Clan in the Kuku Yalanji nation and the local community of the Daintree Valley. Very exciting.

Justin McMahon
Daintree Land Manager





a future in safe hands

#NextGenRainforestRescuers

There's no denying it ... as the world is heating up due to human behaviour, our rainforests are in more trouble than ever before.

One thing they do have on their side however, is our next generation.

It's no secret that climate change is mattering more to Australians as a whole. In 2020 a whopping 72% surveyed in the Australia Talks national poll said climate change was "a problem personally" to them.

It's our school students however who have led the way, beginning with Swedish activist Greta Thunberg in 2018 with the School Strikes for Climate.



Our next generation has shown us that action is needed over words, and Rainforest Rescue has plenty of next generation climate warriors to celebrate.

LANEY

Laney is 10 years old and lives in the USA, she's also a Girl Scout. When Laney learnt about the palm oil in Girl Scout cookies, she decided not to sell them this year, and instead decided to make and sell reusable produce bags to raise the funds required for the activities the troop puts together. Laney had so many requests for bags that she quickly raised what she needed for her Girl Scout troop and decided to give all additional proceeds to Rainforest Rescue.

TILLY

When Tilly was in the Daintree a few years back, she got a plush toy Cassowary that she named 'Lily'. Tilly has since made two donations to help protect and expand cassowary habitat because, in Tilly's own words, "Cassowaries are important to keep the rainforest alive."

DANIEL

Last year, when Daniel was in year 2, he did a school project on Cassowaries. This year, he decided to save up some money so he could make a donation to help protect cassowary habitat.



JONATHAN

Jonathan recently turned 9 and decided to donate \$50 out of his birthday money to Rainforest Rescue. Jonathan's mother told us that Jonathan chose to donate to us "because he is quite climate-aware and wants to protect the rainforests, which in turn protects us from global warming". Such a generous young man to donate part of his birthday gift.

AMBER

This little lady is making some positive changes in her local community, and inspiring her little sister, Penny, to follow in her footsteps! Like Amber says: "You don't need to be a grown-up to make a difference, and you're unique and special the way you are". [Click here to watch the video on our Facebook page](#) – as you know, we're a little bit tree & cassowary obsessed, so our favourite part is around the 4 min 45 second mark. Amber & Penny also raised awareness about Cassowaries and Rainforest Rescue at a Family Fun Day in their local community, held in collaboration with the local council. This event included the unveiling of a community library that is beautifully painted featuring the Southern Cassowary (designed and painted by local Aboriginal Artist Jardi Welch). [Click here to see it.](#)



Our next generation has shown us that action is needed over words, and Rainforest Rescue has plenty of next generation climate warriors to celebrate.

Keep an eye out on social media for the hashtag **#NextGenRainforestRescuers** that we use to shine the spotlight on the young people making big waves to save our rainforest and its creatures.

MaryBeth Harrison
HQ & Social Media Manager



2021 Community Tree Planting,
Silvia Di Domenicantonio



Jumping Spider (Salticidae), Martin Stringer



**rainforest
guardians**

rainforest guardians

It's been another fantastic year of people throughout Australia and further afield on our planet turning intention into action and becoming Rainforest Guardians.

The planet has been calling out for our help to save its lungs - the spectacular, ancient rainforests, including the Daintree Rainforest and remnants of Big Scrub in the Northern Rivers.

And it's our Rainforest Guardians who have answered, pledging a monthly donation to the cause.

In 2021, thanks to the generosity of these green-minded souls, we celebrated a great many achievements and are continuing forest protection, reforestation and by extension, animal protection, in the World Heritage Daintree Rainforest.

Joining our Monthly Giving Program as a Rainforest Guardian is a simple but effective way for you to support our mission and to make saving rainforests a part of your everyday life.

By donating on a monthly basis, you gain satisfaction knowing that you are:

- giving us the security to make long-term commitments to protecting rainforests in Australia



and overseas by creating a sustainable funding base;

- providing continuity on our conservation commitments and research programs;
- reducing our administration costs so more money goes into protecting rainforests;
- ensuring the long-term viability of our environmental outcomes;
- allowing us to budget and prepare for new opportunities to save endangered rainforests.

If you, your family or friends wish to become a Rainforest Guardian, you can call us on 1300 763 611 or sign up securely online at <https://www.rainforestrescue.org.au/rainforest-guardians/>

César Barbosa García
Engagement Coordinator

Grant Binns, Rainforest Guardian since 2013
Former Managing Director, Rainforest Rescue



I am proud to be a Member and financial supporter of Rainforest Rescue. The staff, directors and volunteers are dedicated and passionate people who achieve tangible outcomes informed by the best scientific advice. I particularly appreciate the conservation of Australian rainforest and the opportunity as a concerned human to directly contribute to an organisation with the mission to protect Rainforest forever.





partners for protection

When I started my career, the concept of matching the business world with not-for-profits and ‘making a difference’ was still relatively new, both in Australia and internationally. Many people felt the two couldn’t go hand-in-hand.

Some 20+ years on I’m proud to say that the time has well and truly arrived that the concept of doing good is good for business and it has become a top priority for any business that has an investment in the long-term health of this earth. Their family – their families’ future and their families’ future living in a healthy environment.



every partner is part of our family. every partner is trying to do good. to do better. we honour them all

I am honoured and proud every single day to stand alongside the now nearly 200 vision-match business partners that Rainforest Rescue has warmly welcomed into our family whether it be as part of the 1% Profits for Rainforest Rescue program or a Tiered Partnership or a general donation, there’s so many different ways that business every day is helping us restore more and more damaged Daintree rainforest and protect more and more unprotected Daintree rainforest than we have ever done before.



I am truly living my dream. Matching business to make the earth – and the world - a better place. As Rainforest Rescue is not government funded we rely very heavily on the support of individuals, businesses, trusts and foundations. This support grows and our impact grows. Tree by tree and protected square metre by protected square metre.

The business program has grown beautifully over the last 10 years and we treasure the relationships we have with business from a five dollar a month commitment to one at tens of thousands of dollars annually. Every partner is part of our family. Every partner is trying to do good. To do better. We honour them all.

To every business that is part of our business partnerships program, thank you for making a real difference.

Your commitment has helped Rainforest Rescue save 175.6 hectares from development and plant 291,068 trees to restore damaged rainforest, along the way.

Truly, we couldn't do it without you.

Kristin Canning
Partnerships Director



our tiered partnerships

Annual investments in Nature from our community partners support the conservation and restoration of unprotected Rainforest in Australia's Wet Tropics. We purchase targeted areas of endangered Rainforest strategically and build natural corridors that reconnect rainforest ecosystems. Preserving habitat builds resilience that conserves our unique Rainforest flora and fauna.

Richard Fine, BioPak Founder and Platinum Partner
Non-Executive Director and Chief Sustainability Officer

“

BioPak is a business with a mission beyond just selling sustainable packaging and offering great customer service, supporting Rainforest Rescue unlocks a vastly more powerful way to make the world a better place. As business owners have the ability to give generously and with partners like RR our contribution towards the protection and restoration of rainforest supports part of the long-term global strategy to combat carbon emissions and preservation of biodiversity for the future. Through our partnership with RR we have been able to witness first hand, the incredible positive transformation of the environment, as well as the lives and well-being of the indigenous communities of the Daintree, a legacy that everyone at BioPak is proud to be part of.



Julian Gray, 1% for the Planet Partner
Former CEO, Rainforest Rescue

“

Rainforest Rescue is an amazing charity doing vital work to protect some of the oldest surviving rainforest as well as pioneering ways to restore degraded habitat—reconnecting fragmented rainforest and building resilience against the threats of climate change and development. I'm proud to support Rainforest Rescue as part of my 1% for the Planet commitment, knowing this grassroots charity makes a real difference.





Cooper Creek, Martin Stringer



Jasmine Carey

Photographer

Jasmine's work has featured in publications, books, magazines and exhibitions. She was recently acknowledged as the first woman to have ever won the Hamdan International Photography (HIPA) Grand Prize award with her image of a humpback whale and its two-week-old calf off the coast of Tonga.

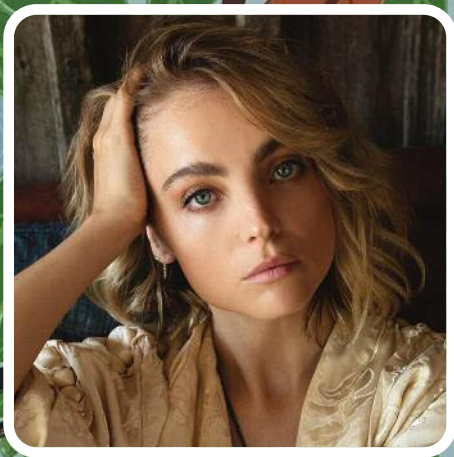


Darren Jew

Photographer, Publisher and Author

Darren was inspired to explore a career in nature photography by his father's travels in Antarctica. He now pursues a passion for capturing and sharing the wonder of the natural world. He is a 6 x Winner of the AIPP Australian Science, Environment and Nature Photographer of the Year Award.

our ambassadors



Liana Cornell

Actress, writer, producer, director and musician

Liana studied Fine Arts and Media at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts, and has since gone on to produce multiple documentaries. She is committed to her most valuable life role—helping to heal our planet, give women a greater voice, and to encourage us all to nurture the very best versions of ourselves.



Roxanne Cambridge

Lifestyle Social Media Influencer

Roxanne Cambridge is a social media influencer with a focus around sustainable fashion, motherhood and helping her audience make environmentally conscious decisions. As a mother, her goal is to encourage others to be kind, and to make the world a better place by becoming more mindful consumers.

our board



Madeleine Faught
Chair, Director



Frank Volckmar
BESC & MBA
Co-Chair, Director



Branden Barber
BA, MFIA
Director, CEO



Leonie Gale
Director



Tony Gilding
Director



Sue Higginson
Public Officer, Director

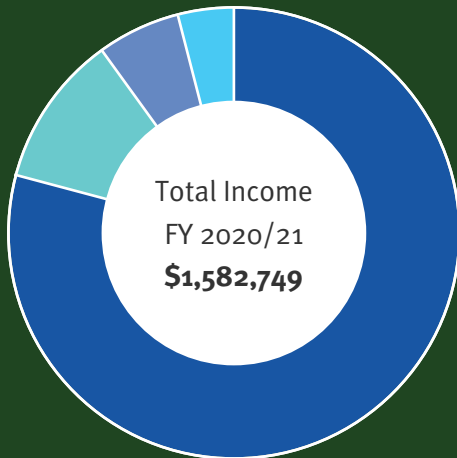


Karl Tischler
Director

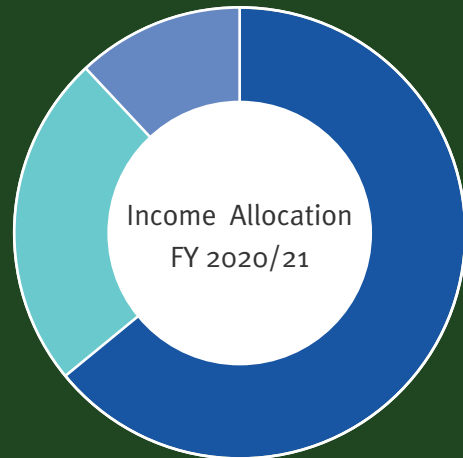


Rachel White
B (BUS), CA
Director

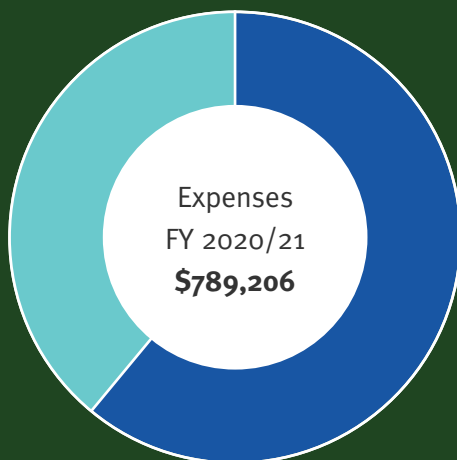
finance report 2020/21



- 79%** Donations and bequests
- 11%** Grants from private organisations
- 6%** Revenue from providing goods or services
- 4%** All other revenue

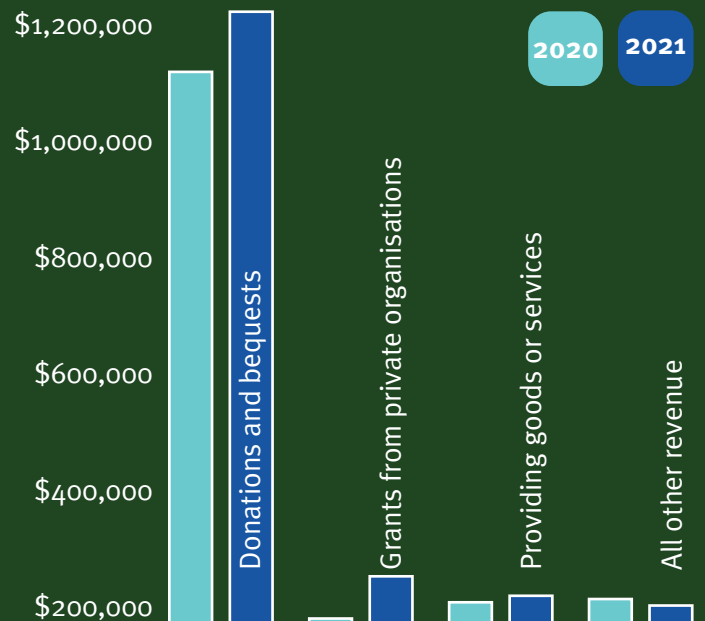


- 64%** Direct project costs / rescues / future rescues
- 24%** Non-project wage costs
- 12%** Other non-project costs



- 59%** wages and wage-related costs
- 41%** Other expenses

Income Compared to Previous Financial Year





acknowledgments

business partners

30 Acres, 9 Degrees Boulderling Gym, A Mindful Bub, Ambius Indoor Plants, Analytics Anonoumous, Arnhem Clothing, Atiyah Life, Aussie Park Guides, Australian Plant Society Yarra Yarra, Award Force, Back Country Bliss, Baiia Swimwear, Ballarat Wildlife Park, Barefoot Tours, Barefoot Wanderer, BioPak, Birmingham Zoo, Blue Frog Marketing, Breathing Space, Builders Release, Cairns Airport, call me. harry, CameraPro, Camilla, Canon Australia, Cassowary Cafe, Caversham Wildlife Park, Chris Neilson Art, Cocky Guides, Concoor / Pits of Joy, Converga, Converse AU, Crocodile Express, Daintree Discovery Centre, Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa, Daintree Wilderness Lodge, Deer Daisy, Deloitte Foundation, Earthfully Minded, Eggpicnic, EJJ Talent Promotion, Eorth, Esuite Talent, Forest Super Foods, Foster Creative Co., Frontierra, Future Tense, Gaia Retreat & Spa, Gallery Earth, Geolink Consulting, Good + Clean, Grant Maundrell Landscape Architect, Green Box Eco Shop, Green Up Plant Hire, Greenhouse Co., Groundgrocer, H&B Fencing & Gates, Haasch, Haddad & Partners, Heaps Good Packaging, Heartwood Tree Solutions, Hotel Brunswick, Hudson Financial Planning, Indie Rose, Iron Man, Jaimee Paul Art, Jamie Murcutt Photography, JENTL, Joanna Kordos Fine Art, Just Utensils, Koalaty, Koskela, KRD Photography, Lady Godiva Equestrian, Land Eco Consulting, Laser + Holistic Dental, Lay It Down, Lexicon, Little E and Co., Living Timber Co., Love Tea, Love Yourself Yoga, Maddison Whiley Hair Studio, Magic of I, Mantra Yoga, Marlin Communications, Maurie & Eve, Mecatl Cacao, Mudita Institute, Myrtle and Me, Naturally Driven, NobleCX, Notely, Ocean Safari, Onyx Botanica, OORR Clothing, PAD Inspections, Patagonia, Perfect Pets, Pink Cepha, Planet Luxe, Platinum Cables, Platypus Dreaming, Publik Salon, Rachel Carroll Art, Rainforest Foods, RANT Clothing (Sustainable Fashion), Samuel Humphreys Illustration, Santos Organics, SCHÜTZ Australia, Scratch, Sedgwick County Zoo, Silky Oaks Lodge, Simply Sunflowers, S-kin Studio, Sky-lab Aerial Yoga and Fitness, Small World Journeys, Smile4U, Smitten Merino, Sparke Helmore Lawyers, Spinifex Recruiting, Staten Island Zoo, Stephanie Milne Celebrant, Superfeast, Sustainability in Style, Switch Vintage, Talty Bar, The Bird Photog, The Cause Effect, The Enviro Co., The Good Brunch, The Scenic Route, The Silver Arc, The Wild Flower Store, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Tribe of the Tree Tripod Cofee, True Protein, UnderWater Tour, Unknown Green, Venaii Creative & Co., Wandering Folk, WaterChef, Will & Bear, WILD LIFE Conservation Fund / Sydney Zoo, Yogatime, Young Folks Digital, Your Small Step.

conservation partners

Big Scrub Landcare, Great Barrier Reef Legacy, Greenfleet, Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation, Queensland Trust for Nature, Rainforest Rescue Germany (Rettet den Regenwald)

foundations & trusts

Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation, Australian Ethical Foundation, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank/Community Enterprise Foundation, The Douglas Shire Council, The Ian Potter Foundation, James N. Kirby Foundation, MacPac Fund for Good, Morris Family Foundation, North Queensland Wildlife Trust, Perpetual Foundation – The Scoparia Endowment, WIRES.

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Rainforest to Reef, Martin Stringer