




**rainforest
rescue**
Protect Rainforests Forever

2022

annual report



“ The Daintree region is the oldest rainforest in the world - it is a popular tourist destination and a beautiful place to live. As a Kuku Yalanji Rainforest and Saltwater person, it is my birthright and custodial responsibility to care for country. It is an honour to continue to welcome visitors onto our land, who choose to link arms with us and heal country for the next generations. It has been incredibly rewarding to witness the positive impacts from our involvement with Rainforest Rescue. To us, Rainforest Rescue has created an opportunity to heal our land in a meaningful way.

Tahlia Burchill-O'Brien

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Rainforest Rescue is an Australian Company Limited by Guarantee, managed by a Board of Directors who contribute their service on a voluntary basis.

ABN 61 086 885 154
ACN 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, 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 strategically buying 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.



Bridal Veil stinkhorn, Martin Stringer



chair report

I am delighted to report that Rainforest Rescue enjoyed another productive and dynamic year. Another year to feel proud of what this small organisation can set its sights on, and then achieve through a clear focus on our commitments of restoration and conservation wins.

The new large-scale Daintree nursery is rapidly heading towards completion. There have been frustrating delays waiting for the various approvals necessary to ensure that we are creating a sustainable operation that would not impact negatively on the surrounding rainforest or catchment area. Mother Nature also offered delays with periods of wet weather. Fortunately, we've overcome these and are now on the final stages of this impressive project. All of us are looking forward to the new shade house being full of young seedlings. The wise choice of offering Allen Sheather the project management role has been a master stroke. He has kept things moving forward, submitting weekly reports and updates which you will read more about in this review.

This year's successful property appeal to purchase Lot 19 Forest Close protected another 7 hectares of intact rainforest as well as establishing positive connectivity to properties we previously secured on Forest Close and Forest Creek Road. It's such an uplifting feeling to contribute towards ever-expanding habitat for flora and fauna.

Generosity from our donor and business partner communities has allowed us to create a 'Rescue Fund', further acquiring two other vulnerable Daintree Rainforest properties during the year, without having to run appeals. Building on this allows us to jump quickly on important rainforest purchases when they



come on the market. A win-win for conservation, wildlife connectivity and further buffering of the critically important Daintree refugia of the national park.

Tree planting with the local community continues south of the Daintree River on the Nightwings and Tranquility sites. Our tried and tested successful planting model is being applied to both locations, producing positive results in growth and canopy closure.

We've also moved our headquarters to new premises in a flood free location, and taken on a Communications Manager, plus other part time staff to assist in capacity building and function. A big year for changes and growth!

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who supports Rainforest Rescue and its mission. Conservation of our critically important natural assets is more important than ever. The strength we harness in working together is making a significant difference. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you.

Madeleine Faught
Rainforest Rescue Chair



ceo report

Rainforest Rescue has come a long way in a relatively short time with the support of those who believe in Protecting Rainforests Forever. As we reflect over the last 23 years and celebrate 40 properties rescued to date - with more on the horizon including the biggest single purchase yet taking place at this year's holiday appeal—I couldn't be more grateful for our loyal team of supporters. **We are creating great conservation outcomes because of you.** Thank you. And an especially big THANK YOU for all of you who've been with us through the many years. Together we are protecting and restoring Julay Madja—the Daintree Rainforest, in the local language of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji, our partners.

RAINFOREST RESCUE – This year we managed to rescue 3 properties amounting to over 10 hectares of protected Daintree habitat ... and we started off the year on the tail of a great appeal that saw Lot 19 join our ranks as 2021 came to a close.

Lot 19 Forest Close — was our biggest and brightest property purchase—a great way to begin 2022. This protects seven hectares of beautiful rainforest that in turn connects five other properties previously purchased to the National Park / World Heritage Area.

Lot 36 Ronald Road — with 2.03 hectares of magnificent rainforest and connection to the National Park through Queensland Trust for Nature's acquisition, Lot 83. We were fortunate to get this at a good price, particularly as similar blocks around there have been brought on to market with double the expected prices. We were able to rescue this property without going to you for support; we had enough funds in our Rescue Fund that we were able to affect this rescue outright, and without delay.

Lot 36 Cape Tribulation Road – extending our growing Cape Kimberley Wildlife Corridor with another “piece of the puzzle”. This brought the corridor's protected hectares of habitat to 18, and again, we were able to leverage funds in our Rescue Fund that had been earmarked for purchasing and protecting rainforest habitat without delay, and without a general appeal.



And as a lovely capstone on this calendar year, we're running out biggest appeal for our biggest single purchase ever. **Lot 41 Cape Tribulation Road** will see 18 Hectares of beautiful Daintree Rainforest added to the Cape Kimberley Wildlife Corridor, doubling its size and increasing the total number of protected properties in this group to 15. You believe in us and this work—we believe in you and your ongoing support. Together we are able to achieve great conservation outcomes for nature.

RAINFOREST CONSERVATION – We're excited to have 11 new properties recognised by the state's Nature Refuge program, which are now certified as protected. This brings our total portfolio of Protected Forever nature refuges in the Daintree to 31 properties! **This is remarkable progress in a very short timeframe.**

RAINFOREST RESTORATION – Monthly tree plantings have been trialled successfully, attracting dozens of locals and engaging with our Traditional Custodian partners as well. These see 1,000 trees or more planted. This is good news as we're only going to be growing and planting more magnificent Daintree trees and creating more restored Daintree habitat.

NATIVE DAINTREE NURSERY – The current nursery is bursting at the seams with beautiful biodiverse and lovingly propagated Daintree seedlings, preparing for a move to the new nursery, while ensuring we have plenty of trees for our restoration projects. We are bringing Traditional Owners on board for knowledge exchange and horticultural training, doing everything we can to support Jabalbina as it grows and increases engagement with its active responsibilities to Country.



NEW NATIVE NURSERY – The new nursery has finally started to look like a nursery, with the operational plans approved and every necessary box ticked. Huge thanks go to Allen Sheather and Barbara Maslen for taking up this project and wrestling it along to a stage of development, with infrastructure being installed, the shade house up ... and more! We're very—VERY—excited that the new nursery is on track - weather permitting - for at least basic operations by the end of 2022. A number of local staff have been identified and will begin working as the nursery comes online.

CANOPY AWARDS – The much loved Rainforest Rescue Canopy Awards, where anyone anywhere can enter a photograph they've taken of a rainforest, was a great success, attracting hundreds of submissions from around the world, and all judged by our elite panel of conservationists and photographers. It was so popular that it will be running again in 2023.

NEW STAFF – We've also taken on new staff this year.

This is an exciting time of both growth and sustainable operations for Rainforest Rescue.

Our community of supporters continues to grow. The number and quality of our business supporter partnerships is increasing. Our commitment to our internal culture is one of openness, accountability, respect and integrity, supporting a shared vision for a greener future.

The organisation continues to see its partnerships in conservation grow to encompass Traditional Owners, local and state government entities like Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and Terrain Natural Resource Management (TerrainNRM), and local on the ground Daintree groups like Daintree Life and ClimateForce. Our work with Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation is increasing, seeing new staff seconded from Jabalbina working alongside Rainforest Rescue staff, thanks to the support of the Bowden Marstan Foundation. Additionally the visionary support from the Ian Potter Foundation and the James N Kirby Foundation will help ensure the success of this new

initiative, blazing the trail for increased restoration work in the area, for nature.

Together we are stronger and have greater capacity to do more for the rainforest.

ONWARD – Looking ahead you'll be part of:

- More rescues that will increase the area of established wildlife refuges and connections to the World Heritage Daintree National Park.
- More trees propagated—up to 150,000 trees annually, by the third year of operation.
- More restoration at Nightwings property—restoring ex-cane fields back into rainforest.
- More restoration at Tranquility—transforming cattle country back into rainforest.
- More Restoration projects and new conservation partners.

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

We are grateful to your ongoing belief in what we do and your invaluable support. In Kuku Yalanji language the word is Jawun, and it means more than friend. It's about celebrating our relations across our spiritual, social and ecological communities, which include the rivers, trees, the stars and the forests. We stand together as good ancestors, in kinship with all life, helping to shape a resilient world and an attitude of respect for the earth.

We could not do this without the support of thousands of supporters—without you. Thank you.

For the rainforests,

Branden Barber
CEO of Rainforest Rescue

how we've grown



326,568
RAINFOREST TREES PLANTED

293,568 in Australia / 33,000 Overseas



40
PROPERTIES RESCUED

39 in the Daintree, Qld / 1 in Pyengana, Tas



1,776,851 m²g
RAINFOREST RESCUED

967,451 in the Daintree / 809,400 in Pyengana



31
NATURE REFUGES CREATED

In Australia



23
YEARS OF OPERATION

Founded in 1999

what a year we've had, together

OCT

Lot 36 Cape Tribulation Rd. extends our Cape Kimberley Wildlife Corridor with another “piece of the puzzle”, bringing the total number of protected hectares to just under 18. Again, we were able to leverage funds in our Rescue Fund that had been earmarked for purchasing and protecting rainforest habitat without delay.

DEC

Annual Community Tree Planting Day saw 137 rescuers came together to grow the Daintree and fight the effects of climate change—over 2,500 young trees were put in the ground.

Appearing in the Sydney Morning Herald, CEO Branden Barber spoke to Konrad Marshall of **‘The Good Weekend’** about our urgent work and why the Daintree will be ‘the only rainforest that’s growing, not shrinking’.

Responding to the latest IPCC report, the team at **‘The Daily Aus’**, sponsored by the Australian Conservation Foundation, visited the Daintree to understand the vital role our work plays in helping mitigate climate change.

Lot 19 Forest Close is a late 2021 rescue that needs special mention—protecting 7 ha of beautiful rainforest, that in turn connected 5 other properties previously purchased to the National Park / World Heritage Area. A great start to 2022.

JAN

The international **Rainforest Rescue Canopy Awards** saw photographic entries coming from all over the world, and judged by a panel of experts in multiple categories. It was such a success that we’re doing it again in 2023—watch for your chance to celebrate the majesty of rainforests through the lens.

APR

Lot 36 Ronald Road—2.03 ha of magnificent rainforest purchased at a good price, particularly as similar blocks have been brought onto market with double the expected prices, this is a terrific win. This was a special rescue as we were able to do this through the Rescue Fund, effecting the rescue without delay, as we had the funds and didn’t need to run an appeal to make it happen.

MAY

Thanks to the **support for our Nursery Appeal**, we now have the funds to purchase the equipment, consumables and supplies necessary to scale up the new nursery for the year.

So gratifying to be **recognised by the NSW parliament** for our work: “In an age of rampant deforestation globally the work of Rainforest Rescue is vital to stem rainforest and biodiversity destruction, while a to climate change mitigation and protecting the home of vulnerable animals such as the Cassowary.”

The **New Native Nursery** is starting to look like a working nursery with the massive shade house now in place and infrastructure being completed. Huge thanks are in order to Allen Sheather and Barbara Maslen for taking up this project and wrestling it along into the final stages of construction. We’re very, VERY excited that we’re on track.

JUN

Rainforest Rescue appears in Australia’s **‘Wild’** magazine ... and article entitled ‘Daintree Revival’ by Sydney based journalist, Johan Augustin.

Tranquility saw our restoration efforts increase, from one annual event, to one annual event plus monthly tree plantings! This has attracted dozens of locals, including some of our Traditional Owner partners as well. These smaller planting days see 1,000 trees or more planted.

Conservation had a **HUGE WIN** this year as we added **11 Nature Refuges** to our portfolio of protection. This brings our total of Protected Forever nature refuges in the Daintree to 31 properties!

JUL

Lot 41 Cape Tribulation Road is a terrific capstone on this calendar year, it’s the biggest appeal for our biggest single purchase ever. This magnificent rainforest parcel will see 18 ha of beautiful Daintree Rainforest added to the Cape Kimberley Wildlife Corridor, doubling the corridor and bringing the total of protected properties there to 15.

DEC



White Lipped Tree Frog, David White

going boldly into restoration

What does this world need more of? Trees!

Specifically, the correct trees for the correct environment. And whose lead is better to follow than Mother Nature herself?

Rainforest Rescue is stepping boldly into the supply space of reforestation that's needed to save our planet's forests.

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

Rainforest Rescue is delighted to announce our new nursery in the Daintree Rainforest will produce an incredible three times the amount of native rainforest trees being grown from seed than at the current nursery.

Nursery Manager Marine Deliens said this was a big environmental win for rainforest restoration in Australia.



"It's amazing to collect the seed, grow the plants, send them to the field and then the trees are one to two metres tall," she said.

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, Greenfleet, Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation and Daintree Life.

The new nursery will be executed in a three stage plan, with tree production set at 70,000 trees for year one; 115,000 trees for the second year and increasing to a maximum capacity of 150,000 trees by the third year of operation.

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 Rainforest Rescue teams.

Climate change and global warming are not going away, so we are acting now. Through fundraising with our supporters and partners, we are taking action.

Growing a rainforest is no easy business - they are incredibly diverse ecosystems.

Luckily, Rainforest Rescue has the amazing Angela Mateo on board as seed collector, with 128 species being lovingly grown in the nursery.

“*usually you plant a tree for the next generation, we are planting them for this generation as well as every generation to come*”

"What I find the most amazing is the growth of the plants in the wet tropics. It's incredibly fast, when you compare to Victoria, or in Europe—where I come from. Usually you plant a tree for the next generation, however we are planting them for this generation as well as every generation to come," Marine said.

"This year we have some species that can be two to three metres tall in a short time.

Some flora on the lineup includes: Cassowary food plants, *Castanospermum australe* (Black Beans), *Grevillea baileyana* (White Oak), many species from the Proteaceae and the Lauraceae families, *Acacia mangium* (Black Wattle), Paperbarks such as *Melaleuca leucadendra* and *Melaleuca viridiflora*, *Musa banksii* (our native banana), Pandan species such as *Pananus solmslaubachii* (Swamp Pandan) and *Benstonea monticola* (Screw Pine), and several palms including *Archontophoenix alexandrae* (Alexandra Palm), *Normanbya normanbyi* (Black Palm), *Licuala ramsayi* (Fan Palm).

Volunteers are also welcome to assist in collecting seeds, doing treatments to the seeds, potting plants, washing pots and of course learning about rainforest regeneration in the process!

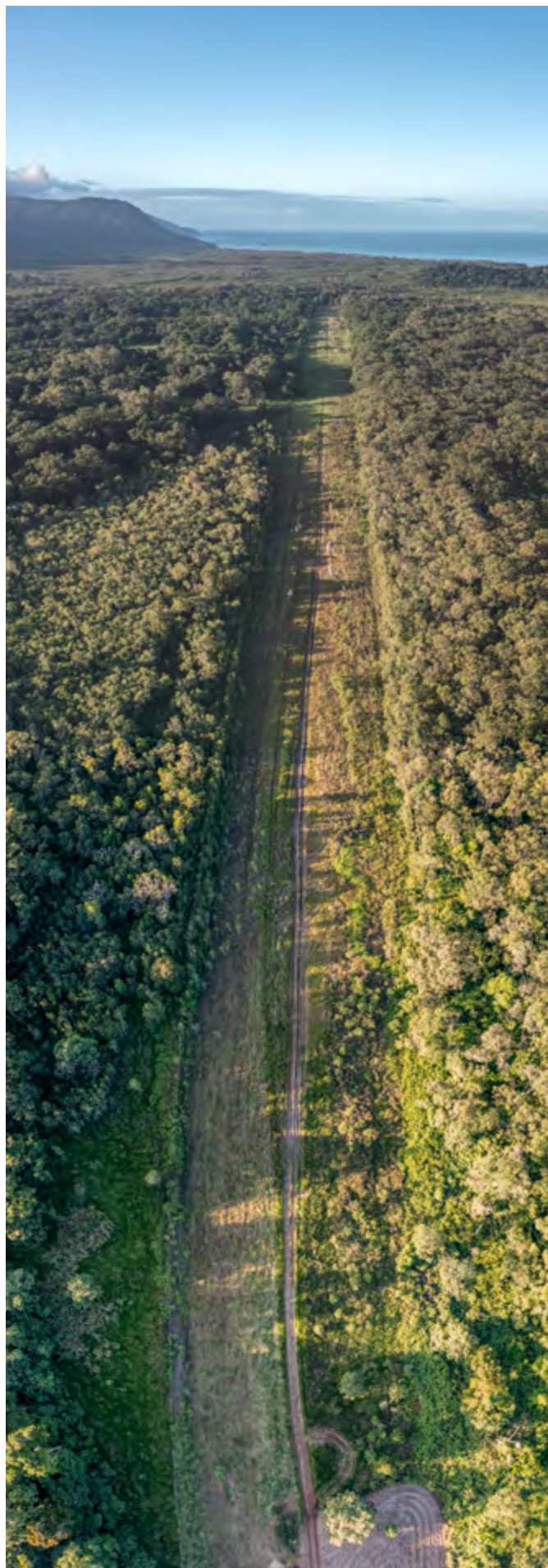
The Rainforest Rescue team is also hoping to welcome school groups to educate the young ones on the importance of the rainforest and preserving their environment.

Our new nursery project will achieve:

- Rainforest restoration for the oldest continuously evolving rainforest in the world.
- Affordable rainforest trees to support the work of the organisations on the ground.
- Create jobs for locals and Traditional Owners.
- 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.
- Decrease climate change and global warming impacts.
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If you or your organisation would like to get involved or donate, please [visit the Rainforest Rescue website](#) for more information.

Marine Deliens
Nursery Manager



Aerial view of the Cow Bay airstrip, Martin Stringer



life on the land

Hello everyone, from the rainforests of FNQ. What a year it has been. Everything from irregular/unseasonal weather events, thanks to La Niña and a volcano in Tonga, to watching local wildlife and our regeneration areas thrive thanks to the longer cooler and wetter conditions through the middle of the year.

Cassowaries, young and old, have been observed taking advantage of the Nightwings property. Thanks to them we now have great introduction of seed, nicely placed, throughout the plantings, within a packet of natural fertiliser (Cassowary scat). With a good height and closure to the canopy in many areas, we see many different species of bird now utilising the tallest trees for perching through their travels. The seed they deposit from faraway places will bolster the successional species of flora for the future success of Nightwings plantings. Some areas of the plantings of two years of age now have flying foxes roosting sporadically throughout the past year. Many predatory birds of the night as well as the day have been observed hunting around the plantings. Always great to see life returning to the old cane fields.



the whole Tranquillity project has gone from a trial of what would be a successful approach to regenerating the cattle properties of Julay (Daintree Valley), to a wonderful beginning of healing the spirit of people along with the land

Our three hectare trial plot, the property known as Tranquility, in the Upper Daintree Valley (Julay), has

become a place of connection and healing Country for many of the local community. From Traditional Owners of the Kuku Yalanji (Julaywarra), to past timber cutters, local farmers and naturalists.

A monthly community tree planting day has been trialled over the second half of 2022. With 1,000 stems planted over a Saturday morning once a month, the whole Tranquillity project has gone from a trial of what would be a successful approach to regenerating the cattle properties of Julay (Daintree Valley), to a wonderful beginning of healing the spirit of people along with the land. This has all been helped along by one of our amazing Julaywarra women Tahlia Burchill-O'Brien (Kukubukka). At the beginning of each event, after the 'Welcome to Country', Tahlia helps to immerse our awesome volunteers into Bubu (the land) with language, new Yalanji words each visit, and the awareness of each person's connection with the land and each other. No matter how far we have travelled from.

We have a new Land Management worker, Sigrid Wilkins, who has moved to the Daintree from Victoria with a "can do" attitude that has shone through for the last four months. She has been learning the ropes fast and embracing the Far North Queensland pace of life. We welcome Sigrid to the Rainforest Rescue Team.

Justin McMahon
Daintree Land Manager



meet Tahlia Burchill-O'Brien

? Tell us about yourself!

Tahlia: My name is Tahlia. I have two language names: 'Kukubaka', which means 'talk a lot'/'love to yarn' and 'Jukara', which means 'many sands'. I am a Kuku Yalanji woman from the Julay (Daintree) and Buru (China Camp) areas, as well as Kuku Nyungkul from the Kuna (Shipton's Flat) area of Far North Queensland, Australia. I am a devoted wife and mother of three children. I love being at the beach or sitting around the fire, gardening, reading and writing, and the creative arts. I also enjoy having a yarn and travelling to places I haven't been before.

? When you hear the words 'Rainforest Rescue' what springs to mind?

Tahlia: When I hear the words 'Rainforest Rescue', I am reminded of all the wonderful memories that my family and I have of tree planting days in Julay (Daintree). To us, Rainforest Rescue has created an opportunity to heal our land in a meaningful way.

? Do you have a personal connection to our mission? If so, could you tell us about that

As a Kuku Yalanji Rainforest and Saltwater person, it is my birthright and custodian responsibility to care for country. Therefore, I am an advocate for the vision, mission and values of Rainforest Rescue. I hope my involvement with Rainforest Rescue, can help to raise awareness and positively influence my networks about reforestation, as well as conserving the biodiversity and cultural heritage of our rainforest.

? We are in training. We need to learn how to listen, how to learn, how to connect, how to implement knowledge that belongs to other species - these trees and plants are collaborators, these are co-creators and they are our teachers. Can you share your thoughts about this and how it relates to rainforest restoration and conservation and caring for country?

Tahlia: A relationship with the environment is similar to a relationship with people. When you spend time with the environment, you will learn more about it. So, rather than caring for the environment in a way that



you think is appropriate from your worldview, you begin to learn how the environment wants or needs to be cared for, from its worldview. As a young girl, I was often told to "be still and the land will speak to you". Time spent 'on country' or 'in the environment' is the foundation for knowing how to care for country.

? What can we all do to be good custodians of the land?

Tahlia: We can all be good custodians of the land by keeping the next generations - of people and the environment - in the forefront of our mind. If we do this, then hopefully we will be lead by good intentions in all that we do. We will be more likely to tread lightly and leave the place better than we found it.

? The earth is already moving us and demanding of us to change as a species – through climate change and species loss. In a way it's the most incredible experiment ever as a species. Are we going to make it?

Tahlia: Only 'maja' (God) knows.

? What is something you wish people knew about the Daintree region and the people who have lived there for thousands of years?

Tahlia: You may already know that the Daintree region has the oldest rainforest in the world, is a popular tourist destination and/or is a beautiful place to live. However, you may not know that the Kuku Yalanji people are the Traditional Owners of this area. You may also not know that 'Julay' is the Kuku Yalanji language word for Daintree.

**Interview by William Martin
Communications Manager**



Rainforest waterfalls, Martin Stringer



images that protect

Images can be incredibly powerful and help protect rainforests. That is what inspires me to explore rainforests with my cameras, communicating the story that Rainforest Rescue wants to share with the world. Imagery can communicate stories, evoke emotions and win vital campaigns.

I'm inspired by Peter Dombrovskis and his iconic images such as Rock Island Bend, which was instrumental in the campaign to save Tasmania's Franklin River. I've been involved with Rainforest Rescue since 2013 and it is so heartwarming to see the growth of both the organisation and the rainforest through protection and restoration projects.

Trees that we have planted are now towering tall and strong and the restoration projects I've documented are vital habitat to cassowaries and other wildlife.

I love sharing a bird's eye view of the rainforest with our Rainforest Rescue supporters, through aerial imagery of the canopy. 2022 has been a very enriching and rewarding year for me. I celebrated my first solo photography exhibition titled 'Regeneration' which featured 30 of my images and raised funds for Rainforest Rescue. The 2022 Community Tree Planting at Nightwings property was the largest ever with over 137 volunteers coming to help restore an old sugar cane field back to rainforest. [View the video and images here](#) to see the incredible community of locals and visitors who support our rainforests.

I love creating videos for Rainforest Rescue to share the knowledge and expertise we have in the organisation, from the evolutionary history with Dr. Robert Kooyman to fun facts with Land Manager Justin McMahon to ensure vital rainforest corridors are protected.

One of these films was screened at the Port Shorts Film Festival and Cairns Ecofiesta, [highlighting our incredible Lot 18](#) which features a mature section of rainforest with very high canopy, open in the understory, with animal activity and new growth connectivity. Sharing the story of Lot 18 feeds into our goal to continue creating a protected rainforest

corridor from our lowland rainforest through to the top of the Alexandria Range in the Daintree National Park.

At the Cairns Ecofiesta Rainforest Rescue stall, I was joined by Emily and volunteers Mark and his adorable 8-year-old daughter Daisy. We had many wonderful conversations inspiring folks to take action and help protect and restore rainforest.


Back in 2018, I was diagnosed with cancer and spent months in the Peter MacCallum Cancer Treatment Centre.

During my time in the centre, I really appreciated the artwork which would brighten my day and help me keep a positive mindset. To say thanks and show my gratitude, I have donated and loaned a total of 18 of my framed prints, many of which are from the Daintree and are displayed throughout the PeterMac Centres. The Art Curator and I are in discussions about creating a QR code beside each artwork, which will scan through to a video to learn more about the image and rainforest conservation.

It's our future generations who will continue our conservation journey. In 2022 I became a father. Our son is a gift that gives me hope and inspiration to create a brighter future in this world.

As a father and photographer, one of my new goals is to capture my son's growth alongside the growth of rainforest trees planted with Rainforest Rescue, capturing the changes over the years, to celebrate how wonderful life and growing really are.

Martin Stringer
Media Producer
[Martin Stringer Photography](#)

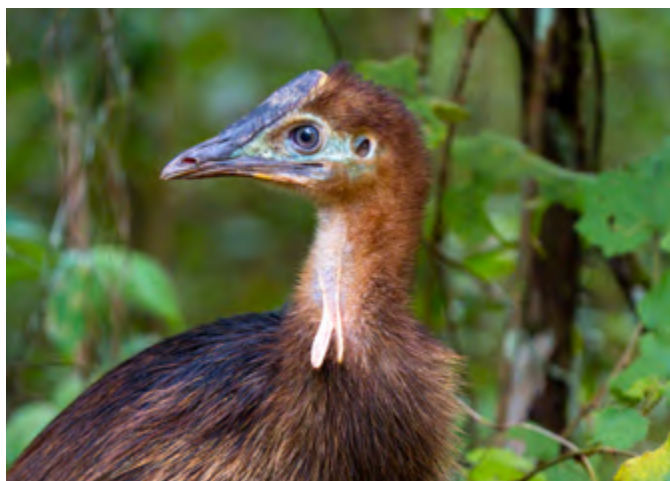


meet Flynn Hawkey

It was April 2019, I had only been with Rainforest Rescue for four months and had just started social media management. This was when I was first contacted by Flynn Hawkey.

At the time, Flynn was writing a report on cassowaries for his Year 11 assessment. His obvious passion for the environment struck me and inspired me to start shining the spotlight on our **Next Generation Rainforest Rescuers** ... after all, children are our future, and if you ask me, that future is looking bright!

Fast forward 3 years, Flynn is now 20-years and studying to be a paramedic ... and he's still into the environment, especially cassowaries! I reconnected with Flynn to talk about his love of the environment, and find out what advice he'd give to other young folk that want to get involved with conservation ...



? Tell us about yourself, what sparked your interest in cassowaries and the desire to protect their habitat?

Flynn: I'm from South Australia and live in a small country town in the hills away from the city where I've lived in the same house my entire life. I've got two older brothers and when I was about 10 years old my parents took us on a six-week road trip up to the tip of Queensland and back. Now I had seen a cassowary several times before, 'Cassie' from the Adelaide



Zoo and had instantly formed an obsession with them. On our adventures up at The Daintree I was hoping against anything to see one in the wild but alas we were unsuccessful, and my mum bought me a little cassowary plushie instead whom we named Bloomfield. Bloomfield then came on the family trip to Europe a few years after and my obsession with cassowaries has continued ever since.

? What do you do in your day-to-day life to help the environment?

Flynn: I wouldn't say I'm a hardcore conservationist, but I certainly have an appreciation for the environment and take the small steps each day to preserve it. This means actively making an effort to put waste in the right bins and ensuring my peers do the same, never purchasing bottled water and due to the 10cent recycling with all bottles and cans in South Australia, these are seen as valuable and treated as such rather than polluting the environment. Choosing online over paper where possible, using a car as a means of transport only when required. The list goes on but essentially lots of small things that could make a difference if everyone did the same.

? You recently held an event at Gorge Wildlife Park SA, in celebration of World Cassowary Day—tell us about what you did and how the day went ...

Flynn: So last year I was upset after World Cassowary Day came and went without seeing a cassowary. As such, this year I decided to run an event at the location with the most cassowaries in South Australia: Gorge Wildlife Park with their five. Now I run many



fundraisers for causes important to me (like the ongoing welfare of these beautiful birds). We raised around \$250, we also raised awareness among those in the community. It was a great day with information and a “pin the casque on the cassowary” game, “guess how much cassowary poo in the jar” (it was FruChocs!), a raffle, fun facts and more!

? What advice would you give to other young people who want to get involved in conservation?

Flynn: All I would say is that you don’t know what you don’t know, so as soon as you start learning the facts that’s when you’ll notice the problems and can be a part of the solution. As a young person and student money is something that I don’t have as much of, but donating time and effort means so much more and raising awareness of conservation is arguably just as important as the fundraising itself. In terms of what you can do, certainly reach out to local communities, councils and organisations (like Rainforest Rescue!), express your concerns and I’m certain you’ll find someone who shares similar concerns who will help you to solve the problem together.

? And finally, back in 2019 you’d mentioned that you hadn’t seen a cassowary in the wild ... have you seen one yet? If so, tell us about it!

Flynn: Unfortunately this certain dream is yet to come true, but I hope to visit Queensland in the near future. As an adventurous person, I’m looking to plan an expedition safely around this area and go on an overnight hike, so if you have any tips, please don’t hesitate to get in touch! Once I’ve seen the Southern Cassowary in the wild, my aim will be to go to Papua New Guinea to see if I can spot any of the other species. 😊

**Interview by MaryBeth Harrison
HQ & Social Media Manager**

If you missed Flynn’s original article from 2019, you can [read that here](#).

Look out on social media channels for the hashtag **#NextGenRainforestRescuers** and get in touch if you know of any youth making positive change on an environmental level—we’d love to meet them!





Boyd's Forest Dragon, Martin Stringer



a partnership that protects

Compostable packaging market leader **BioPak** has entered the highest ranks of the Rainforest Rescue Partnership commitments EVER by becoming a Diamond Level Partner. Their decade-long partnership has contributed funding towards more than 56,900 trees planted or rescued and 68,800 square metres of threatened Daintree Rainforest Protected Forever.

The partnership celebrates the significant growth of Rainforest Rescue. During this time, with BioPak as our largest Business Partner, Rainforest Rescue has been able to protect 25 rainforest properties. This is over 60% of the organisation's total rescues

Partnerships Director Kristin Canning sat across the Board Room table with Richard Fine in 2012 on the fateful day when the relationship was first born and today, she invited Richard to dig deep and share more on this very special partnership.

? When you hear the words 'Rainforest Rescue' what springs to mind?

Richard: The restoration and protection of unique and precious rainforests. An organisation dedicated to preserving ecosystems for current and future generations.

? You have personally won Sustainability Champion Awards and BioPak as a company has attained countless environmental awards. How does the partnership with RR add to your already industry-leading efforts?

Richard: The partnership with RR for me is the icing on the cake. Our environmental sustainability initiatives mainly focus on internal changes in operations, products, and materials. By supporting and working with RR our sustainability impacts are extended and amplified thanks to the credibility of RR as a legitimate, serious, responsible, and knowledgeable environmental group.

? What was the reason you agreed to a partnership with Rainforest Rescue back in 2012?

Richard: We were looking for a local Australian project (to support) that would be able to transparently demonstrate tangible, positive environmental outcomes.

BioPak

? Do your customers love that BioPak supports us?

Richard: Not only our customers but also all our staff are proud of the impacts the partnership has realised over the years.

? It's been ten years now of rescuing and restoring rainforest. BioPak has contributed towards 68,800 square metres Protected Forever of what was once unprotected and more than 50,000 trees planted or rescued, two major national and international conservation awareness campaigns for rainforest and reef protection, plus so much more. How does that make you feel?

Richard: I am so proud of what we have achieved to date and I am excited to see what positive impacts we can achieve in the next 10 years.

? Do you have a personal connection to our mission? If so, could you tell us about that?

Richard: My family has participated in tree planting events in the Daintree and we love to see the annual updates that show how our trees have grown and contributed towards the restoration of the ancient and beautiful Daintree Rainforest.

? What's one of your favourite experiences or achievements journeying with us?

Richard: Every interaction I have with the RR team has left me feeling excited optimistic and proud of our partnership. If I had to choose just one though, I would have to say it the fact that we have been able to regularly contribute towards and support the efforts of RR over the past 10 years to educate the community on the important role the rainforest and its inhabitants plays in the health of our planet.

**Interview by Kristin Canning
Partnerships Director**

a gift beyond our lifetime

Contemplating our own mortality can be a sobering experience, prompting us to assess what it is that we hold most dear in our lives, and perhaps in turn, what it is we want to do for the loved ones we leave behind.

Occasionally, at Rainforest Rescue we get to speak to supporters who wish to make the ultimate gift to protect Rainforests Forever, such as Elsa.

Having signed up as a Rainforest Guardian back in 2009, Elsa is one of our longest standing regular donors. After letting us know that she'd included Rainforest Rescue in her Will, I caught up with her to learn more about her love of rainforests and to find out what drove the decision to leave a bequest. Elsa & I always have a great laugh during our conversations, so I was keen to know more ...

? Tell us a bit about yourself

Elsa: I am 44, single, with no dependents and I work as a systems analyst. This year I started having Wednesdays off of work because I was burnt out, and on those days I volunteer at a charity that gives out groceries to the needy. I feel much more balanced. I really love travelling and most of my relatives live in Sweden, including my brother.

? What ignited your love of rainforests?

Elsa: My love of rainforests started with camping. My dad took us a few times, but it grew even more while camping with the Girl Guides. I found the cool, dark, moist and dense rainforest just magical. The giant trees could almost be sentient, and when I saw those enormous trees living in the sand in the Yidney Scrub rainforest on K'Gari my interest was crystallised.

? Why is Protecting Rainforests Forever important to you?

Elsa: I am eager to protect nature because these ecosystems are so fragile and they support so much life and beauty. I am also concerned about climate change; we need to stop clearing rainforests and reverse spiral out of this mess by keeping what we already have and by planting more.



? What other organisations do you choose to support?

Elsa: I also support the Wilderness Society.

? What does leaving a Gift in your Will to Rainforest Rescue mean to you? / What made you decide to leave a Gift in your Will to Rainforest Rescue?

Elsa: I decided to include Rainforest Rescue in my Will because for now, in the middle of my life, with work and with my mortgage, I have limited time and limited money. I can make small subscription contributions to Rainforest Rescue but the gift in my Will is more substantial and can make a bigger impact. I also don't have any dependents and so it was easier to carve off a larger percentage of my Will to give to charities, without feeling like anyone would miss out.

? What would you say to a fellow nature lover who is considering leaving a gift to RR in their Will?

Elsa: Before I included Rainforest Rescue in my Will, I did some research to make sure that I was comfortable that Rainforest Rescue had stability and longevity, and likely to remain true to its values in the longer term. I also included a clause that the executor of the Will could choose an equivalent organisation with similar values to donate to, in the event where Rainforest Rescue no longer existed. Overall, I feel content that I've made a good decision to make a gift in my Will to such a wonderful organisation that is really making a difference.

**Interview by MaryBeth Harrison
HQ & Social Media Manager**

If you wish to see conservation continue beyond your lifetime, [make a lasting gift to help protect our rainforests as your gift to future generations.](#)

deep time origins

Why is Rainforest Rescue's mission so important for protecting biodiversity and ongoing survival of the Daintree Rainforest? The deep time history of the Daintree Rainforest goes back to the time when Australia separated from the Gondwana supercontinent around 40 million years ago. Many of the Daintree's plant and animal lineages had their beginnings even deeper into Gondwanan history. What we see when we are fortunate enough to walk through this dynamic rainforest ecosystem today is an evolutionary expression of lineages whose genetics have survived through an incredible period of time.

Understanding the full story of this richly biodiverse refugia requires research into its deep time origins. Exactly what evolutionary ecologist and rainforest botanist Dr Robert Kooyman focuses on in collaboration with a number of international scientists.

In the 50 years of his rainforest field experience, Robert Kooyman has worked in subtropical and tropical regions of Australia, Indonesia, Sabah, South America, and Madagascar. He has an international reputation for his work on rainforest botany, ecology, biodiversity and restoration. His rainforest restoration methodology based on plantings that accelerate development of the rainforest structure and canopy has provided a planting model that continues to produce positive outcomes.

We caught up with Dr Kooyman for a Q&A on the topic he is passionate about ...

“

What we see when we are fortunate enough to walk through this dynamic rainforest ecosystem today is an evolutionary expression of lineages whose genetics have survived through an incredible period of time



? What are you most looking forward to from a conservation perspective in the next decade?

Dr. Kooyman: That one day policy makers and legislators will actually protect natural systems as part of the essential human endeavour.

? How is Australia tracking with rainforest protection as a whole?

Dr. Kooyman: Most of Australia's rainforests occur in protected areas, however some still are located in areas impacted by logging and to a lesser degree are still cleared for agriculture and development. The outstanding issue in time will be climate change, and the capacity of the reserve systems to continue to protect the rainforests.

? How does Australia compare to what's happening internationally?

Dr. Kooyman: Australia has a very small area of rainforest in proportion to the size of the continent (circa 1%) and most of it is protected. This stands in stark contrast to most other areas of rainforest globally where clearing and conversion to agriculture continue.

? What is something that always surprises/ delights you about the Daintree Rainforest?

Dr. Kooyman: The persistence of deep time history manifest in current day ecological processes that emerge as one of the most beautiful places on earth!

Dr. Robert Kooyman
Rainforest Rescue Scientific Advisor

Robert Kooyman contributes integrity and credibility to the organisation's work, enhancing conservation and biodiversity values.



Double-Eyed Fig Parrot, Allen Sheather

meet our board of directors



Madeleine Faught
Chair of Board,
Member of Finance,
Audit and Risk Management
Sub-Committee,
Chairperson & Member of
Public Fund Sub-Committee.



Frank Volckmar
Chair of Finance,
Audit and Risk Management
Sub-Committee.



Branden Barber
Member of Finance,
Audit and Risk Management
Sub Committee,
Company Secretary



Sue Higginson
Member of Public Fund
Sub-Committee,
Public Officer.



Revel Poynton
Director



Karl Tischler
Director



Rachel White
Director



Leonie Gale
Director

financial overview 2021-2022

Revenue

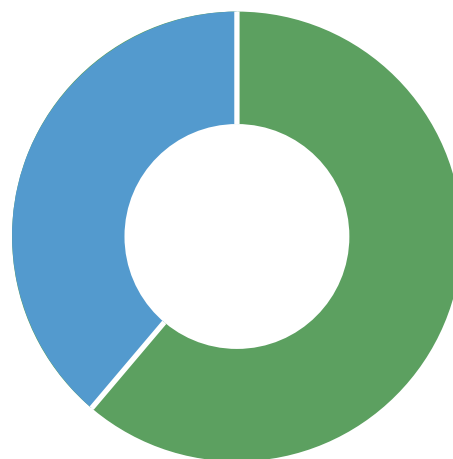
Total revenue: \$2,042,439.00



- Revenue from Government
25.32% — \$517,238
- Revenue from Donations and Bequests
60.41% — \$1,233,888
- Revenue from Goods or Services
14.26% — \$291,307

Expenses

Total expenses: \$1,446,329.00



- All other expenses
61.14% — \$884,310
- Employee expenses
38.82% — \$561,495

[Click to download the financial report directly from the ACNC website .](#)

Rainforest Rescue was established from a community wish to Protect Rainforest Forever. We are committed to building relationships with individuals, philanthropists, businesses, and grant-making organisations through which the majority of our funding is sourced.

We are listed on the Australian Government's Register of Environmental Organisations, which provides us with tax-deductible gift recipient status, enabling Australian residents to make tax-deductible donations to the organisation.

We are also registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and a Member of the Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA).



ORGANISATIONAL
MEMBER





8 June 2022

Community Recognition Statement

Parliament of NSW
Legislative Assembly

RAINFOREST RESCUE

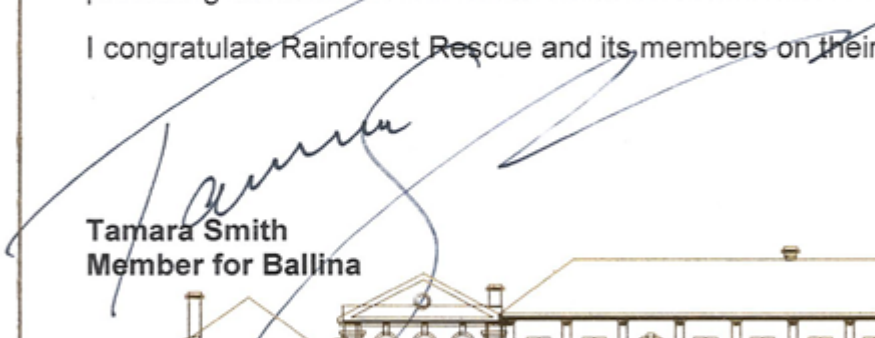
Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) — Today I recognise the Mullumbimby-based group Rainforest Rescue whose mission is to restore and protect the Daintree rainforest and rainforest habitat in perpetuity.

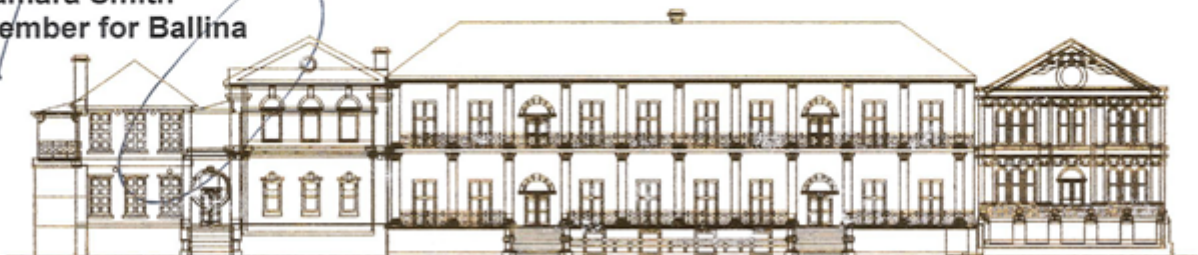
Rainforest Rescue is a not-for-profit organisation that for 23 years has worked to rescue and rehabilitate rainforests across Australia through planting, maintenance and restoration programs. Their projects include securing areas of high conservation value rainforest and preserving its biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Each year the group plants up to 12,000 rainforest trees on neglected and damaged blocks in the Daintree – trees which grow into thriving rainforest ecosystems, establishing habitat for the plants and animals' endemic to that specific ecosystem. Rainforest Rescue has planted nearly 325,000 rainforest trees, 291,068 in Australia and 33,000 overseas; it has purchased and rescued 39 properties, 38 in the Daintree and one in Pyengana, Tasmania, constituting 1,756,551sqm of rainforest, 947,151 in the Daintree and 809,400 in Tasmania.

In an age of rampant deforestation globally the work of Rainforest Rescue is vital to stem rainforest and biodiversity destruction, while contributing to climate change mitigation and protecting the home of vulnerable animals such as the Cassowary.

I congratulate Rainforest Rescue and its members on their amazing work.


Tamara Smith
Member for Ballina



thank you

business partners

30 Acres, 9 Degrees, A Mindful Bub, Ambius Indoor Plants, Analytics Anomalous, Analytics Anonoumous, Arnhem Clothing, Atiyah Life, Australian Plant Society Yarra Yarra, Avis / Budget Group, Award Force, Back Country Bliss, Baiia Swimwear, Ballarat Wildlife Park, Bamboo Textiles, Barbados, Bare by Baeur, Barefoot Tours, Barefoot Wanderer, BioPak, Blue Frog Marketing Breathing Space, Brookfarm, Builders Release, Cairns Airport, Call me Harry, CameraPro, Camilla, Canon Australia, Cassowary Cafe, Caversham Wildlife Park, Cedar Magic, CerTreeficate, Chantell Collins Consulting, Chris Neilson Art, Cocky Guides, Concoor / Pits of Joy, Contour Personnel, Converg, Daintree Discovery Centre, Daintree Eco Lodge, Daintree Secrets, Daintree Wilderness Lodge, Deer Daisy, Earthfully Minded, Eggpicnic, EJH Talent Promotion, Elements of Byron, Ellie Agnes, Eorth, Esuite Talent, Eurythmique Store, Finlap, Forest Super Foods, Foster Creative, Foster Creative Co, Found-Space, Frontierra, Future Tense, Gaia Retreat & Spa, Gallery Earth, Geolink Consulting, Good N' Clean, Goodly Gosh, Gorge Wildlife Park, Grant Maundrell Landscape Architect, Green Box Eco Shop, Green Up Plant Hire, Greenhouse Co, GroundGrocer, Gypco Construction, H&B Fencing & Gates, Haasch (Suprabella), Haddad & Partners, Heaps Good Packaging, Heartwood Tree Solutions, Hopkins Creek, Hotel Brunswick, Hudson Financial Planning, Ibu Ayurveda Pty Ltd, JENTL, Joanna Kordos Fine Art, Just Utensils, Kavalri, Klorane, Koalaty, Koskela, KRD Photography, lady godiva equestrian, Land Eco Consulting, Laser + Holistic Dental, Lay It Down, Lexicon, Little Boho Flower Co, Little E and Co, Living Timber Co, Love Tea, Luxara Sleep, Maddison Whiley Hair Studio, Magic of I, Mantra Yoga, Marina Terraces Port Douglas, Marlin Communications, Maurie & Eve, Mecatl Cacao, Myrtle and Me, Naturally Driven, Noble CX, Notely, NSA Cosmetics, Number Two on the Beach Port Douglas, Ocean Safari, Onyx Botanica, OORR, Orenshaw Constructions, PAD Inspections, Patagonia, Perfect Pets, Pink Cepha, Planet Luxe, Platinum Cables, Platypus Dreaming, Position One, Publik Salon, Rachel Carroll Art, Rainforest Foods, Rainforest Foods, RANT Clothing, Republic of Everyone, Rub-a-dub Seasoning, S-kin Studio, Samuel Humphreys Illustration, Sap N Tap, SCRATCH Pet Food, Sedgwick County Zoo, Silky Oaks Lodge, Simply Sunflowers, Sky High Heels, Sky-lab Aerial Yoga and Fitness, Small World Journeys, Smile4U, Smitten Merino, Sparke Helmore Lawyers, Spinifex, Staten Island Zoo, Stephanie Milne Celebrant, Sunny's Axe Throwing, Super Obvious, Sustainability in Style, Switch Vintage, Symbios Growth, Talty Bar!, The Bird Photographer, The Cause Effect, The Deloitte Foundation, The Enviro Co / Enviro Grip, The Lab 17, The Pavilions Port Douglas, The Scenic Route, The Sunglass Fix, The Wildflower Store, Tourism Tropical North Queensland, Tribe of the Tree, Tripod Cofee, Tripod Coffee, True Protein, UnderWater Tour, Vance Martins, Venaii Creative & Co, VetPrac, VIP Wildlife, Walkabout Cultural Adventures, Wandering Folk, Waterchef, WILD LIFE Conservation Fund / Sydney Zoo, Will & Bear, Yogatime, Young Folks, Your Small Step, Zotima

conservation partners

Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy (BSRC)
Great Barrier Reef Legacy (GBRL)
Greenfleet
Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation
Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN)
Rainforest Rescue Germany | Rettet Den Regenwald
Wet Tropics Management Authority (WETMA)
TerrainNRM
Daintree Life
ClimateForce

foundations & trusts

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank/Community Enterprise Foundation, Ian Potter Foundation, James N. Kirby Foundation, MacPac Fund for Good, Morris Family Foundation, North Queensland Wildlife Trust, Perpetual Foundation – The Scoparia Endowment, The Bowden Marstan Foundation, Wild Country Environmental fund, WIRES

images

- p.1 Southern Cassowary (*Casuarus casuarus johnsonii*), Martin Stringer
- p.2 Myall Beach, Martin Stringer
- p.4 Baku Sunset, Martin Stringer
- p.5 Bridal Veil stinkhorn (*Phallus indusiatus*), Martin Stringer
- p.6 Rainbow Bee Eater (*Merops ornatus*), Martin Stringer
- p.7 Twisted Vines, Martin Stringer
- p.8 Flying Fox Hanging Out (*Pteropus conspicillatus*), Martin Stringer
- p.11 White Lipped Tree Frog (*Litoria infrafrenata*), David White
- p.12 Site of the new nursery at the old Cow Bay Airstrip, Martin Stringer
- p.13 Aerial view of the Cow Bay airstrip, Martin Stringer
- p.14 Saw-Shell Turtle (*Wollumbinia latisternum*), Martin Stringer
- p.15 2021 Tranquility tree planting, Mark Cox
- p.16 Rainforest waterfalls, Martin Stringer
- p.17 Nightwings 2017-2019, Martin Stringer
- p.18 Flynn Hawkey at Flinders Ranges, Shaun Fundak
- p.18 Young cassowary chick, Martin Stringer
- p.19 Southern Cassowary (*Casuarus casuarus johnsonii*), Matt Cornish
- p.20 Boyds Forest Dragon (*Hypsilurus boydii*), Martin Stringer
- p.21 The BioPak team, from left to right: Richard, Angela, Ross, Shaun & Maverick
- p.22 Myall Low Tide, Martin Stringer
- p.23 Fan Palms, Steven Nowakoski
- p.24 Double-Eyed Fig Parrot (*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*), Allen Sheather
- p.29 Daintree River & Snapper Island, Martin Stringer

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.

Always Was, Always Will Be Aboriginal Land.

Rainforest Rescue headquarters is in Byron Bay, NSW on Arakwal Country within the Bundjalung Nation.
Our on-the-ground conservation and restoration work takes place in Daintree, Qld (Julay Madja) on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bubu.
Our Partnerships Director works from Meanjin (Brisbane).