



**rainforest
rescue**



the best
time
is now

annual report

2024

The rainforest is a place of healing

“Our people, Eastern Kuku Yalanji, have lived amongst the Julay (Daintree) rainforest for a long, long time. We are people of the rainforest. Our cultural connection to it is deep.

Bama use country as a place of healing. When you go back to country, walk on country, spend time on country, it restores you. The rainforest is a place of healing for me, just like it was when I was a little girl.

The relationship between Rainforest Rescue staff working with our Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners is not only of Reconciliation but a wonderful way to come together. To learn about and to store botanical and cultural plant knowledge and to preserve, protect and regrow the rainforest together.

This is something that sits well with my Wawu (spirit) and I will support these shared efforts where I can.

Your own support of this act of healing is in itself a kind of reconciliation. An acknowledgment.

A connection to the rainforest and to something bigger. A need for restoration after so much has been taken away from the land and sea.

Together, we are all healing.

Our country, our people, ourselves.

Remember, all it takes is one seed to begin to plant a rainforest.”



Sheryl J Burchill,
Eastern Kuku Yalanji Artist

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.

Martin Stringer



Martin Stringer

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Cover image: Spectacled Flying-Foxes (@CAFNEC/Environmental Defenders Office)

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, communities and businesses to Protect Rainforests Forever.

Our Vision

To be the leading organisation that grows, restores and protects Australia's rainforests forever.

Our Strategic Mission

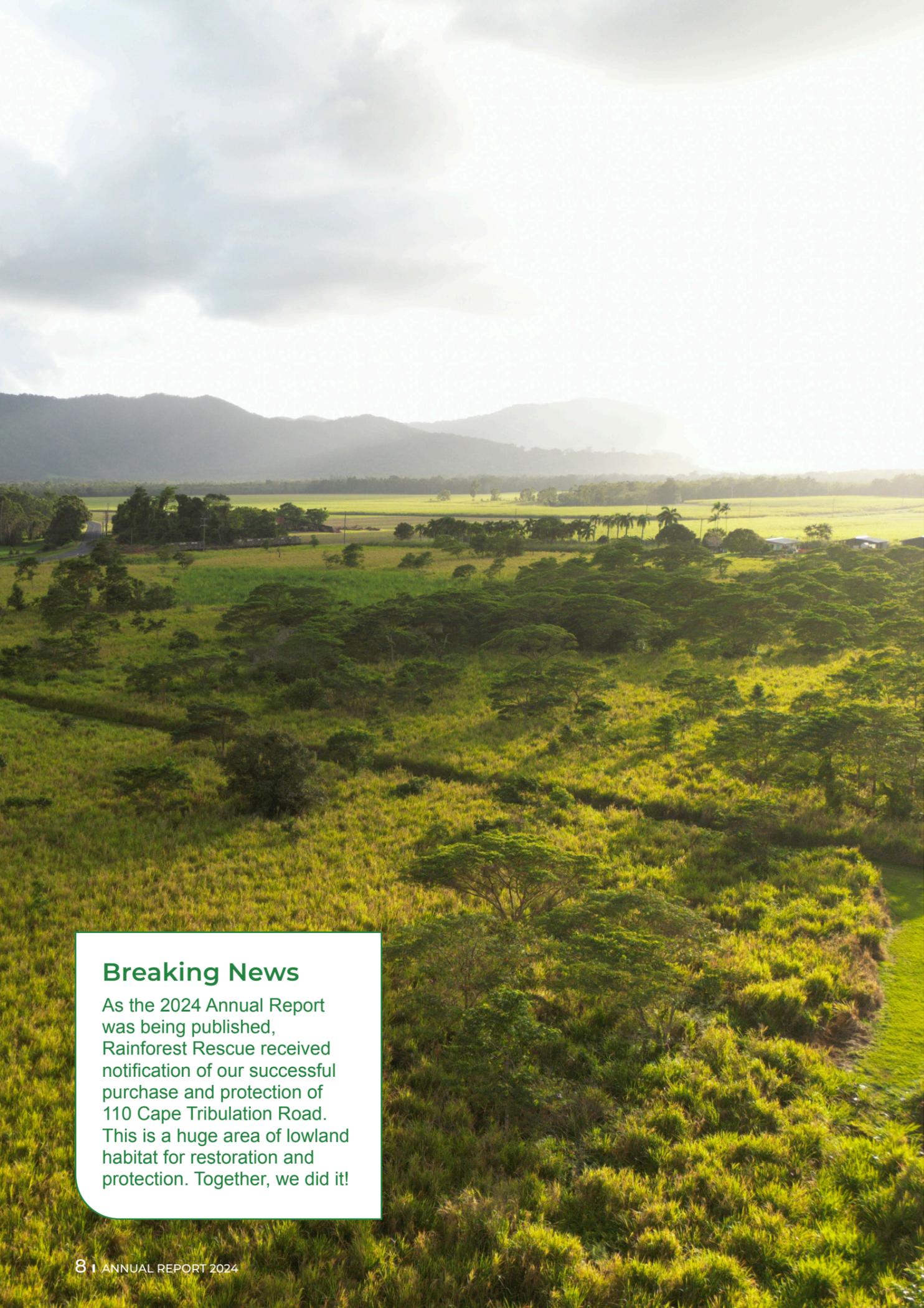
Rainforest Rescue operates as a vertically integrated restoration supply chain. Our commitment extends beyond traditional conservation approaches, actively supporting the flourishing restoration economy in Tropical Far North Queensland.

To achieve this, Rainforest Rescue has developed interrelated programs of work:

- **Ethical** collection of native rainforest seeds in the Daintree region
- **Propagation** of many thousands of seedlings annually in our native rainforest plant nursery
- **Protection** of high conservation value land containing threatened native rainforest and its natural biodiversity
- **Restoration** of fragmented and damaged habitat through proven methodologies that re-establish rainforest
- **Learning** about rainforest ecology and cultural significance through research and scientific study
- **Amplifying** the conservation and cultural heritage of the Daintree rainforest through regional restoration partnerships
- **Providing** opportunities for local employment in the Daintree and Douglas Shire region within conservation and restoration roles



Martin Stringer



Breaking News

As the 2024 Annual Report was being published, Rainforest Rescue received notification of our successful purchase and protection of 110 Cape Tribulation Road. This is a huge area of lowland habitat for restoration and protection. Together, we did it!



chair report

Happy 25th Anniversary to Rainforest Rescue!

■ ■ ■ AS WE SHARE our aspirations with team members, partners, potential partners and you, our loyal supporters, it is important to reflect on where we've come from.

For 25 years we have preserved 152 hectares of the precious landscape that is the Daintree Rainforest...and 81 hectares in Tasmania's Pyengana. In that time the world has changed, especially in terms of our global understanding of the essential role that ecosystems like the Daintree play in our world and our interactions with it. Our track record speaks for itself, and that is down to you, our loyal supporters, our team, and the collective dedication to our mission.

Casting our collective minds back to 2001, with Rainforest Rescue barely over a year old, the generosity of our donors and supporters helped us purchase and protect Lot 90 Rosewood Road in Cow Bay. Our first 'Rescue' was a parcel of remnant rainforest which is now part of the wider Baralba Corridor Nature Refuge and protected forever.

Many will remember Lot 46, which we purchased in 2010 and was renamed Kurranji Bubu at a naming ceremony in 2021. It was also declared a Nature Refuge and protected forever with this status. This was a major milestone for Rainforest Rescue as

the former oil palm farm was our first significant restoration project, and our ability to restore it into a thriving rainforest is a credit to the contributions you, our supporters, provide. Credit is also due to the Board at that time for their vision in making a substantial financial commitment to the property purchase, and of course to the devoted team who restored the habitat. Having the Yalanji Language Committee gift Kurranji Bubu such a fitting name, which translates to "Cassowary Land", is also an indicator of this property's ecological importance here in the Daintree region.

A successful organisation can only do what it does because of the dedication of the people involved. Over 25 years we have had a small but highly dedicated team, supported by thousands of volunteers who have contributed to our tree planting efforts or helped fund restoration and conservation efforts. We have, at the time of writing, planted nearly 400,000 trees since our inception in 1999, which is no small feat in itself, and this number continues to rise as we continue to grow.

While I look forward to the future and our aspirations for growing our impact, it is awe inspiring to reflect on what has been achieved and the foundation that has been created for the future. None of which would be possible without our supporters for the last 25 years.

For that, please allow me to thank you all on behalf of the Board and our team.

Rachel White
Chair

Left: Our most recent purchase for protection and restoration is the incredible site at 110 Cape Tribulation Road.

Above: Lot 90 Rosewood Road—this image from the early 2000s shows dense remnant rainforest—now part of the Baralba Wildlife Corridor.





ceo report

2024 – A Year of Progress for Nature and Rainforest Rescue

DEAR SUPPORTERS,

As we reflect on the challenges of 2024, it's impossible to ignore the toll that climate change is taking on our planet. In December of '23, Cyclone Jasper became Tropical Storm Jasper, unleashing a staggering 3.2 meters of rain on our region in just one week, causing widespread flooding and hardships for local communities. Our staff were displaced from their homes, some were trapped in Cape Tribulation, and many people generally, regionally, struggled in the aftermath of this extreme weather. It was a tough end to the year. And a total of over 6.5 meters of rain have fallen since the first rains from Jasper fell...and we're now gearing up for this year's wet season.

But despite these hardships, we've emerged stronger, more resilient, and with a renewed sense of purpose.

When I first joined Rainforest Rescue, we had a solid foundation, built on the dedication of a few passionate individuals. Back in 2018, we were a small team of just five people and only one of us was full-time. We faced big challenges with limited capacity, but we believed in our mission: Protect Rainforests Forever. Now, as we enter 2025 with two more programs scaling up in Propagation and Restoration, we're a team of 15—and together, with you and your support, we are achieving remarkable things.

A Year of Growth and Impact

2024 has been a year of remarkable progress in both conservation and restoration. We've made significant strides, and I'm excited to share some of our key achievements:

Trees Grown: This year, we produced an impressive 56,328 rainforest trees, making us the most productive nursery in the Daintree region. These trees are now playing an active role in restoring vital rainforest habitats, helping to mitigate the climate and biodiversity crises that threaten our planet.

Trees in the Ground: We've significantly boosted the number of trees we've planted, with 37,810 trees now in the ground—an incredible 91% increase over 2023. These trees are helping to restore critical habitat for the rare and threatened species of the Daintree, benefiting both the ecosystem and all of us.

Scaling Up: Thanks to our new nursery, we've vastly expanded our tree production capacity. What once stood at just 12,000 trees per year has now grown to 150,000 trees annually, and we're on track to meet that target in the coming years. The scale of this expansion is immense, and we're only getting started.

Rescue and Protection: Our property conservation efforts are also flourishing. We've rescued 45 properties across the Daintree and Tasmania, protecting over 200 hectares of vulnerable land, including 120 hectares within the Daintree alone.

Martine Stringer

Looking ahead, we'll be adding 30 more hectares to our Daintree portfolio with the acquisition of 110 Cape Tribulation Road by the end of 2025. This will bring our total protected area to 230 hectares across six corridors and standalone refugia.

As I reflect on these milestones, I'm struck by how far we've come. The scale of our work—whether it's propagation, land protection, or habitat restoration—has grown exponentially, and the pace continues to accelerate.

Recognition and Innovation

It's been a year of well-deserved recognition too. Our staff were honoured with Cassowary Awards—wins and nominations—as well as recognition in the Queensland Landcare Award, acknowledging their dedication and the success of our collective efforts. As the Restoration Alliance gains momentum, we'll be supported by an even wider network of resources and partnerships across the region. We're also taking exciting steps towards more sustainable practices in our nursery. By implementing integrated pest management, we're reducing the need for harmful pesticides, using beneficial insects instead to keep our plants healthy and thriving.

These developments are both inspiring and motivating as we continue to move forward.

A Bold Future for Rainforest Rescue

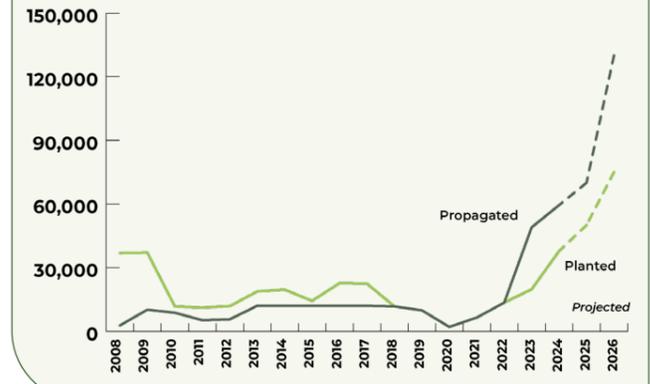
2024 marked Rainforest Rescue's 25th anniversary, and as we look to the future, we are more committed than ever to addressing the climate and biodiversity crises. Our efforts are aligned with state, national, and international initiatives that are advancing nature-positive strategies for lasting conservation outcomes.

And there is no time to waste.

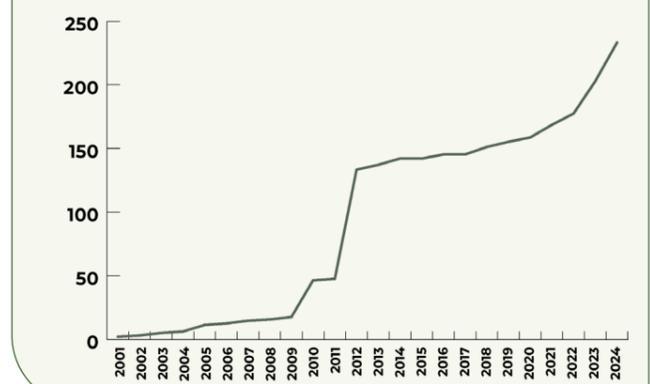
The world is burning, and we see the effects of our disrupted climate proliferating and increasing in intensity—from floods to fires to drought, habitat is dying, and whole populations are being forced to migrate to safer places.

Trees are our best technology for drawing carbon from the atmosphere, and restoring habitat is the most effective way to combat the biodiversity crisis. This is exactly why we say that Trees are the Answer. They are.

Number of Trees Propagated and Planted



Cumulative Hectares of Rainforest Protected Forever



Rainforest planting and protection is climate action. The work we do together is essential—and it's more urgent than ever.

Please take a few moments to explore our 2024 Annual Report and stay with us as we continue to make real and inspiring differences in these challenging times.

When we look back on our lives, may we be proud of the good we've done. For me, working alongside all of you—at Rainforest Rescue—will be one of the greatest joys and privileges of my life.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Here's to even greater progress for Nature wwin 2025 and beyond!

For the rainforests,

Branden Barber
CEO

our impact



Years

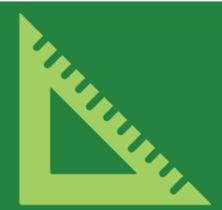
protecting
rainforests

founded on 25 March 1999

10 **Core**
conservation
partnerships

with our role in the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance, we are unblocking the bottleneck for trees for restoration provision with the new native nursery

Rainforest
properties
rescued **45**



Square metres
of rainforest
rescued

2,031,514

1,222,114 in the Daintree & 809,400 in Tasmania

391,222



Rainforest trees
planted

37,810 in 2024, a 91% increase on 2023



Rainforest trees
propagated

244,298

59,458 in 2024

32

Properties
protected
forever

by Nature Refuge status in Australia



Martin Stinger

Noun Project illustrations by Kalinin Ilya, Big Thing, Y, Big Thing, Rebecca Brait

year in review

Cyclone Jasper brought historic floods, testing our resilience into early 2024. Despite the challenges, our nursery endured.

JAN

Planting began at the old Cow Bay Airstrip! This groundbreaking study will compare two rainforest restoration methods to find the most efficient way to achieve canopy closure.

Lot 17 Cape Tribulation Rd—is safe, ensuring forever access to essential habitat for the rare and threatened species of the Daintree rainforest.

FEB

Our nursery team installs Watergum's Cane toad traps to manage this invasive species' impact in the Nursery's bioretention pond. A humane solution to a pervasive problem!

Lot 1 Cape Tribulation Rd is protected forever! Thanks to your support, this rare 10-acre property safeguards critically endangered Littoral Rainforest connecting the rainforest to reef.

MAR

On March 28, we celebrated 25 years of Rainforest Rescue! With your unwavering support, we've been dedicated to protecting and restoring Australia's rainforests.

Honoured in Condé Nast Traveller's Earth Day Special Edition, with Kristin Canning named one of 11 eco champions. We're making travel better by protecting and restoring rainforests.

APR

We are now part of the Queensland Threatened Plant Network. We're proud to collaborate on protecting and restoring Queensland's most at-risk plant species.

We took the stage at Rainforest Connections Conference 2024, sharing our 25 year journey of protecting the Daintree and growing the Restoration Economy in Far North Queensland.

MAY

At our Annual Community Tree Planting Day, 139 volunteers came together to plant 2,400 rainforest trees from 82 species—restoring habitat and growing a greener future!

EcoFiesta 2024 was a blast! We connected with passionate supporters and celebrated community-driven conservation.

JUN

Celebrating our team's dedication with the QLD Landcare Awards—Marine Deliens was Highly Commended for the Women in Landcare Award; and Allen Sheather a Finalist for the Individual Landcare Award.

A successful day at Wawu Dimbi! We joined Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, Junior Rangers & community members to plant 2,100 trees—strengthening Country, culture, and conservation.

JUL

Together, we went big! Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$350,000 to power our Native Nursery—ensuring the Daintree keeps growing!

We launched our Beneficial Insects Program, introducing natural predators to protect our nursery and reduce pesticide use—pioneering sustainability in the Daintree.

AUG

We celebrated the journey of young Rainforest Rescuers, fostering a love for conservation and empowering future guardians of the Daintree.

Our first registered carbon project—NightWings restoration—is approved and appears on the Open Forest Protocol platform.

SEP

Rainforest Rescue supporters are worthy winners at the 20th WTMA Cassowary Awards! Celebrating those making a lasting impact on rainforest conservation in the Daintree.

Trinity Anglican School in Cairns won a global sustainability award, and together we planted trees for the future, and hit TV screens!

OCT

Rainforest Rescue creates a wetland habitat in the waterlogged area of NightWings Rainforest Centre. Native frogs moved in soon after...

We're proud to walk alongside Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation. Through Yalada Tours, supporters connected with Country, culture, and conservation in a transformative travel experience.

NOV

In conjunction with Reforest and Tourism Tropical North Queensland, we shared our perspective on how regenerative tourism could benefit the Daintree Rainforest and local economy.

110 Cape Tribulation Rd is a game-changer! This vital 30-hectare property will expand protected rainforest, connect habitat, and strengthen biodiversity in the region.

DEC

Partnering with the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, we took a vital step to protect the endangered *Syzygium glenum*—to propagate and reintroduce this rare species back into its native habitat.

In partnership with Terrain NRM, Rainforest Rescue plans the baseline monitoring for the pioneering 'Cassowary Credits' biodiversity accounting scheme.



Martin Stringer

Opposite: Rainforest Rescue team members with a local supporter Kate at Cairns EcoFiesta.



operations report

2024 has been a landmark year of growth and firsts for Rainforest Rescue. As we reflect on our achievements, we celebrate the collective effort, dedication, and innovative spirit of our incredible team.

SCALING NATURE-POSITIVE IMPACT: A YEAR IN REVIEW

OUR FOCUS on fostering a green growth mindset throughout the organisation has empowered us to make significant strides for the environment with the local community.

Led by Branden our team is driven by passion, expertise, and an open-minded approach to tackling challenges. This year, we ramped up efforts to bolster the ecological restoration economy in the wet tropics, demonstrating our commitment to sustainable and impactful progress.

Under the leadership of Hayden White, our land management team planted an impressive 38,000 trees in 2024—a remarkable increase of over 90% compared to 2023. All seeds were collected locally by our team and the trees were nurtured in our native nursery, which is expertly managed by Marine and her team. The seedlings they produce are diverse, resilient, and brimming with life, ensuring we can sustainably repair the damaged landscapes.

One of our most ambitious initiatives this year is our current Christmas appeal, aimed at rescuing and restoring a 30-hectare property of underutilised and sub-optimal cane land. This project is the stepping stone for restoration at scale in the region. Additionally, 2024 saw the approval of our first Queensland Government Land Restoration Fund

project, which strengthens our collaboration with the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation.

We're proud to have submitted our first Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) project registration in December, as well as gaining approval for our inaugural Open Forest Protocol Carbon Farming project at NightWings, a special thanks goes Sigrid our Tech and Science specialist. These milestones are vital steps towards revenue diversification and increased rainforest restoration.

Our commitment to the nature-positive solutions is unwavering. We're honing our expertise in nature capital markets, including biodiversity credits like Cassowary Credits, and preparing for the Federal Government's Nature Repair Market. To ensure the integrity of our work, we are pursuing third-party accredited Accounting For Nature baseline assessments and ongoing monitoring. These efforts allow us to measure, improve and report on the environmental condition of our restoration projects effectively.

Corporate and foundation partnerships remain integral to our success. Kristin our Partnerships Director has been instrumental in managing these relationships, ensuring we can deliver the third-party accredited carbon and biodiversity metrics that are

important. By driving nature-positive investment, we continue to amplify our impact.

Efficiency is at the heart of our operations. We continue to optimise restoration processes to ensure every dollar is spent effectively. Innovations include utilising tractors and cultivators, drone-based herbicide spraying, refined species selection, contract planters, and advanced onsite data collection tools including tablets and drones.

Thanks to the generosity of the SmartGroup, we've acquired a cutting-edge drone equipped with a multispectral sensor. This technology enables us to analyse forest health, optimise fertiliser use, and manage invasive species with precision. Future integration with machine learning and AI will further enhance our capabilities.

Consistent data capture and analysis underpin our approach to ecological restoration. By leveraging advanced technologies and methodologies, we ensure informed decision-making that aligns with our mission to protect and restore rainforests.

As we close 2024, we celebrate our accomplishments and look forward to scaling our efforts in 2025 and beyond. With a steadfast commitment to innovation, collaboration, and impact, Rainforest Rescue will continue to lead the charge in restoring and protecting our planet's vital ecosystems.

Thank you for your support and belief in our mission.

Tate Brammer
General Manager Finance & Operations

What is Nature Positive?

ACCORDING to the Nature Positive Initiative, 'Nature Positive is a global societal goal defined as 'Halt and Reverse Nature Loss by 2030 on a 2020 baseline, and achieve full recovery by 2050'. To put this more simply, it means ensuring more nature in the world in 2030 than in 2020 and continuing recovery after that.'

Nature Positive is an internationally recognised and ambitious response to the acknowledged impact of climate change and humanity's effect on the natural world.

Rainforest Rescue's mission and activities align with the means in which it is possible to locally and globally deliver on the Nature Positive goal.

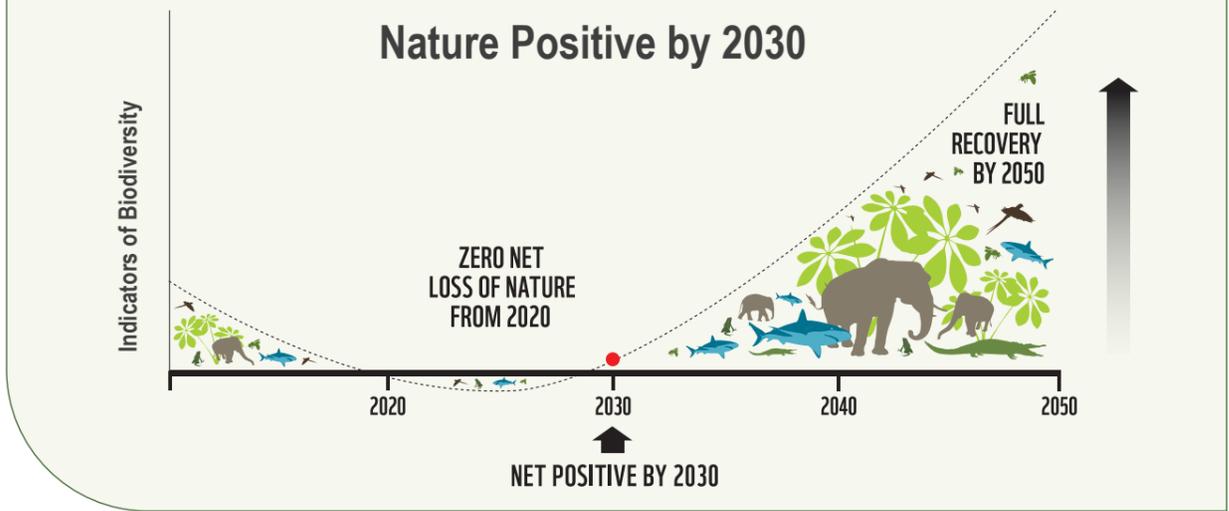
To do so requires 'measurable net-positive biodiversity outcomes through the improvement in the abundance, diversity, integrity and resilience of species, ecosystems and natural processes.'

The holistic benefits of achieving the Nature Positive goal is not just a measurable improvement in the state of nature against a defined baseline, but also the ability for nature to contribute to human wellbeing.

In this sense, everyone and everything wins.

For more information see <https://www.naturepositive.org>

Nature Positive Initiative





growing our future

2024 has been an outstanding year for our nursery at Rainforest Rescue!

THANKS TO the incredible generosity shown in our June 2024 appeal, we've been able to grow more trees than ever. We're immensely grateful to all our donors and partners who continue to support our work. Your contributions make it possible for us to provide the resources, time and expertise needed to collect, propagate and nurture these seedlings. Together, we're bringing more life back to the rainforest!

This year, we made strides in both efficiency and sustainability, starting with our updated irrigation system. With a new setup including new sprinklers and rain sensors, we have now reduced our water usage by 30%. This efficiency not only benefits the environment but also supports healthier growth and stronger seedlings ready for the challenges of restoration.

We're also excited to share that our nursery's commitment to reducing environmental impact and raising standards has been at the forefront of our operations. Our focus on sustainable practices has led us to a few important trials and changes. First, we've reduced pesticide use by introducing beneficial insects to naturally control pests and we are thrilled with the results.

Additionally, we're trialling biodegradable pots made from coconut fibres in place of the traditional plastic

pots. If successful, this switch will significantly reduce our plastic usage and provide many operational benefits. Not only are these pots environmentally friendly, but they also save labour since they eliminate the need for pot washing, sanitising and transporting used pots back from planting sites. Planting with coir pots causes no root disturbance since we can plant the seedlings with the biodegradable pots straight into the ground, helping seedlings settle into restoration sites more easily and securely. Less labour on pot handling means more capacity for us to produce and plant even more trees at a lower cost.

The trial with coconut fibres pots has been promising so far and we're excited to potentially adopt them across our production line in 2025.

Thank you once again for your incredible support. As we continue our mission to create a sustainable and high performing nursery, we look forward to growing with you in the year ahead!

Stay tuned for more updates as we work towards reforesting our beautiful rainforests!

Marine Deliens
Nursery Manager

Silvia Di Domenicantonio



Did you know?

2024 was Rainforest Rescue's biggest year for sales of high-quality native trees, with 9,766 sold. Each one was ready for planting by local restoration projects and Daintree community resident, including:



integrated pest control

Rainforest Rescue's new native tree nursery in Cow Bay has been up and running for over eighteen months.

MOVING FROM our old nursery in Diwan, which had a capacity of 12,000 trees, to a new facility with an eventual capacity of 150,000 has enabled the organisation to greatly increase the number of trees available for restoration projects.

With this increase in production comes an inevitable increase in pests, and so developing strategies to address this is key to a healthy product.

All available pest control techniques need to be considered: cultural, biological and chemical. Putting these together into a working model is known as Integrated Pest Management, or IPM.

Once the decision is made to implement a management procedure, the next step is determining which tactics are appropriate.

Key Components of IPM

Our nursery staff are developing identification skills for pests and diseases and an understanding of the biology, life cycle and ecology of the various pests. We are achieving this with on-line studies and knowledge sharing.

Factors such as environment, efficacy, ease of application, environmental impact, and in-work experience are all considerations when choosing pest control options.

IPM involves various factors including staff education, cultural control (for example, regular scouting, reducing pest habitat



and good nursery hygiene practices) and chemical and biological controls.

While we would love to be chemical free here at the nursery, that would be idealistic and unrealistic.

For instance, Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*), a serious fungal disease of plants in the Myrtaceae family (this family includes eucalypts, melaleucas, bottlebrush and tea tree) that was first detected in 2010 has spread rapidly throughout eastern Australia.

Unfortunately, there is no method to remove this potentially fatal infection other than with the recommended registered chemical.

Early detection by scouting can reduce the amount of product needed to control the outbreak. Still, we otherwise strive to reduce our chemical use to the minimum level possible and to the least impactful.

When we need to use chemical controls, we research and select from suitable products the chemicals with lower toxicity. This ideology increases in importance when we are using biological control as we don't want to harm beneficial organisms.

All methods of pest control have their merits but we have been developing our IPM at the nursery to have a preference for biological control rather than chemical.

Above top: Nursery Manager, Marine, preparing for a release.
Left: Aphid infestation

Biological control is something occurring in nature all around us, everywhere. That's what the whole balance of nature is about, one organism controlling or preying on another. With an IPM, we can manipulate natural predators, parasitoids and pathogens to control pest populations.

Part of this is what we have been doing at the nursery with the 'beneficial insects'.

We have been very fortunate as we were generously awarded a grant from the Albert and Barbara Tucker foundation. Their support has been so helpful in funding our beneficial insect programme.

We begin the process with pest identification. Plant damage is the first indicator of an infestation and can be used to identify the pest, as can host species susceptibility and environmental conditions.

Pests such as caterpillars and mealybugs are easily visible and for some others a hand loupe is a useful tool. With certain pests such as mites (which can be under a millimetre in size), a digital microscope is required for identification.

Once identified, the infestation level is assessed. If biological control is required then the suitable product will be selected.

The live products are available for purchase online from a Queensland supplier. We are always excited to receive our predatory insects and to release them into the relevant areas of the nursery.

Notable Beneficial Insects

Some examples of the products we have used:



Green lacewing (*Mallada signatus*). A native, generalist predator feeding on a variety of insects including aphids, caterpillars, moth eggs, scale insects and mealybugs. They are commonly and widely

distributed throughout Australia.

We release these as eggs which quickly hatch into larvae. An interesting fact about these little larvae is that after sucking the fluid from their prey, they carry the remains on their back as camouflage when hunting.

Above: Adult Lacewing (*Mallada signatus*).
Top right: Ten Spotted Ladybird (*Harmonia conformis*)
Middle right: Predatory wasp (*Aphidius colemani*) laying an egg within its aphid prey.

Ten-spotted Ladybird (*Harmonia conformis*).

We use this native Australian ladybird beetle for the treatment of aphid infestations. The larvae are ferocious aphid predators and we have observed good results with this insect.



Parasitic wasp (*Aphidius colemani*). This tiny wasp (2-3mm long) is a natural enemy of many aphid species. They specifically target aphids and are harmless to other animals.

The female wasp finds an aphid and then inserts an egg into its body. (She can parasitise up to 300 aphids within a few days).

A wasp maggot hatches and feeds on the aphid host from within, eventually killing it. Parasitised aphids appear blown up and a shiny bronze colour and are known as 'mummies'. This is what we will look for when checking the success of the release. The wasp pupates within the mummy and emerges as an adult.

Predatory mites.

Mites are a serious, polyphagous pest in the nursery and can be difficult to detect until there is a widespread infestation as some, such as the **broad mite (*Polyphagotarsonemus latus*)**, are microscopic-just 0.2mm long. Some interesting facts about this species are that it actually hitches a ride on whitefly to move locations. Also, the male will find a female nymph and carry her off to breed in a new area. Pests that spread and breed so quickly and that are hard to detect can quickly become widespread throughout the tree seedlings.

Luckily there are predatory mites of which we have used three for mite control - ***Neoseiulus californicus***, ***Neoseiulus cucumeris***, ***Phytoseiulus persimilis*** and then another, ***Typhlodromips montdorensis***, which predaes thrips and whiteflies.

This is where the microscope becomes an invaluable tool; identifying different mite species on the same plant and properly monitoring the success of the predatory species would not be possible without it.

Rainforest Rescue

Bugs for Bugs Pty Ltd



We also use a naturally occurring, soil dwelling bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* to control caterpillar infestations. This product produces proteins that bind to the gut of the caterpillar, causing rupture. It is harmless to humans, animals and non-target insects.



This product is necessary as we had several caterpillar infestations, including the **Avocado Leaf-roller moth (*Harmonia spargotis*)**, a highly polyphagous caterpillar that was feeding on very young seedlings,

causing many plant losses.

We love **Lepidoptera** here at the nursery and the rainforest has an abundance of stunning butterflies, but we need to protect our tree seedlings so they can become mature trees and a food source for many birds, mammals and insects.

A further step in pest control is to monitor the effectiveness of the beneficial insects in the release sites. We are always happy to see a growing ladybird larva at work, walking around in search of its prey and to see a corresponding reduction in aphid infestations.

For some of these beneficial insects, for example the lacewings and colemani wasp, the adult insects need nectar and pollen to survive.

Without these, once they emerge as adults from pupation, they will leave the area in search of food.



Growing Flora to Support beneficial Insects

As part of our IPM, we have begun growing native flowering plants such as ***Coleus graveolens*** and ***Orthosiphon aristatus***.

Hopefully once these are established and we can distribute them throughout the shade house, they will provide a food source for the adult insects which may induce them to stay and breed and produce a new generation of beneficial bugs for us!

There are other beneficials that occur naturally within the nursery and we are always happy to see those. There is a large variety of spiders especially within the shadehouse, such as the **Green Jumping spider (*Mopsus mormon*)**, and insects such as the **Green Long-legged fly (*Austrosclaptus connexus*)**, that predate aphids.



Pioneering IPM in the Daintree

Although IPM and biological pest control is widespread and common throughout the world, here in the Daintree Rainforest, the Rainforest Rescue nursery team are pioneers in this field because tree production on our scale is unprecedented in this unique place, and the only way for us to construct a successful IPM is through our own research, trials and work experience.

There is so much information available about pest control in agriculture and horticulture; not all can be applied to our products or to this environment but we hope that through our work and research in this field we can compile a database which will be invaluable both for Rainforest Rescue and also for future generations of environmental protection organisations that want to protect this unique and important area; the Daintree Rainforest.

Sam
Nursery Team Member

Top left: Nursery Manager, Marine, releasing predatory mites in the shadehouse.
Middle left: Leaf-roller moth (*Harmonia spargotis*)
Below left: Lacewing larvae released in the shadehouse.
Small cages made from mesh to protect them from rodents.
Above: Green jumping Spider (*Mopsus mormon*)

Rainforest Rescue





Land Management Team developing a wetland area at the NightWings property, this is positioned at a site that is waterlogged during the wet season.

challenges and rewards

We are currently planting trees as quickly and safely as possible, driven by the shared determination to restore these landscapes.

■ ■ ■ THIS YEAR, we successfully replanted half of the former airstrip at the Cow Bay Nursery site—no small feat as we contend with relentless rain, mud, and bogged vehicles. Every time we thought we'd gained ground, the mud pulled us back. But giving up was never an option. With persistence and teamwork, we reached our goal, planting 9,938 trees as part of restoration phase one!

While the rain was challenging, it also brought unexpected gifts. Rain eliminated the need for watering, easing transplant shock and reducing stress on our young trees. Every drop of water contributes to their survival, maximising the chances for these young trees to thrive in their new home.



This is what success looks like—creating conditions where nature takes the lead.

As we now shift focus to the NightWings sanctuary, we're embarking on complementary conservation projects, such as bat monitoring and developing a small wetland to nurture a vibrant habitat for invertebrates and migratory species. With 31,000 trees planted in the year so far, this marks our largest achievement to date! The increasing wildlife activity at Nightwings fills us with optimism. We've encountered baby Bush Stone Curlews, Lace Monitors, several species of snakes, stunning Azure Kingfishers and even birds of prey like the Brahminy Kite. Seeing these creatures return reminds us that our work is already making an impact. The more we plant, the more we restore—and the more habitats we create for Far North Queensland's unique species.

Left: Australian scrub python
Opposite page, left: Brahminy Kite
Opposite page, right: Azure Kingfisher



Surviving Tropical Cyclone Jasper earlier this year was a reminder of how resilient we must be. The floods following in the wake of the cyclone had a devastating impact on the local natural environment, communities and infrastructure. Understandably, everyone's attention was diverted to ensuring the safety of those around them and to establishing a path to recovery.

With significant challenges like the flooding comes opportunities and learning. Assessing flooded restoration areas once the waters subsided gave us an insight into how particular species tolerate (or otherwise) being waterlogged and exposed to anaerobic conditions. From our monitoring we've established a new 'priority list' of restoration species. This list focuses our efforts on getting trees with a high survival rate into the ground first, to kickstart the restoration of the rainforest ecosystem. We can then supplement with slower-growing species and those with a lower tolerance once the soil begins to increase in nutrient quality and a canopy is emerging.

Despite delays and setbacks, our teams pushed through, resuming operations and staying committed

to the mission. The need for riparian restoration and soil stability is critical, we've seen firsthand what havoc a climatic event can cause.

Restoration and conservation work outdoors in the tropics is never easy. We face extreme conditions—scorching heat, torrential rain, suffocating humidity—but we wouldn't have it any other way (Perhaps a little less humidity!). We are passionate about what we do, knowing that every tree planted helps heal broken land, breathing life back into our natural environment. And we know we can't do it alone. With the generosity of supporters and the local community, every contribution brings us closer to an exciting new reality: a thriving rainforest, abundant with life.

Our mission is clear—more trees, more wildlife, more resilience. Our efforts won't abate until we've given these reemerging ecosystems the best possible chance of restoring as fully as they can. Together, we can rewrite the future of these landscapes, one tree at a time.

Hayden White
Daintree Land Manager

Ian 'Sauce' Worcester

Martin Stringer, Allen Sheather



"Planting this seedling at Kurranji Bubu (Lot 46) in 2015 filled me with hope. Witnessing the transformation of this land has been incredible."



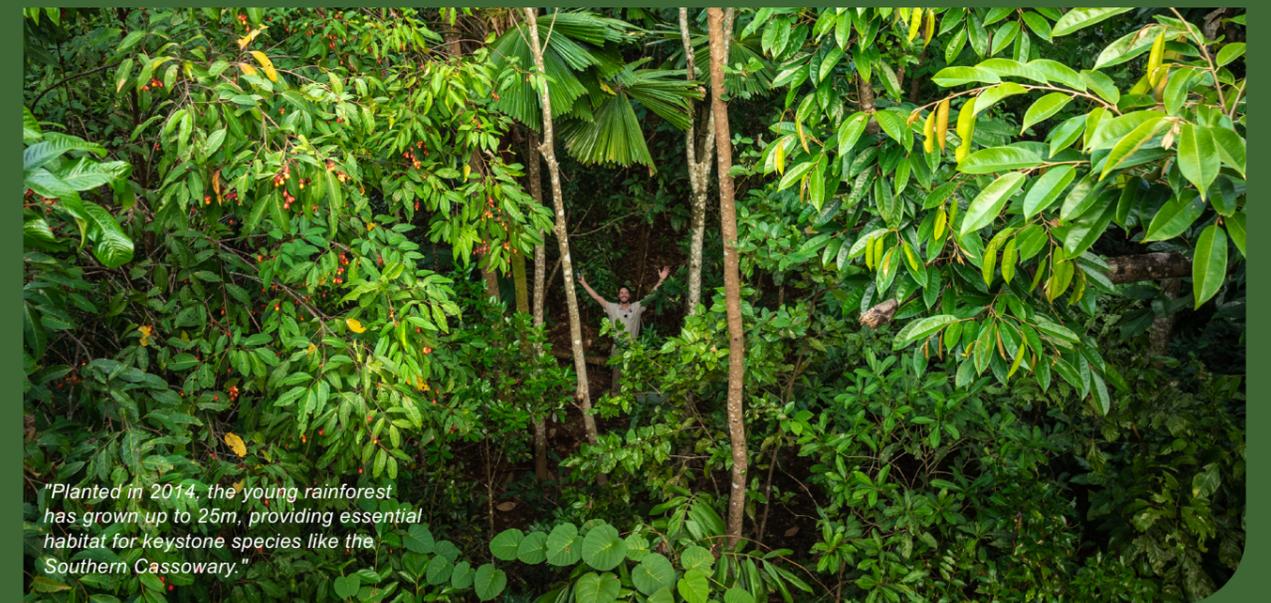
Above: "It was a true honour to receive this award. I'm so grateful to be able to visually showcase the incredible work of Rainforest Rescue."



"Capturing the beauty of the rainforest from above is always a highlight. It's incredible to see how Kurranji Bubu is growing and connecting with the National Park."

capturing years of change

■■■ **DESERVEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED** with a WTMA Cassowary Award for his dedication to promoting the wonder of the Wet Tropics region via his camera lens, Martin Stringer has spent over a decade supporting Rainforest Rescue as a photographer and videographer. Here he recalls some of his most memorable Daintree experiences with a specially curated selection of images.



"Planted in 2014, the young rainforest has grown up to 25m, providing essential habitat for keystone species like the Southern Cassowary."



Above: "Witnessing the mating dance and display of the threatened Victoria's Riflebird is always a breathtaking experience."

Right: "The mangroves and creeks near the Rainforest Rescue Nursery create stunning shapes and textures from the sky."



Right: "This majestic Spurwood Mahogany with a Liana vine and mature Fan Palms was awe-inspiring. Through my images, I let nature convey her message."

Martin Stringer



25 years, together

25th March 2024 was a significant milestone for rainforest protection and restoration.

■■■ IN 1999, Rainforest Rescue was founded with a simple and singular vision, which in its founders' words was to, "To expand the awareness of the state of our rainforests. Highlighting the need for community and government resources to help restore rainforests and to save the many threatened species from extinction."

This sense of hope and humility plays testament to the uncertainty of facing into the wind. At that time, the awareness that Australia's rainforest habitats needed to be urgently protected was acknowledged with the belated arrival of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999.

Twenty five years later, it is evident that together we have far exceeded our founders' aspirations – a vision made possible through your unwavering support. Thank you.



our green network

In 2024, our Business and Foundation partners have continued to show extraordinary dedication to giving back to nature.

WE ALL SHARE a vision for a thriving, resilient Daintree rainforest that supports both biodiversity and community well-being. Our Partners' generous contributions fuel real, tangible outcomes—reforesting degraded landscapes, protecting critical habitats, and building a future where nature and people thrive in harmony. We are deeply grateful for the passion and commitment of every business partner, and we celebrate each and every one of you! Here are some standout partners from 2024:

Partnerships Director, **Kristin Canning**



BioPak

"Partnering with Rainforest Rescue has become more than an extension of our environmental mission—it has allowed us to amplify the positive impact we can achieve. While our core focus remains on sustainable innovations within our products and operations, working with Rainforest Rescue lets us step beyond our own boundaries. Through this collaboration, we contribute to lasting conservation and support credible, impactful rainforest restoration efforts. Together, we're not just protecting land; we're preserving biodiversity and creating a legacy for future generations."

Richard Fine,
Founder and Sustainability Director — BioPak



"Rainforest Rescue has been a BioPak's key partner since 2012, and we are incredibly proud to celebrate their 25th anniversary this year. Their work is essential for protecting the environment, preserving biodiversity, and supporting the local community, with impacts that reach far beyond the Daintree."

Gary Smith, CEO — BioPak



Forest Super Foods

"I think business is about a lot more than just making money. A big part of it for me is to make sure we are helping to make the world a better place.

Our customers love that their purchase is making a tangible difference to the world around them."

Justin Snyder, Founder — Forest Super Foods



Klorane and the Klorane Botanical Foundation

"Klorane strives to sustainably preserve natural environments as we harness their power for our dermo-cosmetic brand. Our continued partnership with Rainforest Rescue allows us to deploy our Group Climate Strategy in Australia and is an excellent demonstration of Klorane's environmental commitment at a local level. We are proud to contribute to the valiant conservation efforts to protect the Daintree Rainforest, and promote tangible change in rejuvenating native plants and wildlife and supporting First Nations communities in care and ownership of their traditional lands"

Laurent Saffre, CEO — Klorane Australia



The Travel Corporation & TreadRight Foundation

"We're a global travel business operating in all parts of the globe. More than that, however, is the fact that critical wildlife areas know no border, and so nor do we when searching for strong, impactful projects in support of nature and biodiversity. Several of our travel brands, Contiki, AAT Kings and Adventure World, have passionate teams based in Australia with long histories of doing business there, and so it all came together to be a wonderful fit. Our commitment to reaching net zero as a group means that alongside our focus on decarbonization, we must prioritize and support solutions that work with nature's own technologies to mitigate climate change. We are so proud to be able to support the restoration of the Daintree Rainforest and its wildlife corridors through Rainforest Rescue's efforts."

Shannon Guihan, Chief Sustainability Officer and Head — The TreadRight Foundation at The Travel Corporation (TTC)



TreadRight.org



FAMILY OWNED • FAMILY RUN
DRIVEN BY SERVICE
TTC.COM



Scratch

"We sleep so much better at night knowing that we have partners like Rainforest Rescue doing so much amazing work to protect our rainforest and planet. Our customers continue to be inspired by the difference you're making and thank us for donating to your work."

Mike Halligan, Co-Founder — Scratch



WIRES

"As a long term supporter of Rainforest Rescue, and founder and Life Member of WIRES, I'm delighted that Rainforest Rescue was the recipient of The Mikla Lewis OAM Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Grant for 2023 from WIRES.

The grant project - Restoring and Rebuilding Bat Rainforest Habitat and Population – is particularly poignant, as it was a baby Grey-headed Flying-fox that was indirectly responsible for the formation of WIRES! Without habitat protection, restoration and enhancement, these important native animals so vital to rainforest health, cannot survive. The inclusion of local community awareness and education programs in the project is essential for the ongoing protection of flying-foxes.

Along with over forty other sites rescued and protected forever by Rainforest Rescue, the restoration of bat habitat on Nightwings reinforces the Daintree's reputation as being of international conservation importance and the only rainforest in the world that is growing in size, due to Rainforest Rescue.

I'm so proud to have been able to lend my name to this project and to continue to support the amazing work of Rainforest Rescue."

Mikla Lewis - Mikla Lewis OAM, Founder



foundations of impact

WE ALSO WANT to put a spotlight on some amazing things that our Foundations Partners have supported us with in 2024, including:

- The excavation and building of a wetland at NightWings!
- Improving our data collection and tech solutions
- Analysing our soil on restored rainforest sites
- Monitoring presence of bats and cassowaries
- Native nursery operation and education tours
- And of course, plant more trees!!

James N. Kirby Foundation



"The Kirby Foundation have a long and happy association with Rainforest Rescue and its always a delight to hear their progress on the tree planting projects we are supportin~"

James Kirby, Director
James N. Kirby Foundation



Morris Family Foundation



"The team at Rainforest Rescue is truly exceptional. Their dedication, passion, and optimism are absolutely inspiring, and it's a privilege to support their critical work conserving the biodiversity of Far North Queensland's rainforests. We are incredibly proud of the tangible impact they've achieved in recent years and look forward to seeing their continued success."

Hayley Morris, Executive Director



North Queensland Wildlife Trust

"We are absolutely delighted to continue and grow and support Rainforest Rescue with the wonderful work their team is doing in our region."

Angela Freeman, Director



The Bowden Marstan Foundation

Thomas Seddon, Director



And deepest gratitude to our other Foundations Partners:

- Australian Wildlife Society
- Community Impact Foundation
- One Tree Planted
- Perpetual Foundation
- Plant-For-The-Planet
- Smartgroup Foundation
- Wild Country Environmental Fund



together we're planting for a better tomorrow

Annual Community Tree Planting at NightWings Rainforest Centre

Thanks to our supporters, Rainforest Rescue has protected and restored rainforest habitat for over 25 years.

Now it's time to come together again, for our Annual Community Tree Planting at NightWings Rainforest Centre. As a caring community we'll complete the restoration of this wonderful refuge for nature in the Lower Daintree.

Join us on Saturday 17th May 2025 for our final planting at NightWings. We can't wait to see you there!

For more info and to register for free: rainforestrescue.org.au/2025-planting/

Above: Community Tree Planting at NightWings Rainforest Centre.

junior ambassador



Say hello to Daisy, our incredible Junior Ambassador! If you've joined us at one of our events, you've likely had the pleasure of meeting Daisy already.

■ ■ ■ BUT, FOR THOSE who haven't, we're thrilled to formally introduce this bright, inspiring young advocate for our natural world - our very own Junior Ambassador!

Daisy is 11 years old, and her love for nature and commitment to protecting our planet is truly remarkable. Whether it's planting trees or raising awareness about Rainforest Rescue's vital work, Daisy is always there, eager to lend a hand. She's especially passionate about teaching other kids the importance of trees, wildlife, and the environment.

Daisy began volunteering with us in 2022, and since then, she's become an integral part of the Rainforest Rescue family. From helping at events and being our most enthusiastic t-shirt salesperson, to spreading the word about our work and raising awareness amongst her peers, Daisy's energy and dedication light up every room she enters.

Q: What made you want to be an ambassador for Rainforest Rescue?

A: I wanted to be an ambassador for Rainforest Rescue because it gives me opportunities to get to know people who share my interest in nature, to help grow our Daintree Rainforest, and to be a part of a protective rainforest group.

Q: What is your favourite part about being an ambassador?

A: My favourite part of being an ambassador is getting to hear everyone's stories about the Daintree and getting to see really cool animals like cassowaries and crocodiles.

Q: What is the most challenging part of being an ambassador?

A: The most challenging part of being an ambassador is hearing how people want to cut trees down and hearing that some people would rather have houses and farms instead of our sacred land.

Q: What's your favourite memory of being an ambassador so far?

A: My favourite memory so far is being nominated for a Cassowary Award for my volunteer work with Rainforest Rescue. I was a bit nervous about attending my first awards ceremony, but I had a great time. It was really cool to meet the other nominees and to see Tyler, a fellow Rainforest Rescue volunteer, win the Young Cassowary Award.

Q: What is your favourite Daintree animal and why?

A: My favourite Daintree animal is the Australian Scrub Python (*Simalia kinghorni*) which is sometimes called the Amethystine Python. I think they are really cool, and they have really pretty scales that look purplish in the sunlight. Plus, they are the largest native snake in Australia!

Q: What is your favourite Daintree plant and why?

A: My favourite Daintree plant is the Idiot Fruit (*Idiospermum australiense*) because it is one of the rarest and most primitive flowering plants in the world. It is only found in the Daintree Rainforest and was rediscovered in the 1970's. I love it because it's the coolest plant ever.

Keep up the amazing work, Daisy! Your passion is lighting the way for so many #NextGenRainforestRescuers—young conservation heroes who are fundraising, planting trees, creating documentaries, spreading awareness, and driving change in so many unique and inspiring ways. Your dedication is truly making a difference, and we're so grateful to have you as a Junior Ambassador.

If you know a #NextGenRainforestRescuer who's making an impact and deserves to be celebrated, we'd love to hear from you! Drop us a line at info@rainforestrescue.org.au. Together, we're creating a brighter, greener future!

MaryBeth Harrison
HQ & Social Media Manager



#NextGen RainforestRescuers

Our Junior Ambassador isn't the only young person with a passion for Australia's tropical rainforests. Check out Tyler and Nikita's big year with Rainforest Rescue...

Tyler – No stranger to getting his hands dirty for the rainforests, Tyler has been attending our tree plantings since 2015. This year the young teen was deservedly recognised for his commitment to Wet Tropics conservation and restoration with a WTMA Young Cassowary Award!

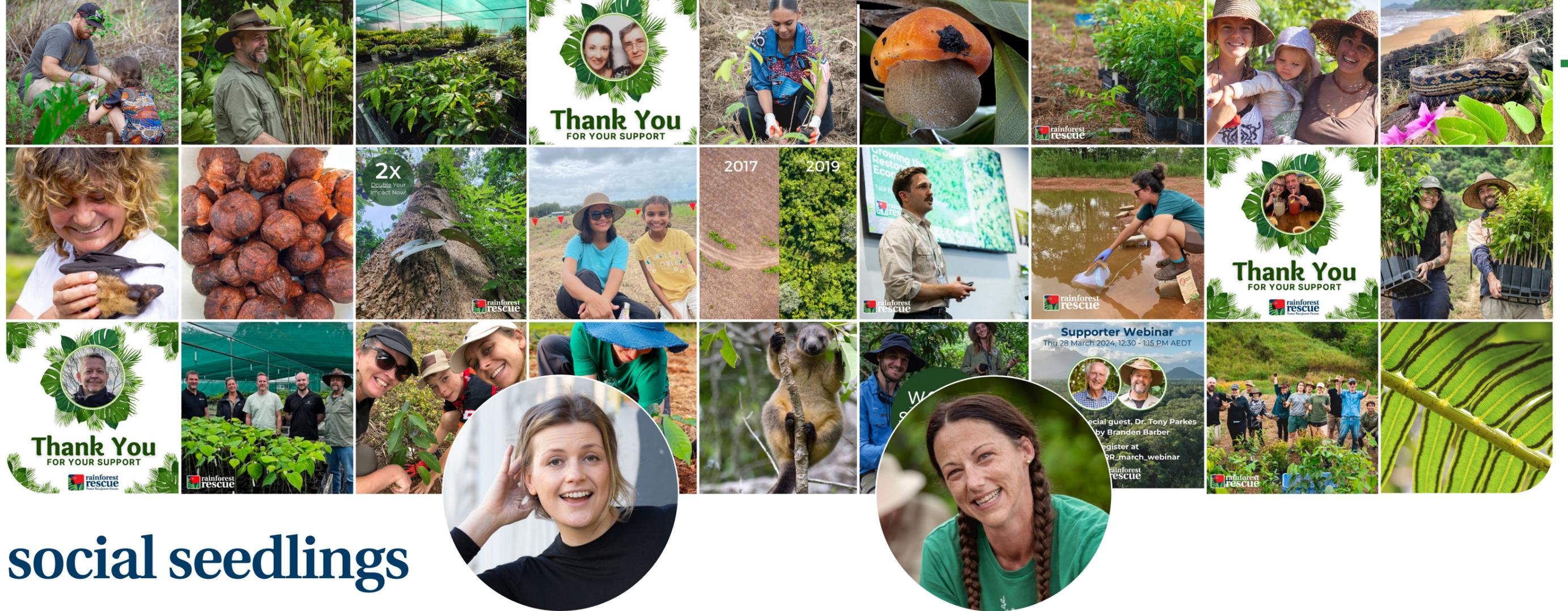
On receiving the award, a surprised Tyler said: *"Thank you for the recognition of my involvement in rescuing the Daintree – I love where I live and hope more kids get involved in caring for the environment or engaged in our community."*

Well done Tyler, we think your dedication to the Daintree is amazing!

Nikita – Another familiar face from our tree planting days, Nikita has brought the rainforest to her schoolmates!

As part of the global Round Square environmental stewardship commitment, Nikita organised a tree planting with Rainforest Rescue to restore part of her school grounds into a 'mini wildlife corridor'. The idea was so successful that it caught the attention of the media, who shared Nikita's story on the evening TV news.

In her words, *"We can just have fun planting trees together. I like animals and I like caring for them."* So true, Nikita! Let's enjoy and nurture our love for nature as a community.



social seedlings

Rainforest Rescue's social media engagement shows us how much our work is needed in the region (and the world!).

AND IT'S WITH the help of the social media technology we employ that we get to unite like-minded warriors who care about nature conservation and want to act. As we nurture and inform the community, we learn from them; together we organise and make a difference.

As a social media strategist, I love working with passionate communities; supporting meaningful organisations and playing a small part in the change I want to see. And one of my favourite parts of what we do on social media right now is education - sharing informative and entertaining posts that help people exercise curiosity and learn more about the wonders of the Daintree.

Our work is often a beginning of someone's investigation. When people care deeply, they want to act; and we are here to help support their activism and feed their curiosity.

Anna Kochetkova
Social Media Strategist

932,610
reached

418.8
sq meters of
rainforest rescued via
#ForestFundraisers

561
hrs of watch time
on YouTube

We truly cherish the opportunity that social media gives us to connect directly with people like you, our global community of Rainforest Rescuers.

YOUR SUPPORT is vital to the success of our conservation and restoration efforts, and through these social platforms we can keep you updated and united in our mission.

In 2024, 16 dedicated supporters ran #ForestFundraisers on Facebook, raising a total of \$1,519.74. This amazing contribution has helped protect 303.95 square meters of rainforest and enabled the planting of 151 native trees in the breathtaking Daintree. These results are a direct reflection of your commitment and passion — and we couldn't do it without you.

We love hearing from our community and value your feedback. Whether you've been with us for years or are new to our journey, we want to know what you'd like to see more of in your social media feed. Please feel free to share your ideas with us at info@rainforestrescue.org.au or send us a direct message via Messenger.

MaryBeth Harrison
HQ & Social Media Manager





keeping on-track

A significant milestone this year was the acceptance of NightWings into the Open Forest Protocol (OFP), an international standard that allows us to track our restoration through monitoring and verification processes.

■ ■ ■ JOINING THE OFP not only reinforces the transparency and credibility of our work but also elevates the NightWings project to a global platform.

This is a huge win for Rainforest Rescue as we take our first steps into the carbon market, where the role of rainforest restoration in a 'green economy' is both promising and exciting. We are currently in the monitoring phase of this project, which requires tagging trees and measuring critical growth metrics to track biomass accumulation over time.

Beyond trees and tape measures, we are also tracking biodiversity with ultrasonic and acoustic monitors thanks to support from WIRES. We began recording the activity of bats at NightWings this year, with advice from bat call expert Simon Robson, Adjunct Professor at CQ University. This monitoring will help us understand how bats, including the endangered spectacled flying-fox, are using our restored rainforest habitat.

With another year of soil sampling completed alongside JCU, and with support from One Tree Planted and the Garry White Foundation, we're excited to see how soil properties at NightWings, such as pH, carbon, nitrogen, cation exchange capacity and more will change over time. This project, now in its second year, will give us deeper insight into the often unseen, yet critical impacts of revegetation on soil health and ecosystem resilience.

Sigrid Wilkens
Conservation Land Labourer & Partnership Support

Top, left: Land Management Team grinding dried soil samples ready for compositing and lab testing
Below left: Bat monitors in situ at NightWings
Top right: Soil sampling at restoration sites to gauge changes in soil chemical and mineral composition



Viewing NightWings Rainforest Centre from above shows our vision of habitat reconnection between the remnant forest of the Dagmar Range in the foreground; descending to the restored forest areas in the lower half of the landscape; before meeting with the remnant lowland forest and mangroves that feed into the Daintree River in the distance. Stages of restoration are clearly visible, the final cleared areas of former cane fields are being planted in 2025.

restoration underfoot

■ ■ ■ DR. ALEX CHEESMAN, Rainforest Rescue's Tropical Plant Ecophysiological and Restoration Advisor, considers how 25 years can transform the soils in a former cane field or cattle paddock into the foundation for a self-sustaining rainforest. "The quality of soil directly influences the entire ecosystem's resilience and success," Dr. Cheesman says.

But what exactly happens below ground over a quarter of a century? Soils that were compacted by heavy machinery or animal traffic can begin to regain their structure, nutrients and organic matter that were once removed by harvesting or swept downstream by soil erosion can be held in place, and microorganisms return, creating an environment where new trees can take root and thrive.

Factors Influencing Rainforest Restoration Success

The journey from degraded land to rainforest is guided by numerous factors, from initial soil structure, pH (soil acidity), and organic matter content to the presence of particular mycorrhizal fungi and invertebrates. Sites which have been used for agriculture for 50+ years may have no native seedbank, and lack the symbiotic fungi that trees need to thrive. Heavily tilled sites like sugarcane paddocks may lack the invertebrate and microbial community needed to effectively cycle organic matter back into the soils. Whilst sloped areas that have undergone heavy grazing may have seen nutrients lost downstream to erosion.

Rainforest Rescue's methods, which include carefully selecting native plant species to suit specific soils, and introducing organic native soil during planting, aim to recreate conditions that foster soil health. For example, some species of rainforest tree like *Cardwellia sublimis* (Proteaceae) form 'cluster roots' fine root hairs specially adapted to extract phosphorus from low fertility heavily weathered soils, while the inclusion of native forest soils at planting provides saplings an inoculation of critical mycorrhizal fungi. As the plants grow, site management may be needed to control weeds, but efforts are made to leave fallen branches and woody debris in place, providing critical habitat and ecosystem complexity. This 'bottom-up' approach speeds up natural processes of restoration, helping soil regain the complex structure found in old-growth rainforests.



While it's hard to fully replicate the intricate make-up of ancient rainforest soil from day one, restoration efforts can set the stage. By encouraging the right conditions, soil can begin regenerating sooner. Over time, we observe a shift from hard, compacted earth towards richer soils, teeming with life—an encouraging signal that the land is moving closer to its natural state. Over a span of 25 years, certain milestones mark a restoring rainforest's progress.

Soil's Role in a Sustainable Future

Looking forward, as Australia commits to Net Zero goals, soil has a powerful role to play. Healthy rainforest soils store significant amounts of carbon, keeping it out of the atmosphere while supporting biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

To advance our understanding of how forest regeneration sequesters CO₂ from the atmosphere, Rainforest Rescue is collaborating with researchers like Fred Holden and Prof. Paul Nelson at James Cook University, to study changes in carbon and other important nutrient levels within topsoils of former sugarcane paddocks transitioning to rainforests. This research will not only help quantify carbon sequestration into these soils but also help guide more effective restoration techniques.

Currently there is a gap in research to determine how quickly and successfully degraded rainforest soils can recover to a state akin to their 'original' form. So, these studies are supporting the enrichment of this area of knowledge, where history has shown it is easy to destroy but much harder to restore.



regenerative tourism

Just over a decade ago, I arrived in Far North Queensland with no knowledge of the Daintree Rainforest. In fact, I didn't even know what a Cassowary was!

“I came for the Reef and stayed for the Rainforest.”

■ ■ ■ AS LUCK would have it, my first Rainforest Rescue tree planting in 2014 also happened to be the completion of restoration work at Kurrnji Bub (formerly Lot 46). While we huddled together for a group picture, an astounding thing happened. An adult male Southern Cassowary and his chicks wandered out of the forest and made their way through the crowd!

I remember thinking ‘Wow, so this is what we’re replanting for, I can’t believe it’s working already!’

To this day, I’ll never forget the satisfaction of that moment.

From there I trained as a tour guide and would spend days and nights determinedly looking for anything and everything that moved in the canopy, on the forest floor and anywhere in between. I was hooked. New (to me) discoveries were a reason to go back to the rainforest for more and more... And I noticed that my enthusiasm would spread to the group I was leading too. Sometimes tour participants would time it right and be able to join a tree planting as well.

Fast forward a decade and I haven’t missed a Daintree tree planting since! I get to go back year after year and watch ‘my babies’ grow. I can witness the emergence of new shoots under the trees that are now beginning to mature, the slow growth of termite colonies and find tiny epiphytes and ferns appearing in places that were once exposed land.

I love the backdrop of the pristine mountain forests on the horizon and the chitter chatter of friends and the community around us as we plant. I can see the success of our projects, right in front of me.

Sharing my rainforest enthusiasm

I have now spent almost a decade helping to create unforgettable moments for visitors to the region, helping to appreciate this special place from a tourism, cultural and ecological perspective. While I originally came to the region to experience the Great Barrier Reef, the ancient majesty of the Daintree is what I’ve stayed for.

My passion for the Daintree has inspired the interest of people (including friends and family) who’d have never thought a day out experiencing the Australian rainforest could be enjoyable! Which might be surprising to hear, but there are lots of visitors to the region who don’t have an immediate connection with nature, yet...

In contrast, many visitors come to the Wet Tropics for a ‘wilderness experience’ – tackling challenging hikes and uncovering hidden waterfalls. Taking the untrodden path, capturing the Instagramable shots.

But at what cost? There’s a reason for the boardwalks and marked paths – it’s to protect the rainforest and to keep people safe.

Which puts me in a quandary.

How can we encourage people to feel the same deep connection that I have with the Daintree, if they can’t get to it? How will they understand that this is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth, if they aren’t able to witness that diversity firsthand? But then, how do we protect the ancient wilderness if it’s full of tour buses and covered in footprints?

Finding a balance – regenerative tourism

For the last couple of years, since tourism routes reopened after Covid 19 restrictions eased, I’ve found that I’m having a different kind of conversation with visitors to the Daintree.

It still surprises me that many people know little of the significance of this rainforest or aren’t concerned about species conservation – despite extensive media coverage of the impact of climate change and habitat loss. However, I have spotted a trend. People are beginning to express a desire to give back to the places and communities they visit.

A really powerful action that people can take is to chip in with some ‘Citizen Science’. Keeping a list of the flora and fauna seen, and where they were spotted, is important for gauging trends in species populations. While Rainforest Rescue has camera traps amongst their Nature Refuges, the additional data from visitors to the Daintree is invaluable. The disappearance of a species from near to a particular boardwalk could signify a change in conditions. I’ve already noticed fluctuations in what I see in the time I’ve lived near to the rainforest.

For me, this is where I think we can find a balance, of ‘seeing the Daintree’ – so that people feel like they got to connect with the rainforest, perhaps viewing a Cassowary or an extremely rare glimpse of a Bennett’s Tree Kangaroo– and contributing to the region. The different ways in which they could do so are starting to trickle through, and it’s not just about planting trees (although I’ll always let them know when they can!).

Perhaps it’s time to append the famous quote, ‘Take only memories, leave only footprints’ to include ‘plant a legacy and share your sightings list’?

Emily Silverstone
Daintree Supporters Coordinator



Ian ‘Sauce’ Worcester

Martin Stringer

the financials

RAINFOREST RESCUE ended the 2023/2024 financial year in a solid position, achieving an operating surplus of \$390k despite the challenging economic and fundraising environments. We completed the construction of the new nursery at Cow Bay and this was the first full financial year that the nursery was in operation. This has increased our operating expenses and decreased our surplus as we ramp up restoration and tree sales. The operating surplus has allowed us to invest in vital programs while maintaining robust liquidity, ensuring we can expand our impact during the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Revenue increased by 7.3% to \$2.16M, a commendable outcome given the uncertainty in fundraising. Most revenue was derived from donations, property rescue appeals, and partnerships with businesses and sponsors.

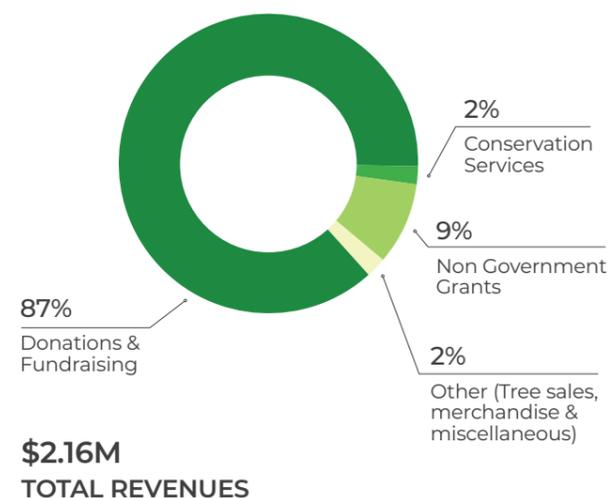
Expenses rose by \$513k compared to 2023, largely due to the finalisation of construction and operation of the 150,000-capacity restoration nursery in

the Daintree, along with the growth of our land management and restoration team. These efforts are creating sustainable local jobs while enabling us to restore habitats, boost biodiversity, and sequester carbon.

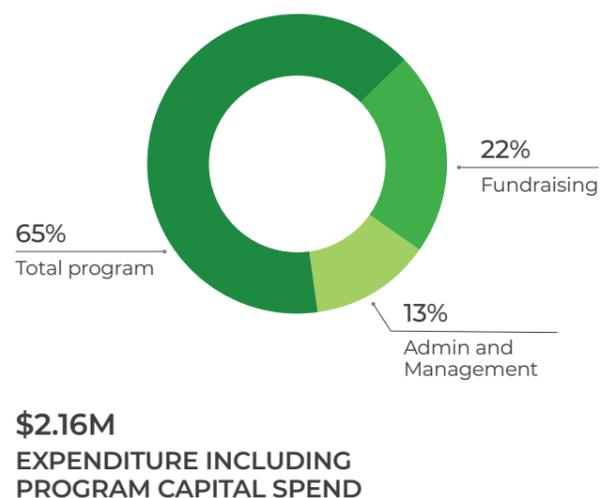
Total assets increased by \$464k, reaching \$6.5M, driven by acquiring biodiverse properties, constructing our flagship nursery, and building nursery inventory, including vibrant seedlings and the purchase of a new ute for the land management team. Liabilities saw only a slight increase to \$410k, with no new debt. This strong balance sheet reflects higher retained earnings and positions us for sustained growth. We are well positioned to increase our impact.

Tate Brammer
General Manager Finance & Operations

REVENUE



EXPENDITURE (incl. Program Capital)



FINANCIAL RESULTS

(for year ended 30 June 2024)

| INCOME | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income from fundraising, donations and grants | \$2,085,526 | \$1,925,732 |
| Income from Conservation services and other | \$76,503 | \$88,713 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$2,162,029 | \$2,014,445 |

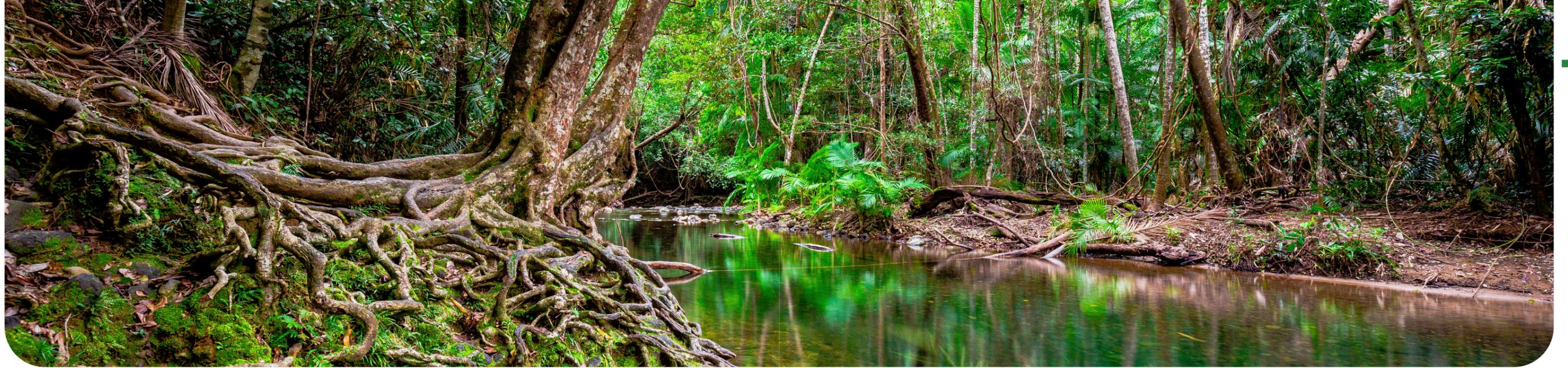
| EXPENSES | 2024 | 2023 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Employee expenses | \$929,103 | \$739,941 |
| Fundraising | \$115,696 | \$86,541 |
| Program excluding employee expenses | \$346,979 | \$100,623 |
| Admin, Management & Finance | \$262,104 | \$235,895 |
| Depreciation & Amortisation | \$105,642 | \$68,911 |
| Audit, Legal & Recruitment | \$12,781 | \$27,480 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$1,772,305 | \$1,259,391 |

| NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR | 2024 | 2023 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | \$389,724 | \$755,054 |

FINANCIAL POSITION

(for year ended 30 June 2024)

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$6,533,779 | \$6,069,761 |
| LESS: TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$410,841 | \$336,547 |
| NET ASSETS | \$6,122,938 | \$5,733,214 |
| CASH RESERVES | \$1,012,259 | \$1,346,409 |



the board



Branden Barber
(BA, MFIA) | Director, CEO

Branden Barber is a lifelong environmentalist. With a degree in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz, he cut his teeth with Greenpeace International on the Rainbow Warrior and MV Greenpeace, and then ran the Victorian State Office for Greenpeace Australia in the 1990s.

Over the last 25 years he has worked in both the social profit and for-profit sectors, from start-ups to S&P 500 companies to NGO's, large and small. In the last decade, Branden has been involved with various environmental organisations as staff or as a consultant, served on the Leadership Teams at both Rainforest Action Network and Amazon Watch, and has sat on several boards – always with a focus on the environment. He's passionate about rainforests, is ardently committed to the natural world, stands for environmental justice and the rights of indigenous peoples for sovereignty and self-determination, and brings a wealth and breadth of experience to Rainforest Rescue as our CEO.



Tate Brammer | Secretary,
GM Finance & Operations

Tate is a passionate, inquisitive and driven leader who cares deeply about nature and the environment.

Prior to working with Rainforest Rescue Tate was Head of Operations in the food security, health and education sectors in Australia. Tate also worked in the water, wastewater and waste to energy sectors for 15 years managing the delivery and operation of complex infrastructure projects. He is determined to succeed in all situations and is extremely adaptable.

With the world's growing population and the heavy impacts of consumption and industrialisation on our environment Tate's goal is to be an integral part of solutions to protect and enhance the environment for all future generations. He is passionate about the optimisation and transformation of businesses to eliminate waste, increase efficiencies and reduce resource inputs. Environmental, financial and societal sustainability are his drivers. Tate is a qualified engineer and holds a Master of Business Administration from The University of Sydney. Tate joined the team in April 2023.



Revel Pointon | Director

Working as an environmental lawyer for over 10 years assisting, partnering with, and volunteering on the boards of myriad conservation

and science-focused not-for-profits, Revel is a passionate advocate for environmental protection, and is dedicated to helping Rainforest Rescue thrive in its purpose of protecting and growing our precious rainforest areas. Supporting First Nations justice is also a key driver for Revel, which she brings to her role on the Board.

Revel has a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Environmental Management from the University of Queensland, a Masters in Culture and Development Studies from KU Leuven, Belgium, and a Graduate Certificate in Policy and Governance from the Queensland University of Technology. Revel also has a keen interest in education, working as a sustainability educator in Mexico, and tutoring and lecturing in various areas of law. Revel was the recipient of the 2017-2018 Mahla Pearlman Australian Young Environmental Lawyer of the Year award.



Karl Tischler | Director

Karl is an experienced designer, storyteller, and presenter.

He is also the Founder and Managing Director of Marlin Communications—Australia's largest agency serving the for-purpose sector—and the instigator of the company's focus on ethical and sustainable business practices.

Karl is a passionate activist and alumni of the Australian Progress Fellowship, and he believes that organisations like Rainforest Rescue—and the for-purpose sector more generally—warrant and deserve the best of his efforts. His sole purpose is to ensure that his agency delivers the most effective creative to the most deserving sector, and it is this combination of enthusiasm, dedication and resolve that he wishes to bring to Rainforest Rescue.



Rachel White
B (Bus), Ca | Chair

As a recognised CFO working in solar and hydrogen technology deployment & executive leader in the commercial

sector, Rachel brings a combination of strategic thinking, relationship building, financial stewardship, leadership, and operational effectiveness to Rainforest Rescue, built on a solid foundation of governance skills & ethos. Rachel is passionate about rainforest preservation and is excited to be applying skills acquired in the commercial sector to the preservation of the Daintree.

Martin Stringer

advisors & ambassadors

Advisors:



Dr Alex Cheesman
Tropical Plant Ecophysiological
and Restoration Advisor

Dr Alex Cheesman (Alex) is a scientist interested in the impacts climate change is having on tropical landscapes. Passionate about the tropics since a young age (having been raised on a healthy diet of Attenborough documentaries) Alex has had the opportunity to work in Panama with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, and more recently here in Australia with James Cook University.

As an active research-scientist he is interested in how science can help inform better restoration practice and help secure meaningful outcomes.



Mark Dunphy
Nursery Advisor

Mark Dunphy has worked in rainforest restoration for 35 years. He has worked as a rainforest regenerator, ecological restoration consultant and nursery owner of Firewheel Rainforest Nursery on the North Coast of NSW. He has worked on over 100 projects and grown over 1 million trees.

A regular presenter at rainforest restoration field days, workshops and conferences, Mark's work has appeared in the Australasian Journal of Ecological Management and in the book *"Subtropical Rainforest Restoration: A Practical Manual and Data Source for Landcare Groups, Land Managers and Rainforest Regenerators"*. Mark was also one of the authors of *"Australian Rainforest Seeds: A Guide to Collecting, Processing and Propagation"* along with Steve McAlpin, Paul Nelson, Michelle Chapman and Hugh Nicholson.



Allen Sheather
Daintree Ecological Advisor

A long-time champion for the Daintree, Allen Sheather has been involved in the fight to protect rainforest for many years, including setting up the Daintree Community Nursery and being involved in a range of conservation projects and organisations. He has lived in the area since the early '90s and has honed his botanical knowledge of the local rainforest over this time. Allen's ecological knowledge is vital to Rainforest Rescue's identification of vulnerable rainforest to protect and help with our Plant a Rainforest program.

Ambassadors:



Jasmine Carey
Photographer and Rainforest
Rescue Ambassador

Jasmine Carey is an acclaimed underwater photographer whose intimate images reflect her deep connection to the ocean. As a guide and photographer for Whales Underwater and Foto Frenzy, she shares her passion through both her lens and educational endeavors. Her work has been featured in exhibitions such as the 2017 Oztek Photo Exhibition and the 2019-2020 Loud and Luminous project. In June 2020, Jasmine became the first woman to win the Hamdan International Photography Grand Prize with her image of a humpback whale and its calf off Tonga. As a Rainforest Rescue Ambassador, she emphasizes the interconnectedness of ecosystems, noting that restored forests naturally filter water flowing into the Great Barrier Reef. Jasmine's Ocean Day pledge in 2020 was an open letter honoring the ocean and advocating for initiatives like tree planting to benefit marine environments.



Liana Cornell
Actor, Director, Writer,
Presenter, Executive Producer,
Reiki Master, Musician and
Rainforest Rescue Ambassador

Liana Cornell, born in Mullumbimby, Australia, is an actor, director, writer, and environmentalist. She studied Fine Arts and Media at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts and has produced documentaries, including the "Refugia Series," where she served as director, writer, presenter, and executive producer. Liana also led the environmental initiative Save Our Skins, focusing on ecological news and endangered species. She is best known for her role as Ania in Sky's TV series "Britannia." Beyond her artistic pursuits, Liana is a Reiki Master, musician, and writer, dedicated to planetary healing and empowering women. She believes in nurturing the best versions of ourselves and the transformative power of good. Faery is Liana's musical endeavour and her new album bangs. You can find it on Spotify and insta...



Darren Jew
Canon Master Photographer,
Author, Publisher, 6 X Winner Of
The AIPP Aus. Science, Env. and
Nature Photographer Of The Year Award, and
Rainforest Rescue Ambassador

Darren Jew is an acclaimed nature photographer with over 30 years of experience capturing the planet's landscapes and wildlife, from Antarctica to Zambia. A certified scuba diver since age 14, his passion for the ocean is evident in his award-winning underwater photography. After studying at the Queensland College of Art, Darren worked with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for eight years, honing his skills in natural settings. His work is widely published in books and magazines, and he leads photography tours to some of the world's most remarkable destinations. Darren has been recognized as Australian Professional Nature Photographer of the Year six times and was named a 'Canon Master' in 2007. He is also featured in the Netflix series "Tales by Light," which showcases his unique photographic vision.

Social Ambassador:



Roxanne Cambridge
Lifestyle Social Media Influencer,
Silver Winner For Roar's
"Most Powerful Influencer",
and Rainforest Rescue Ambassador

Roxanne Cambridge is a lifestyle influencer focusing on sustainable fashion and mindful motherhood. As a mother of four, she encourages environmentally conscious decisions and kindness. Roxanne has collaborated with brands like Esmi Skin Minerals, Fry's Family, Bohemian Traders, and Hello Fresh. Notable achievements include being a panelist for the Australian Non-Toxic Awards, guest speaker on the "Inside Out with Kris" podcast, and receiving the Silver Award for Roar's "Most Powerful Influencer." As a Rainforest Rescue Ambassador, she inspires her audience to be mindful consumers and advocates for a better world.

what about the next 25 years?

Earlier in the year we asked our supporters for their perspectives on how rainforests will fare over the next 25 years. Here we share some of your views and predictions for what lies ahead:

"If Rainforest Rescue continues its activities with the same engagement and energy, I am very optimistic."

"I fear for Australia's remnant rainforests... I fear more intact areas will be cleared, more remaining habitat will be lost or disconnected from one another."

"Given the current trajectory it can be difficult to believe that we can turn around the devastation we have visited on the world's forests and other ecosystems. I think what is necessary though is some hope and hard work and a little imagination. Most important is for individuals to understand how they can positively impact their natural surroundings."

"I am really hoping that ANY Australian government will have enough foresight to understand the problems that we, as Australians, are causing... environmental damage to not only northern Australia, but almost countrywide."

"Currently I am not optimistic... However, I support Rainforest Rescue and am growing a small rainforest because I know that if there is a massive change toward a more sustainable future then what I do will be a really important part of that change."

"It is too late... I feel that the dual pressures of the climate crisis and the deforestation crisis means that in 25 years time there will be no rainforest left."

"I would hope that Australia has tightened its nature laws to do everything to stop things like deforestation, pollution etc."

This page & back cover image: Martin Stringer



A special thank you to our creative partners:



Marlin Communications, for their incredible support and ongoing creative collaboration.



And to Marylouise Brammer, for the beautiful design of our 2024 Annual Report.

The team heads out to continue restoring the defunct Cow Bay Airstrip, healing a scar within the lowland Daintree Rainforest.



**rainforest
rescue**

#TreesAreTheAnswer