



**rainforest
rescue**
Protect Rainforests Forever



annual report 2025



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

the rainforest is a place of healing

“I've been working with Annie and Rainforest Rescue for the last ten years. I'm planting trees for my grandchildren. Hopefully one day they can run around inside this forest.”



Bennett Walker, Eastern Kuku Yalanji Elder.

Speaking at the final tree planting at NightWings Rainforest Centre, Wonga.

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About the Boyd's Forest Dragon on our cover

Known as Jalbil in Yalanji language, Boyd's Forest Dragon (*Lophosaurus boydii*) are endemic to the Queensland Wet Tropics. While well camouflaged, these crested lizards are regularly sighted by Rainforest Rescue's land team in protected rainforest habitat.

Allen Sheather

Cover image: Joséphine Warnet

about us

Rainforest Rescue is a not-for-profit organisation that has been protecting and restoring rainforests since 1999. We are committed to providing opportunities for individuals, communities and businesses to support and collaborate with us in achieving our vision.

Our Vision

To Protect Rainforests Forever.

Our Strategic Mission

Rainforest Rescue operates as a 'vertically integrated' restoration supply chain. Our work 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;
- **Rescue** of high conservation value land to protect threatened native rainforest and its 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



chair report

Where did the last 3 years go?

■ ■ ■ SINCE I TOOK the position of Chair of Rainforest Rescue in 2023 it has been an honour and privilege to serve you, our supporters, as our organisation continues to grow in ambition and fulfilment. While I am remaining on the Board, I am also delighted to hand over the baton to Karl Tischler who has deep passion and experience in equal measure. I look forward to seeing what emerges as he capably steers us in into the future.

On that point, it is always healthy to reflect on where you've come from, even as you cast an eye ahead. In 2025, Rainforest Rescue concluded the celebrations of our 25th year with active contributions from you, our valued supporter community, our volunteers, our amazing team and many others. It's been quite a journey over a quarter of a century and the next 25 years promises to be just as significant in scope.

Our highlight of the last 12 months is the launch of our strategic project concerning the Daintree Oxbow floodplain and the 'seeds were planted', if you will allow me, for an extensive, multi-year opportunity to protect and restore a vital area of Lower Daintree land, in a prime location for wetland forest, mangrove and riparian habitat. One you will hear much more about as we progress this amazing programme of work.

I am incredibly proud of the organisation and what we achieved in 2025, including, managing the most productive nursery in the region; ensuring that supporter funds are effectively used in a challenging economic climate, especially when caring for nearly

50 rainforest properties against the risk of invasive species; all while working through the complex decisions and processes to realise our most ambitious project to date.

I also want to express my appreciation for the team on the ground, so ably led by Branden Barber, our CEO and Tate Brammer, our GM Finance & Operations. The dedication of our skilled team in the Daintree is readily apparent as restoration work began at 110 Cape Tribulation Road. I know they are equally encouraged by the strong levels of positive support from many peers within the ecological community and further afield, all in favour of our Development Application for the extensive Daintree Oxbow proposal.

Rainforest Rescue has played a substantial role in creating positive ecological, community and social outcomes in the Daintree region since 1999. We understand the challenge going forward is significant, yet we are confident in our level of rigour and strategic action to make a meaningful difference. Our outlook is bolstered by collaboration with trustworthy long-term partners, contributing to Australia's critical climate and biodiversity targets in coming years.

I thank everyone again for your support in making Rainforest Rescue what it is and what we will achieve in future. We could not do what we do without the generosity of our members and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to you all.

Rachel White
Rainforest Rescue Chair



ceo report

2025 – A Year of Progress for Nature and Rainforest Rescue.

DEAR RAINFOREST RESCUERS, 2025 marked a turning point — not just for Rainforest Rescue, but for the broader movement to protect, restore, and regenerate Australia’s rainforests.

This was a year defined by acceleration: restoration efforts, community momentum, and a shifting landscape — both literally and economically — in the Daintree and beyond. As new national frameworks like the Nature Repair Market emerged, and as traditional industries give way to greener opportunities, Rainforest Rescue stands ready, rooted in place and purpose.

Thanks to your commitment, our shared vision continues to flourish.

This year:

- **We secured the 110 Cape Tribulation Road “Gateway” site** — setting the stage for large-scale restoration, visitor engagement, and community education over the next decade at the southern approach to the Daintree Rainforest.
- **We added the large and ecologically intact Degarra property to our Protection Portfolio**, strengthening the wildlife corridor north of Cape Tribulation.
- **At our Cow Bay Native Nursery, we grew over 59,000 trees in 2024** and increased that number by 34% this year — getting closer to our goal of producing 150,000 trees annually. A beautiful

biodiversity mural, gifted by partners The Scenic Route and The TreadRight Foundation, now graces our soil area, reflecting the life we’re nurturing.

- **Our Restoration Team planted nearly 40,000 trees** — up from 38,000 the previous year — with more to come. As we protect and restore more land, our reforestation efforts scale with it.
- **We celebrated the 10th and final annual community planting at NightWings Rainforest Centre:** 183 volunteers planted 3,300 trees in just 25 minutes, closing a decade of grassroots action and opening a new chapter.
- **We joined the Steering Group of the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance**, helping to shape restoration policy across the region alongside 40+ committed organisations.
- **We launched the Daintree Oxbow Project** — a bold, long-term initiative to transform hundreds of hectares of flood-prone farmland into thriving ecosystems. With DA approval, GQAL assessment, and over 40 letters of support, this monumental project is poised to deliver jobs, carbon sequestration, tourism, and ecological renewal.
- **We presented at Australian Land Conservation Alliance 2025**, sharing the stage with Traditional Owners and landholders, to strengthen our ecological networks nationwide.

Major regional shifts are underway. The closure of Mossman’s sugarcane mill and cancellation of cane-truck freight are signs of change. Several farmers

Martin Stringer



are now exploring restoration partnerships with us. Two have even submitted formal letters of support for our development application — a clear indication of growing local alignment.

Nationally, the launch of the Nature Repair Market — the world’s first voluntary biodiversity market — is a significant step. It rewards land managers for real, verifiable restoration outcomes. Our work is directly aligned with this shift and with the global call of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

In 2026 and beyond, we will deepen our efforts. Large-scale planting continues at the Gateway site. The Oxbow will begin to come to life again. Community engagement and First Nations partnership will grow. And we will continue to build a nature-positive economy — one rooted in ecological renewal, cultural respect, and regenerative tourism.

One recent evening at the nursery, as dusk settled and the frogs, nightbirds and crickets sang their

ALCA



chorus, I looked across the nursery toward the old Cow Bay airstrip we had replanted over the last years, and I had a very profound experience, a powerful feeling: The forest is growing closer. Where once there was open ground, dangerous for critters looking for food or safety, there is now shelter and life. This is what we are making possible.

You are an essential part of this.

This is what your support achieves.

Thank you for standing with us — for nature, for climate, for future generations.

And, as ever and always, for the rainforests,

Branden Barber, CEO

Above: Highlights from 2025 included the final community tree planting at NightWings Rainforest Centre, the start of restoration at 110 Cape Tribulation Road, participating in ALCA '25 and unveiling our Native Nursery Mural



our impact

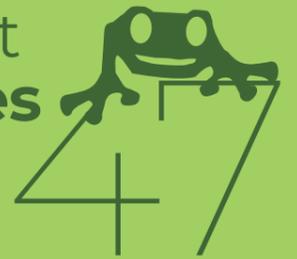
26
Years
protecting
rainforests

founded on 25 March 1999

40 **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



46 in Daintree, Queensland,
1 in Pyengana, Tasmania



Square metres
of rainforest
rescued

2,445,967

1,636,567 in the Daintree
& 809,400 in Tasmania

423,896



Rainforest
trees
planted

Over 38,000 trees planted in 2025,
a slight increase from 2024.

Rainforest trees
propagated 40,811*

* 2025 experienced a slight decline in propagation due to our Development Application process impacting on restoration and tree planting. Rainforest Rescue aims to minimise tree loss during the propagation to planting transition.

35

Properties
protected
forever

by Nature Refuge status in Australia

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

Martin Stinger

year in review



JAN

Rainforest Rescue's year began hosting a specialist workshop on threatened Tassel Ferns, which brought together expertise to support the conservation of these rare and little-known family of plants.

MAR

We secured 110 Cape Tribulation Rd, a 30-ha former sugarcane property — the largest Daintree protection purchase in our history.

Baseline assessments at 110 Cape Tribulation Rd — with Terrain NRM we're laying the groundwork for the Cassowary Credits biodiversity scheme, including Accounting for Nature benchmarking to support long-term monitoring.

Our first Clean Energy Regulator ACCU project registration was completed, enabling future carbon outcomes from restoration.



MAY

More than 180 volunteers, Traditional Owners, partners and community members gathered for our 10th and final Annual Community Tree Planting Day at NightWings.

Students from TAS Kewarra Beach helped plant a 'pocket rainforest', creating habitat and inspiring future rainforest guardians.

JUL

Our Red Tape Appeal succeeded, helping to address local planning systems that hold back large-scale restoration.

Members of the Baru Conservation Alliance visited the Native Nursery, nurturing our international conservation network.

Planting was completed at the former Cow Bay airstrip beside our Native Nursery, marking the successful rewilding of this once-cleared site.

The Tranquillity Upper Daintree Restoration Project was announced — a \$1.38 million Land Restoration Fund partnership to restore 30 ha and create training and employment opportunities with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation.



SEP

The Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance Steering Committee was formally announced with our CEO, Branden Barber, joined the Committee for 2025–2027

The historic return of Wawu Dimbi to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People was celebrated — a powerful moment for Country, culture and conservation.

NOV

We launched our landmark appeal to protect Lot 3 Cape Tribulation Rd — a 66-ha property at the gateway to the Daintree.

Rainforest Rescue met with the Lower Otter Restoration Project team in the UK, sharing learnings on large-scale wetland restoration.

FEB

Our first Accounting for Nature environmental account was officially registered, marking a major step in measuring nature-positive outcomes.

In collaboration with James Cook University, research began to better understand how rainforest plants adapt to a changing climate.

APR

A mural was unveiled at our Native Nursery in partnership with The Treadright Foundation and The Scenic Route, celebrating rainforest protection through art.

Douglas Shire Council's Mayor and Councillors visited the Cow Bay Native Nursery, strengthening local relationships and sharing our vision for restoration in the region.



JUN

Lot 8 Idriess Close was secured and protected — nearly 12-ha of high-quality habitat between the Bloomfield River and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

A solar pumping system was installed at 110 Cape Tribulation Rd, supporting sustainable water management for large-scale restoration.

We connected with supporters at Cairns EcoFiesta, celebrating community-driven conservation.

Research into the role of termites in rainforest recovery deepened our understanding of soil health and ecosystem repair.

New conservation partners from Quoll HQ visited the Native Nursery, strengthening collaboration across Australia.

AUG

The first trees were planted at 110 Cape Tribulation Rd, turning planning into living forest.

Rainforest Rescue was named a finalist in the 2025 RestorLife Awards, recognising leadership in restoration.

A Development Application was lodged to unlock restoration across more than 400-ha of former cane land and degraded ecosystems in the Lower Daintree.



OCT

We honoured the life and legacy of Jane Goodall, reflecting on her enduring influence on conservation.

Public notification for the Lot 3 Development Application drew strong community support, with 41 letters received.

We participated in the Australian Land Conservation Alliance Conference, presenting insights from local restoration action on a global stage.

DEC

In collaboration with Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance members, we submitted a proposal to the Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan, advocating restoration-led, nature-positive land use.





operations report

From Challenges Opportunities Grow: A Year in Review

In April 2026 I will have been with Rainforest Rescue for three years as GM, I am more excited and energised than ever.

■ ■ ■ AS I WRITE THIS, I am getting goose bumps and feeling very grateful for the opportunity to be making such a positive impact for these exceptional ecosystems with an amazing and driven team including each and every one of our supporters. 2025 has been another year of firsts as we continue to make opportunities from challenges and enhance our people, systems, infrastructure in the restorations and conservation fields developing blueprints for habitat renewal at scale.

Under Branden's leadership, our team brings passion, deep expertise, and an open-minded, collaborative approach to solving challenges using the latest technology. One of the biggest challenges we had in 2025, now an opportunity, was the unexpected and complicated development application process required for planting trees at 110 Cape Tribulation Rd in the Lower Daintree. This requirement was very surprising considering the land had been fallow for over 10 years, is marginal farmland and the recent closure of the Mossman Sugar Mill. It was also surprising considering the jobs and local economic activity Rainforest Rescue is providing with the growing restoration economy. We are making this challenge into a larger habitat renewal which will enhance the local economy too.

During the year we had two key staff changes with Ariel taking over as Land Manager from Hayden and Marine handing the Nursery Manager baton on. I would personally like to thank both Marine and Hayden for their outstanding contributions in these roles. While Hayden has moved on to new opportunities, Marine is now our Biodiversity and Nature Impact Lead, this is a super exciting new role, and it comes at a perfect time for Rainforest Rescue with the emerging Biodiversity & Nature Credit Market and our drive to restore and recreate more valuable habitat. Both managers have settled into their new positions bringing their own unique and positive perspectives.

Even with the delays due to the unexpected Development Application process the team planted more trees in 2025 at almost 40,000 and propagated around the same amount. Native tree sales increased by 80% with support from new clients including Cairns Conservation Services and consistent purchases from existing customers like the wonderful Connie and Dave at Daintree Life.

At the start of the year, we completed our ambitious Christmas appeal and purchased the 30-hectare property at 110 Cape Tribulation Road. This project will be the stepping stone for restoration at scale in

the region adjacent to two world heritage areas, a nationally important wetland and one of the most biodiverse mangrove ecosystems on earth.

In 2025, we continued to deepen our capability in nature capital markets, progressing biodiversity outcomes alongside carbon through initiatives such as Cassowary Credits and Accounting for Nature, with baselines being conducted at 110 Cape Tribulation Road. This year we also successfully registered our first Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) project. These emerging markets represent a significant opportunity to channel investment into high-integrity restoration at scale.

Corporate and foundation partnerships continued to play a vital role in enabling our impact. Under the leadership of Kristin, our Partnerships Director, we strengthened key relationships and expanded our capacity to deliver the accredited carbon and biodiversity metrics that partners increasingly expect. By mobilising nature-positive investment, these collaborations are helping accelerate restoration outcomes across the landscapes we work in.

Operational efficiency remains a core focus as we scale. Throughout 2025, we further optimised restoration processes to ensure maximum impact from every dollar invested. This included expanded use of mechanised site preparation, drone-based herbicide application, refined species selection and contract planting models.

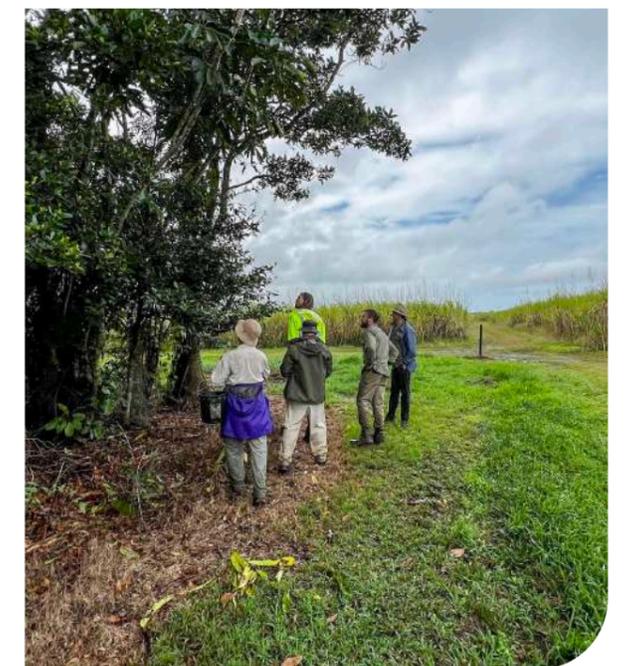
Consistent, high-quality data capture and analysis continue to underpin our approach to ecological restoration. We are currently focussing on a multi-

year project to provide a clear line of sight from the forest floor to investor, this is being supported by key partners like The Travel Corporation and CISCO, utilising geospatial data capture. By integrating advanced technologies with practical, field-based expertise, we support informed decision-making and continuous improvement, ensuring our work delivers lasting benefits for rainforest ecosystems.

Through innovation, collaboration, and a focus on measurable impact, Rainforest Rescue is well positioned to lead large-scale ecosystem restoration and protection.

Thank you for standing with us and believing in our mission.

Tate Brammer
General Manager Finance & Operations



Martin Stringer.

Above: 110 Cape Tribulation Rd in the Lower Daintree.
Right: Our team surveys regrowth and clearance at 110 Cape Tribulation Rd in the Lower Daintree



Conservation Areas & Nature Refuges: securing rainforest in perpetuity

This year marks my first as Rainforest Rescue’s Biodiversity & Nature Impact Lead, a role that brings together our conservation science, ecological restoration, monitoring programs, and long-term land protection work under one coordinated approach.

THE POSITION is focused on strengthening how we plan, deliver, and measure the impact of our restoration and conservation efforts — across our Nature Refuges, new property acquisitions, partnerships with researchers and Traditional Custodians, and the growing network of sites we manage in the Daintree. It involves ecological monitoring, conservation planning, coordinating research collaborations, developing impact frameworks, and ensuring that every property we protect contributes meaningfully to the health, resilience, and connectivity of the Wet Tropics landscape.

Rainforest Rescue’s conservation model is grounded in a simple but powerful principle: when we purchase land, we protect it forever. By acquiring high-value rainforest properties and placing them under legally binding conservation agreements, we safeguard critical habitat from development, clearing, fragmentation, and future pressures. This is core to our mission and to the trust placed in us by supporters and partners — every contribution helps secure land that will never be lost again.

In Queensland, our main legal mechanism for long-term protection is the Nature Refuge. A Nature Refuge is the State’s strongest form of voluntary conservation covenant. Once a property is declared a Nature Refuge, its natural and cultural values are protected in perpetuity under legislation. Clearing is restricted, development is tightly controlled, and the landholder has a binding requirement to manage and maintain its ecological integrity. For us, this means that once a property becomes a Nature Refuge, its future is secure — it will remain protected for generations, regardless of ownership changes, land-use pressures, or external threats.

This is why Rainforest Rescue chooses the Nature Refuge pathway. It is a guarantee that every donation used to purchase a property results in real, enduring protection. We are securing the strongest possible legal protection for some of Australia’s most significant and ancient rainforest ecosystems.

Since Rainforest Rescue began this work, we have purchased 47 properties for conservation, creating an expanding mosaic of protected areas, forming

Martin Stringer

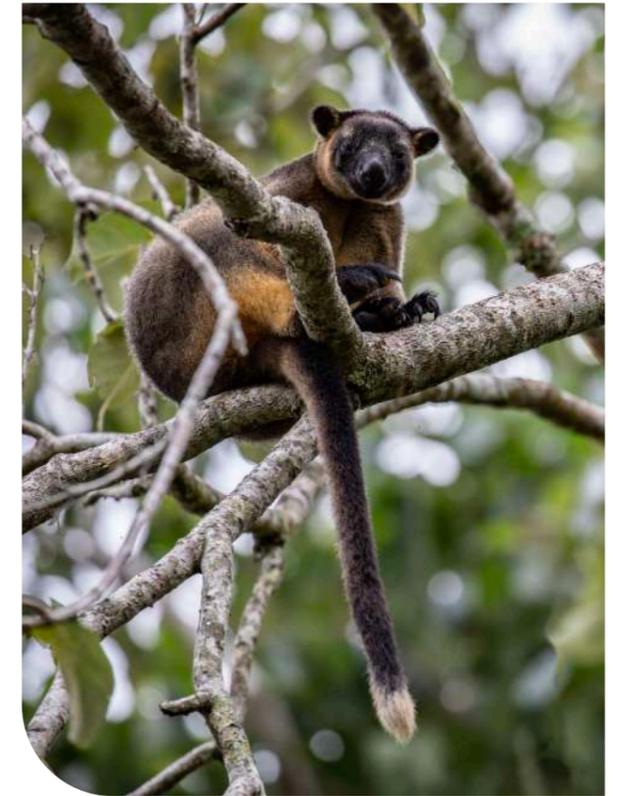
a connected network of habitats that complement National Parks, remnant forests, riparian corridors, and other protected areas. Each new Nature Refuge strengthens landscape-level connectivity — a critical factor in enabling wildlife movement, genetic exchange, and resilience in a rapidly changing climate.

To ensure these properties continue to recover and thrive, each Nature Refuge has a Property Management Plan. These plans guide how we care for the land: identifying threats, tracking ecological health, setting priorities for weed management and restoration, and outlining long-term conservation objectives. They allow us to measure outcomes in a structured, scientific way and adjust our management as the landscape responds to restoration and conservation.

Monitoring is central to this. Across our refuges, we deploy camera traps and bioacoustic recorders, gathering long-term data on species presence and movement. These tools show how wildlife uses our protected corridors — which species return first, how they move between refuges and national park estates, and how restored ecosystems begin to function again. This evidence helps us understand what is working, where interventions are needed, and how we can continue strengthening connectivity for the cassowary, tree-kangaroos, frogs, bats, invertebrates, and countless other species.



Jasmine Carey



Selecting new conservation properties also follows a rigorous, strategic approach. We use a scorecard system that evaluates ecological value, threat level, restoration potential, and most importantly connectivity. We prioritise land that links remnant rainforest to previously isolated patches, strengthens wildlife corridors, buffers existing protected areas, or restores hydrological and ecological processes. Every acquisition is chosen because it contributes to a larger vision: a connected, climate-resilient rainforest landscape from the Daintree River to Cape Tribulation and beyond.

Through this work, our network of Nature Refuges is evolving into a living, connected system of protected rainforest, grounded in science, strengthened by community support, and secured for the long term. Each property represents not only a win for conservation today, but a legacy of protection far into the future.

Marine Deliens
Biodiversity & Nature Impact Lead

Left: Comprised of several rescued properties, Rainforest Rescue Nature Refuge connects two sections of Daintree National Park. These essential wildlife corridors allow wildlife like Bennett’s Tree Kangaroo (above) to move safely in protected habitat.



2025 highlight

It was a year of progress, with new roles and new people joining, increasing our capacity to grow more trees than ever before.

sheltering the future

Our Nursery Manager looks ahead to optimising our operations with the aim of growing even more, even healthier plants.

■■■ 2026 IS BRINGING some upgrades and improvements to our Native Tree Nursery, including an upgrade to our power system, bore level monitoring, and wind fencing to protect our seedlings from the prevailing ocean wind.

The wind fence is infrastructure that I have been keen to implement for some time. Its presence will contribute to the health of our trees, most importantly at the point of planting them at our restoration sites. Here are some key reasons why:

Healthy seedlings improve success rates

Healthy tree seedlings are young with strong root systems, healthy leaves and a natural resistance to disease, so they are well suited to adapt to new conditions. Seedlings for dispatch should be free from wilting, unhealthy foliage or pest infestations. Plants that exhibit water-stress or disease have decreased survival rates after planting.

Water stress and its impact

Water stress can severely compromise plant health and increase susceptibility to pests and diseases. When plants do not receive adequate water, they undergo physiological changes that result in production of volatile organic compounds, which are chemical compounds produced by the plant because of stress.

The volatiles are known as 'ecological signalling' and are part of the plant's defence mechanism. However, they can also attract pests. For example, some can signal to insects that the plant is weakened which makes it a more attractive target.

Water stress also hinders nutrient uptake, stunts growth and can lead to death.

The power of protection

Wind fencing is a very common feature in seedling nurseries and has multiple functions that protect plants from stressful environmental factors:

- As the name suggests, protection from wind — reducing wind speed helps prevent the potting mix from drying and reduces water stress.
- Secondly, shielding from pests and diseases — windbreaks are valuable in protecting seedlings from wind-borne pests such as mites, aphids and whitefly, and diseases such as myrtle rust. By creating a barrier, they help limit the movement of pests and pathogens and they are part of our nursery's overall Integrated Pest Management plan.
- Critically, the fence provides irrigation efficiency — through careful placement, we can minimise irrigation loss from wind blowing the water supply away from the plants. Thereby ensuring the seedlings get hydrated sufficiently. When power or water supply has certain limitations, which is common in an off-grid, solar system such as the one we have at the nursery, irrigation protection increases in importance.

Aesthetic considerations

The pragmatic design of wind fencing means they won't win any awards for their looks. Nevertheless, their role in maintaining healthy and good quality seedlings is very important and the benefits they provide massively outweigh any aesthetic drawbacks.

Optimal conditions for sustainability

It will be important to monitor the differences in plant health and water intake after the fence's installation, and we will be able to regulate our irrigation system accordingly. By acknowledging the wind's adverse effects and addressing these elements, I hope the fencing will significantly contribute to healthier, more sustainable seedlings, both in the nursery and in the rainforest.

We'll be sure to keep you updated on progress in 2026.

Nursery Manager

Martin Stringer



land manager report

Landscape Connectivity as a Restoration Objective

■ ■ ■ JUST AS EMERGENT roots can rebind soil, our large-scale restoration work aims to support the rebanding of disjointed landscapes as Ariel, our Land Manager, explains.

"Beginning restoration works at lot 110 Cape Tribulation Road has been the highlight of my year, seeing how many plants and animals are living there already, and the speed with which our trees are growing has given me a lot of optimism and enjoyment."

The world's environmental landscapes exist today as a complex and dynamic tapestry of competing land uses, with human modification being the greatest driver of change. Within the context of conservation and land management, landscape connectivity refers to the degree to which ecological processes are facilitated or inhibited across a given area, for example the movement of animals or the dispersal of seeds. Landscape connectivity can be affected by natural barriers or choke points due to many biogeographical features, such as a steep mountain or wide river, however; human modified landscapes are undoubtedly the most widespread and impactful perturbations to connectivity.

Rainforest Rescue primarily works within the Wet Tropics bioregion in far north Queensland, especially the lowland tropical rainforests of the Daintree and surrounding area. This landscape is famously unique

in its value as a natural asset and pleasingly has a high degree of connectivity overall. Over the last 26 years, Rainforest Rescue have strategically acquired properties throughout the region, with a focus on maintaining and enhancing connectivity in this critical habitat for flora and fauna that are extremely vulnerable to reduced connectivity, for example the Bennetts tree kangaroo and the Southern Cassowary. Moving forward, Rainforest Rescue is planning a large-scale, ecological restoration project, aimed at restoring landscape connectivity to the Daintree River Oxbow and surrounding features.

The Daintree River Oxbow is a denuded wetland of national significance, which lies within a highly modified agricultural landscape, which experiences severe weather events such as record flooding during Cyclone Jasper in 2023. Due to various factors, the sugar cane industry within the Douglas Shire has collapsed, and alternative agricultural options in the lower Daintree River floodplain, especially around the Oxbow, are limited. The Oxbow and surrounding former cane fields have had large scale drainage works implemented, as well as tidal gates installed at the entrances to the river and the mangrove system, which has radically altered the hydrology and accompanying ecology of the system. These alterations to the water flow are another reduction in landscape connectivity, this time affecting aquatic and semi-aquatic flora and fauna,



Rainforest Rescue: Qlmagery

including sports fishing species such as Barramundi, tourism targets such as birds and crocodiles, as well as the remarkable biodiversity of the mangrove system found in this area.

Rainforest Rescue will implement large scale tree planting within former sugar cane paddocks, which has already begun at Lot 110 Cape Tribulation Rd. By converting former sugar cane land into re-growing rainforest, the landscape connectivity of the area will begin to re-establish. The location of this project; where several distinct ecosystems meet, ie. The Daintree River, the oxbow, lowland rainforest, and mangroves make this a uniquely impactful area to restore connectivity, both terrestrial and aquatic. By restoring ecological functionality in these areas, the surrounding forests of the Dagmar Range to the south, and the Daintree to the north, will see improved connectivity and associated flora and fauna gene flow across the river valley. Furthermore, the improved hydrology and aquatic connectivity will massively benefit the riverine, palustrine, and estuarine ecosystems which have experienced dramatic and continued decline due to agriculture and severe weather events. Finally, by improving ecological functionality, restoring landscape



Ariel's 2025 highlight:

Beginning restoration works at lot 110 Cape Tribulation Road has been the highlight of my year. Seeing how many plants and animals are living there already, and the speed with which our trees are growing has given me a lot of optimism and enjoyment.

connectivity and strengthening the resilience of these ecosystems, the Daintree River oxbow and delta system will be more effective at reducing sediment outflows to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area, which is experiencing severe and ongoing challenges to its own ecological function.

Rainforest Rescue's plan to restore ecological functionality to the Daintree River oxbow and surrounding area represents an ambitious and unprecedented intervention, targeting an area critically lacking in terrestrial and aquatic connectivity, which has had significant impacts on the world's only two interconnected World Heritage areas. It is my hope that one day I will witness the return of cassowaries to the lower Daintree River floodplain, which would be the ultimate sign of success for this type of restoration of landscape scale connectivity.

Ariel Simon
Land Manager

Above, far left: Cane fields are barely separated from the incredible biodiversity of the Daintree River mangroves.

Above left: Surveying habitat regrowth at 110 Cape Tribulation Road. Above: Aerial photography shows the Daintree Oxbow during the land clearing process last century.



protected forever

Lot 8, Idriess Close, Degarra

■■■ RAINFOREST RESCUE'S criteria for securing the forever protection of under-protected land is deliberately stringent. Dozens of potential properties are turned down each year because of it. So when a property meets the criteria and its owners wish for the land to remain as intact rainforest, we know we're on to something special.

Lot 8 Idriess Close is a hidden gem, with deep gullies running from the highlands to the lowlands and floodplain. At almost 12 hectares, this northern Daintree Rainforest property sits on the edge of the World Heritage area near the Bloomfield River. Secured in late June, it became the 47th property in our Portfolio of Protection.

Rapidly repairing itself after Tropical Cyclone Jasper flood damage, this special place shows what nature is capable of when left to its own devices. Thanks to you, it will always remain that way.

Martin Stringer



hiding in plain sight:

Protecting and restoring the Daintree Oxbow

For decades the Daintree Oxbow has been hidden amongst intensively cropped sugarcane fields on the lower Daintree floodplain. Now, Rainforest Rescue aims to protect and return this ecologically significant area into hundreds of hectares of restored wetland forest.

These key themes make the Oxbow a vital location in the Wet Tropics.

Unsurpassed biodiversity

The Oxbow sits beside one of the most biodiverse mangrove systems on Earth, a living engine of ecological richness unique to the Daintree. Restoring the Oxbow strengthens this connection, expanding habitat for countless species and rebuilding the natural corridors that once linked wetland forest to mangrove fringe.

A place of purpose

Shaped over millennia by shifting river channels, the Daintree floodplain is built to capture, slow, and store water. The Oxbow once acted as a natural pressure-release valve during heavy rain, filtering sediments and easing flood impacts. Restoring its wetland function reinstates the landscape's original hydrological purpose.



A safe sanctuary

Wetlands like the Oxbow provide essential breeding habitat for fish, amphibians, birds, and invertebrates. Shelter, shallow water, and abundant food make it ideal for raising young. Re-establishing this sanctuary strengthens lifecycle continuity for species that have lost breeding grounds through land clearing, channelisation, and the spread of invasive plants.

Economic diversity

A restored Oxbow can help grow a greener local economy, creating jobs in restoration, conservation management, and ecotourism. As the wetland forest regenerates, opportunities emerge for blue and green carbon and biodiversity credits, giving the landscape a long-term economic value that supports both community livelihoods and nature.

Incredible natural potential

Once restored, the Oxbow can again host the diversity seen at iconic FNQ ecological sites like Hasties Swamp and Cattana Wetlands. Open water, seasonal mudflats, and regenerating forest attract bitterns, kingfishers, raptors, migratory waders, and wetland specialists. Dozens of species could return, creating a vibrant hotspot for wildlife and visitors alike.

Building climate resilience

The lower Daintree floodplain is increasingly exposed to storm tides, river surges, and erosion. A revived Oxbow strengthens natural defences: mangroves buffer waves, wetlands absorb floodwater, and deep-rooted forest stabilises soils. Restoring this system enhances community safety while helping the landscape adapt to rising climate pressures.

Be part of the Oxbow's future

Rarely do we get the chance to make profound, collective impact that will shape the direction for Nature. Your support can create a legacy of positive change.





collective power

Creating lasting change.

■ ■ ■ AT RAINFOREST RESCUE, meaningful change is built through partnership. The businesses and philanthropic foundations honoured here stand with us not only in principle, but in action — especially when it matters most. In a world increasingly marked by greenwashing, these organisations are the real deal: they walk the talk.

Their support has helped place Rainforest Rescue in the strongest and most ambitious position we have ever been as an organisation. It enables us to act decisively, invest for long-term impact, and pursue change at the scale the climate and biodiversity crises demand. Each partnership creates momentum — a powerful ripple effect where leadership inspires leadership, and values-driven investment encourages others to step up and act.

We are witnessing a meaningful shift. More businesses are recognising their responsibility in shaping a sustainable future, while philanthropic foundations are placing deep trust in the integrity, transparency, and impact of our work. That trust allows us to plan with confidence and deliver change that endures.

Together, we are far more powerful than any one organisation could be alone. These partnerships strengthen our resolve, extend our reach, and reaffirm a shared belief: protecting and restoring rainforests at-scale is essential to the future of our planet.

We proudly honour the businesses and organisations featured here — and the many more who support our work and are recognised on our website. Their collective commitment is driving bold action and helping shape a future where rainforests can be protected and restored at a scale never before seen in our history.

Kristin Canning
Partnerships Director

business partners

Notable Business Partners



The Travel Corporation & TreadRight Foundation

“Our TreadRight Foundation’s support for Rainforest Rescue goes so far beyond a conventional donor/recipient relationship - it is a partnership in every sense. We’ve had the privilege of being brought into their world of real climate action and restoration, in which innovation, and integrity to Indigenous communities and wisdom, is at the forefront. It is truly an exemplary commitment to sustainability that employs a holistic view to benefit the planet, and the communities and wildlife that call it home. Not only are we able to support the vital work of Rainforest Rescue through initiatives that protect the ancient Daintree rainforest and its biodiversity, but our teams have been ecstatic to participate through their volunteer opportunities. We are so proud and excited to embark on the fourth year of our partnership, having reached new heights in Rainforest Rescue’s partnership tiers, but more importantly, as they reach new heights in impact and innovation.”

Parisa Pouramn,
Head of TreadRight Foundation
+ Social Impact,
The Travel Corporation



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



Scratch

“Every year our team gathers to sum up our achievements as a business and it’s always the impact that Rainforest Rescue is able to have with our donations that fills us all with the most pride – such an amazing organisation”

Mike Halligan,
Co-Founder
Scratch



Canon

“Canon’s Gold Partnership with Rainforest Rescue embodies our commitment to making a tangible and authentic contribution to environmental sustainability. By partnering with Rainforest Rescue we’re working with a trusted partner to take meaningful action and deliver measurable impact where it matters most. Protecting the oldest rainforest in the world, the Daintree, is critical to preserving biodiversity in this precious part of Australia and supporting the wildlife and communities who depend on these ecosystems. As a global organisation, Canon is committed to bringing our Kyosei philosophy – living and working together for the common good – to life in the communities in which we operate and create positive change both today and for future generations.”

Nina Spannari
General Manager, Sustainability
Canon



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



Additional Major Business Partners include:

- 9 degrees
- Ambius Australia
- CleanCo
- Louder Digital

foundations

Major Foundation & Trust Partners



Nature Impact Collective

"Nature Impact Collective is thrilled to support Rainforest Rescue's impressive work, transforming unviable cane farming land along the Daintree River into thriving, biodiverse land and waterscapes. They have made smart strategic decisions and built capacity to take advantage of the collapse of the local cane industry and the time is right to get behind them."

Esther Abram,
CEO, Nature Impact Collective



FAME

"Partnering with Rainforest Rescue reflects FAME's commitment to collaborating with organisations delivering strong, on-ground conservation outcomes, supporting projects that rebuild rainforest habitat and, in doing so, protect the species that depend on it."

Tracy McNamara,
Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species Ltd (FAME)



The Intrepid Foundation

"Intrepid Travel is proud to support Rainforest Rescue's vital conservation work in the Daintree. As a travel company operating in the region, we have a responsibility to help protect the places and communities our travellers experience with us. Rainforest Rescue is creating real change on the ground and we're grateful to contribute in a small way through The Intrepid Foundation."

Brett Mitchell,
Managing Director ANZ
The Intrepid Foundation



Morris Family Foundation

"We love how direct and meaningful Rainforest Rescue's work is. Restoring our beloved Daintree and reducing run off to the Great Barrier Reef are so important for long-term healthy ecosystems. The team are dedicated, forward-thinking and a delight to partner with."

Lucy Richards,
Foundation Manager,
Morris Family Foundation



Additional Major Trust and Foundation Partners include:

- The Bowden Marstan Foundation
- The James N Kirby Foundation
- Nelson Gardens Family Trust / Panorama Valley Pty Ltd Trust
- North Queensland Wildlife Trust (NQWT)

To meet our full family of Business & Philanthropic Partners please visit www.rainforestrescue.org.au/



Big Blue Ocean Foundation

"We are incredibly proud to support the critical work of Rainforest Rescue. They are a fabulous organisation with a bold vision, upheld by a fantastic team of dedicated, passionate and talented individuals. Thank you for all that you do."

Jacque Kelsall,
General Manager
Big Blue Ocean Foundation



Josephine Warnet



keeping connected

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

■■■ THESE PLATFORMS allow us to share stories from the forest, celebrate collective wins and stay united in our mission to protect and restore rainforest.

Your support is vital to the success of our conservation and restoration work. Through social media, we're able to keep our community informed, inspired and closely connected to the real impact your generosity makes on the ground.

In 2025, Rainforest Rescue was successful in applying for and obtaining Meta content monetisation and bonus programs. This means you can now support our work simply by engaging with our content. Liking, commenting on or sharing our posts helps activate funding from Meta, extending the reach of our message while generating additional support for rainforest protection at no extra cost to you.

Behind every reach statistic and engagement figure is a person choosing to connect with, care for and support rainforest protection. Social media gives us the opportunity to listen, respond and adapt, helping ensure our communications and HQ processes continue to reflect your needs and expectations.

Looking ahead, in April 2026 Rainforest Rescue will dissolve its Byron Bay HQ, with the three staff currently based there transitioning to fully remote roles. This strategic shift allows more funds to be directed straight into on-the-ground conservation, restoration and community-led rainforest protection, while maintaining strong connections with supporters through digital platforms.

We love hearing from our community and truly value your feedback. Whether you've been part of Rainforest Rescue for many years or are new to our journey, we'd love to know what you'd like to see more of in your social media feed, and how we can continue to improve our HQ processes from a supporter perspective.

MaryBeth Harrison
HQ & Social Media Manager

seeds of change

As social media platforms continue to evolve, and the world is ever so more digitised and connected, we continue our work with intention, integrity and results.

■■■ Our communications are rooted in the understanding of people who want to see change. They rely on digital platforms to connect with peers all over the world, share their stories and learn from other conservation activists and organisations.

Through social media, we help our community reconnect with Nature, learn more about the Daintree and discover practical ways to support rainforest protection. At a time when many feel overwhelmed by challenges such as climate change, deforestation and wildlife loss, these platforms help show that collective action is possible and powerful.

Reaching more and more people every year helps us multiply our impact, secure and protect more rainforest and nurture our unique wildlife's habitat. Together, we are making a huge difference in Australia and the world.

We love connecting with other like-minded warriors online. Send us a DM if you have a question or want to share a green tip, your recent forest fundraiser, or just want to say Hi.

Anna Kochetkova
Social Media Strategist

 **3,319,104**
people reached across
Facebook and Instagram

 **\$1,781.59**
raised through
#ForestFundraisers
and Meta bonuses

 **378.8**
hrs of watch time
on YouTube



#NextGen RainforestRescuers

Our #NextGen Rainforest Rescuers are at the heart of the future of rainforest protection.

■ ■ ■ BY FOSTERING CURIOSITY, understanding and hands-on connection from an early age, we help nurture the next generation of people who care deeply for rainforest ecosystems.

Schools play an important role in this journey. Throughout the year, Rainforest Rescue worked alongside local schools to give students the opportunity to connect directly with native plants, wildlife and restoration practices through hands-on learning experiences.

Students from Trinity Anglican School and Mossman State School took part in tree planting activities with Rainforest Rescue, helping restore habitat while learning about rainforest ecosystems, biodiversity and the importance of caring for natural spaces. These sessions combined learning with active participation, allowing students to understand how rainforests function, discover key species and work together to plant and care for young trees.

These planting experiences also create lasting learning opportunities. As trees grow and habitats

evolve, students can observe changes over time, deepen their understanding of nature's cycles and develop a strong sense of custodianship for the environment around them.

Rainforest Rescue remains committed to supporting schools and young people through meaningful, hands-on opportunities that inspire long-term care for rainforest landscapes. By investing in education and early engagement, we help ensure rainforest protection continues well into the future.

To all our #NextGenRainforestRescuers, thank you for your enthusiasm, curiosity and willingness to get involved. Your connection to the rainforest gives us confidence that its future is in good hands.

MaryBeth Harrison
HQ & Social Media Manager

Above: Students from local FNQ schools get involved in planting a 'pocket rainforest' and learn how plants adapt to tropical conditions.

research in the rainforest

Why Restoring Rainforests Matters for Science

■ ■ ■ THANKS TO THE ONGOING generosity of our supporters, Rainforest Rescue is proud to be able to provide 'living laboratories' to scientific researchers. Here, Dr Baptiste Wijas explains why these places matter for deepening our understanding of the rainforest.

Rainforests are disappearing at an alarming rate. More than any other biome on Earth, they have been shaped, and often damaged, by human activity. This loss is especially troubling because rainforests are among the most biologically rich places on the planet. They are home to remarkable species such as the tree kangaroos of Australia's Daintree, and they provide vital services for all of us. Sometimes called the "lungs of the Earth," rainforests absorb carbon dioxide and help regulate our climate.

When rainforests are cleared, the land usually changes dramatically. Forests may be turned into pasture for livestock or fields of single crops. In some cases, however, cleared land is abandoned or purchased for conservation by organisations such as Rainforest Rescue. Over time, trees can return, and forests begin to grow again. These regrowing forests are known as secondary forests. They look very different from untouched, or primary, rainforests and host different plants and animals. Their recovery is slow and complex, often taking centuries. As secondary forests become more common worldwide, it is crucial to understand how they develop and whether they can ever fully recover.

This is where science plays a key role. To understand rainforest recovery, researchers compare plants, animals, and ecosystem processes in primary forests with those in secondary forests at different stages of regrowth. By studying forests that have been recovering for just a few years alongside those that have been regrowing for decades, we can piece together a timeline of recovery. Rainforest Rescue makes this work possible by restoring and protecting land that would otherwise remain degraded, creating living laboratories where scientists can study how rainforests heal over time.

Martin Stringer



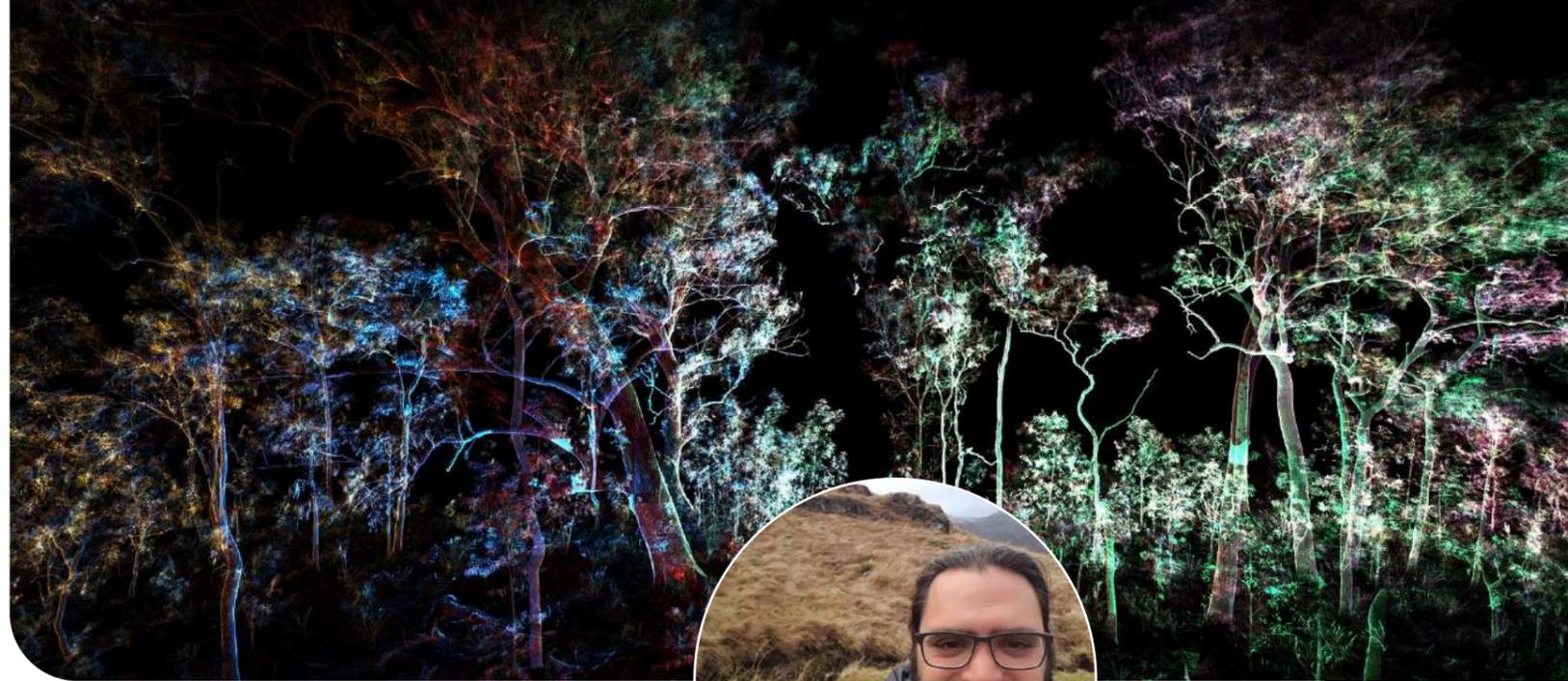
My own research takes place in the lowland tropical rainforests of Australia, which were largely cleared after European colonisation. Many remaining protected rainforests are located on steep or hard-to-reach terrain. In contrast, the lowland forests protected by Rainforest Rescue provide a rare and valuable opportunity to study rainforest recovery where it matters most. Working with Rainforest Rescue, we set up an experiment to measure how dead wood decomposes across several restored sites. Decomposition is an important ecosystem process because it influences how much carbon dioxide a forest releases back into the atmosphere. This work has given us new insights into how well key ecosystem functions recover as rainforests regrow.

At a time when humanity is facing the growing challenges of climate change, understanding how recovering rainforests can help store carbon and support healthy ecosystems is more important than ever.

Rainforest Rescue's work does more than protect the beauty and biodiversity of Australia's rainforests; it also supports vital scientific research that improves our global understanding of how rainforests function and how we can help them recover.

Authored by Dr Baptiste Wijas, Ecosystem Ecologist at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Dr Wijas is working in conjunction with Rainforest Rescue, Dr Alex Cheesman and others on ongoing scientific research programmes in the Daintree Rainforest.

Above: Evidence of fungal decay provides comparative insights into decomposition in old and secondary growth rainforests



seeing the forest grow:

How lasers are transforming rainforest restoration

RESTORING A RAINFOREST is a long-term commitment. Trees can take decades to grow, ecosystems take time to recover, and the benefits of restoration — carbon storage, wildlife habitat, and a landscapes resilience to climate change — are not always easy to measure. One of the biggest challenges in restoration is proving that what we are doing is working, and doing so in a way that is transparent, credible, and useful for improving future practice.

This is where lasers come in.

Over the past few years, Rainforest Rescue has been working with researchers like Alexander Cheesman at James Cook University and technology partners at ArborMeta www.arbormeta.au to use ground-based laser scanning- sometimes called LiDAR — to measure and track the recovery of restored forests. These instruments emit millions of tiny laser pulses that bounce off tree trunks, branches, and leaves, creating a detailed three-dimensional map of the forest. The result is a precise digital snapshot of forest structure that can be revisited again and again through time.

Unlike traditional field surveys, which rely on measuring the height and diameter of a relatively small number of trees by hand, laser scanning

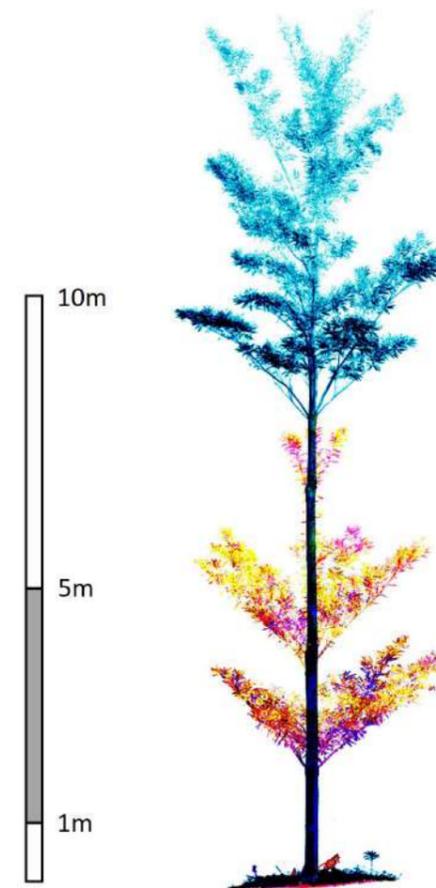
captures the whole forest. Every stem, every branch, and the shape of the canopy are recorded. From this information, scientists can directly calculate how much wood — and therefore carbon — is stored in a regenerating forest, and how quickly that storage is increasing as trees grow.

For Rainforest Rescue, this technology offers two powerful advantages. First, it provides clear, visual evidence of restoration success. Laser scans allow us to literally see forests becoming taller, denser, and more structurally complex over time. This will make it much easier to communicate outcomes to supporters, partners, and investors, and to demonstrate that restoration activities are delivering real, measurable benefits.

Second, these data help improve restoration practice itself. By comparing scans across different sites and planting strategies, Rainforest Rescue hopes to identify which approaches lead to faster growth, higher carbon uptake, or more complex forest structure. This feedback loop - measure, learn, adapt — is essential for scaling up restoration in a cost-effective and ecologically meaningful way.

Importantly, Rainforest Rescue is not just using these tools; it is helping to develop them.

“Laser scanning captures the whole forest. Every stem, every branch, and the shape of the canopy are recorded.”



The organisation is a key partner in a current Australian Research Council (ARC) funding application aimed at expanding the use of laser scanning in forest restoration. This project seeks to refine how lasers are used to measure young, regenerating forests, and to integrate these measurements with broader carbon and biodiversity accounting frameworks. By being involved from the ground up, Rainforest Rescue is helping ensure that new methods are practical, robust, and directly relevant to the real world.

As interest grows in carbon and biodiversity markets, the need for trustworthy, science-based measurement is greater than ever. Laser scanning offers a way to move beyond estimates and assumptions, toward direct, repeatable evidence of ecosystem recovery. By being involved in the early development of these technologies, Rainforest Rescue is helping set a new standard for transparency and best practice in rainforest restoration—one that ensures every tree planted, and every forest restored, truly counts.

Dr Alex Cheesman
Tropical Plant Ecophysiolgist
& Restoration Advisor

Above left and right: LiDAR scanning produces a detailed view of the rainforest which has high scientific value.
Left: Individual trees can be scanned at timed intervals to gauge maturity rates and species success rates.

10 years of nightwings

2025 witnessed the final plantings of over 115,000 trees at NightWings Rainforest Centre near Wonga.

■■■ THANKS TO Annie Schoenberger, NightWings' ebullient landholder, it's truly been a decade to treasure. Here we look back at some memorable moments with supporters.

“ With every seed and sapling we sow
A sanctuary for wildlife begins to grow
With every tree we plant, we pledge to defend
This precious habitat, that will never end.
For the rainforests' future we stand as one
Guardians of nature, until time is done.
So come join us now, in this noble endeavour,
To plant, to protect and cherish forever.”

From 'Annie's Poem', her heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the restoration at NightWings.



See the difference
Watch a decade of transformation at NightWings
<https://youtu.be/ynd6y5klAro>



Planting a Rainforest: Thousands of volunteers have helped to bring the forest back to the fields of NightWings. After only ten years of growth a canopy has formed and the trees are starting to 'plant themselves', thanks to the return of Southern Cassowaries...

the financials

■ ■ ■ The 2024/2025 financial year saw a consistent and strong performance from Rainforest Rescue. The operating surplus was 27% higher than the previous financial year at almost \$500k despite ongoing uncertainty in the economic and fundraising environments. This increase in surplus went hand in hand with the second full year of operation of the Cow Bay Nursery. Operational expenses were maintained for the financial year. The increased operating surplus has enabled us to, buffer our cash reserves which were increased by 23% and continue to invest in high impact conservation, and restoration projects.

Revenue increased modestly by 4% to \$2.26M, continuing Rainforest Rescue’s consistent and sustainable growth. The majority of the revenue came from individual philanthropic donations and partnerships with businesses, trusts and foundations.

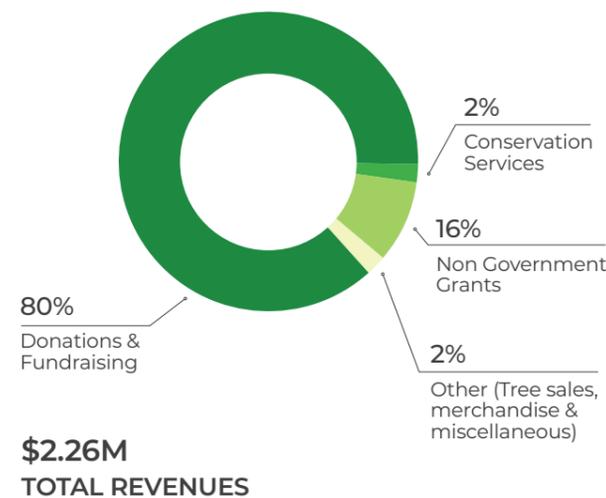
As mentioned, expenses were very stable with less than a 1% change compared to the previous year, this is due to the delayed ramp up of the nursery and land management teams as a result

of the unexpected and complicated Development Application process for 110 Cape Tribulation Road. Despite these challenges we have maintained sustainable local jobs while continuing to restore habitats, boost biodiversity, and sequester carbon. Expenses are forecast to increase next year as we increase our restoration efforts in the region.

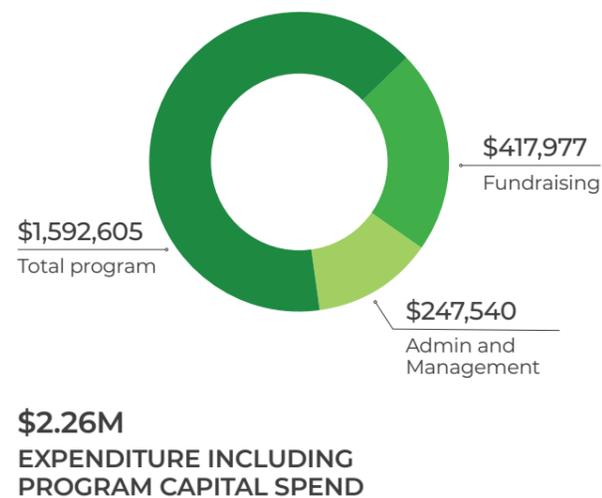
Prudent investment in high value ecological properties and restoration infrastructure has ensured a consistent increase in net assets of ~\$500k. Liabilities were decreased by 8% to \$380k, with no new debt. Our strong balance sheet, underpinned by increased retained earnings, provides a solid foundation for sustained growth and enhances our capacity to expand our impact.

Tate Brammer
General Manager Finance & Operations

REVENUE



EXPENDITURE (incl. Program Capital)



FINANCIAL RESULTS

(for year ended 30 June 2025)

INCOME	2025	2024
Income from fundraising, donations and grants	\$2,155,251	\$2,085,526
Income from Conservation services and other	\$102,870	\$76,503
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,258,122	\$2,162,029

EXPENSES	2025	2024
Employee expenses	\$944,032	\$929,103
Fundraising	\$123,640	\$115,696
Program excluding employee expenses	\$391,810	\$346,979
Admin, Management & Finance	\$171,915	\$262,104
Depreciation & Amortisation	\$114,616	\$105,642
Audit, Legal & Recruitment	\$15,428	\$12,781
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,761,440	\$1,772,304

NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	2025	2024
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$496,682	\$389,725

FINANCIAL POSITION

(for year ended 30 June 2025)

	2025	2024
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,997,217	\$6,533,779
LESS: TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$377,597	\$410,841
NET ASSETS	\$6,619,620	\$6,122,938
CASH RESERVES	\$1,248,199	\$1,012,259



the board



Rachel White
B (Bus), Ca | Chair, Director

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.



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.



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.



Branden Barber
(BA, MFIA) | Director, CEO

Branden Barber has been CEO of Rainforest Rescue since 2018, leading efforts to protect and

restore the Daintree Rainforest — Earth’s longest-thriving tropical rainforest. With over 30 years of leadership in social impact and for-profit sectors in Australia and the US, Branden brings deep expertise in organizational development, stakeholder engagement, and environmental advocacy.

Under his leadership, Rainforest Rescue has scaled its restoration work, launched a large-scale native nursery, and strengthened partnerships with Indigenous communities, scientists, and local councils. Branden is passionate about creating systemic solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises and works to build lasting impact through collaboration, restoration, and regenerative practice.



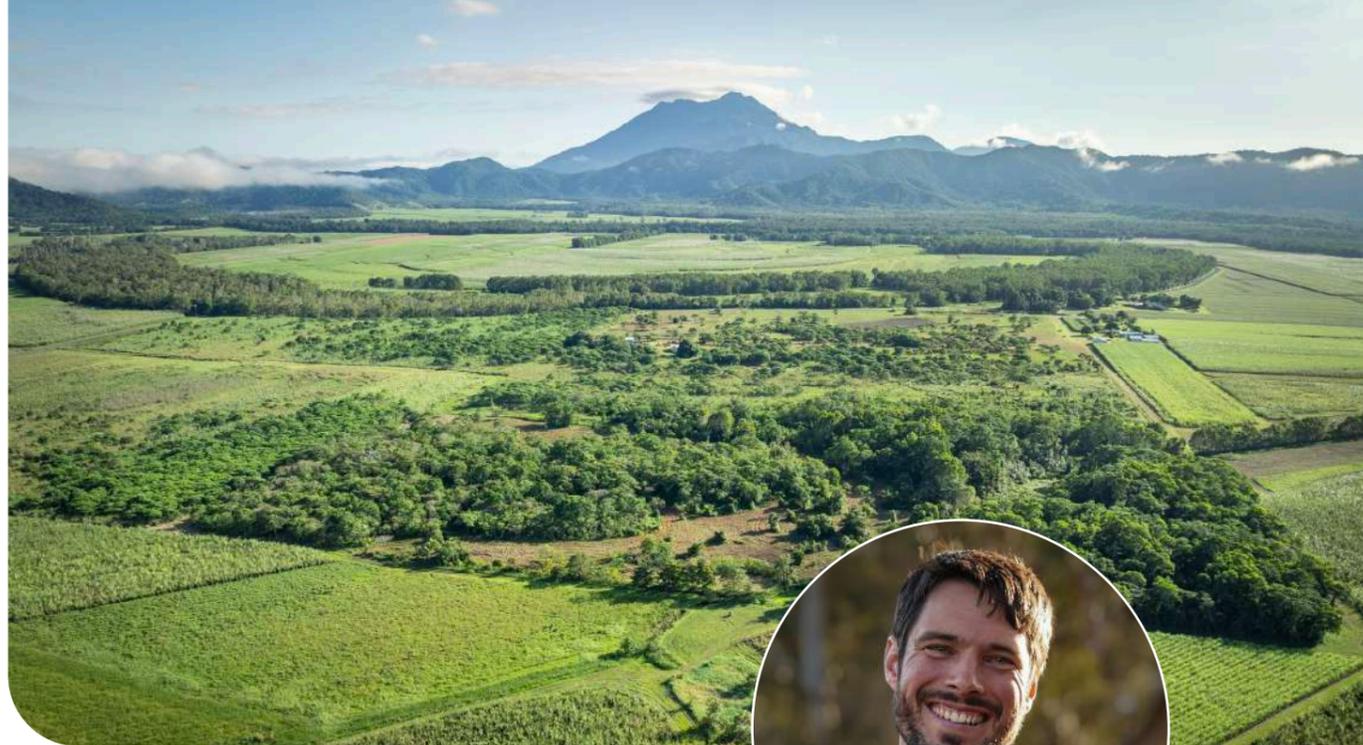
Tate Brammer | Secretary, GM
Finance & Operations

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.

Martin Stringer



seeing the rainforest for the trees

A filmmaker's look behind the lens at the Oxbow and the new restoration economy

Restoring Landscapes, Building a New Restoration Economy

In 2025 I filmed the final community tree planting at NightWings. Watching that former cane land complete its transformation, after years of documenting its progress, felt like a major turning point, both in the landscape and in my own work.

What began as filming individual sites has grown into a deeper exploration of how we restore entire landscapes, who pays for it, and how the benefits can flow to local people, wildlife and future generations.

A Landscape in Transition

This year my focus shifted to the Oxbow wetlands, Lot 110 Cape Tribulation Road and the surrounding lowlands; areas once shaped by sugarcane farming and now in desperate need of ecological repair. Edit: There is incredible potential to revive significant wetland forest, re-establish canopy cover and involve local communities in transitioning to a future that benefits both nature and people.

With the closure of the Mossman Mill, the region is undergoing a once-in-a-generation shift in land use. With Rainforest Rescue I am exploring how former cane land can transition from extraction to restoration, powered by new economic models such as biodiversity credits, carbon projects and natural-capital markets. As one local landholder, Trevor Quaid, told me:

"It's time to find something new"

"I think it's definitely good. I think once it gets going, it'll open people's eyes that it is an actual step they can take."

Eight Interviews, One Emerging Story

Across eight in-depth interviews and exploring with my cameras filming on the river, in the mangroves and through the cane fields, a picture emerged of a region reinventing itself.

Moments like filming a Little Kingfisher beside wildlife guide David White in his solar-powered boat captured both the fragility and resilience of this place. Moments like this capture what is at stake and why restoration and conservation matters.

Martin Stringer

The conversations explored:

- varied landholder experience and the future of farming
- World Heritage values and long-term ecosystem health
- climate-change impacts on river and coast
- water quality, erosion and sediment movement
- restoration science and seed sourcing
- community engagement and cultural knowledge
- nature-based tourism and local economies
- the role of carbon and biodiversity credits in large-scale repair

Taken together, these voices reveal that restoration in the Daintree lowlands is no longer just about planting trees. It's about building a restoration economy that links ecological outcomes with tangible community benefit; creating pathways for landholders to shift into restoration without losing their livelihoods. As Stewart Christie, CEO of Terrain NRM, put it:

"Cassowary Credits can help scale up restoration."

"This amazing ecosystem, the rainforest and the reef, is the platform that supports our economy, but also ends up supporting our lifestyle, our culture, our community."

Documentary Australia: Strengthening Impact

In 2025 the project gained fiscal sponsorship with Documentary Australia, providing a platform to engage philanthropists, funders and partners interested in restoration finance, biocredits and climate solutions. This backing also strengthens the film's long-term impact strategy, ensuring that its story can reach far beyond the Daintree.



Films for Change

Footage captured throughout the year has already supported Rainforest Rescue's appeal videos and wider communications. The upcoming documentary video is being shaped as both an inspiring story and a practical tool – something councils, landholders, funders, educators and community groups can use to encourage restoration action.

Though centred on the Oxbow Wetlands and Daintree River, its message reaches to agricultural regions and coastal catchments across Australia that face similar questions about land, water and climate resilience.

Looking Ahead

When audiences see the film in 2026 and beyond, I hope they recognise that ecosystem restoration isn't merely an environmental labour but an investment in biodiversity, climate resilience, community wellbeing and future livelihoods.

As David White from Solar Whisper reminded me while we drifted past the mangroves:

"If you build it, they will come."

"...If it can be re-vegetated and brought back to what it's supposed to be, that'll be a win for everybody."

With sound policy, strong partnerships and a growing restoration economy in the Douglas Shire, perhaps they already are.

Martin Stringer
Media Producer

Opposite: 110 Cape Tribulation Road in the foreground, bordering the Daintree Oxbow.

Above: Aboard Daintree River guide David White's solar-powered boat, exploring the creeks near the Oxbow.

Left: Little Kingfisher will benefit from riparian restoration for their breeding sites.

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.



Martin Stringer

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.



Daisy
Student And Rainforest Rescue
Ambassador

Daisy began volunteering with Rainforest Rescue in 2022 at just 9 years old. Since then, she has come a long way and is now our first official Junior Ambassador.

In 2024, Daisy was nominated for the 'Young Cassowary Award', an award given by the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) to celebrate young people who are making a difference in environmental conservation in the Wet Tropics region.

Daisy's favourite animal is the Amethystine python, also known as the Australian scrub python (*Simalia kinghorni*). She loves exploring the rainforest, especially in search of cassowaries, and marvelling at unique plants like the Climbing Pitcher plant (*Nepenthes mirabilis*) and the Lance-Leaved Sundew (*Drosera adalae*), both of which are carnivorous.



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.



together we're planting for a better tomorrow

Annual Community Tree Planting moves to a new location!

Thanks to our supporters, Rainforest Rescue has protected and restored rainforest habitat since 1999.

Now the time has come to begin our next restoration project, with our first Annual Community Tree Planting since completing NightWings Rainforest Centre. As a caring community we'll expand the native habitat of a fascinating floodplain location in the Lower Daintree.

For more info and to register for free:
rainforestrescue.org.au/2026-planting/

Join us
on Saturday
16th May 2026
for our
first planting.
We can't wait
to see
you there!

Martin Stringer



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2025
Because of your support, this has been a landmark year for Rainforest Rescue. A year where ambition turned into action, and momentum became real progress on the ground.

Thank you for standing with us, and for the future you're helping to grow and restore.

Josephine Warnet
Back cover image: Martin Stringer

A special thank you to Marylouise Brammer for designing our beautiful 2025 Annual Report.



**rainforest
rescue**

#TreesAreTheAnswer