




IMPACT REPORT

2021-2022

A photograph of Kelvin Davies, founder, in a rainforest. He is wearing a grey hat and a light-colored shirt, smiling and holding a large green leaf. The background is filled with lush green foliage.

WORKING TOGETHER TO HEAL OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE AND WITH EACH OTHER

KELVIN DAVIES, FOUNDER

All environmental problems are based in the often-troubled relationships we have with nature and with each other. Indeed, the harm we do to the natural world is preceded by the harm we do to each other.

As humans, we have evolved into complex beings. The result is that we all too often find it difficult to get along. This can even occur when individuals and organisations are working towards achieving the same ends. The need to protect and restore rainforests has never been greater, yet it is not uncommon for those that seem to be natural allies to keep their distance. Where there should be collaboration we see separation.

For this reason, I am delighted with our ‘Stronger Together’ partnership. For three years the Rainforest 4 Foundation has been working with the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and fellow non-profit HalfCut, to both protect and restore the Daintree Rainforest and to heal the relationship with Eastern Kuku Yalanji and non-Aboriginal people.

Our purchase of land in the Daintree Rainforest for conservation has been planned so we also support the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people. For Aboriginal people, connection to Country and the responsibility to care for Country is at the centre of their identity and when land is returned an enormous healing occurs. It’s been wonderful to be involved.

By focusing on practical programs, we have now purchased 24 Daintree Rainforest properties so they can be protected in the Daintree National Park (CYPAL) and be cared for by the Jabalbina Rangers who now co-manage the national park with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

We’ve demonstrated that collaboration is achievable and that we are truly stronger together. Aligning your values and actions is powerful. We are people with purpose. We are in service to the community and together we make the world a better place.

Collaboration has required effort from all three organisations. To everyone who believed in the potential and who had faith and belief in each other, I am grateful.

Tangible outcomes need practical support. When we identify a Daintree Rainforest property needing purchase and protection the next step involves us making a commitment because we can’t buy half a property. To be successful that commitment needs to be matched by our donors. Thank you to the thousands of donors that chose to make a personal commitment. You make everything possible. To purchase 12 properties in 12 months is something special. Thank you for your support.

Thank you also to our CEO, Richard Christian. We are very fortunate to have a professional CEO who manages the governance of the organisation and the finances to a very high standard. Richard cares deeply about the welfare of our staff, our volunteers, and in meeting the expectations of our supporters. The organisation has tripled in size in the two years since Richard joined us and under his leadership, we will proceed with confidence.

CEO'S WELCOME

RICHARD CHRISTIAN

The past twelve months have been tumultuous. While the global COVID-19 pandemic continued to play out, Australian communities were hit hard by extreme weather events. As well as affecting people and the places they live, these weather events also affected the natural places we love so much, as well as our special plants and animals.

Rainforest 4 was impacted by the floods that wreaked havoc on northern NSW. Our Mullumbimby office was damaged, computers and furniture destroyed, and our staff felt the double blow of seeing their workspace impacted as well as the communities in which they live.

It is becoming more and more obvious that immediate action is needed to slow the impacts of climate change. When ecosystems are protected or enhanced, they are more resilient to the effects of extreme weather. We know that resilient ecosystems are crucial when it comes to keeping communities safe in the wake of climate change.

We also know that rainforests are a critical line of defence when it comes to protecting the planet from climate change.

Rainforests store massive amounts of carbon so when they are destroyed, cut down, burnt or degraded, carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere.

While we must stop burning fossil fuels as a matter of urgency, protecting our precious rainforests will help us fight climate change. And expanding rainforests through reforestation projects has enormous potential to stave off a climate collapse.

Not only do rainforests help to regulate the planet's temperature and regional rainfall patterns, they also absorb massive amounts of solar radiation and prevent both floods and droughts.

Despite the challenges that the past year held, our supporters stepped up and helped us achieve this outcome.

Home to many Threatened Species, the 12 properties we purchased with the help of our incredible donors and partners in the last financial year will now be managed for conservation. We also bore witness to a historical handover of land to Traditional Owners on Cape York from the Queensland Government which included the Daintree National Park.

This outcome is not just one made possible by our donors but also by the strong partnership we've built with HalfCut and Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation. We know that when it comes to rainforest conservation, we are Stronger Together.

There was sobering news for the Daintree as well, with lowland tropical rainforests of the Wet Tropics bioregion, which includes the Daintree Lowland Rainforest, being listed in the Endangered category of the threatened ecological communities list under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. This listing is reserved for ecological communities that the Commonwealth Threatened Species Scientific Committee considers to have a high or greater chance of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future or earlier.

You can read more about these significant outcomes in this report.

The outcomes we've achieved over the past 12 months would not have been possible without the incredible contributions from our staff, volunteers and contractors. I would particularly like to thank our founder Kelvin Davies and the board of Rainforest 4 Foundation for their commitment to rainforest conservation in Australia.





SECTION 1
**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

STRONGER TOGETHER

**RAINFOREST4
FOUNDATION**

**Half
Cut**

JABALBINA

STRONGER TOGETHER

Stronger Together is a partnership between Rainforest 4 Foundation, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and HalfCut. Our three non-profits work together to ensure the ecological processes that began in the Daintree 120 million years ago continue uninterrupted

Kuku Yalanji are the Traditional Owners of the Daintree Lowland Rainforest and have a history dating back 50,000 years to the earliest human occupation of Australia.

HalfCut is the face of Australia's environment movement, bringing joy and accessibility to the serious job of protecting rainforests for wildlife, climate, people and planet. HalfCut works with Rainforest 4 Foundation and Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation to engage people and raise funds for rainforest conservation and restoration.

Rainforest 4 Foundation and HalfCut work together to rewild the Daintree Lowland Rainforest to a pristine ecological system managed by its rightful owners, the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people.





HISTORIC RETURN OF 160,000 HECTARES TO EASTERN KUKU YALANJI PEOPLE

In September 2021, our staff travelled to Bloomfield to witness a historic handover of more than 160,000 hectares which was returned to the ownership of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people.

At the event, the Queensland Government delivered deeds of grant to the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People. The land includes the Daintree National Park and three other national parks on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bubu (country).

In addition, an Indigenous Management Agreement was signed for the designation of the Daintree, Ngalba-bulal, Kalkajaka, and Hope Islands national parks as Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL). These national parks total 160,108 hectares and will be jointly managed by Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and the Queensland Government.

More than 350 people attended the handover ceremony and celebration north of Wujal Wujal with speeches by Eastern Kuku Yalanji Elders, dances, and a signing and formal handover of deeds. First Nations families from across the Wet Tropics attended.

Tahlia Burchill, an Eastern Kuku Yalanji woman who was MC for the event said the day was about “returning Bubu to Bama and protecting significant conservation values.”

Auntie Lyn Johnson, an Eastern Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owner and then Chair of the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation was one of the speakers at the ceremony. Lyn acknowledged many people who contributed to this historic outcome and paid special tribute to the Elders and Traditional Owners who led and supported the process.

“We should really thank those who started this process and are no longer with us, but are here in spirit.”

A past Chair of Jabalbina, Desmond Tayley also addressed the crowd seated under a huge marquee at the Wujal Wujal/Bloomfield sports fields.

“This land has belonged to our People for millennia,” Desmond said. “There is unbroken occupation and unbroken relationship with our Bubu.”

“Our stories and our ancestors’ spirits are in every valley, every mountain, every tree, every rock in the sea and the river. This connection to Bubu is very real and very alive.”

Queensland’s environment minister, Meaghan Scanlon said there are now 32 Aboriginal-owned and jointly managed national parks on the Cape York Peninsula.

“Today’s handback marks the government returning more than 3.8 million hectares of land back to Traditional Owners on Cape York, with 2.3 million hectares to be jointly managed by our rangers and the community,” Minister Scanlon said.

Since 1995, the Cape York land tenure resolution process has returned approximately 4 million hectares of land to Aboriginal ownership. This includes over 2 million hectares of Aboriginal-owned and jointly managed national parks and nearly 2 million hectares of Aboriginal freehold land.

Richard Christian, Rainforest 4 Foundation CEO attended the event on behalf of the organisation.

“Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation is a significant partner of Rainforest 4 Foundation and HalfCut and our Save the Daintree program,” Richard said.

Richard said he was honoured to be invited as a guest of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people.

“Seeing the dream become a reality is humbling,” Richard said. “Today is a great win for the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people.”

“The partnership we have with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and HalfCut enables us to build on this great outcome for Bama and Bubu.”



TEN DAINTREE PROPERTIES RETURNED TO EASTERN KUKU YALANJI

The Stronger Together partnership, a collaboration between Rainforest 4 Foundation, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, and HalfCut, has collaborated to buy freehold land in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest and return it to Traditional Owners. In April 2021 the three organisations met in the Daintree to hand over ten properties purchased with donations from thousands of Australians.

More than a hundred people attended the handover which took place as part of a donors' tour across the Daintree Lowland rainforest.

Eastern Kuku Yalanji woman and Chair of Jabalbina Yalanji Corporation Michelle Friday-Mooka said the partnership was unique in Australia.

“We are the only formalised, non-government program which purchases land for conservation to be owned and managed by its Traditional Owners,” she said.

“Let us recognise the past injustices to Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama (people), Bubu (country) and Jalun (sea).”

“Reconciliation means working together to correct the legacy of past injustices,” Michelle said.

The ten properties handed over in April were created through a subdivision in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest that occurred in 1982. They total 25.9 hectares and are undeveloped rainforest.

Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation administers land on behalf of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people, the Traditional Owners of the Daintree Lowland Rainforest.

Rainforest 4 Foundation chief executive Richard Christian said the partnership had achieved significant outcomes.

A total of sixteen properties have now been handed over.

The properties handed over in 2022 are:

Lot 85 Cape Tribulation Road, Diwan

Lot 176 Quandong Road, Cow Bay

Lot 2 Thornton Peak Drive, Forest Creek

Lot 110 Palm Road, Diwan

Lot 21 Camelot Close, Cape Tribulation

Lot 505 Cedar Road, Cow Bay,

Lot 18 Daley Close, Kimberley

Lot 213 Teak Road, Cow Bay

Lot 242 White Beech Road, Cow Bay

Lot 257 Silver Ash Road, Cow Bay

The six properties handed over in 2021 are:

Lot 107 Buchanan Creek Road, Cow Bay

Lot 2 Thornton Peak Drive, Forest Creek

Lot 390 Maple Road, Cow Bay

Lot 124 Quandong Road, Cow Bay

Lot 330 Cape Tribulation Road, Cow Bay

Lot 305 Cypress Road, Cow Bay



SAVE THE DAINTREE TOUR SHOWS WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

In April 2022, more than a hundred friends and supporters visited the Daintree Rainforest to walk alongside Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and learn about the world's oldest continually existing tropical rainforest from the oldest continually existing human culture. Together we saw firsthand how the properties we are purchasing for conservation are protected and managed.

Our work to save the Daintree Rainforest is undertaken through a partnership with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and fellow non-profit organisation HalfCut.

The three-day event was impacted by a flooded Daintree River on day one but kicked off only a few hours late with a fascinating guided walk hosted by ecologist and botanist Kristopher Kupsch.

Kristopher led 45 people through the Jindalba boardwalk in the Daintree National Park, pointing out significant flora and their genetic traits which hark back to the world's first flowering plants.

The next day saw the group come together in the morning for a guided walk, led by Kuku Yalanji Elders and Cultural Guides. This was a trial of Jabalbina's first eco-cultural tourism offering that included a very special Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony.

A ceremony then took place in the afternoon for the handover of ten rainforest lots back to Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners for management by the Jabalbina Rangers. These properties will be included in the Daintree National Park (Cape York Aboriginal Lands).

MCed by Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation's Conrad Yeatman Jr, the event also included a

Smoking Ceremony, welcoming guests and keeping them safe on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bubu (country), reflections from Traditional Owners, and Jabalbina Chair Michelle Friday-Mooka, speeches by representatives of the Stronger Together partners – Jabalbina, HalfCut and Rainforest 4 and a symbolic handover of ten rainforest properties.

Rainforest 4 Founder Kelvin Davies said it was an incredibly special event, made even more significant by the attendance of so many people contributing to the conservation of the Daintree Lowland Rainforest.

“Seeing so many Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners joining our donors and business sponsors was heart-lifting,” Kelvin said.

“More than 100 supporters of our work came together in the Daintree to witness this handover,” he said, “and every one of them has contributed to our Stronger Together partnership in some way.”

The day after the handover saw those same guests get their hands dirty, planting 1000 trees on a property being managed for conservation. The Jabalbina Rangers led the way, drilling many of the holes using an auger, with volunteers following along to plant the trees.



HALFCUT HEROES HELP SECURE MORE DAINTREE BLOCKS FOR CONSERVATION



The enormous success of HalfCut 2021 helped to produce unprecedented outcomes for the protection of the Daintree Lowland Rainforest.

In July and August, HalfCut Heroes were shining a light on the fact that half of the world's forests are gone. Through their peer-to-peer fundraising campaign, they raised more than \$800,000 to support land purchase and protection in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest.

Those funds were put towards expanding our buyback work in the Daintree Rainforest with Lot 21 and Lot 213 secured for purchase and donations made towards the purchase of other properties.

The Rainforest 4 Foundation, HalfCut, and the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation are committed to working together in protecting the Daintree Lowland Rainforest and returning it to the management of Traditional Owners, the Kuku Yalanji people.

With the help of thousands of people, in Australia and around the world we've raised the funds needed to purchase 12 properties in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest in the 2021-22 financial year.

Jimmy and his partner Jess founded HalfCut in 2014. Jimmy said they said they were thrilled with the response to HalfCut 2021 and so proud of the individuals and businesses that backed the campaign to save the Daintree.

“What these everyday Australians have done in terms of protecting ancient rainforest is significant,” Jimmy said.

“They’ve used their voices and their hair to build awareness and raise cash that we will now use to protect significant rainforest blocks in the Daintree.”

HalfCut 2021 was supported by Bank Australia, Enova Energy, Ben and Jerry's, Plant Proof, MacPac, and over 550 individuals, all raising funds for Daintree land purchase and protection.

“The first time I visited the Daintree I knew it was a special place,” Jimmy said. “It beggars belief that someone could buy one of these blocks and legally clear it to build a house.”

“Lot 213 and Lot 21 are critical habitat for animals like the Boyd's Rainforest Dragon and Bennett's Tree-Kangaroo and the Endangered Cassowary. We simply must do everything we can to protect them.”



SECTION 2
SAVE THE
RAINFOREST

OUR IMPACT 2021-22



12

Properties acquired



9

Ecological surveys conducted



89.0708_{HA}

Rainforest area protected



8132

Donations received

PROPERTIES PURCHASED THIS YEAR



Isachne sharpii

August 2021

**LOT 110
PALM ROAD,
DIWAN**

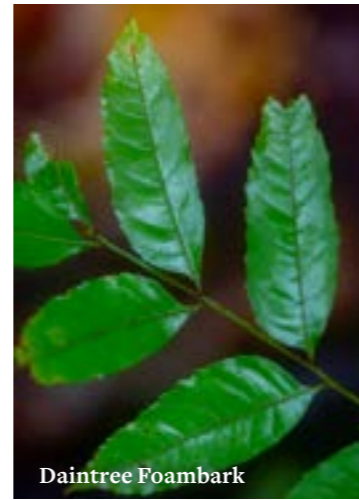
Habitat: Lowland tropical rainforest

Area: 8 hectares

Highlights:

Magnificent Fan Palms (*Licuala ramsayi*) cover this block.

The Endangered plant *Isachne sharpii* (no common name) is on this site - highly localised - a very significant find. This small grass grows to 15cm tall. First identified in 2001 from specimens found less than 1km from Lot 110 and only confirmed as a new species in 2010.



Daintree Foambark

August 2021

**LOT 505
CEDAR ROAD,
COW BAY**

Habitat: Canopy of sclerophyll trees and diverse rainforest mid and understory

Area: 1 hectare

Highlights:

117 native plant species onsite.

Daintree Foambark (*Jagera madida*) is a local, endemic tree, that occurs only in the lowland rainforests between Julatten (southwest of Port Douglas) and Bloomfield. It is identifiable by its pinkish, ferny new growth and often by its single, straight stem which seldom branches. Its trunk is often completely covered in lichen of various shades of grey.



Fan Palms

August 2021

**LOT 176
QUANDONG ROAD,
COW BAY**

Habitat: Canopy of sclerophyll trees and diverse rainforest mid and understory

Area: 1.016 hectares

Highlights:

152 species found on the site, which is dominated by huge trees over 100 years old.

Local endemic tree, Queensland Golden Showers (*Cassia queenslandica*) is seldomly encountered in this area but was identified from one tree onsite which was fruiting at the time.

The Threatened plant Noah's Walnut (*Endiandra microneural*) is found on this site.

Important habitat for the Endangered Southern Cassowary with many species of plants producing fleshy fruits.



Bennett's Tree Kangaroo

August 2021

**LOT 2
THORNTON PEAK DRIVE,
FOREST CREEK**

Habitat: Two distinct ecosystems - sclerophyll and rainforest

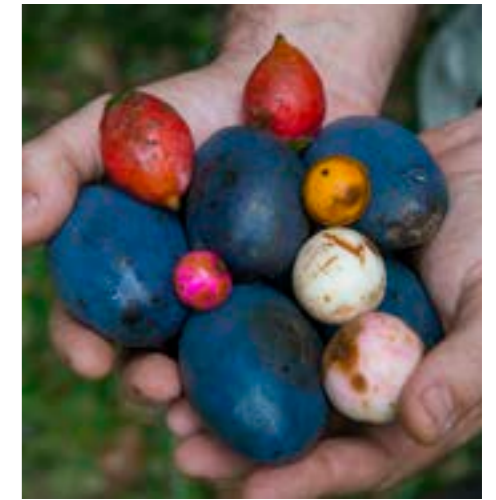
Area: 1.17 hectares

Highlights:

Threatened Species: Noah's Walnut, China Camp Laurel, Thornton Aspen, Ant Plant

A small creek runs through the rainforest where the presence of the Southern Cassowary has been observed. The rare Bennett's Tree-kangaroo has also been sighted nearby.

Adjoins Lot 3, a property that we purchased for conservation in January 2020, consolidating the area protected for conservation. Both properties share a boundary with Daintree National Park and World Heritage Area.



September 2021

**LOT 213
TEAK ROAD,
COW BAY**

Habitat: Sclerophyll Forest transitioning to a rainforest ecosystem in the absence of fire

Area: 1 hectare

Highlights:

The Daintree Gardenia (*Randia audasii*) is listed as Near Threatened in Queensland and was identified on the block.

11 species of native Laurels - also favoured by Cassowaries for their fleshy fruits - located on Lot 213.

A total of 128 native plant species on site.



1000+ year old Hope's Cycad



Bennett's Tree Kangaroo



September 2021

**LOT 21
CAMELOT CLOSE,
CAPE TRIBULATION**

Habitat: Lowland tropical rainforest

Area: 2.306 hectares

Highlights:

One of the best examples of undisturbed lowland tropical rainforest in Australia.

Many enormous tree specimens include Papuan Rosewoods, Cassowary Satinash, Cairns Hickory, Cairns Pencil Cedar, Tulip Oak, Spur Mahogany, Damson Plum and Northern Silky Oak.

Many Hope's Cycad found onsite. Largest growing cycad species in the world, once utilised by Aboriginal people as a food source, with evolutionary links dating back 200 million years.

November 2021

**LOT 18
DALEY CLOSE,
KIMBERLEY**

Habitat: Mesophyll vine forest

Area: 0.9588 hectares

Highlights:

The vegetation here is intact with no evidence of past clearing and provides habitat for the endangered Southern Cassowary and the rare Bennett's Tree-kangaroo.

Noah's Walnut (*Endiandra micronera*), listed as Near Threatened is found on Lot 18. It produces large yellow oblong-shaped fruits that are dispersed by the Southern Cassowary and is only found naturally within the Daintree rainforests predominately north of the Daintree River and south of Cape Tribulation.

December 2021

**LOT 242
WHITE BEECH ROAD,
COW BAY**

Habitat: Mesophyll vine forest

Area: 1.33 hectares

Highlights:

This property shares a boundary with Daintree National Park and is essential habitat for the Southern Cassowary.

The dominant sclerophyll species of trees are all estimated to be 80-100 years old indicating the last fire occurred at that time. The majority of the vegetation is significantly denser being a diverse rainforest understorey. Since fire is now seldom experienced in the Daintree lowlands it is assumed that this forest habitat will omit Sclerophyll species as time lengthens.



February 2022

**LOT 8
BUCHANAN CREEK ROAD,
COW BAY**

Habitat: Two distinct ecosystems – mesophyll vine forest and lowlands of the wet zone

Area: 1 hectare

Highlights:

This lot is essential habitat for the endangered Southern Cassowary, Australia's smallest parrot the Macleay's Fig-parrot. Many beautiful Fan Palms (*Licuala ramsayi*) and Zamia Ferns (*Bowenia spectabilis*) cover the site.

Our survey identified 176 species of native plants including the Cooper Creek Haplostichanthus (*Polyalthia xanthocarpa*) which grows as an understorey shrub to 3m in height and is endemic to the rainforests of the Daintree lowland. It is a recently described species formally recognised in 2007 as *Haplostichanthus ramiflorus* and then redescribed as *Polyalthia xanthocarpa* in 2012.



February 2022

**LOT 11
BUCHANAN CREEK ROAD,
COW BAY**

Habitat: Lowland tropical rainforest

Area: 1.2 hectares

Highlights:

There are many species of native Laurels which provide fruits for Cassowaries and evidence of them using the property was confirmed by footprints and dung.

Threatened Species include Southern Cassowary, China Camp Laurel, Gray's Walnut and Noah's Walnut with our survey identifying 185 species of native plants onsite.

China Camp Laurel (*Beilschmiedia castrisinesis*) which only grows between the Daintree and Bloomfield Rivers was found on Lot 11 as a single seedling within Cassowary droppings. The seeds are the largest of all native Laurels and rely on dispersal by Cassowaries.



May 2022

**LOT 257
SILVER ASH ROAD
COW BAY**

Habitat: Lowland tropical rainforest

Area: 1.09 hectares

Highlights:

258 native plant species were identified on this site including three listed in Queensland's Nature Conservation Act (1992): Daintree Gardenia *Randia audasii*, Noah's Walnut *Endiandra microneura* and Greys Walnut *Endiandra grayi*.

Threatened fauna includes: Endangered Southern Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*), Macleay's Fig-Parrot (*Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana*).

Hope's Cycad (*Lepidozamia hopei*) also occurs on the site - the largest growing Cycad in the world with evolutionary links dating back some 200 million years.



White Lipped Tree Frog

February 2022

LOT 1 OAKEY SCRUB COOKTOWN

Habitat: Monsoon Rainforest and Savannah

Area: 69 hectares

Highlights:

Located 11km southwest of Cooktown on Cape York and adjoins 18,100ha Caloola Nature Refuge.

Joint purchase with South Endeavour Trust, the purchase has ensured the property is prevented from being used for cattle grazing.

Threatened Species include the Northern Quoll, Southern Cassowary, Bennett's Tree-Kangaroo, Large-eared Horseshoe Bat, Semons Leaf-nosed Bat.



CAPE YORK'S OAKEY SCRUB PROTECTED FOREVER

The 69ha property 'Oakey Scrub', located 10km southwest of Cooktown is home to many threatened species and we're thrilled we've been able to secure this habitat for their continued survival.

Surveys of Oakey Scrub by ecologists showed evidence of Northern Quolls, Cassowaries, Bennett's Tree-Kangaroos, Large-eared Horseshoe Bats and Semons Leaf-nosed Bats which are all listed as Threatened Species and a priority for conservation.

Oakey Scrub was identified as a priority for acquisition by fellow non-profit South Endeavour Trust. The land contains Monsoon Rainforest (21 hectares of semi-deciduous notophyll vine forest) and Savannah (48 hectares of mixed woodland-grassland ecosystem).

Through the support of its generous donors, the Rainforest 4 Foundation contributed half of the \$110,000 required for the purchase of Oakey Scrub with South Endeavour Trust.

South Endeavour Trust currently owns and manages twenty conservation reserves and Oakey Scrub is now added to the list of properties being managed for conservation by the organisation.

Tim Hughes is the Director of South Endeavour Trust. He called this outcome significant.

"It protects habitat for a range of important endangered species including Cassowaries and Tree-kangaroos and especially the Northern Quoll," Tim said.

Northern Quolls are under threat from habitat destruction and poisoning from the introduced cane toad, which many Quolls eat without realising the danger. Fortunately, the Northern Quolls in Oakey Scrub and surrounding lands have learned to avoid cane toads, which makes them very important.

"It is truly a wonderful outcome to protect such a pivotal piece of land."

Like Rainforest 4 Foundation, South Endeavour Trust believes that private individuals can make a major contribution to nature conservation in Australia.

"We believe that there is no single right model for conservation," Tim said, "rather, many right models that, working together, can make a very real difference to protecting the truly unique flora and fauna of this great and ancient continent."

"Around a third of Oakey Scrub is Monsoon Rainforest. Some of this was partly cleared in the 19th century and it's recovering beautifully in the absence of fire," Tim said.

"It's surrounded on two sides by a property that we already own, the 18,100-hectare Caloola Nature Refuge. There's a range of Monsoon Rainforest properties along Oakey Creek that were subdivided in the 19th century which contained really important Monsoon Rainforest, so this is an important area and an important piece of land."

Oakey Scrub and the surrounding area boast the largest known population of Northern Quolls on Cape York Peninsula however, until we were able to secure it, this property was privately owned and not managed for conservation. The population of Northern Quolls and other Threatened Species is one of the reasons we identified Oakey Scrub for purchase and protection.

Now that we have purchased Oakey Scrub we are working with the Department of Environment and Science to try to protect it forever as a Nature Refuge.

Tim expressed South Endeavour's immense gratitude to the many donors who helped achieve this significant conservation outcome.

"We must express our thanks to Rainforest 4 Foundation," Tim said. "Without Rainforest 4 this purchase wouldn't have been possible and we're incredibly appreciative of that."

Rainforest 4 Foundation CEO Richard Christian said the partnership was unique.

"We're committed to protecting rainforest throughout the world and this opportunity to secure habitat for such significant species was too good to pass up. We knew our donors would be excited at the prospect of securing a significant piece of Cape York for our precious wildlife and their habitats."

"Thank you to all our incredible donors for showing such dedication to the purchase and protection of important habitats and the threatened species that call these places home," Richard said.

An aerial photograph of a lush mangrove forest. The dense green canopy is punctuated by a network of winding, dark water channels that meander through the trees. The perspective is from directly above, showing the intricate patterns of the water and the texture of the forest floor.

SECTION 3 PARTNERS

LITTLE LOCALS, BIG OUTCOME FOR THE DAINTREE RAINFOREST

Little Locals is a family-owned and operated group of early learning centres in Queensland. Proud advocates for living sustainably and for wildlife conservation, the company partnered with Rainforest 4 Foundation in 2021 to raise funds to purchase and protect Lot 11 Buchanan Creek Road in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest.

Little Locals owner
Tim Searles and
family visit the
Daintree



Tim Searles is one of the owners of Little Locals.

“Our partnership with Rainforest 4 Foundation is just another step on our journey as an early learning group that embraces a deep respect for the environment in our teaching and care, practices and values,” Tim said.

“With this initiative, we are teaching the Little Locals’ children about the world, and why we must care for it.”

“The children have enjoyed learning about the wonderful plants and animals of the Daintree Rainforest. We want to ensure a bright future for our own little locals, and for generations to come.”

The fundraising efforts of many individuals and communities around Australia, including Little Locals resulted in Lot 11 Buchanan Creek Road being purchased and protected forever. Hundreds of donors contributed to this outcome, which is supported by our Stronger Together partners, HalfCut and Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation.

Lot 11 shares a boundary with the Daintree National Park and has many of the natural values that supported the national park being declared a World Heritage Area in 1988. A survey on the Lot also identified 185 species of native plants including three listed on the Queensland Nature Conservation Act and the block has also been mapped as essential Cassowary habitat by the Queensland Government.

Kelvin Davies, Founder Rainforest 4 Foundation said the fundraising efforts of Little Locals were greatly appreciated.

“We cannot do this work without the contributions of everyday people and ethical businesses like Little Locals have an important role to play. Not only are they raising funds, but they’re also raising the next generation of decision-makers who will value the natural environment and the special plants and animals we must protect to ensure a safe future for us all.”

“Lot 11 Buchanan Creek Road is one of 13 blocks we’ve purchased and protected with the support of people like Little Locals in just one year. We cannot thank Little Locals enough for their efforts in fundraising to Save the Daintree.”

RAINFOREST RESTORATION AND TOURISM COME TOGETHER

A donation to Rainforest 4 Foundation by OneTomorrow Charitable Fund – APT Travel Group’s charitable fund – has seen a thousand trees established in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest and an important tourism trial take place in partnership with Traditional Owners.



Despite disruption caused by ferry cancellations in the wake of heavy rain, in April, we held a three-day event in the Daintree Lowland Rainforest for more than a hundred donors and friends. This included a pilot program of guided walks by Kuku Yalanji rainforest guides and generated an estimated \$60,000 in economic benefit on-the-ground for the Daintree community with guests reporting spends on accommodation, food and experiences north of the Daintree River.

As well as welcoming guests for walks on Country with Kuku Yalanji guides and other cultural experiences, our Stronger Together partners; Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and HalfCut also engaged guests in hands-on restoration work on two properties being acquired for conservation outcomes.

Lot 93 Cape Tribulation Road is a 8.09 hectare block at risk of development, but we have secured an option to purchase it for conservation outcomes. 850 trees were planted on this block with the help of Jabalbina rangers and around 80 donors and friends of the Stronger Together partnership.

Our vegetation survey of this block identified 258 species of native plants including five Threatened species and four more that are endemic to the Daintree Rainforest. Cassowaries have also recently been seen using the property.

150 trees were also planted on Lot 11 Buchanan Creek Road, which shares a boundary with Daintree National Park. Our survey of Lot 11 identified 185 species of native plants including three that are listed as Threatened. The property has also been mapped as essential Cassowary habitat by the Queensland Government and there are many species of native Laurels which provide fruits for Cassowaries.

Marlene Nolan is the Business Development Manager QLD for APT Travel Group as well as the Guest Giving Champion for APT’s OneTomorrow Foundation.

“Now that travel is coming back, it’s so wonderful for our guests to be able to travel around Australia and experience the Daintree first hand on our tours,” Marlene said.

“OneTomorrow’s mission is to make a positive and enduring impact on nature and the communities we touch,” she said. “This is achieved through immediate and long-term influence in various environmental and humanitarian causes.”

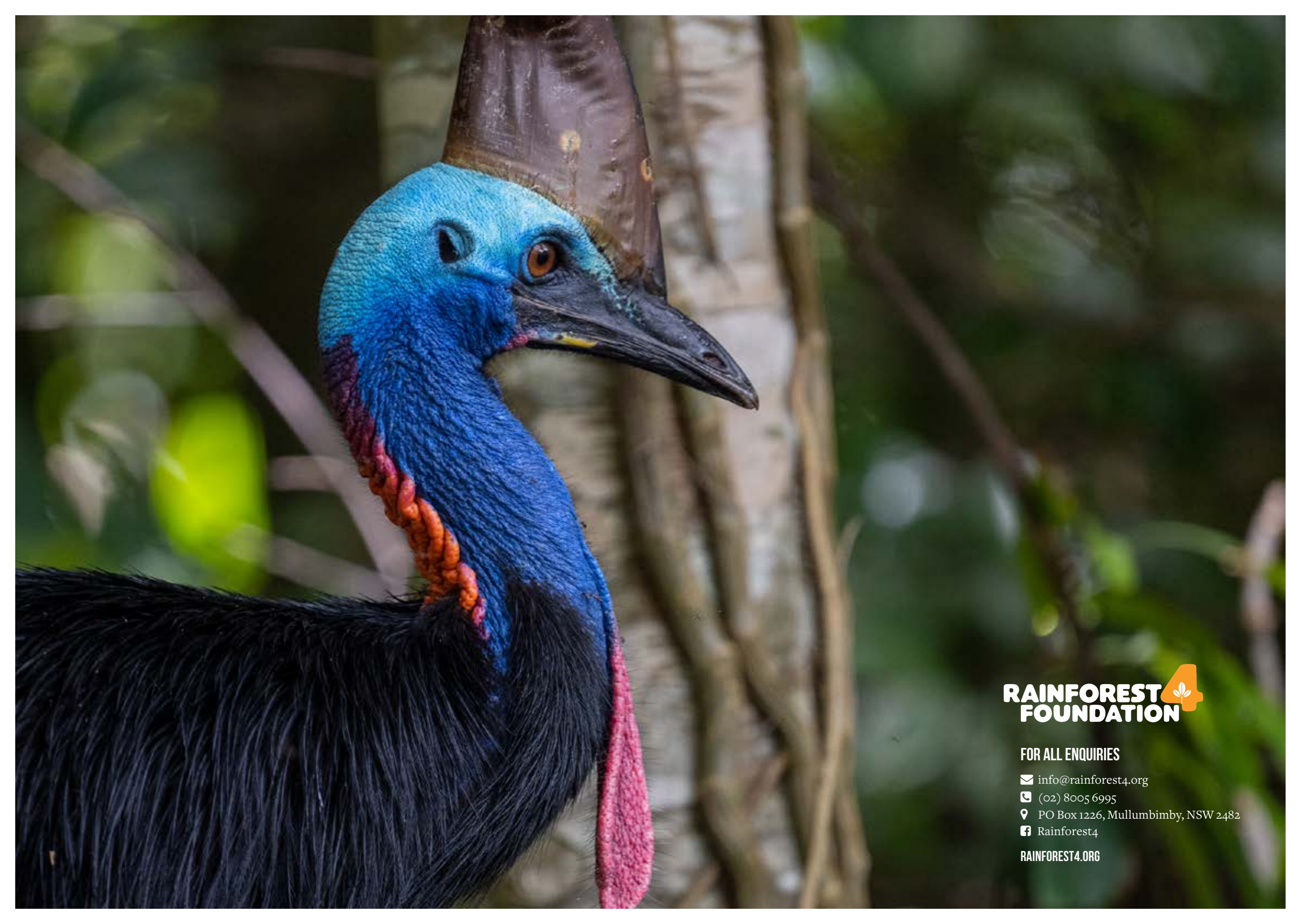
“I can think of no better fit with Rainforest 4 and the work that has taken place to restore the Daintree National Park and return the land to its natural environment.”

Rainforest 4 Founder Kelvin Davies said the contribution of OneTomorrow Foundation resulted in environmental as well as sustainable tourism outcomes.

“We’re thrilled we could bring a group of visitors to the Daintree to see first-hand the outcomes of their donations to our buyback program,” Kelvin said.


“Not only did our guests have the chance to walk alongside Kuku Yalanji elders on Country, they also had the chance to learn about the Daintree’s special plants and animals and play a hands-on role in ensuring their survival for generations to come.”


“The contribution of OneTomorrow Foundation and all of our donors is much appreciated.”




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