

14th Annual Cassowary Awards 2012

In November 2012 we were received notice that we had made the shortlist for the Wet Tropics Cassowary Award. The Cassowary Awards recognise outstanding services and dedication to the conservation and presentation of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage area.

CASSOWARY HERO PROFILES

'Whilst a picture paints a thousand words, a footprint of discovery has the power to transform forever'



Helen Underwood (Gordonvale)

Helen's passion, belief, capacity and determination has seen her lead a team to develop the, "Excelsior: A Whole Community Approach to Sustainability" initiative. Developed in 2008 and implemented in 2009 at Gordonvale State School, the initiative was extended to include students from Aloomba State School in 2010 and Gordonvale State High School in 2011. In 2011 the Gordonvale Community Kindergarten became involved in the program. Helen has enabled students to learn about the environment, develop skills to investigate and solve issues, acquire attitudes of care

and concern for the environment, adopt behaviours and practices which protect the environment and understand the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Over the past five years Helen has taken Gordonvale State School from being a school working on its own to a school working with an extensive range of partners and the community to bring about change on an unprecedented scale in the local community.



Sue and Jack Hasenpusch (Innisfail)

For over 20 years Jack and Sue have been researching the insect fauna of the Wet Tropics Region. They have discovered many new species and have grown many of these out through their entire life cycles providing new information about these important animals. Their Australian Insect Farm just north of Innisfail has been a far sighted and community oriented exercise in voluntary conservation, made viable by the combination of a biologically rich and spectacular tropical rainforest environment, and a

sound land management ethic. Demonstrating a remarkable level of interest and motivation the Hasenpusch family have contributed enormously to educating the public and significantly changing the perception that all bugs are bad.



Dr Miriam Goosem (Cairns)

For over 20 years Miriam has made a major contribution to the understanding of the impacts of linear barriers (including roads and powerlines) on the movements of rainforest animals within the World Heritage Area. Miriam's research began with her PhD and opened up a new area of research in the Wet Tropics - no one knew before how many or what animals were being killed on roads and what animals would not cross cleared areas. Her data and recommendations now influence the way roads and powerline corridors are maintained and constructed in the Wet Tropics. For instance, the East Evelyn Road underpass tunnels are a testament to Miriam's work and continue to provide her with further research. Miriam's work was used to inform the design for the proposed upgrade of the Kuranda Range Road, in gullies under powerline corridors and bridges. Miriam's dedication, knowledge and practical innovative ideas have made a significant contribution to protection of the World Heritage Areas most valued icons.



WET TROPICS
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY