Corridor win hailed

A 20-year Samson and Goliath battle by a group of volunteers to conserve a critical wildlife corridor at Wongaling Beach from subdivision and development has been won following a unique agreement between C4 and Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN).

The 25ha block known as Lot 66 is integral in linking uplands habitat in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area near Ravenshoe right through to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The lot borders residential development near Mission Circle and Rockingham Road and the Djiru National Park. The corridor is essential to ensure access to seasonal feeding sites and for gene pool diversity of cassowaries and other wildlife.

C4 president Maurice Franklin said the fight for the wildlife corridor was actually a series of negotiations that saw the purchase of Lot 66 and the designation of Cassowary Coast Regional Council owned freehold Lot 802 on the seaward side of Wongaling Road (Cassowary Drive) as a cassowary corridor with management passing to the Djiru Warrangburra Aboriginal Corporation. This lot connects with Djiru land on the beachfront. (See map page 2.)

"Different personalities have played different roles all the way through; it has been a mammoth task, from fundraising, grant application writing, court battles, and lobbying of politicians of all persuasions," Maurice says. "Everyone who has had a role should be very proud.

"In the 1990s, when Lot 66 was under threat from development a campaign to protect it was spearheaded by volunteer lawyers at the Environmental Defenders’ Office and helped by local activist Liz Gal- lie. Organisations such as Terrain NRM, Biotropics, CSIRO, James Cook University and the Wet Tropics Management Authority helped document the ecological value of the land. The campaign failed in the courts but was effective enough to convince then Minister for the Environment Peter Garrett of the need to protect it. In 2008, he used his ministerial power to block the development as ‘clearly unacceptable’. Lot 66 had a reprieve but was still under threat from development. Two further applications were made and successfully prevented.

(Continued, page 3)
University students will play a big role in survey and restoration work on Lot 66, particularly along the edges and where material was pushed around when the site was being prepared for housing development.

C4 is hosting visiting students under the American Universities International Program and part of their program will be doing voluntary work to survey and monitor vegetation condition and weeds.

A management plan is being prepared by a James Cook University student and funding for a major Green Army program is being sought.

Benchline data will come from a 2010 environmental consultant’s report prepared as a requirement under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Protection Act for a previous development proposal.
Time for celebration

A “thank-you” celebration for C4 members and supporters who helped to make protection of Lot 66 a reality will be held on Saturday, May 24 starting at 5pm.

There will be a display on the history of the campaign for Lot 66 as well as information on its ecological importance as a wildlife corridor.

Come along to chat and reminisce with others who have been working over the years to achieve this memorable advance for conservation in Mission Beach.

The celebration will include music, Girringun Dancers and Fire Dancers. Dinner will be served around 6.30pm.

“We hope to see a lot of people who have had a role over the years in getting this great result,” President Maurice Franklin said.

For more information or to indicate your attendance or willingness to help, please email c4mission@gmail.com or phone C4 0740687197, Maurice 40687340 or Peter 0429179152.

C4 members (from left) Jeff Larson, Jan Watson and Maurice Franklin raise the temporary sign on Lot 66 following its purchase.

Joint effort yields great outcome

(From page 1)

“It was clear that buy back was the best solution.”

The first major donation of $16,000 came from the winding up of a C4 nature-based tourism project sponsored by the Sidney Meyer Fund in 1995.

This was followed by $10,000 from Bokhara Foundation in 1997. The fund grew with donations from trade union branches, service clubs, birdwatching groups, local residents and individuals from Australia and overseas.

“Throughout the struggle to find the funds, the land remained on the market with the added risk that it might sell to a third party though communication with the owners remained open,” he said.

“In 2011, C4 applied for a $500,000 Caring for Country grant and for two years we remained hopeful of a positive outcome. In August 2013, the Federal Government dashed these hopes with rejection.

C4 then resolved to seek corporate sponsors and crowd funding. We had raised $270,000 but our volunteers were almost exhausted mentally and physically.

“There, in September, our ‘White Knight — QTFN — appeared. C4, together with CCRC officers and Djiru Elders, discussed the project with QTFN General Manager Ben O’Hara. A series of meetings resulted in QTFN agreeing to partner with C4, provide the balance of the $550,000 plus GST and manage the acquisition, convening to Nature Reserve and sale of Lot 66 as one parcel.”

Mr O’Hara said the wildlife corridor’s creation highlighted the benefits of a commercial approach to conserving Queensland’s biodiversity and protecting its natural landscapes.

“It was thanks to C4’s efforts from the very beginning and on following through with the council and the Djiru Warrangburra Aboriginal Corporation that we were able to get the result,” he said.

C4’s approaches to the many adjoining private landowners for access to the boundaries of Lot 66 for survey and restoration work has met with an enthusiastic response.
Report played key part

The way to a secure future for Lot 66 was boosted by the action of Terrain NRM commissioning a report by environmental consultancy Biotropica on the local habitat linkages.

The report was available to inform then Environment Minister Peter Garrett when the 40-lot housing proposal was referred to him under the requirements of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.

On July 21, 2008, Mr Garrett disallowed the development on the basis that it would have “clearly unacceptable impacts on a matter protected by Part 3 of the EPBC Act”.

The Minister’s media release of July 28, 2008, included the statement: “While it is often possible to identify ways to offset or minimise the potential impacts of a project or development like this, I don’t believe that’s achievable in this case and that’s why I have taken the serious and unusual step of acting to rule this development out completely.”

Biotropica’s 2008 report, “Wonganiling Beach Habitat Linkages”, lists Habitat Linkage 6 (Reserve 214 to Tam O’Shanter National Park via Lot 802 on SP110366) as a primary linkage that “... is considered the most significant linkage within the Wongaling area.

Linkage habitat on the eastern side of the Tully-Mission Beach Road is State land but adjacent forests are privately owned lands. The security of linkage habitat on State lands is assumed, although this security rests entirely on achieving appropriate levels of protection for the very significant linkage habitat represented by Lot 66 SP164474.

“These two parcels contain very high quality vegetation, including riparian vegetation fringing two watercourses that flow into Reserve 214.

“If these parcels are developed there is a high risk that this critical linkage will become dysfunctional and degraded.

“The long-term future of Lot 66 on SP164474 requires careful consideration given its critical position, high quality habitat and continuity between State lands. Protection incentives should be considered and some acquisition may also be warranted.”

In a letter to C4, accepting our invitation to attend the official unveiling ceremony on May 19, the former environment minister said he was delighted at the result.

“Everyone should feel a great deal of pride that there is now an important wildlife corridor from the rainforest to the coastal wetlands for the endangered Southern Cassowary,” he said.

“I was always certain that vetoing the development proposal for this land was the right decision to take as environment minister.”

Boat Bay a ‘mixed bag’

The “final plan” for the $16.5 million upgrade of facilities at Boat Bay has had a mixed reaction from C4.

At Clump Point, many of the items on our wish list, developed over the past two years, are part of the upgrade, including a third boat ramp, sealed road and extra parking.

But the major and most controversial feature of the plan is the overtopping breakwater to be built off the end of the $3.5 million Perry Harvey jetty on Narragon Beach opposite Clump Point, which was opened for use last November.

It replaced the jetty built in 1963, repaired after Cyclone Larry in 2006 and finally written off after Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

C4 president Maurice Franklin said the organisation had supported the restoration of the jetty, recognising that loading facilities would have positive social and economic impact.

“We support additional infrastructure providing it does not have adverse environmental impact,” Maurice said.

He said the breakwater was not a preferred option.

C4 had been active in identifying agreed needs for boating facilities but remained opposed to any marina-style development or other major disturbance of the fragile nature of Boat Bay.

C4 has organised meetings over the past two years with government and stakeholders.

While not unanimous, there was widespread support for the third lane proposal, reinstatement of ramps existing prior to Cyclone Larry and upgrade of the access road.

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C4 Bulletin, May 2014

Major donor joins tributes

The major donor to C4’s bid to buy Lot 66, Melbourne doctor, Mark Newton, (right) is one of many who have paid tribute to the project.

His letter (left), tells the story. Others include former Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett and an online regular donor from Melbourne, Elizabeth Langler, who said: “That’s great.

“I thought you guys were dreaming.”

Other donations came from birdwatchers, service clubs and people with an interest in conservation.

C4 president Maurice Franklin said a special thanks should go to all who had given support both in donations and in kind by promoting the campaign, preparing information and running fund-raising events.

The result vindicates their confidence in the project and the importance of looking after our land, he said.

Life Members honoured

Elaine Siddons was on the spot when C4 started in the late 1980s, when it was incorporated in 1994, and when it began campaigning to save Lot 66. Until last year, she was a member of the management committee and membership coordinator.

In recognition of her contribution as the longest-serving committee member, Elaine was elected as our first Honorary Life Member.

Former president, Brenda Harvey, who was a founding member and a key figure through many years of C4 activity, has also been made an Honorary Life Member.

Dear Friends,

I am grateful for the opportunity to join you, albeit indirectly, in the celebration of securing the Lot 66 bush corridor at Mission Beach. I congratulate all the volunteers from C4, the Queensland Trust for Nature and associated interest groups that have worked consistently together to bring about this important measure in the conservation of cassowary and other wildlife and flora, native to Queensland. Before the relentless press of commercial interests and land development, any victory for conservation must be well and widely recognized, and truly celebrated!

My awareness of this project came during a holiday in the Mission Beach area in October 2012, when my travel companion and I came across the C4 display at the Information Centre in the village. We were both impressed by the urgency of need for possessing bush in the area and with the deep concern by the volunteer who had lovingly created the display.

During our stay at the Sanctuary Retreat, I was suddenly confronted one evening by a bold young cassowary that sprang from the bush, surprised and delighted, I rather tentatively backed off and turned around to be out of its way and that was the end of the encounter. Such spontaneous meetings with the creatures of nature, of course, leave deep impressions. These, combined with the occasion that Rosemary and I had come to enjoy north Queensland’s abundance of natural beauty, deeply tuned in me the urge to help with its conservation.

I salute the dedication and tireless efforts of every volunteer involved in this most important and urgent mission. Like all of you, I realize that this is but one victory in many battles, albeit a sweet one! I furthermore emphasize how effective your campaign has been in attracting at least this particular donor to the cause. I entrust you therefore to press on, creatively and imaginatively, with all means available to communicate the conservation message to all Australians, let alone to your proud fellow Queenslanders.

For this opportunity, to allow natural beauty not just to survive, but thrive, is brief and the noble call to altruistic concern must reach out not simply to fellow man but to all creatures and the good earth they inhabit.

With all gratitude and good wishes,

Mark Newton
May 2, 2014

Dr Mark Newton

C4’s first Life Member, Elaine Siddons (right) with Brenda Harvey’s daughter, Rhona Harvey and the honour board made of recycled silky oak.

Elaine Siddons was on the spot when C4 started in the late 1980s, when it was incorporated in 1994, and when it began campaigning to save Lot 66. Until last year, she was a member of the management committee and membership coordinator.

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C4 Bulletin, May 2014 5
New impetus for coastal action

It takes a specialised suite of plant species to survive along the coast when you consider the exposure of leaves to salt sea spray and buffetting winds, destructive cyclone activity, tide surge and ocean flotsam and only sand for roots to grow in, instead of the nutrient-rich litter of the inland rainforest.

Littoral rainforest and coastal vine thickets are home to some rare species such as the ancestral Gardenia actinocarpa and the Peppermint Stick Insect (so-called because when disturbed it squirts a milky fluid with a strong peppermint smell).

They support rare Arenga palms (Arenga australasica) and many trees that are an important food source for casowaries and a haven for migratory birds such as Pied Imperial Pigeons and Metallic Starlings.

The littoral rainforest and coastal vine thickets of eastern Australia are listed as critically endangered under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

But a new study has found that a lot of littoral rainforest in the Wet Tropics missed out on protection because it did not fit the criteria used at the time the World Heritage Area boundaries were drawn. This means that littoral rainforest has continued to be cleared or damaged largely unchallenged.

CSIRO and Terrain NRM have just published details of a pilot study in the Mission Beach area to map this “beach scrub” forest type using refined geographical information system (GIS) mapping technology.

Ground truthing

The study included ground-truthing by a panel of experts who visited individual sites indicated to be littoral rainforest by the GIS to see if they met the criteria.

“Our methodology substantially increases the area of beach scrub mapped, and accords better with the interpretation our panel of experts made during field days,” project leader Dan Metcalfe, of CSIRO, says.

Dr Metcalfe said the report would be presented to the Department of the Environment later this year.

“We hope that their development of a recovery plan for the (littoral rainforest) community adopts our approach,” he says.

Subsequent to the beach scrub work, the research turned to the lowland forest ecosystems, sandwiched between the beach scrub and the World Heritage Area. Only 40% of its former extent remains, and less than 25% of the lowland forest on alluvial soils survives.

“Outside the protected area, these communities are most at risk from agriculture and urbanisation, fragmentation for transport corridors, extreme natural events and disruption of biological processes such as seed dispersal and pollination.

“Using recently published IUCN criteria for ecosystems, we assess the Coastal Lowland Rainforests of the Wet Tropics as being Endangered.”

The CSIRO-Terrain NRM report says that with many remnants fragmented, isolated or forming thin linear strips adjacent to roads or housing developments or on eroding shorelines, management agencies needed better information on the potentially significant threats posed by apparently minor tree clearing, construction of foreshore infrastructure, or relaxed approaches to weed control. Similarly, revision and enforcement of existing planning and development controls is needed to prevent ongoing attrition of habitat margins by commercial, residential and infrastructure corridor development.

Classification confusion

Recent impacts on the remaining resource have resulted from confusion over habitat classification and spatial location, overzealous post-cyclone clean-up works, employment of contractors with limited local contextual understanding, and modification of vegetation to accord with some residents’ perceptions of what coastal vegetation ‘should’ look like in the tropics.

“We plan to rewrite our analyses to make a submission for EPBC (Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) listing status,” Dr Metcalfe says.

“But, in the meantime, all efforts to maintain connectivity, such as working with Djiru traditional owners, Cassowary Coast Regional Council and the community to secure the future of Lot 66, have to be seen as beneficial for the long term prospects of these lowland ecosystems.”

The report found that much of the littoral rainforest at Mission Beach is located on public land managed by Council. Council and Terrain subsequently held a community beach walk at Brookes Beach to discuss managing weeds in littoral rainforest and establish plots to test and demonstrate various methods for controlling Singapore daisy.

Terrain is also working with Council and Mission Beach Business and Tourism to provide signage and a brochure about littoral rainforest.

Nature planning boost

Terrain NRM is about to take the community into the future with a series of workshops to refine its new regional natural resources management plan for the Wet Tropics.

The collection of background information for the plan is nearly complete and Terrain’s NRM planning team is getting ready for the community engagement phase.

“From June, Terrain will be running a series of workshops throughout the Wet Tropics region targeted at both members and partners and other regional stakeholders,” said NRM Planning and Knowledge Leader Gary Searle.

“The idea is, Terrain will come to you [the community group] to have a detailed, structured discussion on the characteristics, values and drivers of change in the local landscape,” he said.

“In the coming weeks, Terrain will be in touch with members, partners and other community groups to organise this first phase of workshops.”

From August through September a second phase of workshops will be run.

These will be at a regional level to discuss the big issues that have emerged through the local level discussions, and to further clarify key drivers of change, and opportunities for action.

A third and final phase of workshops will be run from October to November, to report back and validate information collated through the previous processes, bringing together the different groups in the local landscapes and digging deeper into the drivers of change and opportunities for action.

Interested groups or individuals can contact Ian Sinclair, Planning Coordinator, at ians@terrain.org.au to start organising workshop sessions at a time and location that is suitable for them.

Terrain NRM officer Tony O’Malley with iconic species, Guest Tree, in a reserve being considered for a new walking track at Mission Beach. (See page 9)

Special on Plants for Sale

The C4 Nursery is chock-a-block with local native plants that need a new home before the Dry. Nursery coordinator Peter Rowles is keen to move some of the plants out to make room for newly-germinated ones.

They are normally $2 each (cheaper than anywhere else).

“We are now offering many species for $1 or even less,” Peter said.

“Come in and browse around.”

New funding source goes live

A new website created by professional conservation fundraiser, Kelvin Davies, to seek donations for our Land Gift Fund is being launched on May 19.

The project operates at no cost to C4 and we are hopeful of widespread support through crow-funding.

The site is https://rainforestconnections.org/projects/CassowaryHabitatBuyback

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Diary of a Cairns Birdwing Butterfly (Ornithoptera euphorion), by Sal Badcock

Australia's largest butterfly. The female weighs in with a whopping wingspan of up to 160mm while the male comes close second with a wingspan of up to 130mm.

Our story begins with Mrs Birdwing (oh and of course Mr Birdwing)... she lays her eggs on the native vines the Dutchman’s Pipe (Aristolochia tagala or A. acuminata), ironically, the leaves of the introduced Aristolochia elegans are poisonous to the Cairns Birdwing. Around four to five days after the fertilised egg has been laid, a tiny caterpillar munches its way out of its shell, then turns around and eats the egg case. Then the caterpillar heads off to eat its first meal, they have voracious appetites, and just keep chowing down on the leaves.

These guys are real gannets. With all of this eating, they soon become too big for their skin.

Within seven days, the caterpillar attaches its rear end to a leaf with silk cord, rests up for a while, and then literally walks out of its skin. This new skin has enough stretch to allow for a little more growth. During its time as a caterpillar, Junior will repeat this process another three times. Often the new skin differs slightly in pattern or colour to the previous one. Each of these growth/new skin stages is called an "instar".

Diary Of Our Birdwing (30 January - 23 February)

30 Jan: When our caterpillar reached the end of the 5th instar, it was around 7cm long, getting ready to change, it stopped eating, created a silk thread around its neck anchoring it to the leaf and attached its rear to leaf letting go with its feet hanging suspended from its neck and bottom. We picked the leaf and hung it inside so we could take notes.

31 Jan: True to form, the head had detached and the skin had split to reveal the tough Chrysalis underneath. We found the head lying under the leaf. It was totally intact, complete with eyes and mouth. The ‘rope’ around his neck was incredible it looked like a thick piece of cotton.

6 Jan: The body hardened slightly, the abdomen moved as if it was ticklish if you gently touched it.

14 Feb: The Chrysalis became darker in colour and quite hard with no movement when ‘tickled’.

22 Feb: During the day and into the evening, it became even darker with faint tinges of pinky yellow on the belly and vague hints of yellow and green across the back.

23 Feb: 8:55am: I heard a crackling sound, and there was our beautiful bouncing baby boy emerging from its shell. His wings and body were totally soft and crumpled. I got a dried stick and he climbed on that, I then took him outside and hung him on his vine. For the first hour, he rustled his wings around getting them straight, and flexing them, the wings were about 1/3 of their normal size. Then he spent the next hour or so flexing and curling his Proboscis. Adult butterflies sip nectar and other liquids using a spiral, straw-like proboscis located on their head. Three hours later, he was still hanging about drying. It can take up to 4 hours before he does a few practice flights. At some point I checked and he had gone. What a fabulous experience it was, we are so lucky to live in a place where we are able to witness such incredible marvels of nature.
Forest walk flagged

A new walking trail is planned for the national park (NPW502) across the road from C4 and the Mission Beach Visitor Information Centre.

Local rangers flagged a possible route which has a range of iconic trees and plants and is part of the small surviving area of complex lowland rainforest on red volcanic basalt.

C4 members joined other interested groups for a walk through the route, easy walking with gentle grades and forest not heavy with vines or wait-a-while.

C4 is in favour of a walk providing it is narrow, does not require any major earthworks, signs or other things which would take away from its natural attraction and has some means such as a grid to prevent visitors carrying weed seeds into the forest.

Enviro Kids bring forest to class

These children taking part in the “Enviro Kids” program at C4 recently had an unexpected audience – one of the local cassowaries wandered into the adjoining garden and sat down to watch.

Artist Sally Moroney has been running the program each month at C4 for environment education, tree planting, and crafts.

“Our themes this year have been Where the Rainforest Meets the Sea, Snakes and Wallabies, and a workshop from the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane,” Sally said.

The June event will be on Saturday 21st with a theme, “Feathered Friends.”

The free program is supported by the Queensland Office of Liquor and Gaming Community Benefit Fund.

Contact Sally for bookings and information on 40687531.

Sally shows how to shape a wallaby from playdough.
The passing of reef tourism pioneer and Mission Beach identity Perry Harvey on December 3 last year ended more than half a century of association with conservation, tourism and the natural attractions of this special part of the world.

Perry was best known for his role as a pioneering skipper of reef tourism in which he combined marine mastery with story telling and an intimate knowledge of the sea.

Like that other great storyteller and accidental tourism pioneer, Dunk Island recluse and author Edward Banfield, Perry came to Mission Beach to get away from the city.

In 1950, Perry and his new bride Brenda travelled from Townsville on their honeymoon and camped beside Wylie Creek in Narragon Cove. They fell in love with the area and discovered that the banana farm overlooking the bay was for sale. The owner, believing the end of the world was nigh, wanted a cash sale so he could buy three cars and send members of his church around Australia to spread the news.

The Harveys went back to Townsville, daring to hope they might be able to raise the four thousand pounds ($8000) they needed to buy the land. The sole real estate agent in Townsville was not encouraging but listed their Mitchell Street home, saying it could take months to sell.

Less than a week later, the agent called to say he had a potential buyer: John Walton, the prospector who had discovered the Mary Kathleen uranium deposit, had a bag of money. After climbing a ladder to check the view from the roof, he bought it.

The Harveys anxiously returned to Mission Beach, wondering if the farm was still available. It was, although artist John Busst had sought to put a deposit on it for the then Australian Treasurer and future prime minister, Harold Holt, who was overseas. The owner would not take a deposit, so the Harveys won the day.

Harold Holt later offered the young couple more money for the property, to no avail. The keen skindiver soon discovered Perry had a speedboat, which he chartered for spearfishing trips, and the two became good friends.

Perry, who had been a skipper commanding a dredge for Townsville Port, soon graduated from the speedboat to a passenger craft. This was partly at the behest of Jack Romano who built the Moonglow Motel (now Castaways) and thought mining and reef trips would be a good activity for his guests.

Purtaboi, an 18m timber vessel was the first, bought in 1967.

Brenda said recently that buses brought passengers from Townsville and Cairns to take the trips to the reef and islands.

As the business grew, Perry commissioned a new boat to be built in Innisfail. The 30m Purtaboi 2 carried 100 passengers. The fares were $2 to Dunk Island, $4 to Bedarra and $8 to the Reef.

“The boat was often full,” Brenda said. “It was a different industry in those days.”

After some years, the owners of Dunk Island resort wanted to take over the boat operations so the Harveys sold.

That enterprise was short-lived and soon Perry was back on the water with a former trawler, Friendship R.

This was followed by Friendship Flyer, built on the Gold Coast in 1985-6 and operated until 1989 when Perry sold to Quickcat.

Brenda said there was only one time when Perry could not unload his passengers at the Clump Point Jetty. A strong northerly was blowing so he took the boat to the south side Eco Village Resort and ferried the passengers to the beach using the glass-bottomed reef-viewing boat.

The jetty near Clump Point, rebuilt after Tropical Cyclone Yasi, has been named Perry Harvey Jetty to honour the skipper’s role in developing marine tourism in the region.

Pioneer Reef skipper remembered
**Vet warns of dog danger**

Over the past few months we have had to attend to a number of dogs that have come off second best in altercations with cassowaries, local vet Graham Lauridsen said.

“Please remember to secure your dog, especially when you go out for the day,” he said.

“Dogs and cassowaries will inevitably fight if they come across each other and obviously one or the other is very likely to be injured as a result.”

Dr Lauridsen said there had been no major cassowary health concerns recently. The males had been busy raising their new chicks.

“We have seen plenty of them around,” he said. “Now that we are through the cyclone season I think we can breathe a little easier that these young chicks will have a good chance to grow up and soon be fending for themselves.”

**Dunk seagrass beds recovering**

Tropical coast seagrass meadows show signs of recovery since damage from Cyclone Yasi in 2011 but scientists engaged in Seagrass-Watch are concerned by the amount of epiphytic algae they have found on seagrass at sampling sites, including Green Island and Yule Point, near Mossman. Also of concern is that seagrass recovery at Dunk Island and South Mission sites is slower than other locations.

— Picture courtesy James Cook University.

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**Is it four o’clock yet?**

This brightly-dressed Four O’clock Moth lava is one of the many creatures which finds Corkwood, *Carallia brachiata*, too good to resist. This coastal tree is host to the moth (right), so called because it is often seen flying in the late afternoon. Corkwood, also known as the fresh-water mangrove, is a food tree for frugivores including Pied Imperial Pigeons and Figbirds which harvest the 10mm red to black berries.

— Pictures by Peter & Laurie Trott.

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Peanut was the size of a bantam when Dad first took him through the Kurrajong Close, Wongaling, garden of Robert and Sue Tidey in November, 2012. As the months passed, his legs grew longer and his stripes got less distinct until in June last year he had a full coat of brown and the beginnings of his little wattles. Then came the day in July when the world changed. Dad was no longer the mentor and guardian and Peanut was on his own.