



**rainforest
rescue**
Protect Rainforests Forever



annual report

2023

“

Expecting the government to “fix” the climate crisis and protect the environment is not going to make the difference. We are.”

Branden Barber, CEO Rainforest Rescue

Canopy Awards 2023 Habitats Category Finalist, Benjamin Maze

“

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed.”

Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869-1948)

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.

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Cover photography David White

Martin Stringer

about us

Rainforest Rescue is a not-for-profit organisation that has been protecting and restoring rainforests since March 1999 by providing opportunities for individuals, communities and businesses to Protect Rainforests Forever.

Our Vision

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

Our Strategic Mission

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

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

- **Ethical collection** of native rainforest seeds in the Daintree region;
- **Propagation** of many thousands of seedlings annually in our native rainforest plant nursery;
- **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



Canopy Awards 2023 Characters Category Finalist, John Benfer



Martin Stringer



chair report

It has been quite a year, for Rainforest Rescue and for the extensive ecosystem of organisations that are dedicated to preserving and restoring the rich biodiversity that our rainforests provide.

■ ■ ■ WE ARE UNIQUELY privileged to be stewards of a growing portion of the Daintree rainforest and it is all down to our dedicated team and you, our supporters. We are most grateful and sincerely hope you understand the difference you make.

I've been honoured to step into the role of Acting Chair after Madeleine Faught's 14 years of dedicated service and it has been wonderful to visit the Daintree, to see first hand the work of our team and get to know our partners. I would like to thank them all for their warm welcome and gracious hospitality. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Madeleine for her dedication and wish her well in all of her many endeavours.

The nursery at Cow Bay is now operational and we are putting the finishing touches to it so it can reach its ultimate goal of propagating 150,000 trees a year. Our intention is to have over a million trees produced for restoration in a decade. We have begun to receive and fill orders for these wonderful trees and are encouraged by the list of projects who will benefit.

We owe a particular debt of gratitude to Allen Sheather and Barbara Maslen who've been managing the construction of the nursery. Their tireless efforts to see a project through in a time when any construction project has been impacted by supply chain problems and inflation, and for this project, never ending weather events, is nothing short of remarkable. A very big thanks to all involved.

Branden, our CEO, is working to leverage restoration funding schemes such as the Qld Land Restoration Fund, Reef Credits and the emerging biodiversity credit initiatives like the Nature Credits and Cassowary Credits – programs that recognise the extensive benefits beyond carbon the robust restoration efforts bring. We are excited to explore all of those options, and to partner with like-minded people and organisations in those projects.

As the world starts to place a financial value on biodiversity and conservation outcomes, we are carefully exploring those options while honouring the values of who we are and what we do. There is tremendous opportunity, as always how we execute will matter.

I'd like to express the Board's thanks to the dedication of Branden, the team who works with him who regularly go above and beyond, and the many volunteers who support our activities. The impact we have made would not be possible without the efforts of an extended and diverse community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you.

Rachel White
Rainforest Rescue Chair



ceo report



This last calendar year was a personal best for Rainforest Rescue in every area and I am thrilled to share the news with you. It is no stretch of the truth when I say that none of this could be possible without the support of the many Rainforest Rescuers out there. It's you, our supporters, who are the heroes of this story.

■■■ IN 2023, Rainforest Rescuers helped protect more Daintree Rainforest habitat than ever before:

- Lot 41—18.61Ha (2022 Holiday Appeal – settled 2023)
- Lot 11—1.0Ha
- Lot 12—1.05Ha
- Lot 1 Cape Tribulation Rd—3.9Ha
- Lot 17 Cape Tribulation Rd—1.0Ha

This is remarkable. 2023 has been our single biggest year of habitat rescue—with the help of our partners and supporters, 25.6 hectares or 63.3 acres have been protected...Forever.

Every one of these properties is high conservation value, is incredibly biodiverse and is essential Daintree habitat. Huge thanks to everyone who makes these rescues possible!

And in terms of the number of trees that we're producing — thanks to you — we have produced 50,000 trees this year! Up from 12,000 last year. Over 20,000 trees have been lovingly planted — up from 12,000 last year.

These are great numbers that equate to great conservation outcomes.

Our conservation partnerships are increasing, and with our role in the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance

an exciting factor, we are unblocking the bottleneck for trees for restoration provision with the new nursery. This will be a game changer...In fact, it already is.

Our core conservation partners include:

- ClimateForce
- Daintree Life
- Great Barrier Reef Legacy
- Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
- Mossman Botanic Garden
- Queensland Trust for Nature
- Terrain NRM
- Wet Tropics Management Authority

There are many more we are connecting with, including a growing stable of tourism partners, helping to bring greater awareness and appreciation for rainforests and our place with them, through the lens of the iconic Daintree Rainforest. We are increasing our constellation of partners and are focusing on those that will help protect and restore this rare and precious habitat.

It's worth noting that our partnership with Jabalbina has led to training and employment for Traditional Owners in the Daintree, through a generous grant from a partner foundation, which enabled four Indigenous rangers to be trained in horticultural and

Martin Stringer

biosecurity best practices, and which culminated in the gifting of our original nursery in support of their goals. How good is that? So good!

From the Federal Government's Nature Repair Market Bill to Queensland's Land Restoration Fund, to Reef Credits and the emerging Cassowary Credit Scheme developed by Terrain NRM, more and more financial interests are moving into this space to take advantage of the fact that Nature not only matters, but that all business relies on it. For quite some time I've been writing to you about this opportunity and I'm excited that this 'green economy' is no longer a dream, it's here.

The new nursery is providing a boost to the local economy with long-term seed collector and nursery jobs being created as we ramp up to our capacity goal of 150,000 plants per year. This boost to the local economy is enhanced by the growth in our Land Management team with more cleared land being restored than ever before. In fact, we're employing 10 people in the Daintree region — up from 2 not so long ago.

The new nursery has seen its first order delivered to partners, Daintree Life. This will lead to over 30,000 trees for this partnership alone over the next several years, helping to restore former agricultural land and return it to vibrant, biodiverse rainforest habitat.

Jabalbina has indicated they're keen to order tens of thousands of trees for 2024. With the growth of the Restoration Alliance and the increase in financial incentives to support restoration, this will continue to grow.

And yes, others can get high quality, resilient rainforest trees — step right up! We are open for business. The new nursery is an emergent Social Enterprise which will continue to deliver benefits for everyone.

One of our foundation partners marvelled that Rainforest Rescue is not only providing trees for this emerging market, but we are growing the market by showing how restoration can be financially rewarding! This will only increase as the carbon and ecosystem-services credit markets grow. Making carbon+ provide more than just a carbon

sequestration modality, evolving into an ecosystem restoration outcome backed up by a viable business model. Rainforest Rescue is playing a leading role in this space — this wonderful new vehicle for restoration in the most biodiverse rainforest in Australia. Thanks to the support of people who make Rainforest Rescue a part of their lives and their legacies, the future is greener and brighter for everyone. People like you.

These investments in Rainforest Rescue's efforts are paying great conservation dividends as well as increasing restoration activity across the region. Well done, everyone!

It is because of our focus on growing the Daintree while growing the Restoration Economy, Rainforest Rescue now has a fully vertically integrated business model. We are providing everything from biodiverse seed collection through propagation to restoration, carbon sequestration and ultimately the creation of rich habitat, capable of attracting funding from this emerging natural capital marketplace. All while the United Nations called for 2021-2030 to be the Decade of Restoration.

Good. There's no time to waste. Species are struggling. The planet is warming. Climate events are intensifying. Though the Nature Repair Market Bill is encouraging, we simply can't wait for government to fix this — we must lead the way.

With your ongoing partnership, we are doing great things that are making a growing difference in the Daintree and the Wet Tropics of Far North Queensland, which in turn are inspiring people around the world.

I am so grateful — and incredibly proud of what we are achieving together. You are an essential part of all this good work, these great outcomes... This good news.

Thank you.

For the rainforests,

Branden Barber, CEO

our impact



Rainforest **properties** rescued

44 in Daintree, Queensland,
1 in Pyengana, Tasmania

2,031,514

Square metres of rainforest **rescued**

1,222,114 Daintree, 808,400 Tasmania

353,412

320,412 in Australia, 33,000 Overseas

Rainforest trees **planted**



Properties protected **forever**

by Nature Refuge status in Australia



Years **protecting** rainforests

Founded on 25 March 1999



Silvia Di Domenicantonio

year in review

Lot 41 is Protected Forever: Thanks to you, our largest single appeal-driven rescue of intact Daintree habitat was a success! This is history in the making.

First ever seedling propagations and soil monitoring program undertaken by James Cook University and in partnership with One Tree Planted.

Rainforest Rescue becomes part of the Seed Alliance.

Tranquility community tree planting day — 915 trees.

Tranquility community tree planting day 950 trees.

Daintree Field Day - WTMA and Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC) hosted to build new partnerships and facilitate greater collaboration across the sector, visiting two Rainforest Rescue projects - Kurranji Bubu and the New Daintree Native Nursery.

Rainforest Rescue makes the international press, in the New York Times.

First Shoots of the Green Economy as Rainforest Rescue celebrates providing the first trees from our new Cow Bay Native Nursery to our first partner in restoration, Daintree Life.

Officially welcome Dr. Alex Cheesman as Rainforest Rescue's Tropical Soils, Plant Ecophysiological and Restoration Advisor.

Rainforest Rescue joins PLC23 ALCA Conference in Canberra to learn about the currency of the Restoration Economy and build organisational partnerships.

Official welcome to new Rainforest Rescue Land Manager, Hayden White.

Media Producer, Martin Stringer, contributes to Saving Paradise, a 52-minute documentary by French Connection Films, broadcast internationally.

JAN

A historic moment as our first batch of seedlings are moved to the new Cow Bay Native Nursery from our original Diwan Native Nursery.

FEB

Largest and longest standing Business Partner, BioPak, joins the freshly created and highest ever Tier of Diamond Level: recognising BioPak's huge record of support.

Officially launched the Diamond Tier as a result of BioPak's outstanding support.

MAR

Rainforest Rescue has partnered with Dr. Alexander Cheesman, Senior Research Fellow working at University of Exeter(UK) & James Cook University to model the carbon stored through our work protecting existing and growing forests.

APR

Annual Community Tree Planting: 141 individuals and Partners came together to put 3,300 trees from 90 different species into the ground.

MAY

Rainforest Rescue joins FNQ organisations at the invitation of Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation for a Cultural Awareness Training Day.

JUN

Double Rescue, Lots 11 & 12! Two outstanding properties that will increase the area of the Rainforest Rescue Nature Refuge and Forest Creek Wildlife Corridor.

JUL

2023 Canopy Award Winners Announced.

AUG

Daintree Family Fun Day, local community invites Rainforest Rescue to attend and engage with families.

SEP

Cassowary & chicks caught on trail cam at Kurranji Bubu Native Refuge. Restoration works!

OCT

Rainforest Rescue hands original Diwan Native Nursery back as gift to Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation.

NOV

Mossman Botanic Garden Tree Planting Day. Over 4,000 trees planted making this one the biggest planting so far, for Rainforest Rescue.

DEC

Lot 17 Cape Tribulation Road now Protected Forever.



Martin Stringer



finance & operations report

I began my journey with the Rainforest Rescue family in April 2023. I am grateful to be part of this amazing team of dedicated, passionate and skilled individuals working together to protect and restore these invaluable rainforests.

■ ■ ■ THIS YEAR has been the most impactful for Rainforest Rescue ever and there is a groundswell of energy in the restoration community. Our aim is to scale up rainforest restoration in the Wet Topics and beyond. To do this our team are focusing on testing and improving our restoration methodologies, optimising our plant selection, ramping up the new nursery, improving our data capture and analysis, investigating new funding mechanisms and partnering to enhance impact.

The restoration team headed up by Hayden White are using tablet devices and drones in the field to collect data daily to track restoration success, plant health, activities and operational inputs including people hours and herbicide use. This data is linked to geospatial areas for each restoration plot giving us the ability to compare and improve our systems and processes. Marine Deliens our exceptional Nursery Manager is also tracking data daily throughout the nursery supply chain, looking to enhance and optimise processes while maintaining the highest quality seedlings. We are focusing on leveraging technology and data to improve impact, efficiencies and reduce our inputs.

As we focus on ramping up the nursery to the design capacity of 150,000 seedling per year, we are paying close attention on balancing expenses and income so as to increase production sustainably and maintain long-term employment for our staff. Rainforest

Rescue has employed four new staff in the nursery and restoration teams in 2023 and have transitioned the majority of our existing staff to permanent positions to enhance their job security, build the local economy and ensure skills are maintained and improved in house.

The organisations and people we partner and collaborate with are critical to large scale restoration efforts in the region. We are looking to continuing to strengthen our existing partnerships and to expanding our network with a growth mindset to improve how we work.

Rainforest Rescue is uniquely positioned to be growing solutions for each step in the restoration cycle or supply chain. From our skilled seed collectors to the amazing world class nursery, through to the dedicated efficient land restoration team we are recreating forest and habitat. We are focussed on scaling our restoration efforts and powering these with new funding opportunities like carbon credits and the emerging biodiversity and nature capital markets. We aim to partner and provide a full turn-key solution that makes restoration not only beneficial for our environment but economically viable for landowners and accessible to investors. We are vertically integrated!

Tate Brammer
General Manager Finance & Operations

Martin Stringer

VERTICALLY INTEGRATED RESTORATION SUPPLY CHAIN

UPSTREAM FROM NATURE

SEED COLLECTION

Locally, sustainably & ethically sourced by Rainforest Rescue seed collectors.



SEED PROPAGATION

150,000 seedlings per year at Daintree Rainforest Rescue Native Nursery.



LAND FOR RESTORATION

Privately held and land purchased by Rainforest Rescue for restoration.



RESTORATION OF FOREST

Rainforest Rescue Restoration Team using proven methodologies to create biodiverse rainforest habitat.

EMERGING CARBON CREDITS AND BENEFITS

Accessing carbon & biodiversity credits, water quality improvement credits and emergent co-benefit remuneration programs.



DOWNSTREAM TO MARKET



embracing the buzz

In the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, it's easy to forget the beauty and effectiveness of the natural world around us.



Top: Green Lacewing larvae carry the corpses of aphids on their backs, a sign that these beneficial insects are controlling pests.

Above: Green Lacewings are helping Rainforest Rescue to manage aphids in our native nursery.



■ ■ ■ AT OUR BRAND new nursery, we've embarked on a fascinating journey towards a pesticide-free approach, exploring the wonders of native beneficial bugs as our allies in cultivating a thriving green haven. Let's take a stroll down the trail of these miniature super heroes...

One of our first steps in reducing chemical dependency was to adopt cultural control methods. For example, by spacing out our pots strategically, we have not only reduced fungal issues but also witnessed the emergence of stronger stems in our plants. It's amazing how a simple adjustment in the arrangement of our green companions can make such a significant difference.

Enter the Australian Native Green Lacewings (*Mallada signatus*), our newfound allies in the battle against aphids. These tiny, winged warriors came to our aid, swooping in to reduce the dreaded aphid invasion. We brought them into our nursery intentionally, recognising their potential as natural pest controllers. The larvae of Green Lacewings have a voracious appetite for aphids, making them the perfect guardians of our greenery. What's even more fascinating is their habit of carrying the corpses of their prey on their backs, a macabre yet efficient way of signalling their prowess in pest control.

Nature, it seems, had more surprises in store for us. As we marvelled at the success of our Green Lacewings, nature responded by introducing its own reinforcements.

Image left: Whitney Cramshaw, Bugwood.org



Martin Stringer

Brown Lacewings (*Micromus tasmaniae*) made an unexpected appearance in the shadehouse, proving that sometimes, the best solutions are the ones nature provides on its own. These uninvited guests turned out to be valuable contributors to our pest control army, further validating our decision to reduce reliance on chemical interventions.

But the surprises didn't end there. Imagine our delight when we noticed the arrival of Green Long-Legged Flies (*Austrosclaptus connexus*), swooping in to tackle aphids with swift precision. These nimble fliers showcased the intricate dance of nature, demonstrating that balance and harmony can be achieved without resorting to harmful pesticides.

Undoubtedly, our expedition toward a pesticide-free nursery is nothing short of an adventure, complete with twists, turns, and moments that tested our resolve. Let's be real — the path to a pesticide-free paradise is no cakewalk. There have been instances when the temptation to reach for a chemical spray was almost overwhelming, especially when pests seemed to be mounting a fierce resistance.

It's during these challenging times that the true spirit of our nursery crew shines through. We've come to understand that the road to a greener, more sustainable space demands patience, resilience, and a collective determination to resist the quick fix that chemical solutions often promise.

It's heartening to witness the camaraderie among the crew, a shared enthusiasm to experiment with

alternative methods and learn from both successes and setbacks. The journey, after all, is about more than just eliminating pests. It's about redefining our relationship with the land, fostering a symbiotic connection with the natural world that goes beyond the superficial gloss of chemical solutions.

As we continue down this winding path, we acknowledge that there will be challenges. Some days, the pests might seem a little too bold, and the plants a bit too vulnerable. However, it's precisely in these moments that our commitment is put to the test.

The crew, with their hands in the soil and hearts in the cause, is a testament to the fact that the journey toward a pesticide-free nursery is a challenge worth embracing. Together, step by step, we'll persist, learn, and grow, ensuring that our nursery becomes a sustainable beauty in a world that sorely needs it.

Marine Deliens
Nursery Manager

Above: The nursery team inspect seedlings for pests and fungal issues whilst carefully spacing the pots to encourage stronger stem growth.

the nursery

10 amazing things you may not know about our new rainforest nursery.

- 1 Our plants are sun smart!**
To ensure they have the best possible chance of growing strong and hardy, we have a multi-graded shade house, gently introducing more and more sunlight to the young shoots.
- 2** Through careful nurturing by our amazing nursery team we have achieved an incredible **96% success rate** with individual plants reaching maturity for planting out.
- 3** Over **200 different species** of plants are grown in the nursery, maximising biodiversity from the moment we begin planting the young trees at a restoration site!
- 4** As we grow more and more trees, we will need a **bigger team** to support the nursery, which provides local employment opportunities in the Daintree region.
- 5** Our **first order for trees** was from a restoration partner for a lower Daintree site which will connect restored lowland rainforest to a mangrove habitat.
- 6** To **maximise water recycling efficiency** and minimise excess nutrients reaching the local creeks, we are creating an on-site water catchment and treatment pond.
- 7** A priority project for 2024 is the **restoration** of habitat adjacent to the nursery site. We're utilising **8.5Ha** of previously cleared land for planting technique trials.
- 8** The average tree at the nursery takes **7-8 months** to go from seed to a young sapling. Some of our tertiary stage species take many years to reach this stage of maturity!
- 9** The whole system of the nursery is off grid. It is **100% self-sufficient**, with solar panels for electricity, and a mix of bore and rainwater.
- 10** Weathering its first major tropical storm when **Category 2 Cyclone Jasper** struck, the nursery came through with no damage. Built to last!



Martin Stringer

Martin Stringer



geared for growth

Out amongst the trees our expanding land management team witnesses wildlife returning to restored habitat.

■ ■ ■ WE'VE NAVIGATED through a challenging year, contending with an unusual wet, dry season and at the time of writing grappling with a month-long absence of substantial rainfall. Despite these challenges, our restoration team has demonstrated remarkable resilience. While the work has been demanding, the shared passion for our mission makes it all the more worthwhile.

Amidst the ongoing dry spell, our commitment to maintaining watering efforts remains steadfast, aided by reliable water sources within the regenerative properties we are diligently working on. This dedication is crucial for nurturing the growth of our newly planted trees.

Our team has experienced growth too. Nico successfully transitioned from the nursery to the land management team, and we've welcomed Ariel as a new team member, contributing three days a week. This expansion provides us with increased flexibility to address property maintenance across all our purchased blocks in the Daintree and conduct more frequent wildlife monitoring.

In recent months, we've been privileged to witness extraordinary wildlife moments. In July, two cassowaries traversed a property we acquired, and the sight of the male cassowary passing by with two adorable chicks in October was truly awe-inspiring. These moments serve as a constant reminder of the importance of protecting our fragile ecosystem and continuing the work of restoring our precious rainforest.

Thanks to the remarkable success of our nursery, we can sustain the annual planting of more trees and expand our restoration efforts throughout this natural wonder. Additionally, we are actively informing tourists and locals about the vital work we are undertaking, fostering a deeper understanding of our conservation initiatives.

Hayden White
Daintree Land Manager



Above: A male cassowary and two stripy chicks are captured by our camera trap, traversing through restored rainforest to look for food.



nurturing diversity

Greetings from the seed collecting team in the Daintree. This year has been a very interesting one for us. With the new nursery up and running and new clients wanting to purchase/acquire more trees from us, it has been a very busy year!



Fig parrots are a good indicator of fruiting trees, creating efficiencies for our seed collectors.

■■■ BEING A SEED collector in the Daintree rainforest is one of the coolest jobs around. But as interesting as it sounds, it does come with some challenges, especially for a relatively new arrival in the Daintree like myself. The rainforest is dense, and it can be difficult to walk around with fallen trees blocking your way or prickly plants such as wait-a-while snagging your clothes. At times the presence of pigs or stray dogs may be threatening and insects can be a constant annoyance.

Apart from the difficulties of conducting any task in the rainforest, locating the actual seeds presents further problems. The tree canopies are up high, making identification of different tree species tricky at times as it may be hard to see the flowers, leaves or fruit which could be used for positive identification.

To make things a bit easier, a few clues from nature have proven to be valuable resources when collecting seeds.

First, birds. Big birds, small birds. Big birds like cassowaries are excellent tree propagators. They leave big droppings along the way; plenty of them. These droppings give us a good clue of what is fruiting at the time. On occasions we might use the seeds from the droppings for propagation purposes but normally we just let them be.

As I am writing this, I am watching a flock of pied imperial pigeons fly past, probably heading to feed on some of their favourite fruit, the native nutmeg (*Myristica* spp). Flocks of noisy metallic starlings are also regular this time of the year. These migratory birds feed on a variety of seeds; they migrate from New Guinea towards the end of the dry season; they are highly social animals, and they build their nests high up in rainforest trees; the same trees are usually used year after year. Beneath these densely populated trees is seed heaven for us. We have recorded a few 'starling trees' on the GPS as they are an excellent way to find out what is fruiting at a particular time in the rainforest as the starlings bring seeds back to the communal nesting tree. And of course, when those seeds are needed, it is a brilliant way of obtaining them as there will be large quantities around the base of the tree. Wompoo fruit doves, fig parrots and cockatoos also are good indicators of fruiting trees.

Another invaluable source of knowledge when collecting seeds is to talk to the members of the local community. On many occasions while collecting on the side of the roads, I am approached by curious locals wanting to know what I am doing. When I explain that I work for Rainforest Rescue collecting seeds from native trees for regeneration purposes, many invite us to their properties to identify trees and/or collect seeds. Sometimes, they are enthusiastic enough to bring a bucketful of seeds to the nursery. We are always very appreciative of this. Chatting to them is a great way to learn about past weather patterns and how they might affect seed production.

Bags full of big seeds, tiny seeds, blue seeds, round seeds, flat seeds. All kinds of seeds. Back in the nursery, it is time for propagating. Another challenge we love. Most seeds will germinate successfully if we just take the flesh away to expose the seeds and sow them in the trays. However, other seeds require different kinds of treatment to break the dormancy so we can get them to germinate when we need them. There are a few useful books out there to



help us with this, but sometimes the information available for some of the species can be rather limited. It is then when we experiment with various methods until we find out the best one that will provide us with the highest germination rate. We are proud to say that we have figured out how to deal with most of the seeds we grow at the nursery; there is just a small handful of rather pesky seeds that has us a bit stumped. But we are pretty confident that eventually we will succeed.

We are now at the end of 2023, looking forward to the next year. It will be busier than this one just finishing and surely it will come with new challenges. Challenges we will tackle with enthusiasm and a can-do attitude.

Angela Mateo
Daintree Seed Collector



journey of renewal

In 2023 a richly rewarding experience was to revisit a property near the new nursery that Rainforest Rescue protected and restored and in 2014. I photographed the tree planting back in 2014, and revisited the land in 2015 and in 2023 to see the progress.



■ ■ ■ IN MY LATEST VISIT, I filmed Seed Collector Nico in and around the property and we observed plenty of cassowary scats on what was cleared land that resembled a moonscape with holes for the new seedlings in 2014.

In 2014 due to the lack of rainforest, there was very little wildlife, though I observed a scrub python near a fan palm, one of the only remaining vegetation on the bare block. Now the rainforest is established, multilayered and on its way to reconnecting with the rest of the established rainforest that has evolved for millions of years.

To experience this growth over time and to look back on these photos fills me with a rejuvenating sense of hope that we are making a difference in the world and inspires me to keep striving to make an impact with my imagery, especially in times of experiencing ecoanxiety or feeling overwhelmed about where our future is heading. I know that we are making a difference in one of the most biodiverse rainforests in the world.

Martin Stringer
Media Producer

Clockwise from above: Witnessing the restoration and regrowth of a cleared property in the Daintree over a decade is an inspiring experience.



Martin Stringer

Nico collecting seeds on the property; evidence of cassowaries traversing the rainforest, leaving their scats



protected forever

Lot 41 and Lot 1 Cape Tribulation Road

During the course of 2023, Rainforest Rescue achieved the remarkable feat of rescuing FOUR—almost FIVE vital rainforest properties. The first success marked the forever protection of Lot 41 Cape Tribulation Rd—encompassing 18 hectares of pristine Daintree Rainforest habitat, a great boon to the Cape Kimberley Wildlife Corridor.

John Benfer

Breaking News

As the 2023 Annual Report was being published, Rainforest Rescue received notification of our successful purchase and protection of Lot 1 Cape Tribulation Road. This is a stunning example of 4Ha of endangered coastal rainforest habitat. Together, we did it!



protected forever

Lots 11 & 12 Forest Creek Road

Rainforest Rescuers responded to the call to safeguard the irreplaceable rainforest within Lots 11 & 12 Forest Creek Rd—these two invaluable pockets of high conservation value habitat are now securely under the protection of Rainforest Rescue, contributing to the expanding Forest Creek Wildlife Corridor. With a total of 11 properties now connected in this corridor, a haven is provided for rare and threatened creatures reliant on the Daintree for their survival.

Martin Stringer



Not forgetting...
Together with the very generous support of The Travel Corporation & TreadRight Foundation, Rainforest Rescue successfully secured the protection of Lot 17 Cape Tribulation Road in late 2023. This 1Ha property is a precious parcel of rainforest that extends our Cape Kimberley Wildlife Corridor even further.



Photography this page by Martin Stringer



champions in conservation



We are blessed to have some incredible vision-match businesses in our Rainforest Rescue Family. These partners not only inspire us with a shared vision for a more sustainable future, but their financial support paves the way for practical solutions to protect and restore precious Daintree rainforest for countless flora, fauna and generations to come. Thank you so much to ALL our Business Partners, we celebrate each and every one of you! Here are some Key Partners for 2023. Partnerships Director, **Kristin Canning**

BioPak

There is no planet B, and the vital work that nonprofits such as Rainforest Rescue do is so incredibly important and we are incredibly proud to be a part of their journey and story.

Gary Smith, CEO — BioPak

The partnership with Rainforest Rescue for me is the icing on the cake. Our environmental sustainability initiatives mainly focus on internal changes in operations, products, and materials. By supporting and working with Rainforest Rescue our sustainability impacts are extended and amplified thanks to the credibility of Rainforest Rescue as a legitimate, serious, responsible, and knowledgeable environmental group.

Richard Fine,
Founder and Sustainability Director — BioPak



Forest Super Foods

I think business is about a lot more than just making money. A big part of it for me is to make sure we are helping to make the world a better place. Our customers love that their purchase is making a tangible difference to the world around them.

Justin Snyder, Founder — Forest Super Foods



Klorane and the Klorane Botanical Foundation

We are so pleased to continue our partnership with Rainforest Rescue in 2023 and support the amazing work they undertake to restore the Daintree Rainforest. Around the world, the Klorane brand joins forces with the Klorane Botanical Foundation to protect endangered plant species and preserve natural ecosystems. We are delighted to bring these conservation efforts to Australia to help protect the unique biodiversity of this land.

Laurent Saffre, CEO — Klorane Australia



Riot Games

As a global company, it's important that we take a global approach to help address some of the most pressing problems in our communities. The structure of the Social Impact Fund allows Riot to mobilize our players all over the world to address issues that matter most to them.

Jeff Burrell, Senior Director — Riot Games



Scratch

In our first 5 years, we have donated \$504,000 across all partners for the planet and for dogs. There is no way Mike & I could ever have had that impact individually. It really highlights the power of business to do good and could not have been achieved without the thousands of customers who trust and support us and our amazing team. We are so proud!

Douglas Spiegelhauser, Co-Founder — Scratch



The Travel Corporation & Treadright Foundation

It's clear to us at The Travel Corporation that we must employ every available tactic along our journey to achieve net zero. As we deconstruct our business to explore every opportunity to decarbonise our business we have also evolved the direction of our not for profit foundation, TreadRight. Shifting TreadRight's focus to narrow in on supporting nature based solutions is another avenue available to us, and a very powerful one. The climate crisis, in concert with rapid biodiversity loss is a critical threat, and so this is why partners such as Rainforest Rescue are so important to us. This is why, while we decarbonise our own operations, we are thrilled to see the success of Rainforest Rescue's efforts in the Daintree Forest and it means a great deal to our teams that we are able to support them in their efforts.

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



We also want to extend a huge thank you to our other Business Partners!

Gold

Daintree Eco Lodge, Roo Troop

Silver

30 Acres, Ambius Indoor Plants, BioResources, Canon Australia, Contour Personnel, Kavalri, Noble CX, Sedgwick County Zoo, Sparke Helmore Lawyers, The Lab 17, WILD LIFE Conservation Fund / Sydney Zoo, Young Folks

Bronze

9 Degrees, Asset Gratitude (Found-Space), Award Force, Baia Swimwear, Cairns Airport, Chimpzee, Daintree Secrets, GroundGrocer.com, H&B Fencing & Gates, Hudson Financial Planning, Koskela, Magic of I, Marlin Communications

Canopy

Analytics Anonoumous, Applewood Distillery, Arnhem Clothing, Australian Plant Society Yarra Yarra, Back Country Bliss, Beam Mobility, Blue Frog Marketing, Daintree Discovery Centre, Eggpicnic, Esuite Talent, Foster Creative Co., Goodly Gosh, Goodtel Communications, Grant Maundrell Landscape Architect, Gypco Construction, Heaps good packaging, Hopkins Creek, Koalaty, Laser + Holistic Dental, Lifewise Coaching (Dance for Trees), Logmaster, Love Tea, Mecat! Cacao, Naturally Driven, Notely, Pin Advertising, Rainforest Foods, RANT Clothing, Silky Oaks Lodge, Smile4U, Staten Island Zoo, Sunny's Axe Throwing, Super Obvious, Syntropica, The Cause Effect, The Scenic Route, The Sunglass Fix, Tourism Tropical North Queensland, Tripod Coffee, True Protein, Wandering Folk, Will & Bear

1% For the Planet and 1% to Rainforest Rescue

Cedar Magic, Living Timber Co, Luxara Sleep, Symbios Growth, Waterchef

Percentage Protectors

Back Country Bliss, Blanck Canvas, Cocky Guides, Gumdrop Native Oils, Sap N Tap, Small World Journeys, The Climate Jackal, The Conscious Kind

Business Backers

Analytics Anomalous, Blanck Canvas, Gorge Wildlife Park, Publik Salon, Smitten Merino

foundations of impact

WE ALSO WANT to highlight the incredible impact our Foundation Partners have helped us achieve over the last year:

The huge construction and operations of our New Native Nursery and employment of key crew including Jabalbina Aboriginal Yalanji Corporation team members.

Contributed to the forever protection of Licuala Rainforest Refuge and Lots 11 & 12, 20Ha in total!

Provided valuable equipment, including the Hydro Auger which keeps the land team safe by reducing manual labour significantly in the extreme heat of the tropics. Also increasing our ability to dig more holes in the ground and plant more trees, fastest than ever before.

Help us keep the lights on, and the rescue and tree planting numbers at Rainforest Rescue's highest levels yet.

We couldn't have reached these historic heights without you all by our side.

Kristin Canning & Sigrid Wilkens

The Ian Potter Foundation

My time with Rainforest Rescue in FNQ was hugely valuable and enjoyable. Getting to know the Rainforest Rescue Board members and staff, seeing everyone's passion and commitment to this restoration work, gives us [the Foundation] confidence that our investment is in expert hands.

It was also a privilege to spend time with Rainforest Rescue partners, particularly with the impressive team at the Jabilbina Indigenous Corporation who gave us a very moving welcome to their Country.

There is no substitute for meeting the team face to face, and experiencing the beauty of – and challenges to – this environment first hand.

Louise Arkles,
Senior Program Manager
Environment Program,
The Ian Potter Foundation



James N. Kirby Foundation

It's always a delight to meet the Rainforest Rescue team, and a visit to the Daintree last year was no exception. Their nursery project was taking shape, and it's so pleasing to hear that it's no complete and delivering seedlings.

James Kirby, Director
James N. Kirby Foundation



Morris Family Foundation

We have been an ongoing supporter of Rainforest Rescue for many years because of the real, tangible and measurable results that the team deliver year after year. Protecting and restoring the amazing diversity of these lands is one of the most important things we should be doing. I commend the work of the team and are honoured to be able to support their work.

Hayley Morris, Director
Morris Family Foundation



North Queensland Wildlife Trust

We have enjoyed a wonderful time supporting Rainforest Rescue and have been delighted with the team and the work they are doing. Bigger things will come in the future via our North Queensland Wildlife Trust.

Angela Freeman, Director
North Queensland Wildlife Trust



Many thanks to our other Foundation partners:

- Australian Communities Foundation
- Australian Wildlife Society
- The Bowden Marstan Foundation
- Community Impact Foundation
- Johnson O'Hana Foundation
- Klorane Botanical Foundation
- MacPac Fund For Good
- The Nelson Foundation
- One Earth
- One Tree Planted
- Perpetual Foundation
- Planet Ark
- Treadright Foundation
- Wild Country Environmental Fund

SAVE THE DATE
Annual Community Tree Planting
25th Anniversary Celebration
18th May 2024 - Nightwings Rainforest Centre
More details to follow

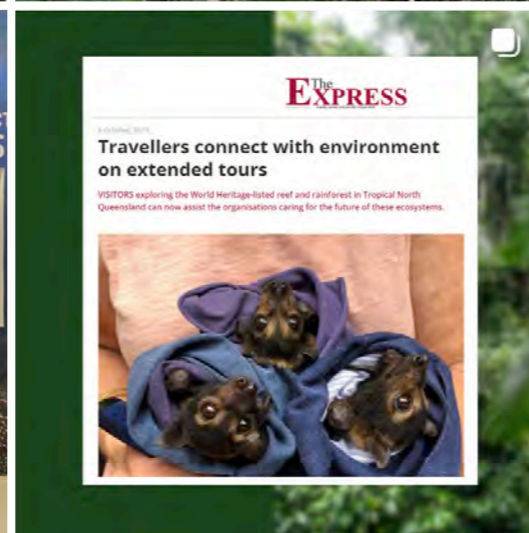
look how we've grown!

2024 marks the 25th anniversary of Rainforest Rescue. With your incredible support and generosity we've grown so much. Now, more of the Daintree rainforest is protected and being restored than ever before.

Look out for some special supporter surprises in the coming year as we look back and say 'thank you'.



Coastal rainforest shields our coral reefs from soil runoff damage. Right now, this land is unprotected. It will be safe, forever, if you will help us.



social seedlings

One of our favourite things about social media is the ability to connect directly with people.

RAINFOREST RESCUE has supporters around the globe and social media allows us to keep everyone updated and be a united community. We couldn't achieve our conservation and restoration outcomes without your support.

Our Facebook community is very active, with a lot of Rescuers running #ForestFundraisers on their Facebook pages. In 2023, 18 Rainforest Rescuers ran Forest Fundraisers, generating a total of \$3,317 — that's equivalent to 663.4 sq mt of rainforest rescued, or 265 native rainforest trees propagated and planted in the beautiful Daintree. Which is fabulous!

We love hearing from you and value your feedback, so whether you've been following us for a short time, or a long time, we'd love to know what you want to see more of in your social media feed. Shoot us an email with your suggestions (info@rainforestrescue.org.au).

MaryBeth Harrison
HQ & Social Media Manager

750,000+
people reached to raise awareness through social media in 2023

663.4m²
of rainforest rescued by #ForestFundraisers on Facebook in 2023.

120
hours of YouTube videos watched by followers on our channel in 2023.





cultivating the future

■■■ THE GROWTH OF our Rainforest Rescue family this year has allowed us a little extra breathing room — to take a step back and ask ourselves:

How can we keep growing resilient and biodiverse rainforest in the most efficient way possible?

Two years into the UN's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration this is becoming increasingly important. With countless innovations happening all over the world — drones, self planting seeds, AI modelling and tree sensor networks, it's hard to keep up with what works, and what is ecologically sound and scalable enough to match the rising demand for reforestation.

For us, a big focus in the coming year will be ramping up our data collection and analysis on the land and in the nursery. Many hours of discussion between HQ and the Daintree team are beginning to bear fruit. Maintenance tracking, wildlife cams and weed management trials are underway on site, with tree growth metrics, geotagging and wildlife surveys in the works for next year. Analysis of our methodologies on the ground will keep us on top of our game, forever learning, growing, and keeping our costs per hectare as low as possible.

In line with keeping a close eye on our trees, we have also been digging a little deeper, to a whole other world beneath. Improving the health of our

soil is vital not only for biodiversity, but for climate action. This year we were lucky enough to engage soil scientists Fred Holden and Paul Nelson from James Cook University to develop a soil monitoring program at our two restoration sites, NightWings and Tranquility. Measuring baselines involved four days of field work: mapping, measuring, digging, bagging and labelling with the help of staff and volunteers, as well as hours of preparation from the JCU team. Thanks to One Tree Planted, we can continue monitoring for another two years, and hopefully into the future. From this we hope to gain insight into how degraded soils recover after revegetation — an area where long term data and knowledge are significantly lacking.

I remain consistently blown away by the quality of discussion both between the Rainforest Rescue team and with our conservation partners and collaborators — the ideas and inspiration just keep on flourishing. What an exciting time to be part of this movement, growing the future of rainforest restoration, one tree at a time!

Sigrid Wilkens
Partnerships Support

The Rainforest Rescue soil team from left to right: Sigrid, Fred, Hayden and volunteer Kate, ready for a day of sampling soil at restoration site Tranquility on the Daintree



welcome dr. alex cheesman

■■■ WE ARE THRILLED to welcome the wonderful Dr. Alex Cheesman to the Rainforest Rescue team as our Tropical Plant Ecophysiological and Restoration Advisor!

Dr. Alex is a Senior Research Fellow at James Cook University and the University of Exeter in the UK. A passionate plant eco-physiologist and soil scientist, he is interested in the dynamic interaction of tropical systems in a changing world. His research surrounds issues of climate change, air pollution, nutrient management and plant physiology.

Alongside a team at ArborMeta and support from Wild Country Environmental Fund, Dr. Alex has also helped us to implement a carbon measurement program, allowing us to estimate the amount of carbon stored in both our protected and planted rainforest.

We recently shared a cup of tea with our new plant and soil guru to get to know him a little better:

What is most compelling about the tropics and your work here?

I love how complex and dynamic the wet tropics can be, hundreds even thousands of species living, growing and dying on top of each other. You can have an emergent canopy tree that has stood for hundreds of years and its branches can be a whole biome to itself, a whole world of epiphytes, lianas, ferns, mosses and orchids. That world up in the treetops can be home to a whole array of animals many of which will never touch the ground, but may be critical for that canopy tree to set seed and propagate the next generation.

What drew you to accept the position as advisor at Rainforest Rescue?

I have been working on a joint research project with RR for over a year now. During that time I have been impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the team to tackle one of the biggest challenges facing humanity. Their willingness to trial, develop and test new approaches and apply new technologies will, I believe, help them meet that challenge...and I want to help if I can.

In your years of research, what has been most surprising to discover or learn?

Just how rapid the cycling of nutrients can be in tropical forests. Through the action of insects like termites and saprotrophic microorganisms (bacteria and fungi that feed off decaying organic matter) leaf litter that falls within a forest is rapidly decomposed and the nutrients captured by roots and fungal mycorrhiza to support fresh plant growth. This rapid and tight nutrient cycling can result in productive forests growing on even the poorest of soils. Places like the white-sand forests of South America, where you can find rainforests growing what is basically quartz beach sand. However, this cycling of nutrients can easily be disrupted and is hard to initiate — presenting one of the greatest challenges to restoration of degraded landscapes.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

My little niece back in the UK seems to believe I live in a treehouse like Tarzan, I refuse to tell her differently.

We want to extend a huge, rainforest thank you to Dr. Alex for everything he has done for us so far. His passion for the tropics is contagious and we can't wait to continue our journey together, for the rainforests.



canopy awards

The second year of the international photography competition saw a stunning range of entries, celebrating the visual richness of the rainforest. Here is a selection of winning and notable images.

Canopy Awards 2023 Grand Prize Winner, Benjamin Maze



Canopy Awards 2023 Hidden Gems Category Finalist, Margaret Bending



Canopy Awards 2023 Hidden Gems Category Finalist, Andrea Crimmins



Canopy Awards 2023 Best of the Wet Tropics Category Finalist, Jasmine Connors



Canopy Awards 2023 Best of the Wet Tropics Category Winner, Clay Hawker



Canopy Awards 2023 Peoples Choice Category Winner, Matt Cornish



Canopy Awards 2023 Best of the Wet Tropics Category Finalist, Tracey Jones

the financials

RAINFOREST RESCUE was in a sound financial position at the end of financial year 2022/2023. The operating surplus was \$755K which is a very positive result considering the economic uncertainty and inflation. This surplus has enabled us to invest in our programs while maintaining strong liquidity. Our secure financial position will help us to grow our impact in the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

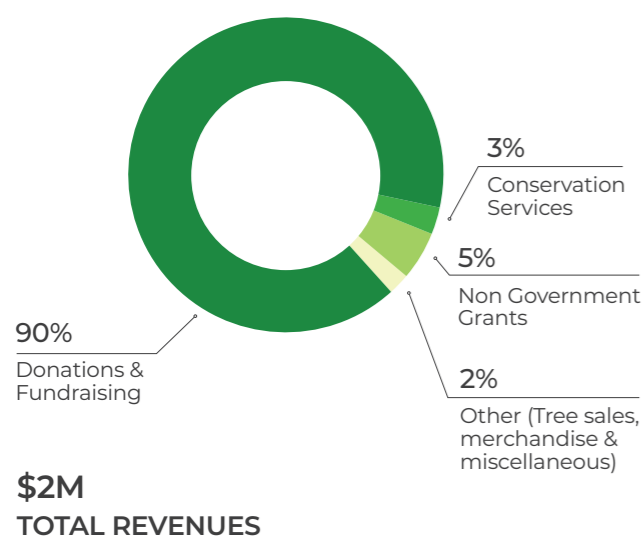
The total revenue was maintained from the previous financial year at \$2M, this was a solid achievement with the uncertainty in the fundraising environment. The majority of this revenue was generated through donations, property rescue appeals and business partners & sponsors.

Expenses increased in 2023 by \$375K compared to 2022 due to the construction and commissioning of our brand new 150,000 design capacity restoration nursery in the Daintree and the expansion of our land management and restoration team. We are creating local long term employment

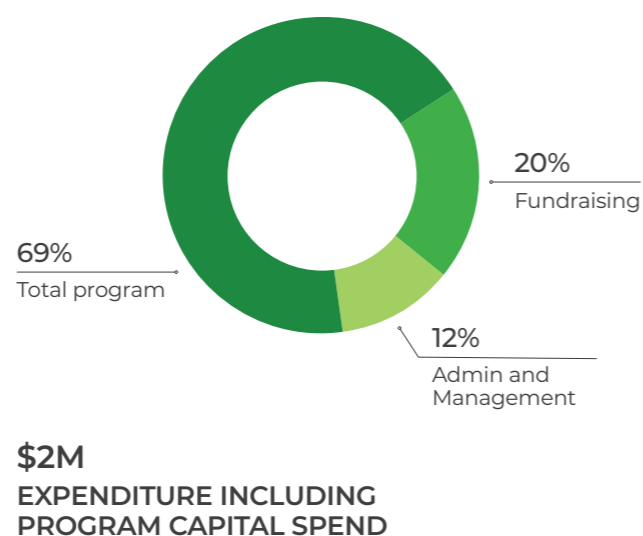
opportunities in the restoration economy as we ramp the nursery up to restore more essential habitat, increase biodiversity and sequester carbon. I was hired in April 2023 to strengthen the organisations financial management and operational capacity as we grow our impact.

Our total assets grew by \$785K to \$6.1M in financial year 2023 due to the purchasing and rescuing of additional high biodiverse properties, construction of our flagship nursery and the inventory we hold for the nursery including the beautiful healthy seedlings. Our liabilities only marginally increased to \$336K with no additional debt. This strong balance sheet position resulted in an increase of retained earnings.

REVENUE



EXPENDITURE (incl. Program Capital)



FINANCIAL RESULTS

(for year ended 30 June 2023)

INCOME	2023	2022
Income from fundraising, donations and grants	\$1,925,732	\$1,932,820
Income from Conservation services and other	\$88,713	\$112,669
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,014,445	\$2,045,489

EXPENSES	2023	2022
Employee expenses	\$739,941	\$561,495
Fundraising	\$114,541	\$69,432
Program excluding employee expenses	\$133,623	\$63,753
Admin, Management & Finance	\$174,895	\$117,711
Depreciation & Amortisation	\$68,911	\$49,666
Audit, Legal & Recruitment	\$27,480	\$22,062
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,259,391	\$884,119

NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	2023	2022
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$755,054	\$1,161,370

FINANCIAL POSITION

(for year ended 30 June 2023)

	2023	2022
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,069,761	\$5,284,750
LESS: TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$336,547	\$306,590
NET ASSETS	\$5,733,214	\$4,978,160
CASH RESERVES	\$1,346,409	\$1,770,698

the board



Branden Barber
| Director, CEO

Branden Barber is a lifelong environmentalist. With a degree in Environmental Studies from UC

Santa Cruz, he cut his teeth with Greenpeace International on the Rainbow Warrior and MV Greenpeace, and then ran the Victorian State Office for Greenpeace Australia in the 1990's.

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



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. She is dedicated to helping Rainforest Rescue thrive in its purpose of protecting and growing our precious rainforest areas. Supporting First Nations justice is also a key driver for Revel, which she brings to her role on the Board.

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



Karl Tischler | Director

Karl is an experienced designer, storyteller, and presenter.

He is also the Founder and Managing Director of Marlin

Communications—Australia's largest agency serving the for-purpose sector—and the instigator of the company's focus on ethical and sustainable business practices.

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



Rachel White
B (Bus), Ca | Acting
Chairperson, 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.

advisors & ambassadors

Advisors:

|| Dr Alex Cheesman Tropical Plant Ecophysiological & 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.

|| Justin McMahon Restoration Advisor

As a result of living from the Northern Territory to central, south-east, and far northern Queensland, Justin always knew he wanted to incorporate the unique Aussie landscape and its ecology into his day-to-day life.

Justin has worn many hats in his professional life — tour guide (both on and off the water), zookeeper (specialising in Lumholtz Tree Kangaroos), operations manager, teacher's aide, youth liaison worker, and Land Manager — but his true passion is our natural world, particularly protection and

restoration of threatened flora and fauna. Justin worked with Rainforest Rescue as Land Manager from 2020 to 2023.

|| Allen Sheather Daintree Ecological Advisor

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

Ambassadors:

|| Jasmine Carey Photographer And Rainforest Rescue Ambassador

Jasmine Carey has a passion for the ocean. Her beautiful, intimate photographs of the marine life she encounters confirm her deep connection with the sea. She spends most of each year sharing her underwater world—both through her photographs and as a guide and photographer for Whales Underwater and Foto Frenzy. Her work is elegant and spacious, and her signature style takes the viewer with her on journeys into her beloved blue world.

Jasmine's work was featured in the 2017 Oztek Photo Exhibition in Sydney, Australia; she was a producer on Australian Geographic's Day in the Life of the Great Barrier Reef time-lapse project in 2017; and she was the keynote speaker on the 2018 Underwater Tour, an Australia-wide speaking tour promoting ocean inspiration adventure and discovery. Jasmine's work has featured in commercial publications, books, and magazines and; in exhibitions, including the 2019 and 2020 Loud and Luminous project, a major show celebrating the work of 100 of Australia's finest women photographers, and; in fotoAID an exhibition raising much-needed funds to aid community and wildlife recover after the tragic 2019/20 Australian Summer of Fires.

"Conservation action is multi-faceted. For me, it's not just about raising awareness, it's critically important

that I support an organisation that delivers tangible and real conservation results. Rainforest Rescue's work protecting and restoring damaged rainforests has countless additional eco-benefits, not only on land. The renewed forests naturally filter the water that runs into rivers and streams onto the Great Barrier Reef." Jasmine Carey

In June 2020, Jasmine was acknowledged as the first woman to have ever won the Hamdan International Photography (HIPA) Grand Prize award with her image of a humpback whale and its two-week-old calf off the coast of Tonga.

Jasmine's Ocean Day pledge 2020 is an open letter to the ocean, honouring it and calling on humans to look after the ocean including supporting on-land initiatives that plant trees, like Rainforest Rescue, that flow on to benefit the sea.

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

Born in the middle of a thunderstorm in the valley of Mullumbimby, Liana spent her formative years being home-schooled and traveling the world. This early experience opened her eyes to the necessity to bridge cultures and countries, in order to care effectively as a collective for our planet.

Liana studied a Degree in Fine Arts and Media, at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts, and has since gone on to produce multiple documentaries, including the Refugia Series, of which she is also Director, Writer, Presenter, and Executive Producer. She ran an environmental company called Save Our Skins for 5 years, which focused on ecological news, philanthropic work, and the continuation of research to help endangered animals and ecosystems.

Liana presently plays Ania, a lead in Sky's TV series, "Britannia", and her passion for performance has fostered her desire to have a resounding voice for those without one. She is also a Reiki Master, writer, and musician, who aims to use her gifts for the greater good, channeling her monetary energy into scenarios that benefit us all. She believes strongly that the invisible, spiritual aspects of our world are in staunch support of what is visible, and that currently, an important vibrational shift is occurring for humanity.

Liana is committed to her most valuable life role — that of helping to heal our beautiful planet, give women a greater voice, and to encourage us all to nurture the very best versions of ourselves. She believes, ultimately, in the power of the good.

|| 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 was inspired to explore a career in nature photography by his father's travels in Antarctica. He now pursues a passion for capturing and sharing the wonder of the natural world.

After graduating from the Queensland College of Art, Darren first worked in commercial photography, before taking up a position as a photographer with the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, where he worked for 8 years.

Darren's work is now published widely in books, magazines, and paper products. He's had the opportunity to photograph extensively across Australia and in Africa, Alaska, Patagonia, and Antarctica and has introduced many people to the world's great wildlife and landscape destinations first-hand, through small group photography tours, predominantly to Africa and Antarctica and the Pacific.

Social Ambassador:

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

Roxanne Cambridge is a lifestyle social media influencer with a focus on sustainable fashion, motherhood, and helping her audience make more environmentally conscious decisions. As a mum of four, her goal is to encourage others to be kind and to make the world a better place by focusing more on becoming more mindful consumers.

Roxanne has worked with brands such as Esmi Skin Minerals, Fry's Family, Bohemian Traders, and Hello Fresh. A few career highlights include being a panelist for the Australian Non-Toxic Awards, guest speaker on the Inside Out with Kris podcast, and has been awarded the Silver Winner for Roar's "Most Powerful Influencer".

champions

Capturing the heart of the Daintree

■ ■ ■ SINCE 2014, Rainforest Rescue's Media Producer, Martin Stringer, has masterfully wielded his lens, transforming the ancient beauty of the rainforest into works of art that echo Rainforest Rescue's mission to Protect Rainforests Forever.

Martin's photographic journey has not merely documented our tree planting projects; it has encapsulated the very spirit of our community tree planting events. His lens is a bridge, connecting culture, nature, and humanity in a breathtaking tapestry of images that speaks volumes about the essence of our work.

Beyond the intimacy of the rainforest, Martin's lens has traversed diverse landscapes, from the carbon-dense forests of Central Highlands, Victoria, to remote Nepalese villages, capturing stories that transcend borders and cultures. His work goes beyond visual appeal; it is a call to action, an invitation to become stewards of the natural world.

In this annual celebration of our achievements, we extend our deepest gratitude to Martin. His lens, an instrument of inspiration, has highlighted our journey with great purpose. As we turn the pages of this report, let Martin's images resonate—a testament to the extraordinary beauty we strive to safeguard, and the unwavering commitment of a remarkable visual artist and storyteller.



An advocate of the environment

■ ■ ■ EMILY SILVERSTONE, our Daintree Supporters Coordinator, embodies the warm welcome and passion for conservation that defines Rainforest Rescue. Since joining us in 2017, Emily has been the face of Rainforest Rescue for visitors to the Daintree, representing us at tree plantings, local markets, and community events. In her role, Emily nurtures partnerships with local businesses, fostering alliances that not only safeguard the rainforest but also bolster the surrounding community.

Emily's dedication extends beyond her professional duties. An environmental steward at heart, she actively engages in beach clean-ups and advocates for sustainable living. This year, in recognition of her outstanding contributions, Emily received the Environmental Achievement Award at the Douglas Shire Council's Australia Day awards ceremony. Her commitment to conservation, from Rainforest Rescue to local initiatives, reflects a profound commitment to making a positive impact.

Despite her ever-present smile and positivity, Emily's passion for preserving the unique biodiversity of the Daintree shines through. Her journey from the UK to becoming an Australian citizen is a testament to her dedication. Thank you for being a vital force in the Rainforest Rescue family.

Left: Martin Stringer
Above: Emily Silverstone

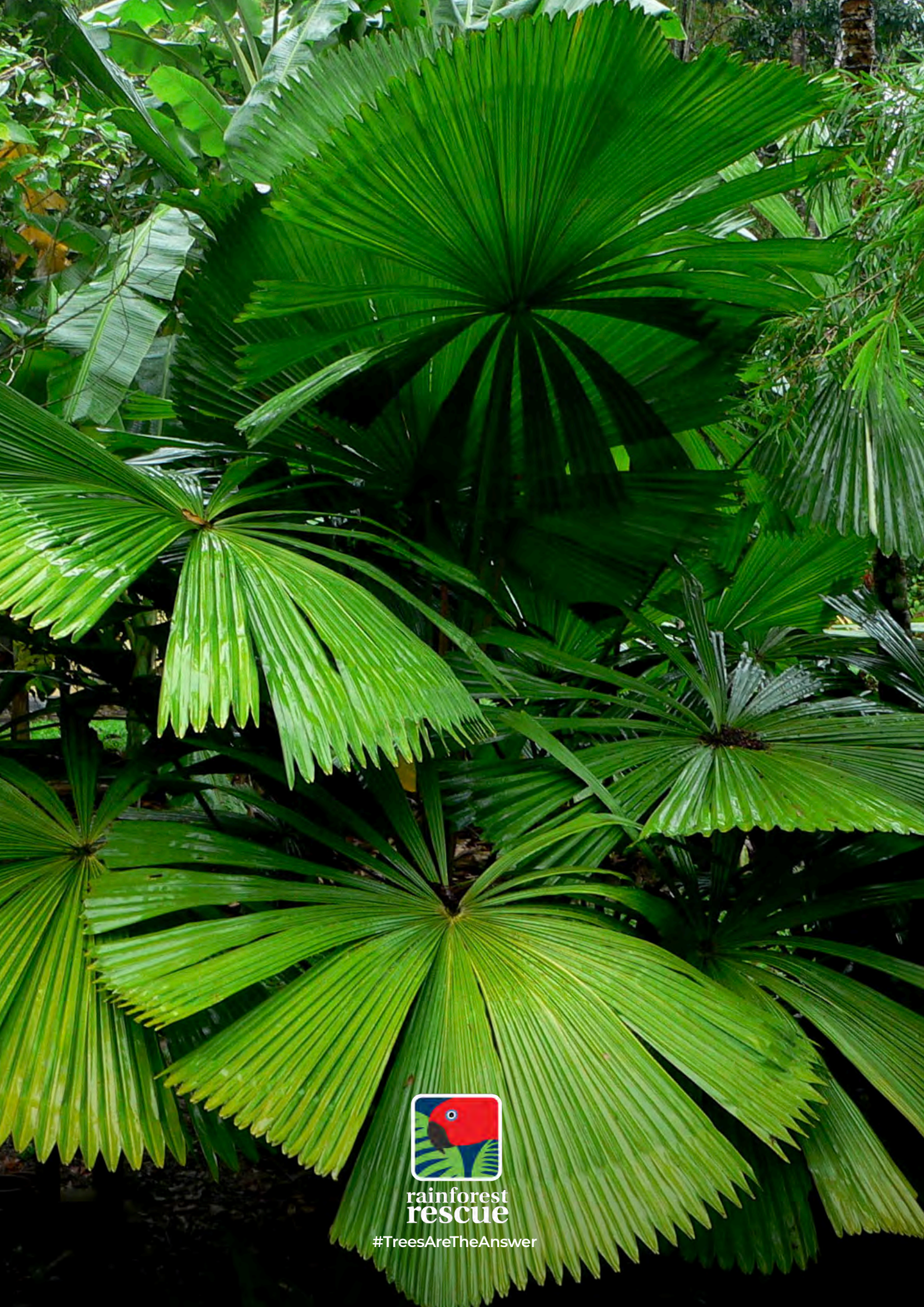


THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2023 and over the last 25 years! Here's to a great year ahead for conservation and restoration outcomes in the ancient and irreplaceable Daintree Rainforest.



A special thank you to Marylouise Brammer for designing our beautiful Annual Report 2023.

Martin Stringer



**rainforest
rescue**

#TreesAreTheAnswer