



## Promoting wildlife conservation, indigenous culture and regional tourism







## A unique visitor attraction for Far North Queensland

The **Cassowary Art Trail** hosts a set of beautiful hand-painted cassowary sculptures in towns across Far North Queensland. Local artists have painted the sculptures to express their connection to the iconic cassowary through their artwork.

Visiting the art trail encourages locals and tourists to explore the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and learn about animals vital to the rainforest, like the cassowary.

Natureworks was proud to provide cassowary statues for each artist to bring to life through visual storytelling. The statues are based on our museum-quality life-sized cassowary replicas, which we supplied as sculptures ready to paint.

Natureworks male cassowary sculpture

*"The rainforest in Kuranda is a vital habitat for the endangered southern cassowary. The Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery and the Cassowary Art Trail team have partnered with local artists to deliver life-sized cassowary statues in the village to raise public awareness of this iconic species."*

Mareeba Shire Council Mayor, Angela Toppin



Images from the Cassowary Art Trail launch in 2022

## CASSOWARY ART TRAIL MAP

Follow the  on the map to find our painted cassowaries!



Cassowary Art Trail locations – see [cassowarytrail.com.au/map](http://cassowarytrail.com.au/map)





## Raising awareness of the endangered cassowary

The art trail promotes awareness of the Southern Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*) and educates people about its important role in the rainforest ecosystem.

This big flightless bird – ‘the gardener of the rainforest’ – spreads large fruit seeds that ensure the ecological diversity of forests in the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. Sadly, habitat loss is threatening the cassowary’s lifestyle and survival.

### Cultural experience to attract visitors

By providing an enjoyable cultural and educational experience, the Cassowary Art Trail aims to attract tourists and encourage locals to explore the region.

Reflecting the region’s unique character, the project celebrates local artists and indigenous culture. Each cassowary sculpture was hand-painted by an artist to tell a story of personal relevance. Their artworks are installed in the artists’ local area, with four around Kuranda and three elsewhere in the region.

### A community-led project

The trail is a not-for-profit project initiated by Jurg Jutzi in partnership with Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery. This volunteer-led organisation is responsible for conservation projects in Far North Queensland, focused on the Southern cassowary.

The project was funded with the help of a Regional Arts Development Fund” (RADF) grant approved by Mareeba Shire Council in 2022.



Artist Connie Rovina with her painted cassowary, 'Bundarra'



Artist George Riley gets to know his cassowary before painting it!

*“If the cassowary is to survive, effective action is required now. This action must be rooted in community support, which relies on education about habitat loss and the needs of the cassowary.”*

Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery Inc



Exhibit of realistic life-sized cassowary sculptures by Natureworks





## The artists and their work

- **Connie Rovina** – ‘Bundarra’ – at Kuranda Heritage Market, Birdworld and Koala Gardens
- **Jedess & David Hudson** – ‘The Guardian’ – at Rainforestation Nature Park, Kuranda
- **George Riley** – ‘Ma-Jilli’ – at Terra Nova Gallery, Kuranda
- **Rebecca Koller** – ‘Kuraptor’ – at Kuranda Village Centre
- **Corrin Skeene** – ‘Bimbi Djaruy’ (Father bird) – at Hartley’s Crocodile Adventures, Wangetti
- **Melanie Hava** – ‘Beautiful Beatrice’ – at Mamu Tropical Skywalk, Palmerston
- **Hayley Gillespie** – ‘Arrow’ – at Wildlife Habitat, Port Douglas



Connie Rovina painting 'Bundarra'



Corrin Skeene with 'Bimbi Djaruy'



George Riley with 'Ma-Jilli'



Rebecca Koller painting 'Kuraptor'



Hayley Gillespie with 'Arrow'



Jedess & David Hudson with 'The Guardian'



Melanie Hava with 'Beautiful Beatrice'





Sculpture primed ready to paint



Close-up of George Riley's cassowary



Close-up of Corrin Skeene's cassowary



Close-up of Rebecca Koller's cassowary



Close-up of Connie Rovina's cassowary

## What's next? A giant cassowary!

A 4-metre-high giant cassowary sculpture is planned for Kuranda in 2026. This 'Big Thing' aims to become an iconic visitor attraction, promoting the Cassowary Art Trail and the Far North Qld region.

Following the fundraising phase, the big sculpture will be made by Natureworks. Once it is ready, a group of artists will paint a story on the cassowary depicting Kuranda's history, environment, culture and wildlife.

There are opportunities for local businesses to sponsor the project and benefit from the promotion.

This project is an excellent example of how public art can have commercial and community benefits.



'Big Cassowary' concept





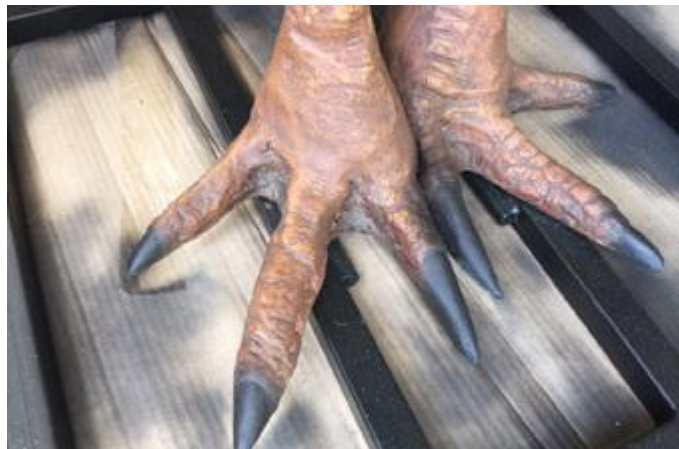
The Guardian cassowary on display at Kuranda



Connie Rovina painting her cassowary



Natureworks' sculptures of cassowary chicks and eggs



Close-up of cassowary feet and sturdy display base



Displays featuring life-size replicas such as these cassowaries bring natural history to life, supporting educational activities in museums, wildlife parks, learning centres and public spaces.

## The power of public art for education, conservation, culture and tourism

The Cassowary Art Trail project shows the value of motivated individuals, regional councils, environmental organisations and artists working together for a mutual objective.

Natureworks loves supporting projects that promote conservation, culture and communities. If you have such a project in mind, get in touch! We can throw in ideas, provide creative concepts to support funding, and discuss how to move the project forward.

**Contact Natureworks to bring your project to life!**