



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARCH 17 - AN IMPORTANT MORNING FOR CASSOWARY CONSERVATION**

Rainforest Rescue launched an unprecedented campaign this morning at WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo with Government departments, Local Councils, Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, 18 partnering Australian Zoos and business BioPak to raise awareness of the Endangered Southern Cassowary: [www.savethecassowary.org.au](http://www.savethecassowary.org.au)

**INTERVIEWS: Rainforest Rescue: Jennifer Croes, Conservation Scientist- 0407 328 797/ 0402 057 711**  
**WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo: Michael George - 0402 049 005**



Image: Will Meikle (Wildlife Sydney Zoo), Chris Hibbard (Zoos & Aquarium Association) and Jennifer Croes (Rainforest Rescue)  
Photographer: ©Geof Webb, Rainforest Rescue

**Sydney (17 March 2014):** Rainforest Rescue and its partners marked an important day for Cassowary Conservation this morning at WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo when they came together for the launch of the *Save the Cassowary* campaign to highlight the plight of the endangered southern cassowary.

Current estimates fear fewer than 1,000 birds are left in the Australian wild, with rapid development eliminating 85% of its habitat.

A ribbon cutting ceremony marked the official start of the campaign, with media crosses inside ‘Princess’ the Cassowary’s enclosure and a special show of support from the QLD Department of Environment and the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation via a video message to all.

Jennifer Croes, Rainforest Rescue’s Conservation Scientist spoke on the unprecedented nature of the campaign: *“Rainforest Rescue has developed a campaign to bridge the conservation gap, working with all our partners but most importantly, the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, to incorporate Traditional Owners and Indigenous knowledge and values to long-term conservation solutions. Cassowaries play not only a vital role in rainforest biodiversity, but also a significant cultural role in Indigenous traditions.*

*We are pleased to officially announce that Rainforest Rescue has entered a collaborative partnership with QLD Government and the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation to manage the Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre at Garners Beach located in Mission Beach, Far North Queensland to care for injured, sick cassowaries and/or orphaned chicks to be released back in the wild where possible.*

*It’s a privilege to work with our campaign partners to cast a light on this iconic keystone species and the need to protect our rainforests. We invite the greater public to join the race to save this ‘living dinosaur’ at [savethecassowary.org.au](http://savethecassowary.org.au)*



***Jennifer Croes, a Conservation Scientist and Director of Conservation & Partnerships***

**TO ACCESS ADDITIONAL CAMPAIGN TEXT, CASSOWARY FAQs AND PRINT-READY HIGH RES IMAGES pls** head to <http://savethecassowary.org.au/media/photo-gallery/> and enter the password 'SAVE2014' – Please ensure you credit photographers – thank you

**KEY CONTACTS – AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS**

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