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Friends of Ninney Rise

Ninney Rise Interpretation Plan: Project brief

Prepared by Friends of Ninney Rise

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Introduction

Friends of Ninney Rise (FoNR) invite consultants to submit a proposal to prepare an interpretation plan for [Ninney Rise](#).

Ninney Rise was pivotal to the identification and protection of what are now two World Heritage Areas: the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics of Queensland. Ninney Rise is located overlooking both.

The place is entered on the [Queensland Heritage Register](#) and is of potential national heritage significance. The place is owned by the Queensland Government (National Parks department) and leased to FoNR.

FoNR is an incorporated community group with the following purposes:

- to assist the conservation of the cultural heritage significance of Ninney Rise;
- to promote ecotourism at Mission Beach and ongoing reef and rainforest conservation through interpreting Ninney Rise's leading role in saving the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics rainforests;
- to assist in retaining Ninney Rise in public ownership with opportunities for appropriate public access particularly for tourism and conservation purposes;
- to assist the economically viable use of Ninney Rise;
- to facilitate tourism, conservation, community and government partnerships

Rationale for an interpretation plan

- Interpreting Ninney Rise is important to sharing the significant environmental heritage stories of the place and the region.
- An interpretation plan is identified as a key action in the Ninney Rise [Conservation Management Plan](#).
- An interpretation plan will clarify and bring forward the future interpretation of the place.
- An interpretation plan will place FoNR in a better position to raise funds to implement the interpretation plan.

Overall process

1. Invite proposals from consultants to prepare interpretation plan
2. Raise funds to engage selected consultant to prepare interpretation plan
3. Engage consultant to prepare interpretation plan*
4. Raise funds to implement interpretation plan
5. Implement interpretation plan

* Upon appointment, the successful consultant would visit Ninney Rise and meet with FoNR and National Parks (the owner). The consultant would provide a draft plan to FoNR and the owner and consider comments before finalising the plan.

Relevant documents

Ninney Rise [Conservation Management Plan](#) has information and policies on interpretation/collections. The following sections are particularly relevant:

- 8.6
- 8.7
- 10.2 (pp94-96)
- 11.4

FoNR's vision/mission for Ninney Rise

Ninney Rise will be nationally recognised as a centre that:

- promotes an understanding of the past, present and future of the Great Barrier Reef and Queensland tropical rainforest conservation movements, and
- inspires personal and public commitment to understanding and protecting the diversity of the reef and rainforest.

How to achieve the vision:

- We're going to tell people about the history of the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and Queensland tropical rainforest
- We're going to have an educational role in promoting understanding of the GBR and Wet Tropics World Heritage values
- We're going to be a place where people come and be inspired to be involved in reef and rainforest conservation

Ninney Rise purposes (according to FoNR):

- to conserve and present the history and story about this place and its people and reef and rainforest conservation
- to be a living museum restored to original condition with a sense of place and prospect
- to provide a lens through which people can see the reef and rainforest
- to inspire people to value the reef and rainforest and become conservation activists
- to help access resources for the conservation, maintenance and interpretation of the place and its stories

Potential interpretation topics, themes and stories

People & organisations:

- John Busst: the conservationist, architect (story of building Ninney Rise, built to last 1000 years), artist, furniture maker, the man
- Alison Busst
- Eddie Hegerl & Queensland Littoral Society
- Harold & Zara Holt
- Perry & Brenda Harvey
- LJ Webb & Geoff Tracey, Jiro and other scientists
- WPSQ Innisfail and other rainforest organisations that Bussts established
- Judith Wright
- Kate Tode (Ninney Rise owner post-Busst)
- Busst descendants
- People FoNR have interviewed for oral histories
- Margaret Thorsborne
- Family Islands artists and conservationists (eg EJ Banfield)
- Qld Government/National Parks (the owner)
- FoNR

Places:

- house (CMP says best use of the house is as a house museum)
- grounds (infrastructure, decorative plants, pineapples, forestry, native vegetation)
- memorial plaque
- Tully cemetery (where Busst is buried)
- National Parks created by Busst and co
- Ellison Reef
- Bedarra Island (Busst's home before Ninney Rise)
- Montsalvat (where Busst studied)
- where reef and rainforest World Heritage Areas meet

Other themes:

- Conservation of reef and rainforest including Save the Reef campaign
- Reef and rainforest World Heritage Areas, and the connection between the two and Ninney Rise
- Aesthetics and beauty; emotion; inspiration and reflection

Periods:

- Busst's lifespan, focused on 1950s to 1970s (Bedarra & Ninney Rise years)
- Kate Tode period (to a lesser extent)

Ninney Rise is entered on the Qld Heritage Register for the following reasons (which could provide a possible framework or checklist for interpretation planning):

- The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland's history
- The place is important in demonstrating particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community or a particular cultural group
- The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in Queensland's history

Potential target audiences for interpretation

- Pre-arrival and post-arrival visitors
- Local, regional, state, national and international visitors
- people interested in history, heritage, reef, rainforest, conservation, World Heritage, activism, art, science, ecotourism
- unconverted people; rainy day people at Mission Beach Visitor Info Centre
- schools including School for Field Studies and local schools and environmental education centres, eg Daradgee
- Tertiary institutions and their students/researchers
- Reef and rainforest scientists/researchers (also anthropologists, historians etc)
- Government departments, eg WTMA, GBRMPA, DES, etc
- Conservation groups
- Philanthropists
- Digital and physical visitors
- Ninney Rise is not in a big city; we're seeking quality more so than quantity of visitors

Collections

We need some objects to help tell the stories. What do we have already? What would we like to acquire?

- Busst objects: the house and grounds, paintings, pineapple stencil, books, slides & photos, furniture, JCU NQ Collection letters. (some original furniture exists off-site that we could document and possibly reproduce, if not acquire)
- Save The Reef objects: stickers, t-shirt, Eddie Hegerl's clippings
- Kate Tode objects (already in storage at Ninney Rise)
- Oral histories: many done already; Jo did Perry Harvey; others still to be done (Fay, Virginia, Mary Alderman, Jim, Bob re Hope, etc)
- Margaret Thorsborne library

Potential interpretive media/activities

- Activities must meet criteria of art, science or activism; must have a broad conservation message
- Not an information station, but an inspiration station. Rather than being a place that's permanently open with someone constantly at front desk, FoNR would prefer it to be a place where environmental groups come to have meetings/conferences like our Reef and

Rainforest Conservation Stories, Ellison Reef Anniversary, etc. Tour operators could include the place on their tour route (although the driveway is unsuitable for long vehicles)

- Permanent exhibitions (possibly including diorama, audio recordings)
- temporary displays
- talks
- community events like festivals or demonstrations; Judith Wright Braidwood festival a possible model
- Art or performance in house or grounds
- Education programs
- Guided tours on or off site; self-guided tours to National Parks that Busst secured
- Historical trails
- Publications like books, brochures (like Mission Beach Naturally). Pages in book could correspond with rooms in the house. For example, we could have an Ellison Reef room, a rainforest room, etc and similar pages in book; but keep the Busst link; what the rooms were originally used for; keep the history intact; not just a display area. Need a room plan. FoNR has expertise to photo-shop what certain rooms could look like.
- A room for people to stay in, eg artist/scientist in residence
- Keep lounge room and verandahs relatively open for conferences, workshops, etc, at least the floor space, if not the wall space.
- A couple of key areas in the house and grounds looking like they were in Busst era. Seating on verandah where Bussts, Holt etc sat.
- Need to establish and maintain views to reef and rainforest from lounge/verandah; need vegetation management plan
- The sounds of the sea (waves breaking) and forest (native birds, etc) is part of interpretation; it encourages contemplation
- On-site interpretation, eg signage about the building or grounds or views
- Off-site interpretation. We already have some off-site interpretation around Bingil Bay, eg Busst plaque sign, rainforest meets reef signage, etc. Interpretation at Ellison Reef is a consideration.
- On-line interpretation: We already have some; existing FoNR website with slide show, video, stories, newsletters, etc.
- Digital stories.
- Getting media coverage of our activities and purpose is part of our interpretation, eg Ellison Reef 50 Anniversary media.
- Nominating Ellison Reef for entry on Qld Heritage Register or other activities at Ellison Reef or National Parks created by Busst could be interpretation activities.

Potential partners

The following organisations may already be interpreting reef and/or rainforest conservation. Being aware of their interpretation will help us focus on our special stories, not duplicate. They may be able to integrate Ninney Rise into their interpretation and help promote us. We may be able to learn from them.

- Australian Institute of Marine Science
- Australian Marine Conservation Society (previously QLS/ALS)
- Citizens of Great Barrier Reef
- DES (National Parks)
- 'Edge' - Judith Wright's Braidwood home

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Innisfail Historical Society
- James Cook University (including Library NQ Collection which houses John Busst Collection)
- Montsalvat (where Busst studied)
- National Museum Australia
- Queensland Museums (Cairns & Townsville)
- Terrain NRM
- Tourism organisations including Mission Beach Tourism, TTNQ, Ecotourism Australia
- University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Kate Tode connection)
- Wet Tropics Management Authority
- Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld

Proposal details

Proposals should include the following:

- your proposed major activities, outputs and outcomes
- why you are the appropriate consultant
- your estimated fee

The scope and start and end date of the consultancy is negotiable.

Proposals should be submitted by Wednesday 6 February 2019 to anthonyomswim@gmail.com and copied to friendsofninneyrise@gmail.com

For any enquiries, please contact Tony O'Malley on anthonyomswim@gmail.com or 0437728190.

Thank you for considering making a proposal.