

MUNGUMBY LODGE

BLACK MOUNTAIN - COOKTOWN - CAPE YORK - QUEENSLAND - AUSTRALIA

ROOM COMPENDIUM

THE HOLIDAY ISSUE



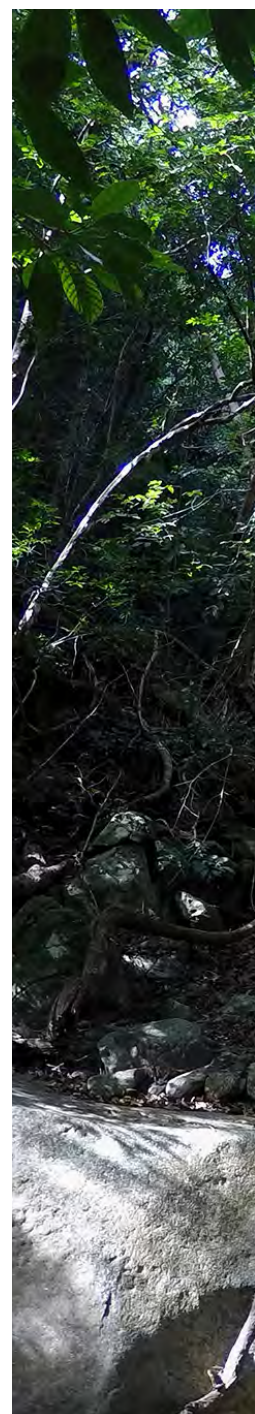
TO REMAIN IN ROOM

ENJOY THE READ



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DREI ECH ON MUNGUMBY CREEK

To our valued guests

Welcome to Mungumby Lodge! Thank you for visiting this unique region. Whilst with us we will do our utmost to make your stay comfortable & enjoyable.

Our aim at Mungumby Lodge is to provide more than just an overnight stay, more so a unique & memorable experience. We like you to consider Mungumby Lodge a base or home away from home from where you can explore this unique and amazing region.

Eco-tourism is an interesting terminology and one we embrace. At Mungumby Lodge our objective is to ensure our operation works in harmony with nature, and with our environment-first strategy. We tailor our operations to ensure minimal impact on the environment that hosts our existence. Therefore we minimized outdoor lighting and ensure we have minimal waste. We have recycled always and used Eco-friendly lighting for the past 20 years.

We have never exploited endemic wildlife for tourism, we operate on an environmentally-friendly evaporation waste system, minimize walking track clearance, provide all water pressure through a gravity feed system, and keep our pool at minimum chlorine levels to ensure the animals and birds can continue to drink from it in the dry season. The best part is the linen on your bed is sun dried and fresh.

There is always room for improvement and further development of this philosophy, through action rather than words. Our ultimate award, is nature's praise.

Prior to the development of Mungumby Lodge, the site was an old neglected farm dating back to the days of the Lion's Den Tin mine (130 years ago).

The property was used as a base camp and farm providing access to the Lion's Den Tin mine, which the ruins of which remain in the mountain behind us. In fact 150 mine workers once lived on the mountain in tents. As well, an old timber mill operated which supplied Cooktown with its tropical hardwoods.

The mine was named by owner Jack Ross after a stowaway Daniel who came to Helenvale. He eluded authorities upon landing in Cooktown in the early 1870's then worked for Ross. Daniel came out from under ground one day, beard covered in dust, looking like a lion, so Ross gave the mine the name Lion's Den. Our local pub here in Helenvale was later, in 1875, given the same name, which Jack Ross also owned (Rossville also named after) and his wife was the first publican.

Mungumby Lodge was built and opened by the Marshall family in 1988. In those days not so long ago there was no road in here (only the historical Lion's Den access track), no electricity and no telephone -- all key draw cards for the intrepid traveler. In fact until 2001 when we purchased the lodge the road to Cooktown was also unsealed, along with the now Mulligan Highway, which was unsealed back from Capsize Creek near Mt. Carbine.

We are surrounded by adventure history and culture, possibly one of the most significant pristine reef & rainforest environments available on the planet today. Additionally our Aboriginal culture and rock art throughout the region is fascinating

and in part our heritage. Our immediate neighbour to the East is a huge protected environment park recently renamed as Mangkal-Mangkalba National Park from its former timber reserve title TR165 or Greater Daintree. Nujungal people are the traditional owners of this region known today as Shiptons Flat, and we are honored to be today's custodians of the Mungumby Estate.

We hope you make the time to enjoy and experience many of these things whilst here with us. Our staff are here to answer your questions on nature and offer explanation on the region. Additionally we have many reference books available for your perusal. Although we operate the lodge with a style to ensure the property is relaxing, we are here to help and make your time memorable.

So we are only too keen to assist in any way. YOU are why we are in business!

Lastly, feedback is important to us as our customers direct and drive our business. If there are any suggestions that can help our facilities and service to you and future customers, our door is open and we welcome feedback received in our guest book, on our website or verbally.

Thank you for staying with us!



Hamish & Isabella Haslop
Owner/Hosts



GUEST EXPERIENCES

The Australian Landscape offers a wide range of experiences, only a few as unique or majestic as this region, a group of National Parks and primitive rainforest under Wet Tropics protection. Mangkal-Mangkalba National Park is part of the Greater Daintree, which spans from the latitude of the Daintree River to the latitude of the mighty Black Mountain just south of Cooktown and next to your present location.

This region is a magnificent collection of botanically diverse landscapes & ecosystems including tropical rainforest, animals, birds, and mangroves, which possibly excels those anywhere else on the continent. This area is beloved by those who have a heart or eye for natural beauty. This rare mixture of ancient ecosystems from coast to high mountain ranges has remained intact for millions of years. A beauty and grandeur that touches the soul of all those that travel here.

Mangkal-Mangkalba National Park has attracted the attention of botanists and zoologists for many decades. In particular their attention is drawn to the Peripatus (velvet worm) many species of owls, the elusive Bennett's Tree Kangaroo, rare stream frogs, blossom bats, northern Quolls and an extensive range of regional and migrating birds. The preservation of the Mungumby property natural landscapes and neighbouring Wet Tropics reserve provides us with an in depth opportunity to develop a greater understanding of this unique natural world. From the coastal boundary to the east of where you sit, to the exciting Black Mountain at the entrance to the property, this northern region can offer travellers a most memorable and rewarding experiences.

There is a wide range of self-guided options here at Mungumby. During the day you can take advantage of the numerous walking trails, exploring the adjoining World Heritage Listed rainforests, historic mining sites, secret waterfalls and jungle pools in Mungumby Creek. The Mungumby Creek, which you can hear, runs down the property's southern boundary. Some of our clients simply enjoy a stroll along the creek and let the day drift by listening to the bird song, others seek our guided walk options. It's up to you!

If you choose to stroll alone through this majestic paradise, please let one of our friendly staff know of your intended direction and approximate return time as it assists with your safety. It is also important to note that walking un-guided outside the property's parameter fence line you need to acknowledge you do this at your own risk. When walking through the rainforest please be aware of your surroundings.

SO MANY THINGS TO DO!

Mungumby Lodge is situated on the northern edge of the majestic Great Barrier Reef Rainforest Coast. World Heritage Rainforest & coastal reef systems to delight the most intrepid traveller. One can encounter a wide range of flora and fauna, deserted coastlines and rich Aboriginal culture directly from Mungumby Lodge. Experience such memorable adventures as driving down the sealed road to Ayton, Wujal Wujal and the Bloomfield Falls in the south. Alternatively drive north of Cooktown along the Endeavor Valley to Hope Vale then a 4x4 track onto Elim Beach and Coloured Sands. What ever happens never let the weather deter you as in a short drive it can change. Ensure sure you leave a little time to explore our waterfalls and walks.

IMPORTANT TIPS TO REMEMBER

The World Heritage listed natural and marine environments of Tropical North Queensland are home to exotic and dangerous species of flora and fauna, from deadly stinging jelly fish to crocodile infested water systems. Always heed warning signs when exploring. Swim with caution on many of our nice beaches. Between

Dec and April there are marine stingers present especially after heavy rainfall. Risk of injury can be minimized by wearing a stinger-resistant wet-suit.

During the wet season (Feb/March/April) pack light waterproof clothing suitable for humid tropical conditions. One minute nice and sunny the very next it could be wet

During the dry season (May/June through October/December) pack light protective clothing to avoid sun-burn and/or insect bites. Bring a broad brim hat to take the sun off your face, as just 15 mins in the sun can cause sunburn.

No matter what time of year it is advisable to wear sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

In this tropical hideaway you can choose to simply laze the day away on deserted strips of sand, soaking up the tropical sun. You may prefer to follow one of the many hiking or biking trails and discover the wonders of this ancient rainforest wilderness for yourself.

A drive out to Laura on the sealed road via Lakeland is a real treat. The landscape changes frequently as does the wildlife and scenery. Visiting the ancient rock art at Split Rock public galleries are available to everyone for a \$10 entry. There you will see three galleries dating back thousands of years.



Great Barrier Reef Coast



COAST JUST NORTH OF THE ENDEAVOUR RIVER MOUTH

Cook set his sights on two barren sand bars, naming them Hope "because we were always in hopes of being able to reach these Islands. Unable to do so he pinned his hopes instead on the harbour he named Weary Bay. But the bay was too shallow and the crewmen became weary from sounding out the river mouth and bay. At sunset and sailing north the men in the pinnace found a river mouth deep to bring the ship in. But as the Endeavour approached, the weather turned wet and blowy that the damaged ship "would

no work" Cook wrote. For two days the ship lingered offshore , "intangled among shoals" finally on June 18, a full week after striking the reef, Cook sailed into a narrow river, twice running aground before finally mooring beside a steep bank.



WEARY BAY, AYTON



BANKS

Cooktown has an ANZ Bank and Westpac agencies on Charlotte St. ATM electronic banking facilities are available at both as well as the IGA Supermarket. Major credit cards, including Visa & MasterCard, are accepted (bank credit card charges apply) here and at most shops or restaurants in Cooktown. No Diners or AMEX cards accepted. Bank credit card charges are 1.5% on all credit card transactions.

BAR (12 noon - 21.00)

We offer glassware for use with BYO beverages. We kindly ask that for obvious reasons no glasses is taken to the pool area please. All glassware used is to washed, dried and returned to where it was found please.

BATH TOWELS

Please do not take room towels from the rooms for outside use. Pool towels are available at the homestead. As all towels are washed on-site we ask that they placed on a hook for drying and are reused as you would at home. For longer stays and wet weather times our housekeeping staff will replace when required.

BREAKFAST (07.30 - 9.00)

A Tropical Breakfast of fresh fruit, yogurt, assorted cereal, toast and spreads, and including juices, tea and coffee is served for your enjoyment from 07.30 and cleared at 09.00 in the homestead by appointment. Those on room only rates that exclude breakfast. If you wish to have breakfast @ \$19pp we need to know the day prior please.

If you are departing on an early tour fishing or safari or otherwise please arrange in advance so we can arrange for you a tropical self-help breakfast at your convenience. **Dining room is reserved for breakfast customers only during breakfast hours**

BUS & TAXI SERVICES

Cooktown Express Phone: 4059 1423

Trans North Phone: 4095 8644

Taxi Phone: 4069 5387

CHECK-OUT TIME

We appreciate your co-operation in observing the 10.00 check-out time so that we may prepare the room for our next guest. To arrange an extension or other special requirements please

contact reception. Late check-outs can be arranged for an additional charge of \$45.00 until 18.00, however this is subject to availability and must be pre-arranged at time of booking.

COFFEE & TEA MAKING FACILITIES

Tea and coffee facilities are available at the homestead and are included in your room rate. Romantic Double & Superior Triple rooms have these facilities within the room. If you would prefer to have a Nespresso espresso, café latte or flat white coffee, please ask as this can be made for you at extra cost.

COLD DRINKS

A selection of soft drinks are available in our bar fridge in the homestead. Please ask at reception or the kitchen for assistance. If nobody is within range, we offer an honesty system, so help yourself and write the details of your purchase in the docket book at the bar. Our dining room, pool and main homestead offer BYO with additional glassware available at the bar. You are welcome to enjoy your own beverages, please do not take homestead glassware back to your room.

CREDIT CARDS

The lodge accepts the following EFTPOS or major credit cards: MasterCard and VISA. All credit card purchases are subject to a bank credit card fee charge of 1.5%.

DINNER

As a B'n'B we do not offer evening restaurant meals. There is the Aussie fire pit and grill for self-service catering, firewood is at the fire pit area, paper and matches at the bar. Consider others and only use the wood you require. Please keep your open fire small to avoid the wind blowing ashes into the forest. **LARGER FIRES NOT PERMITTED.** Smokey fires are best avoided for the sake of others. We have a BBQ available just ask, and there are plates, cutlery etc available in the dining room along with a microwave oven. If you require additional bowls etc. Please ask in advance and before reception is closes @ 6pm.

We kindly ask that the BBQ and Aussie fire pit is left as you found it "clean". All plates and cutlery used, we kindly ask that it is washed, dried and returned to where it was taken from. You can find washing up equipment next to the bar sink and this area can be used for such.

DIVING

There are no commercial operations operating from Cooktown. All the reefs closely located to Cooktown offer a diverse range of private diving opportunities including interesting drop-offs and wall diving at famous sites like the Cod Hole or Ribbon Reefs.

DOCTOR

Cooktown Medical Centre | 4069 5211. Cooktown Hospital is open 24 hours and there is a doctor on duty at all times in case of emergencies. Tel 4043 0100

DRESS CODE

Comfortable and casual is the standard of dress and recommended at Mungumby Lodge. Please be yourself and feel at home. We ask that wet swimsuits not be worn in the lounge or dining room and wet people are not to enter the homestead or rooms dripping wet. Swimsuits are to be worn at all times in the pool area please. Birthday suits can be reserved and worn at the creek swimming places.

ELECTRICITY

Cooktown is 240 Volt 50 Hz AC. We have a generator backup power supply. Three-pin plugs are used throughout the lodge and bungalows. Between the months of Feb and May (wet season), loss of power from the mains happens from time to time.

ENERGY & WATER CONSERVATION

Energy and water are precious resources all around the world and especially in Tropical Australia. Please re-use your towel wherever possible, and turn off taps, lights and fans when leaving your room. This will greatly assist our region in conserving its resources, and will be much appreciated by the environment and your hosts. The outside light left on will attract insects by the front door and will shine into other rooms all night, please remember to turn it off before going to sleep. Bathroom lights left on all night will definitely attract insects to the source of the light, 100% guarantee.

FIRE SAFETY PROCEDURES

In the event of a fire immediately report the fire's location to reception, then assemble at the lodge car park. Please make yourself familiar with the evacuation procedures which can be found on the back of each room door. Please remain calm

and do not panic. If you need to vacate your room or the main homestead please don't return for your belongings until the OK is given.

FIRST AID

To arrange first aid for minor emergencies, please contact your hosts. In more serious cases medical assistance will be sought. Cooktown Hospital can have an ambulance here in about 20 minutes.

GIFT SHOPS

The Croc shop in Cooktown offers locally made didgeridoos, boomerangs, clap sticks, T-shirts, postcards, etc. Yuku Baja Muliku gallery in Cooktown offers locally crafted Aboriginal works. The Black Cockatoo Gallery towards Ayton & Bloomfield offers very detailed amazing works of art. The Bana Yirriji Art and Cultural Centre in Wujal Wujal offers Aboriginal made souvenirs and gifts.

GOLF

The Cooktown Golf Club welcomes visitors to play on its 9 or 18-hole course. You can hire a set of clubs or a buggy at the club. The golf course is open 7 days a week. The Cooktown Golf Club is approximately 35 minutes from the lodge by car near Quarantine Bay. See reception for further information.

HAIRDRYERS

A hairdryer is complimentary and can be obtained from the homestead for your convenience. We kindly ask it is returned after use to ensure others wishing to use it can.

HOUSEKEEPING

Your room is serviced daily except for Sunday's and Public Holidays, and your housekeeping are at your service from 09.00-13.00 daily for additional towels or blankets. We kindly ask in the name of conservation that you re-use your towel please. All towels and linen are laundered on site and sun dried.

INSECTS

Your room is fitted with insect screens for protection against our local insects. The front window and door have not been screened, to ensure you can open these during the day. Leaving these open with the lights on is a sign of welcome to any outside critters. Seasonally we have mosquitoes which are part of any rainforest,

GREAT BARRIER REEF COAST

we have coils available or repellent. Please do not remove repellent items from where they are stored at the bar, so others can use them also.

Traveler's Tip!

Please remember that in the tropics things grow to lush proportions, and while some bugs may look bigger than at home, they are really more of a nuisance than anything else. The outside light left on will attract insects by the front door and will shine into other rooms all night, please remember to turn it off before going to sleep. Bathroom lights left on all night will definitely attract insects to the source of the light. 100% guarantee!

Talking of visitors, sometimes Gecko may find her way into your room in the early evening - she's after insects or little tidbits of sweet fruits. Other than sometimes making a clicking sound her 'bark' and occasionally leaving her 'calling card' she is completely harmless to humans (insects though are in real danger!). She will mostly scurry about on the ceiling or upper walls near the light, and will go into hiding during the broad of the day, probably outside among the leafy bushes.

Additionally we have small native bush marsupials in the rainforest. If you have food in your bags, outside or in your room, the marsupials have special smelling sensors, which will tell them they are invited to share this without your permission. Please store sticky or sweet items in a fridge to avoid unwanted visitors.

INTERNET & EMAIL

We offer Wifi from **09.30 -21.00** - 7 days a week. Our Satellite NBN service is charged per MB so we are **unable to offer unlimited Internet** for movie streaming, video calls. Downloading of large files or attachments, sending of video and updating your social media we kindly asked is done when your back in range. **Unnecessary high data use will result in the system automatically being disabled.** Our Breakfast area is Wifi Free during breakfast service! Connectivity with nature is excellent here!

Mungumby Lodge email address is:
relax@mungumby.com

IRON & IRONING BOARD

Iron and board is located in the main homestead in the staff service area. Please ask.

KEYS

For your convenience and safety we do not provide keys as you are unlikely to need them, our tree kangaroos have everything they need here. If you prefer we can provide a key. Just ask!

LAUNDRY

We have NO guest laundry services here on site. There are commercial laundry facilities available at the Sea Breeze laundry at the wharf area in Cooktown and another closer by at the Lions Den Hotel camping ground. We kindly ask that washing is not left to dry on trees and or furniture in front of or in your room. If need be, we have a washing line, just ask at reception

LIBRARY

We have a Guest Library located in the homestead stocked as a reference library for use by guests. The books are often expensive ones so please treat with care and return so others can use them. You are welcome to take them to your room, but please return them for others to share. In reception we also have a range of books for general reading on the local history and culture as well as fiction books. For these other books we are open to exchange as long as we are asked prior please.

MAIL

Outgoing mail is available to post Monday, Wednesday and Friday from reception. The mailbox is cleared Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the front gate and delivered to reception. The Post Office in Cooktown is also open Monday-Friday 09.00-17.00.

MESSAGES

All messages and emails are available at reception or given personally.

Our address is: Mungumby Lodge
388 Mungumby Road
Helenvale/Rossville via
Cooktown, Qld 4895
AUSTRALIA

Phone: (+61) 7 4060 3158
Email: relax@mungumby.com

Free parking is available at your own risk for guests in the lodge car park. We advise that this is at your own risk as we are not able to monitor vehicle movements or those that park under the tree where fruit and branches may fall.

PHARMACY

Alive Pharmacy, on Charlotte St Cooktown, supplies a good range of toiletries and cosmetics, over-the-counter prescriptions, baby care essentials, health foods, vitamins and homeopathic remedies. Prescription medicines are also available there.

RECEPTION

We provide reception from 07.30-18.00. When we are very busy but in reception we will leave a walky talky on the desk and have the other handset with us.

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Mungumby has limited phone connectivity due to location. Our main line is the only line we have and the phone can be used throughout the garden and most rooms. If you need to call home or the office, don't hesitate. We just need you to note the number and time of call along with the time on the phone which all come up on the

| CALL DESTINATION | COST PER MINUTE |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| LOCAL CALLS - COOKTOWN | .0 CENTS FLAT |
| STD SHORT DISTANCE CNS | .0 CENTS |
| STD LONG DISTANCE SYD | .0 CENTS |
| MOBILE CALLS | .0 CENTS |
| INTERNATIONAL CALLS | \$1.20 |

display on the handset. We in turn will make the following charges to your room

WATER

Mungumby Lodge spring feed water filtered through ancient rock millions of years old before reaching our water filtration system. However it is recommended that you ask us for drinking water supplied through our kitchen as this has been through a comprehensive filter and purification process making it the nicest drink water in the world and is potable from the tap. In the wet season the colour can change slightly due to leaf tannins. Your room is provided with one free bottle of water for your refreshment.

WEATHER

Mungumby Lodge enjoys a pleasant climate year-round with relatively minor fluctuations. We are often 7°C under Cairns and 5°C less than Cooktown and in both cases up to 7% less humidity. This is due to our elevation from sea level 186M and primarily Mt Amos behind us brings down the nice cool breeze from 846M above sea level. June to September are our cooler months, whilst December to March marks our warmer season, during which time, occasional and intermittent tropical showers are expected. In Feb and March the monsoon weather often sets in for long periods feeding the water table and rivers. The drier months from May to November range in maximum temperature from about 25 to 28 degrees Celsius. The warmer, more humid season from December to March enjoys a maximum temperature range of between 27 to 32 degrees Celsius. So even if there's a tropical shower, it's usually still warm and often sunny as well!

Traveler's Tip!

Don't get discouraged if you wake up and it looks like an overcast day; very likely it will have completely cleared by mid-Morning. It's also wise though to 'make hay while the sun's shining' as there are never any guarantees when it comes to the weather. Tropical downpours though the Wet are common, but are usually warm and short-lived. Also, many people seem to think it's best to avoid the months from November to April, yet these are by no means uncomfortable months. By avoiding these months travelers miss out on some wonderful, seasonal aspects of life at Mungumby, such as fresh mangoes and avocados (yum!), the vibrant spectacle of the flamboyant trees in full flower. In August our extensive range of stunning wild orchids are in flower throughout the garden and in September the haunting beauty and aroma of the white and the pink frangipani. Definitely best not missed!

DISCLAIMER:

Australian Pacific Lodges have made every effort to ensure all information contained in our comprehensive Guest Compendium is up-to-date at time of printing. Please be aware that from time to time things do change and that it is wise to confirm all details before making your plans. Australian Pacific Lodges also reserves the right to change schedules without prior notice. Your suggestions, updates or corrections are very welcome; please email Australian Pacific Lodges admin@mungumby.com



LITTLE ANNAN RIVER GORGE



Black Mountain and Little Annan Gorge are key northern marking points for the World Heritage Rainforest meeting the dry Sclerophyll. Black Mountain is mysterious in its presence and story. A very imposing mountain range of massive granite boulders, home to unique wildlife and rich in Aboriginal culture. Created from solidifying magma around 250 million years ago, lacks any trace of surface soil and has a distinct black coloration caused by a thin coating of iron and manganese oxides, as well as a film of blue-green algae covering the exposed surfaces. The rocks can get very hot in summer and when the monsoonal rains drop cold water they crack and split. This provided for a great source of sharp sear tips for hunting and sharp instruments for cutting tools over thousands of years. Hence the story of the Aboriginal Wallaby Brothers was born.



The rainforest here extends south down the coast to Hinchbrook Island where it ceases. The Helenvale/Rossville area also hosts the spectacular Annan River where the Mungumby and Wallaby creeks purge the rain from the mountains behind the Lodge.

Mungumby Lodge is located here at the foot of the Big Tableland and its world heritage rainforest. In the late 1870's Rossville was a hive of activity and a hub for tin and timber and the main bow to the Cooktown economy after the gold rush. Ancient rainforest giants felled by timber getters to support export and national orders as well as wood thirsty Cooktown with its buildings growing at a rapid pace.

With the fall in price of tin along with new metals arriving on the market the tin miners left their claims, and the area slowly rejuvenated to lush World Heritage rainforest and a small community now thrives today producing carbon credits for the rest of the world. All due to its vast areas of untouched and remnant rainforest re-growth, its national parks, private properties, mountain peaks and abundant creeks.

For many who state that we live at the end of the world. For those of us who live here we understand and know it is simply the beginning!



ARCHER POINT & MT AMOS



Landscapes that Excel

This region hosts a group of National Parks and primitive rainforest listed by the World Heritage Commission as one of the earth's most unique and valued assets.

A magnificent collection of botanically diverse landscapes & ecosystems including tropical rainforest, animals, birds, and mangroves, wetlands, heathland and outback, which possibly excels that anywhere else on the continent. Additionally this is all encompassed by a 800km remote and pristine wilderness of coastline. It is truly where the Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef meet to be divided only by the sun-kissed exotic pure white sands. In tact fringing reef systems still exist along the coast due to the lack of inhabitants.

The bio diversity is second to none and hosts 100's of endemic species only found in this region. At 320 million years the wet tropic rainforest here are some of the oldest in the world and stretch down and beyond Cape Tribulation in the south all the way to Hinchinbrook Island.

As our region is low in population and lacks major industry almost everything has remained in tact including the Great Barrier Reef a short distance from the coast.

THE SEARCH FOR

COOK'S ANCHOR

By VINCE VLASOFF, MBE



Fred Aprilovic, professional diver on the expedition to find and recover Cook's anchor, helps to supervise the transfer of the anchor from the search ship *Tropic Seas* to the wharf in Cairns harbour.

IT WAS XMAS EVENING 1971. The sun was sinking into the western Coral Sea, a fantastic blaze of red, green, blue and gold beams of light, piercing the sky above that tropical orb as it dissolved into the burnished waves. One would think all would be merry at this festive time of year, but the team sat around depressed. Already ten days had elapsed since the expedition had begun, and there was still no real sign that we would succeed.

On board ship the girls began setting the Christmas dinner table. We pondered the chance of failure, as time was running out.

Then, at about 6.30 p.m., diver Fred Aprilovic came aboard after a long duration underwater. There was a gleam of success in his eyes. He declared he had uncovered the eye of an enormous anchor and, once he had described it, nobody was in any doubt that the prize had been won. The good ship 'Tropic Seas' revelled with the best merry Xmas had by all.

Events leading up to the recovery of Captain Cook's anchor and other historic artefacts go back to 1961 when I made contact with Dr. Virgil Kauffman of the United States. He was in Australia conducting a magnetometer survey of the continent. Discussions with him led to the eventual formation of the expedition in 1969. This in turn led to the successful recovery of the *Endeavour's* cannon, ballast blocks, and ballast stones. During this expedition I gained much knowledge on the procedures of locating metals hidden by water, sea beds and corals.

I requested permission from the receiver of wrecks to drive a railway line spike into the reef to permanently mark the historical spot that Cook had stranded upon. This would also be a starting point for any eventual search for an anchor which Cook's log said was left near the reef after having been caught up in deep-water coral.

There was every indication the anchor had been lost in 17 fathoms of water, and this presented a problem in that the anchor could have sunk below the surface of a muddy or sandy sea bed in the past 200 years and be out of visual search probabilities.



Diving in deep water posed problems beyond my personal capacity so I approached a local professional diver, Fred Aprilovic, well-known for his deep-water



Off-loading the "Endeavour's Anchor" at the port of Cairns. Fred Aprilovic, on the right of the anchor was, at that time, running "Cairns Deep-Sea Divers", one of Cairns' two pro-dive shops. Photo by Gordon Markey

exploits and diving ability. I enquired as to whether he would offer his services on such an expedition, as well as supply all necessary equipment that may be needed for a successful recovery, if we could locate the anchor. Fred was keen to join in the search and became the diving master of the fledgling expedition.

As this point in time we now had the vessel *Tropic Seas*, with lifting equipment to handle the salvage work, and diving equipment to put two men down to 17 fathoms.

The next problem was to procure the services of a magnetometer and operator, to narrow down the search area. To this end I called upon David Hume, a stockbroker who was engaged in dealing with mining companies, to try and procure a machine and operator for the search, advising that if this was possible we would set up an Australian expedition to salvage the anchor. In due course a magnetometer operator, Arnold Baird of

McPhar Geophysics, South Australia was included in the expedition. This was on the basis of no pay but, should we be successful, a claim would be made for salvage if the government claimed the anchor.

The expedition was complete and able to proceed as soon as possible. Dates were set and other minor details were attended to.

The expedition was basically a four-part arrangement in teamwork as follows:

Vince Vlasoff, M.B.E. - master *Tropic Seas*. To conceive the expedition, to take charge of surface efforts and filming surface and underwater scenes.

Fred Aprilovic - diver. To be in charge of underwater operations and supply of diving equipment and diving personnel.

Arnold Baird - magnetometer expert, a very vital part of the expedition.

David Hume - to be in charge of research and raising sponsorship.

Backup personnel would be Bob Beard - assistant diver; John Kumm - crewman and assistant to Arnold Baird; Nilla Vlasoff, Berna Hume and Anne Hume - cooking personnel; and Tony Hume as general roustabout.

As the date of departure grew near, we were happy to find sponsors to cover all our requirements. All supplies were met by Cairns business firms and TAA sponsored the shipment of southern personnel and equipment.

So it was on the morning of the 16th December 1971, that the Cook's Anchor recovery expedition ship *Tropic Seas* left Cairns for the Hope Isles, its crew in good spirits and keen to get cracking.

The Hope Isles, a tropical coral island group, named by Captain Cook after his escape from Endeavour Reef, lay 25 miles south-east from Cooktown and nine miles from the wreck site on Endeavour Reef. It was ideally situated as a location for our base camp.

Arriving late in the afternoon of the first day, we set up camp and off-loaded some equipment and supplies we would not immediately require and prepared ourselves for the task that lay ahead. Then, after a healthy barbecued meal, we settled in for the night amid the whisper of the sea and the hooting of the Torres Strait pigeons.

The following day, in fine weather and calm seas, we located the wreck area on Endeavour Reef and buoyed up a quadrant search area in the west and south west of the wreck site.

As the magnetometer must be kept dry at all times, the machine, under the supervision of Arnold Baird, was set up in our 12-foot runabout under a sprayproof cowling.

It was decided that, since the water was reasonably shallow (it varied from 12 to 80 feet deep), it was best to try towing the sensor head across the surface in a grid pattern to see if an anomaly could be registered.

I should explain to those who are not familiar with a magnetometer, that the machine is a complicated piece of machinery for detecting hidden ferrous metal objects and other metals and minerals, depending on the adaptation of the machine.

An impulse is sent out along a cable to a sensor head not unlike a small projectile.

The sensor head is either attached to the boat, towed on the surface, or carried by a diver near the bottom. The impulse is beamed out from the head and will rebound to the machine should it strike the type of metal it is adapted to, giving a telltale or an anomaly pickup to the operator. From this he can deduct the size of an object and possibly its weight.



Vince Vlasoff passes a shovel down to Fred Aprilovic. This was used, along with a pick and drums, to dig for the anchor. Later a dredge was made to fully expose the anchor.

While Arnold and his assistant John Kumm towed the sensor head in the suspected area the divers started a visual search.

Time went by - three days elapsed in the search with no sign or anomaly. On the fourth day, Arnold's assistant John was steering the search boat near the southern edge of the search quadrant when the sea began rising to a choppy

wave. To avoid spraying the boat and to ride the waves at a better tangent, John steered well out into the southern sector, outside the search quadrant. Almost at once Arnold yelled that a fair anomaly pickup was registering. Immediately a marker buoy was dropped to roughly locate the area. After sweeping over the area twice more, it was proven that there was definitely a metal object down there.

The diver would now have to carry the sensor head across the bottom to locate the exact position where the object lay.

As a steel dive tank would interfere with the sensor pickup, the sensor head was attached to a five-foot pole and weighted to a neutral buoyancy. The sensor head was easily controlled by the diver as he swam a grid search pattern, pushing the sensor ahead of him while in contact with the magnetometer operator by signal line.

After some manoeuvring Fred established the precise area where the object lay, under sand and coral close to a large coral formation.

It was now the morning of Christmas Day. We had spent some time trying to dig down into the sand and coral with shovels and buckets, but found it exceedingly hard to do. The area would silt up badly and the visibility would become nil.

It was at this stage that David, while trying to help with the excavating, struggled to the surface in an exhausted state. After striking his mask with a hammer he was wielding, his mask had filled with water and he nearly lost control. David soon recovered but it was decided to leave the deep-water work to the more experienced divers.

That afternoon we sat around the boat feeling rather depressed. Ten days had now elapsed and there was no real proof that the anomaly down there was the anchor. It could be anything. We had expected to find it more to the west. With so much time lost and only five more days left for the expedition to succeed, things looked grim.

Fred was still below digging away

*Fred came aboard -
there was a gleam of
success in his eye.*



in an almost impossible task to sink a hole deep enough to verify what lay deep in the sand and coral. It was close to sundown and the girls were preparing the Xmas dinner table. I shall never forget that moment when Fred came aboard - there was a gleam of success in his eye. He declared that he had uncovered the eye of an enormous anchor.

We sat back and gaped. Was it true or was he pulling our leg? "Fair dinkum", he said, "want to make a bet". In the silence that followed John was heard to say "I won't bet against our luck". Fred replied "Then get me a large piece of paper, I will draw you a plan scale of what we have below". Once he had drawn and described it, no one was in any doubt that the anchor had been found, and I think we celebrated the best Christmas of our lives.

Next morning David and myself were keen to get below and investigate Fred's find. The hole had partly filled in during the night and it was some time before we had the eye of the anchor exposed again. We realised the necessity of procuring some sort of dredge if we expected to recover the anchor in time.

Back on deck I discussed with Fred and David the possibility of making a makeshift dredge at Cooktown. Fred had experience in the making and testing of dredges and suggested a simple bypass venturi system. All we required was a surface pump, some hose, a four-inch pipe bend and eight or ten feet of four-inch delivery pipe to carry away the residue. David had his doubts whether it would work, but since we had no other alternative, we set course that morning for Cooktown.

At this old historic town we were fortunate enough to procure what we required by scrounging from different sources. We hired a pump from the council, and the use of their workshop. In no time Fred, David and Arnold had the dredge made and assembled and by three o'clock we were ready to test it at the Cooktown wharf.

Fred took it below and we got the motor going. The residue pipe protruded near the bank and in a matter of seconds we knew the dredge was working wonders as



Expedition diver Fred Aprilovic relaxes after confirming the finding of Cook's anchor. Relaxing with Fred is boat skipper Vince Vlasoff, who was later awarded the M.B.E. for his part in the search and recovery.

mud and sand belched out over the bank. David was exceptionally pleased and congratulated Fred on the great performance of the machine.

We quickly packed up and returned eagerly to Hope Island, despite the gloomy weather news that cyclone Althea was blowing down on Townsville.

We camped that night in the lee of Hope Island, once again enjoying a healthy meal barbequed on an open fire. Although we had high hopes for the expedition's future, our minds were somewhat alert and tense as to the weather pattern. The cyclone over Townsville had passed well clear of our area and we were well out of its influence. So far we had been exceptionally fortunate, although at times the winds would spring up to a choppy northerly.

Early the next day we were anchored over the anomaly site. With the equipment set up, Fred went below, manoeuvred the dredge into place and began gouging away at the three feet of coral and sand that covered the anchor.

One problem arose when small pieces of coral began blocking the dredge internally. This was overcome by using one of my chipping hammers to smash the coral as it was drawn into the intake.

The diver had spent a good six hours of dredging and late that afternoon the anchor lay bare and exposed. David and myself went down with cameras. The water was too murky for good photos, but it was a sight to behold. It lay there in its 200-year-old tomb, a two-inch growth of grey-green coral entirely covering the metal and contrasting sharply with the darker surroundings. This was our prize, and it looked enormous.

On the 28th December we carefully

hoisted this fabulous old relic to within six feet of the boat's keel and transported it to a shallow part of the reef where it was photographed and inspected to the delight of all crew members.

We returned to Hope Island that night, celebrating our success and burning the ether with telegrams. I felt a great satisfaction with our achievement and could understand how the rest of the crew felt.

Early the next morning, with good weather still prevailing, we hoisted the anchor to the keel of the *Tropic Seas*. We attached it just forward of the propeller and supported both sides and the front and back with cables to the lifting gear and ship's rigging.

We left Endeavour Reef that morning at a slow speed of six knots on a course for Cape Tribulation, arriving at anchor in the bay that afternoon.

Next morning we set our course for Cairns harbour. The weather began blowing up to a north-westerly, making our progress slow and cautious in our south easily passage, but our prize rode solidly on the keel.

Our arrival into Cairns harbour had been well broadcast and hundreds of locals and tourists were there to greet the arrival of the *Tropic Seas*.

With the aid of our diver, the anchor was detached from the boat's keel and hoisted onto the wharf where it weighed in at 19 cwt. on the big-game scales.

It was then officially handed over to the receiver of wrecks, Mr. Roy Slater, who had flown up from Brisbane for the occasion.

Later it was transported to Melbourne where it underwent a complicated restoration process, although the metal was in very good condition after 200 years on the ocean bed. Today it is on display at the Science Museum, Swanston Street, Melbourne.

For each and every member of the expedition the recovery of Captain Cook's anchor was a great achievement. This 18th-century relic is a part of Australia's very early history - it played its part in giving us the society and wealth we have today.

The expedition had won for itself a permanent place in the history of this great continent.

