

MISSION BEACH NATURE CONSERVATION HISTORY



John Busst self portrait courtesy Margaret Thorsbourne

Introduction

Mission Beach has always been an outstanding natural area. Management by Traditional Owners has enhanced this natural richness. The biodiversity of the place has long attracted naturalists and motivated them to protect the environment, eg Banfield, John Busst, C4 members. This history of nature appreciation and protection has meant that Mission Beach has retained many of its natural values and today is recognised as one of the most biodiverse areas in Far North Queensland and possibly globally.

Documentation and communication of this history will raise awareness in the community, industry and government of the significant effort that has gone into protecting the Mission Beach natural environment to date, and will provide a useful reference for future Mission Beach nature conservation.



In 2007, three of Dr Jan Wegner's students from James Cook University History prepared the following essays examining various eras of Mission Beach nature conservation:

- *Conservation in the Mission Beach Area: Settlement to 1950.*
- *Defending Diversity: Strategies used by Conservationists John Busst, Dr. Len Webb and Geoff Tracey in the Conservation of North Queensland Habitats During the 1960s.*
- *Protecting Kennedy Bay: 25 years on. The History of the Conservation Movement at Mission Beach during the Modern Era from 1982 to 2007.*