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NATIONAL TRUST WELCOMES CURRUMBIN HERITAGE LISTING

National Trust of Qld President Dr John Jackson has welcomed the Heritage Listing of Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary – one of the Gold Coast’s pioneering tourist attractions and a world leader in caring for Australian Wildlife.

The heritage listing covers the land and facilities associated with founder, beekeeper and floriculturalist Alex Griffiths, including the Lorikeet-feeding Arena which was reopened for free public access earlier this year to mark Queensland’s 150th anniversary celebrations.

The listing also includes the 18 ha parcel of land in the Currumbin Valley known as Coolamon – which includes valuable forest reserves and a haven for wildlife.

Dr Jackson said the 62-year-old Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary was nominated for heritage listing by the National Trust of Qld in a further step towards aligning the partnership between Currumbin and the National Trust with community expectations.

“In 2008, we made an undertaking to greatly improve the autonomy of Currumbin, while also continuing to ensure the protection of its natural and cultural heritage,” Dr Jackson said.

“This is a great example of cultural and environmental heritage, as well as built heritage. The National Trust is vitally interested in cultural, indigenous, environmental and built heritage.

“Under the National Trust of Queensland, Currumbin’s heritage assets have been maintained since Alex Griffiths gifted the property more than 33 years ago. I would like to see that the vision of Alex Griffiths can continue to be maintained well into the future and the heritage listing will greatly assist us in doing this,” Dr Jackson said.

“Most importantly, it will assist Currumbin in combining Alex Griffiths’ vision with a strategic plan to be Australia’s most sustainable, conservation-based, coastal rainforest and native wildlife experience.”

Since its humble beginnings, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary has continued to grow in importance to the Gold Coast’s tourism industry, proving both Australians and international visitors with a chance to get closer to Australia’s wildlife.

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary also recently completed a new Community Wildlife Hospital to continue Alex Griffiths' work on providing care for sick and injured wildlife from the local area.

"In a region where development has continued at a relentless pace, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is still a place where people can experience a coastal rainforest environment, only a short distance from one of Australia's best beaches while also coming face to face with the wildlife of the region," Dr Jackson said.

"Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is the Gold Coast's only major attraction to achieve Advanced Eco-Tourism Certification.

"Into the future, ensuring the sustainability of Currumbin is increasingly important - even new attractions such as the Green Challenge ropes course are designed to leave minimal impact on the Sanctuary's coastal rainforest environment," Dr Jackson said.

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