

Great game for kids

Three impressive art installations that pay tribute to the cassowary and the region's geological creation have been launched at Mission Beach.

Project co-ordinator John Edwards said the Cassowary Discovery Trail started last August with the application for funding and has resulted in the creation of contemporary sculptures produced by local artists.

"The project has given our community artists the experience of collaborating, developing new skills and giving school children the message that our cassowary is a key feature of this region," Mr Edwards said.

"It is also a link between the Indigenous culture and the cassowary and has given the community something they can appreciate."

Mr Edwards said the installation called "Entwined" attracted attention from visitors to the region before the formal unveiling of the art work.

Entwined creator Judith Bohm-Parr said the display was a six-month joint venture between volunteers, businesses and local school students.

"Entwined tells the story of the relationship between the cassowary and the rainforest, the cassowary's dependence on the rainforest and the rainforest's dependence on the cassowary for regeneration," Ms Bohm-Par said.

Each of the art installations had to possess the fundamental concept of the cassowary and its relationship with the environment.

Project co-ordinator Lynda Hannah said the involvement of the children added a different element to the art work.

"Kids learn in much the same way as adults so it is interesting to present a variety of ways to promote conservation," Ms Hannah said.

"Each of the displays of public art is presented in a very different way."

Saturday's sunshine was perfect for the launch of the third art installation - Great Cassowary Game at Wongaling Beach.



STEPPING STONE: Kai Wagner was very proud of his number 16 stone in the Great Cassowary Game located at Wongaling Beach.

Students from Feluga and Mission Beach State Schools and the Envirokids helped create the game designed to create awareness and appreciation of the cassowary.

Creator Sally Moroney said she wanted to make it part of the general area.

"The children designed the tiles, and in following workshops they applied the underglaze to them before they were put through the kiln," Ms Moroney said.

"My only regret is that we didn't have another 100 children involved."

"I would love to do the turtle game and the mahogany glider game."

"We could have more games, we just need more funding."