

Who was Mary Cairncross?

The name Mary Cairncross is a tribute to the memory of Mary Thynne, whose maiden name was Cairncross. Born in 1848, Mary Cairncross was a passionate environmentalist from an early age. She married Irish-born Andrew Joseph Thynne on 3 June 1869 in Brisbane. In 1902 Andrew Thynne purchased the Maleny land where the reserve is situated.

In October 1941, 100 acres was transferred through a Deed of Trust to the then Landsborough Shire Council by Mary's three daughters Elizabeth, Mabel and Mary Thynne. ***The agreement was conditional on the land being held as a reserve and sanctuary for the preservation, conservation and exhibition of the natural Flora and Fauna of the reserve, and that it should be known as The Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.*** By doing so, they were honouring their mother Mary Williamina Thynne, nee Cairncross.

This Deed of Trust has continued to be honoured by successive Councils - now the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

The Thynne sisters could never have imagined what an incredible conservation legacy that they had provided. Without their foresight, this remarkable environmental reserve would not be enjoyed by the later generations as it is today.

Friends of Mary Cairncross

Support the Reserve by becoming a Member

Contact Us

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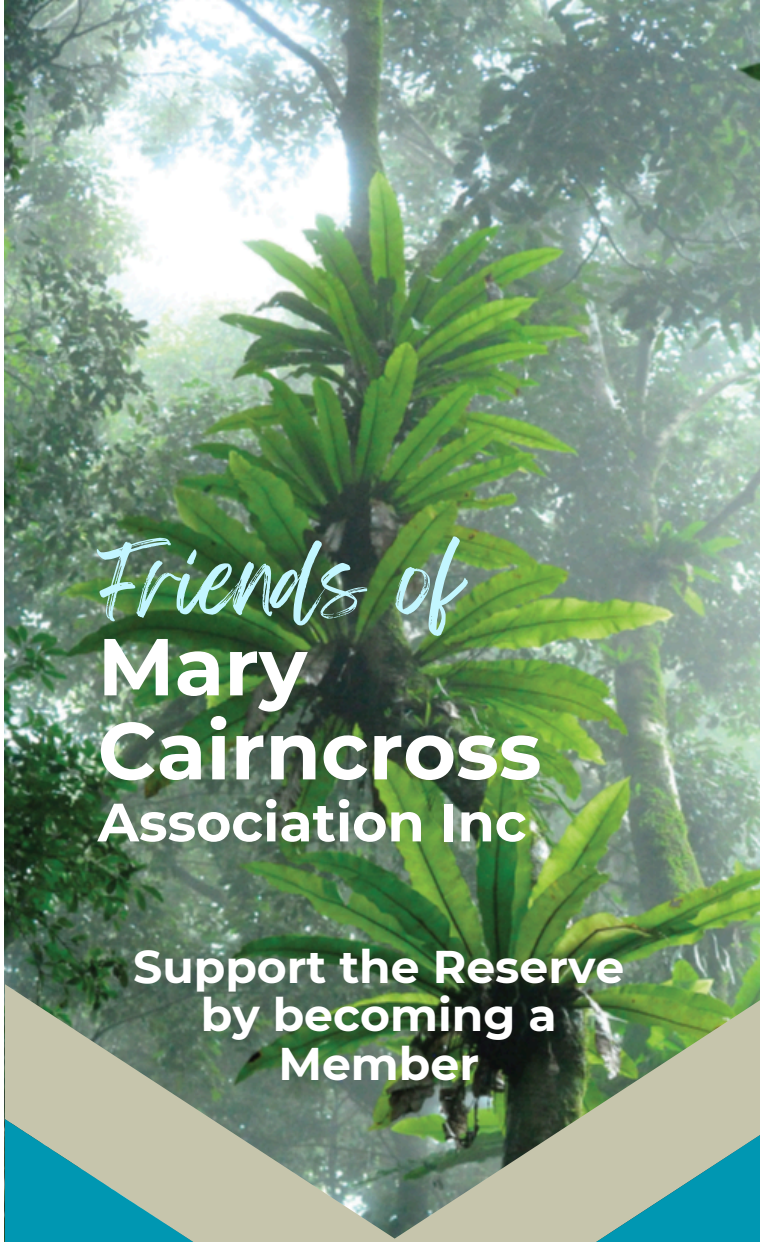
Friends of FoMCA
MARY CAIRNCROSS ASSOCIATION
MALENY • AUSTRALIA



Friends of Mary Cairncross Association Inc

Support the Reserve by becoming a Member

FoMCA Friends of MARY CAIRNCROSS ASSOCIATION MALENY • AUSTRALIA

Complete this form **OR** scan the QR code below

Application for Membership

Friends of Mary Cairncross Assoc Inc

Annual fee: $15 individual | $25 couple

◯ **New Member** ◯ **Renewal**

Last Name: _____

Given Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ **Postcode:** _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

My PAYMENT of $15 / $25 (circle one) has been made:

◯ **At the Discovery Centre** by: cash OR card

◯ **Use the QR code below to join up online**

By signing this form, you agree to abide by the *Articles of Association of the Friends of Mary Cairncross Association (Inc.)*

All attempts are made to ensure the confidentiality of your personal information.

Signature: _____

Dated: ___/___/ 20___

Completed form and payment can be submitted at the Mary Cairncross Discovery Centre

Scan Me

The Friends of Mary Cairncross Association is a charitable non-profit organisation that supports Sunshine Coast Regional Council in the management of Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve - a significant and priceless ecological island in Jinibara country.

The Association was the brainchild of Kate Thynne, wife of John Thynne and daughter of Kathleen McArthur the conservationist. Kate became an ardent advocate for the care and preservation of the Reserve. She founded the Mary Cairncross Association, which was later renamed as Friends of Mary Cairncross Association Inc.

What do we do?

The principal purpose of Friends is the protection and enhancement of the natural environment of the Reserve for all visitors to appreciate. To achieve this purpose, the Association promotes the natural beauty and ecological value of Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve through providing relevant information and education; and also ensures the ecological integrity of the reserve is maintained through the facilitation of research and monitoring. In partnership with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Friends have funded projects at the Reserve such as:

- 2026 - publication of a Walking Trails guide for the Mary Cairncross Reserve
- Research and supporting ways to enhance biosecurity to prevent pests and diseases in the Reserve.
- In 2025 provided funding and assistance to plant 500 trees in the adjoining Sunshine Coast Ecological Park, helping in the future protection of the Reserve.
- The After Dark display, and signage for the Birdwing Butterfly area and for prominent trees throughout the reserve
- The publication of 2 books: "The Magic of Mary Cairncross" and "Birds of Mary Cairncross"
- Undertaking flora and fauna surveys and commissioning a fungi survey in the Reserve
- Supporting volunteers through the provision of jackets and laser pointers for guides
- Supporting Honours scholarships at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

"A remnant of subtropical rain forest - a living museum of plant and animal life – that is the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve."

How do we fundraise?

The sale of promotional and educational items in the retail section of the Discovery Centre is the main source of income for the Friends. For larger projects, the Friends apply for Grants through various environmental and governmental organisations. Memberships, bequests and donations help us to meet our objectives. All funds raised go directly back into the protection and enhancement of the natural environment of the Reserve.

Why become a member?

As a Friend of Mary Cairncross you will become a valuable part of a community of like-minded people who seek to enhance the conservation and protection of the Reserve for present and future generations.

As a member you will be invited to general meetings to learn of and comment on current projects and future initiatives. You will also be invited to attend other events such as environmental speakers and project updates.