



TAKE ONLY PHOTOGRAPHS, LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS:
The Thorsborne Trust

The idea of a trust emerged at Arthur's funeral. It floated for a while, settling in the minds of a few who met at Galmara one beautiful Sunday morning.

It was as if we had come upon a beach and found two sets of footprints travelling north. Looking along the beach, we could not see where they began nor where they ended. As we talked, we found some who had walked part of the way with Margaret and Arthur. They shared with us their knowledge of the journey.

We learned of Arthur the primary school teacher and the Thorsbornes' special love of children. Images of them on the Gold Coast, fighting for the rapidly disappearing natural environment were shared. A special caring for the wallum country emerged. I had the feeling that the footprints moved on from there with some sadness and a sense of loss, but leaving behind others who had been inspired to continue the fight.

In travelling north, new, exciting, beautiful, but vulnerable places were found. The great love affair with Hinchinbrook and the Torres Strait or nutmeg pigeon began. The footprints were joined by others following their lead on the conservation journey.

Through battles over resort proposals on Hinchinbrook Island, the image of a wilderness Hinchinbrook stood firm. Years of counting and fighting saw a fragile pigeon population recover and become the symbol of Arthur's and Margaret's journey.

The footprints diverted up Sullivan's Track to add the rainforest to the collage. Along the Kennedy Bay walking track, replanting the 'Hill' at the entrance to Galmara in the Edmund Kennedy National Park, supporting the cassowary food tree plantings, revegetation of river banks - the footprints led on.

Early this year, one set of footprints found the end of their journey, leaving only the photographs, the images and the ideals for others to follow.

The other set faltered for a while, found strength, and now walk on, alone at times, but surrounded by an every-growing public awareness of the need to make that same journey, to fight the remaining fights, to help us find ways to live in harmony with our planet.

We still take much more than photographs and leave scars deeper than footprints, but the footprints along the beach have been swelled by a strengthening environmental awareness.

Time will tell if it is soon enough. We must watch this global picture while acting locally. This is the blend the Trust objectives seek to achieve.

The Trust is established as a memorial to the late Arthur Thorsborne and is instituted to carry on the works of Arthur and Margaret Thorsborne and to extend their vision.

The Goals of the Trust are

1. To support activities for a better understanding of and the conservation of Australian native species, in particular the Torres Strait pigeon and the cassowary.

2. To support activities for a better understanding of and the conservation of the natural environments, in particular Hinchinbrook Island and environs and the wallum country of south-east Queensland.
3. To support endeavours for the protection and restoration of significant natural habitats and ecosystems.
4. To foster environmental awareness, particularly in the education of young people.
5. To raise and disburse funds for all of the above goals.

The Trust is a direction for the footprints as they walk on along that beach. In time the footprints will change as each of us leaves the procession, but the journey must go on. These Trust objectives contain the photographs of the past as their immediate focus, as well as the flexibility to grow and change with the needs of the future.

They leave us the photographs to guide our new footsteps.

(Text of the speech given by Hinchinbrook WPSQ president Paul Sutton at the launch of the Arthur Thorsborne Trust at the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service Centre in Cardwell, 6 December 1991.)