

Hannah joins festival

By John Flynn

SHE warmed our hearts as a mermaid in *Splash* and now Hollywood star Daryl Hannah has emerged on the Cassowary Coast as special guest at the Mission Beach Film Festival.

The festival opened last night with a gala cocktail event at the Elandra Resort, attended by film-makers, local dignitaries and even a politician or two, including Opposition Telecommunications Spokesman Malcolm Turnbull.

More than two decades since she starred in Oliver Stone's 1980's biopic *Wall Street*, Hannah has become a living embodiment of the vision that, perhaps, greed is not so good after all.

A dedicated environmentalist, who is in the Far North attending a permaculture conference, Hannah spent some precious moments yesterday promoting cassowary conservation with the kids from Mission Beach State School.

"I have seen pictures of the cassowaries and I hope to see one of them while I'm here," Ms Hannah said.

"I'm here for the Mission Beach Film Festival which

is a festival that's really focused on sustainability."

Hannah has been actively promoting her sustainability message during the stay in Australia.

"I like to live, I mean it's just common sense," she said. "We're facing a lot of crises at this point in history and we can solve them, we just need the willpower and the understanding of knowing how to work within natural systems."

Hannah was shown special road warning signs for cassowaries that were prepared by the Mission Beach school children in the lead-up to the Mission Beach Film Festival.

"The signs were done by the school to raise awareness about wildlife because we know that the main reason cassowaries get killed in Mission Beach is getting hit by cars," said Tony O'Malley of Terrain NRM.

"During the film festival we know there's going to be more cars around Mission Beach."

The signs will have already been placed at strategic points along El Arish-Mission Beach Road and Tully-Mission Beach Road.



ON THE BEACH: Daryl Hannah with the kids from Mission Beach State School.

Photo: John Flynn