PUBLIC INFORMATION FORUM AND SITE VISIT

covering
Land Management and Acid Sulfate Soil Remediation Actions on the
STATE GOVERNMENT OWNED EAST TRINITY LANDS
Saturday 6th December 2003
8:00am - 12.30pm
Public Information Forum
Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron
42-48 Tingira St, Portsmith
1:00pm - 5.15pm
Guided inspection of the East Trinity site
Departing and returning Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron

A Public Information Forum and guided site visit is being held to explain actions and works that have taken place on the property in line with the East Trinity Property Remediation and Management Plan and the Acid Sulfate Soil Remediation Action Plan. The forum aims to give interested members of the community an overview of the East Trinity site and its history, and to report on progress & findings to date.

Including:
- Site history and overview
- Land and pest management, vegetation and infrastructure issues
  - Surface, soil and groundwater
  - Tidal exchange modelling
- Fish, crabs and aquatic habitat values
- Stratigraphy, acid sulfate soils (ASS) and future ASS management

Interested?
Contact: Judy Lui, Department of State Development by Monday 1st December 2003 via email businessassist.cairns@sd.qld.gov.au or by telephone 4048 1111 or facsimile 4048 1122. Please register early to avoid disappointment, as there are limited seats available for the site visit.

The Natural Heritage Trust through the CASSP initiative of its Coast and Clean Seas program provided funding for the "Demonstration of Management and Rehabilitation of Acid Sulfate Soils at East Trinity, Cairns, Queensland". This project has enhanced and expanded the State Government's Acid Sulfate Soil Remediation Action Plan for the site.
Wet Tropics NRM Board acquires strong conservation leadership

- by John Rainbird

Three of the regions strongest environmental voices have made it into positions on the Wet Tropics Natural Resource Management Board. Botanist Peter Stanton (Director Conservation), environmental economist Dr. Colin Hunt (Director World Heritage) and Mayor of the Douglas Shire, Mike Berwick (Chair) will take up the challenge of helping ensure Natural Heritage Trust funding for the region is spent on achieving real environmental outcomes in accordance with directions given by the Interim Board. One of the Board's most urgent tasks will be the completion of this plan which has been carried so far by an Interim Board.

The position of Director - Conservation, is designed to ensure that expertise in Conservation matters will be adequately represented among the skill of Board Directors.

Peter is concerned that the funds available under NHT2 will be far from adequate to meet all the urgent conservation management requirements of the region. It is therefore important that the projects that are funded will be those which are likely to have the greatest long term impact. He is therefore keen to ensure that the deliberations of the Board are as well informed as possible of the issues that are most important to the Region's conservation organisations.

Peter does not feel that he has the time resources to seek advice from individuals, nor has he any way of assessing what degree of concerns there may be on any particular issues. He has therefore asked CAFNEC to fill the role of an advisory body to him, in relation to the most important matters that our member organisations would like brought before the Board. In return, he will keep CAFNEC informed of significant issues that are before the Board. As such CAFNEC will act as the linkage point between Peter and the conservation community.

Environment Movement suffers at the hand of the Howard Government

- by John Rainbird

The Federal government appears to be undertaking a concerted effort to stymie the voice of the environment movement. A recent review of the Grants to Voluntary and Heritage Organisations, the Federal contribution to base funding of environment and heritage groups, has recently been reviewed by the Federal Environment Minister David Kemp. The result has been a cut of approximately $560,000 dollars from a $148,000 bucket, with most environment groups suffering a significant funding cut. Regional conservation councils such as the Queensland Conservation Council have fortunately not had their funding cut. Most regional conservation groups have been cut to $4000 for CAFNEC this has meant a cut of $8,150 from our annual budget a significant sum.

This has not come at the best of times as we are in the process of employing another staff member to focus on campaign work using a chunk of our financial reserves. We are still committed to proceeding down this road despite the funding cut. Our work-load continues to mount and if we are to remain an effective organisation we need to grow to meet the demand. We will not let this government undermine our capacity to respond to the environmental needs of this region.

The Howard government is also reviewing the tax-deductibility status of charities. They have given a consultancy to the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA), a conservative think-tank known for their anti-green movement position, to provide a submission recommending eligibility for tax-deductibility status. This could have significant implications for groups registered as charities. This appears to be an attempt to penalise any groups who actively oppose government policies and legislation. It is interesting to note that Mister Kemp's father was instrumental in setting up the IPA.

SO please continue your support for CAFNEC a CAFNEC membership could be the Christmas present for that person who has everything! It looks like some tough times ahead.
Kuranda- the Village on the Motorway?

- by Sarah Isaacs

If you missed the recent EnviroCare information stalls, there is still a chance to sign the petition against the huge proposed upgrade. Petitions are available at the Green House, Kuranda library and also from the Kuranda EnviroCare nursery, Pademelon Lane on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In Cairns there are petitions at CAFNEC, Greenslopes Street, opposite Centenary Lakes and at the Wilderness Society office, 130 Grafton Street.

Main Roads are planning a highway that would cut up as high as Monkey's Restaurant in Kuranda which would have to be demolished. Myola and Saddle Mountain Road would be accessed by flyovers and there would be an extra bridge with high speed traffic across the Barron river. This upgrade is being driven by Regional Plan FNQ which plans high density urban housing in Myola and the development of Mareeba as an industrial centre.

The 4 lane highway would be a minimum of 21m in width and capable of carrying 40,000 cars a day. This would be at least three times the width of the present road which carries 4,000 - 6,500 cars a day. All this will cost an estimated $500 million, 6 to 7 times the budget for the Peninsula.

Cutting edge technology is being developed by Main Roads together with JCU to deal with the environmental impact of this highway on the Wet Tropics. However concerns remain that after ten years construction, the rainforest would be irreparably damaged.

Paul Jones of Main Roads said "Noise pollution will be a problem. We're doing tests to assess the level of decibels now and a large sound barrier will probably be needed." He also admitted "Construction will take an estimated ten years and during this time it will be a mess. It'll take about 100 years for the rainforest to regenerate to what it was."

If you or your organisation can help with this campaign, please contact Sarah Isaacs on 4085 0054 (evenings), email sarahisaacs@yahoo.com.au or mail to PO Box 727, Kuranda, 4872.

Photo:- S. Nowakowski

The existing Kuranda Range Road viewed towards Mt. Whitfield and Cairns. Main Roads a planning a new highway that will be three times the width of the present. The new highway will irreparably damage the Wet Tropics.
Money Matters
- by Micheal Bryan

This year Envirofiesta and the Bike Tour raised more money than ever. The Envirofiesta team led by Catrin Balck are transferring $6600 to the CAFNEC operating account and in addition have added $3500 to the Envirofiesta float for 2004. The Bike Tour team led by Jon Metcalfe had a margin of donations plus net proceeds of $10,300.

Thank you all for these vital contributions.

Reforms to Credit Card Interchange Fees were announced earlier this year. We now know what we shall pay our bank for receiving money by card. For example, the fee for receiving a $25 donation will drop from the previous $1.91 to $1.78 !!!

The Federal Grant for 2004 will be $4000, just 33% of the $12,150 granted in 2003. This will not stop appointment of a Campaigner. Our financial reserve will be further reduced. The position may well be sustainable only for one year, but money had been donated for use.

-Wanted-

Storage space for the Envirofiesta gear.
It is currently located on the western verandah at Cominos House, but workers require this space. Cramped conditions and lack of a semi-quiet spot are an unfair burden.

Enviroyfiesta 2003
“Celebrating Water - our most precious resource”
- by Paul Christie

The 2003 Envirofiesta, CAFNEC’s biggest fundraising event and its annual celebration of community spirit and involvement, was again a wonderful, colourful and diverse expression of what Cairns and the Far North community hold close to their hearts. The theme of water was presented throughout the festival, evoking a strong sense of acknowledgement and respect for our precious resource by all who attended. The Tanks Art Centre was transformed into an aquatic world with the use of colourful decor, the creative naming of spaces, some fancy dress and a strong focus within the diverse program to bring the message across.

The coordination crew involved in producing the festival experienced a rather strong learning curve as many of us had not been involved in a production so large. There were a few new components added to the festival program, such as the kids space (Guppy Gully) and the educational space (Fountain of Knowledge). Sadly these valuable aspects of the event were affected by a general lack of volunteer support yet their inclusion was appreciated by many of our guests and we hope to include both of them in 2004. The Music stage was full of variety music, entertaining people all day, with classic folk, local reggae and ending with some high powered funk. The markets again held many fascinating items and continued to provide a healthy range of educational displays many of which focussed strongly on the theme of water. The Recycled Art exhibition saw a growth of well over 500% in participation from the community, thanks largely to the efforts of its coordinator. The qualities of the pieces presented at the exhibition were inspiring and the theme of celebrating water was strongly represented. Our very own Recycled Fashion Parade, again the climax of the festival, continued to grow in quality and professionalism with 20 local designers presenting some amazing, creative and cutting edge works of contemporary fashion. The quality astounded our entire audience with cheers and applause ringing throughout Neptune’s Palace and concluding the festival with buzz.

Envirofiesta is the biggest event within the environmental community of the Far North and is recognized as a unique grass roots festival within the regional areas of Australia. Work is already underway on the creation of Envirofiesta 2004 “The Web of Life- celebrating diversity” The coordination team that brought you 2003 are at it again with increased confidence gained from the many lessons and a desire to continue expanding the festival in both content and presentation. The search is on now for an adequate venue and some generous sponsors to help us in this quest. The coordination team would like to send out a big thanks to all the CAFNEC members and friends who helped out in the kitchen and the many other areas of the 2003 festival. The crew also would like to send out a strong request to all interested people to consider becoming involved in CAFNEC’s great day. Please mark August 28th 2004 on your calendar as the Envirofiesta is well placed to begin the festival season of Cairns.

-Wanted-
Cairns Kerbside Recycling
- by Micheal Bryan

Materials exported in October 2003 were worth roughly $30,000 allowing for freight to Brisbane.

There were:
- 48 tonnes of glass @ $35 = $1680
- 32 " of HDPE @$400 = $12800
- 20 " of PET @ $450 = $9000
- 4 " of aluminium @ $1100 = $4400
- 7 " of steel @ $55 = $385

$350,000 per year is a useful offset for costs of collection and sorting. However the Council claim of an 80% participation rate glosses over the many bottles and cans wasted into green-top bins to clog the Bedminster plant and degrade the compost it produces. Years ago when kerbside recycling was started by the pre-amalgamation City Council, 100 tonnes of glass per month were collected from what is now only the inner city. Collection and sorting are paid for; bottles and cans in garbage are costing money.

To our wonderful Ecotone volunteers who over the years have efficiently organised the folding, labelling and sorting of our newsletter. Many have come and gone but there are some who deserve a special mention for their efforts: Silvia Dumpmanis, the “Team Leader”, has for many years supervised the mail out and knows the process inside out. Other regulars Carlene Lohberger, John Lohberger and Lorna Johnson are part of the dedicated team that gets the job done. So from CAFNEC we sincerely thank you and promise to continue to bribe you with tea, coffee, cake and biscuits!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Our fabulous Ecotone volunteers, Silvia Dumpmanis & Carlene Lohberger.
The water is drying up, restrictions are in force, do your bit by following these water saving tips:

- by Ruth Zee

**Bathroom**

**Shower Heads:**

Standard shower heads use an average 50 kilolitres (50,000 litres) of water per household per year.

- AAA rated shower heads can save more then half of the water used by an average household for showering
- Flow restrictors, fitted to the shower connection are a low cost water efficient alternative to normal shower heads

**Taps:**

- Flow regulators, such as aerators, fitted to the tap spout, can reduce flow rates by over 50%
- Ensure dripping taps are repaired
- Turn tap off when not in use e.g. While brushing your teeth

**Toilets:**

Standard flush toilets use on average 50 kilolitres of water per household per year.

- Installing a 6/3 litre dual flush toilet can reduce the amount of water used in the toilet by up to 67%
- Use of composting toilets, or vermiculture (worm based) systems for treating human waste, greatly reduces the amount of water used

**Kitchen**

**Dishwashing:**

Hand washing dishes uses more water on average then washing by machine.

- Dishwashers have improved significantly over the years in terms of water consumption. Efficient machines use 18 litres or less per wash
- Dishwashers however, require more energy to make and run. Be sure only to run the machine when you have a full load
Laundry

Washing Machines

A top loading washing machine uses on average 150 litres per wash, whilst a front loader uses only 100 litres. Over a year the front loader can save 15 kilolitres of water per household, per year

► Further savings can be made in a front loader by ensuring the machine is full before use, and the water level control and suds-saver are used appropriately

Outdoors

Garden

► Watering outdoors in the morning or evening, and avoiding watering when the sun and wind are strong, greatly reduces the amount of water used
► Replace lawns by using low water using plants
   Apply mulch to garden beds between 10-15cm thick, at least once per year. This has the added benefit of fertilising the garden as it breaks down.

Car Washing

► Washing cars on the lawn allows the runoff to be used productively and prevents detergents from entering storm water drains
► Trigger operated hose nozzles permit water to be applied only when required
► Cleaning cloths are now available which eliminate the need for detergents, reducing pollution in the garden and waterways

Hosing Down

► Brooms can be used around the house. If necessary use a high pressure low flow water jet for more efficient hosing

Swimming Pools

► Evaporation in hot dry areas can be substantial. Pool covers can reduce evaporation by 80%

Grey Water Use

► There are a number of grey water systems on the market. These collect and reuse water from the bath, hand basin, shower, laundry, and kitchen for use in the garden

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**December**
5th - “Far North in Focus”, CAFNEC & EDO-NQ Fundraiser, 7:30pm, Graft’n’Arts Centre, 124 Grafton Street, Cairns.

6th - East Trinity Public information and Site Visit, 8:00am - 12.30pm, (Public Information Forum), Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron, 42-48 Tingira St, Portsmith & 1:00pm - 5.15pm, (Guided inspection of the East Trinity site), Departing and returning Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron.

11th - Cafnec Xmas Party at Cominos House, Greenslopes Street, Cairns, 6:30pm.

25th - Xmas Day

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**OUR MEMBERS ARE OUR LIFEBLOOD!**

**USE THIS FORM TO JOIN CAFNEC OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

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<th>Individual</th>
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**Payment Method**

- Cheque
- Money Order
- Credit Card

**If Credit Card**

- Bankcard
- Mastercard
- Visacard

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**Post to CAFNEC, PO Box 323N, North Cairns, 4870 (extra membership forms are available from our office)**

**WHY NOT GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP!**

**Membership type**

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If undelivered return to:
CAFNEC, PO Box 323N,
North Cairns, Qld 4870

ph: 07 4032 1746
fax: 07 4053 3779