



ECOTONE

Newsletter of the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre Inc.
Vol 24 Number 4
December 2004

A Climate of change

- by John Rainbird

If we ignore the few ostriches out there, it appears that the message about climate change is slowly getting through. It is real, it is happening now, and it appears to be happening faster than predicted. Scary stuff? Indeed it is. Data coming in from around the world paints an unsettling picture. A certain degree of climate change is locked in. Whatever we do now won't change how the climate will respond for at least several decades. In order to head off the worse case scenarios beyond this period, we need to act NOW more so than ever. Our children's futures are in our hands. We must all do our part to reduce our



greenhouse gas contributions. act locally".

Over the past couple of years global climate change has raced to the top of the pile of serious environmental threats as more and more data comes in from the field confirming many of our fears. Although it is a global issue, CAFNEC has decided to dedicate a significant amount of energy to this issue due to the potentially devastating impacts for our region, as well as our subscription to the old adage 'Think globally,

Despite the prospects for the Australian Greenhouse Office continuing to fund the national Cool Communities Program looking slim to zero, we are looking at avenues to progress

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.....And lots more

President's report

WET SEASON GREETINGS, one and all. By the time the next Ecotone is published, let's hope we've had some of those good old-fashioned tropical downpours. Another year is all but finished - but Cafnec's work is never finished. The critical need for Cafnec to be the environmental watch-dog for our amazing region is a demanding one to fill.

Our staff, John, Nicky and Marie continue to work miracles with limited resources (though they have improved over the years thanks to the generosity of our members and the tight-budgeting by our staff) and the support of the Management Committee and our volunteers. BUT, and here comes the crunch, our capacity to continue to meet the challenges of raising objections to inappropriate development, lobbying for environmental reform, delivering environmental public education programs and raising awareness is again on the line.

Our co-ordinator's position is guaranteed for now, but not so the campaigner position, currently admirably filled by Nicky Hungerford. Funding for this position runs out in March and we URGENTLY need to replenish those funds to maintain the essential campaigning position.

The amount of work that goes on at Cafnec and the environmentally beneficial outcomes that are achieved are not always evident. It's often the preventative work that avoids the environmental crises that go unnoticed. But, believe me, without this work, we would be facing more environmental degradation and having less community input to environmental decision-making. We win some and lose some, but win or lose, it is incredibly important that the forces know that the concerned people of Cairns, through Cafnec, are watching and are ready to comment and act when necessary.

To continue this important work, we need to keep both positions operational. THE most important organisational issue for Cafnec for the next quarter will be securing financial resources for the campaigner position. Our management committee has formed a fundraising sub-committee to develop and implement new initiatives for on-going financial security for Cafnec. BUT we need YOUR help.

We thank everyone who has already dug deep and donated to help CAFNEC



ensure that unsustainable development doesn't sneak through unchallenged. When you draw up your Christmas list this year, please remember Cafnec. You can choose a Cafnec membership (1 year/3 year/ life) to give as gifts, make a one-off donation or subscribe as a monthly donor. Donations are tax-deductible.

The Management Committee wishes all our members and their families a very
HAPPY CHRISTMAS

WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU AT THE
CAFNEC XMAS PARTY
on the 9th December at Cominos House

- Di Horsburgh

Campaigner's Report

What a year - 4 elections, each with significant results that will change our region, state, nation and world for the next 4 years. It's been hard to stay buoyant and positive in this current political climate. Oil Drilling in Alaska, Tasmanian ancient giant forests being massacred, conservation groups with the continued cuts in funding. I guess the most important thing we can do is to dig deep and find a way to remain on top of it all and to maintain our focus. We cannot afford to lose our outrage and disappointment to apathy. Hopefully most of you will be having a break over the Christmas/Summer Solstice period and we should all use this time to renew our energies and keep our focus on what we are fighting

for.

But I will finish on a positive note - our end of year party is a celebration of getting through another year and a thank you to all our fantastic supporters. Thanks to every single one of you for keeping your strong support for CANFEC. We can't do it without you. Have a fantastic break and if you can't make it to our Christmas Party have a great New Year with many positive outcomes for both you and our precious environment!

- Nicky Hungerford



Co-ordinator's Report

Hi all. Our last AGM saw a fairly large reshuffle of our management committee. Sadly we lost half of our old MC in a very short period due to their taking up new work commitments which precluded their official engagement with us. However, despite having tapped a very significant portion of the conservation talent in this town over the years, we have been fortunate to find four new and fantastic faces for our MC. As we head ever closer to an ugly financial shortfall, we are delighted the new team bring a range of great skills in relation to business and fundraising.

Our great challenge is to maintain a second position going back to having only the coordinators position is untenable given the workload and range of issues our region and organisation are engaged in. We are working on a new membership package to give more back to our existing and new members, so stay tuned.

Whilst Cairns is fortunate to be attracting more and more national conservation groups to work on northern issues, this is not without consequence for organisations such as ours. Large organisations have the resources and capacity to do

sophisticated membership and funding drives that are simply beyond the scope of groups such as ours. Around the nation, small regional groups are feeling the squeeze as Federal funds shrink and larger groups move in to tap into their issues and communities. CAFNEC is fortunate to have excellent relationships with TWS and ACF in particular with whom we work very closely. However, the administrative arms of large groups do not always appreciate the impact of their actions on regional groups. WWF have just set up an office in Cairns specifically to fund-raise. Whilst we acknowledge the excellent work WWF have done on the GBR and climate issues, they have not thought to contact us to discuss this move. Smaller groups are now facing the very real threat of extinction due to resource pressures. It is usually the small groups who initiate working on many of the important issues, and who have the local knowledge and contacts. Unless larger groups commit to developing relationships that not only work with but help support regional groups, some small groups will disappear to the detriment of conservation outcomes and the broader conservation movement.

- John Rainbird

Meeting Room

The ground floor meeting room opening into the garden at Cominos House may be hired for \$20.00 per session (i.e. all morning, afternoon or evening). Contact Stan Gentle (40321368) for details and booking.

*Secretary
Friends of Cominos House.*

CAFNEC's community calendar

As part of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Population and Development small grants project, CAFNEC (along with ARHA and SHFPA) have just finished our Common Ground calendar. 15 months of visually stunning photographs focusing on the important issues and links between population development and environment. The calendar has been sent to every state and federal politician in Australia! This calendar is free and available at CAFNEC office so pop in and pick up one or two, or grab one at the CAFNEC X-mas Party on the 9th or the CAFNEC Garage Sale on the 18th. If you would like a copy posted to you, please send \$4.40 for postage and packaging (stamps will do) and we will send it out.

Special Thanks

CAFNEC staff and would like to send a very special thanks to all our volunteers who have helped us through another very very busy year. From the superwomen who do ALL our mailouts, to the folk that represent CAFNEC on those numerous committees, to our volunteer Management Committee, the floor washes and the newspaper cutters, the filers and the designers, newsletter editors, to bar staffers and raffle ticket sellers, the envirofiesta crew and the bike ride volunteers a huge thanks. CAFNEC would also like to have a very special thanks to Stan Gentle as the Cominos House Caretaker. Stan in his voluntary role goes well above and beyond the call of duty and is incredibly supportive.

Sad Losses for Far North Queensland

CAFNEC would like to acknowledge the passing of three very significant people, who all passed away in the past few months.

Dr Geoff Tracey, Brad Dorrington and Gary Warren. All these men played a very significant role in North Queensland's precious environment. In the next CAFNEC newsletter we will include an obituary to each of these men.

continued from front page...

householder engagement in greenhouse issues. The draft FNQ NRM Plan has identified climate as a key issue, and we are engaged in discussions with them to see how we can collaborate to progress climate work in our region.

Our recent Cairns Climate forum initiated by CAFNEC and Earthwatch and hosted by the ABC was a great success, with an estimated 250 people coming out to the Yacht Club to participate. Although time didn't allow exploration of all the important issues, it was an opportunity to hear from some of Australia's leading experts in a range of relevant areas on this crucial topic.

There are now a number of agencies and organisations, including the CRC's, AIMS, GBRMPA, CSIRO and regional NRM bodies working on climate issues in our region, and one of our aims is to bring all these groups together to see how we as a regional community can better coordinate our efforts and support each others work. Hopefully this will also include seeing how we can build our capacity to engage the various industries in our region, including tourism, fishing and agriculture in this issue.

Please make sure you voice your concerns about this issue, and the lack of adequate response from local, state and federal governments to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, to your elected representatives.

-Ecotone-

BIKE RIDE ORGANISER JONATHAN METCALFE OUTLINES THIS YEAR'S SUCCESSFUL TOUR, AND ASKS CAFNEC MEMBERS FOR THEIR HELP IN YEAR 2005

- by Jon Metcalfe

The 2004 Wilderness Bicycle Tour again went off very successfully this year. All monies raised went directly to CAFNEC. The event generates profit simply by the fact that volunteers forgo any payments for the services they provide - from organising and planning, to cooking, to manufacturing camp equipment, to fixing trailers. In fact this is how most volunteer groups generate income. It's not that the events they put on are intrinsically profitable, but that volunteers forgo payment thereby generating the excess.

As the ride becomes of more and more benefit to CAFNEC, so CAFNEC will be required to shoulder more of the volunteer burden of running the event. Up to now the ride has been run by a volunteer committee, most of whom are not even CAFNEC members. The committee has deliberately avoided burdening CAFNEC with any organizational duties, thereby leaving it free to do what it does best - that is - save the environment.

But on ride 2005, there will be a couple of easy ways CAFNEC members or committee can help the tour. One avenue is for a few reliable people to take charge of events on the final Saturday afternoon and evening.



A CAFNEC support person/s is needed up at Copperlode Dam by 1.00pm, to help riders as they emerge from the bush tracks across the ranges. All the ride's resources are taken up on the other side of the range, packing up lunch and getting all the gear back to Cairns. This year one rider fell badly coming into Copperlode and there was no support to ferry him to the ambulance!

The other CAFNEC duty will be to oversee the final pick up of luggage. This will mean a person to be a Cominos House from 3.30pm to look after the luggage which will be unloaded into Rose Blank Gallery.

The evening meal and farewell dinner is the other big thing that CAFNEC could take charge of that day. This could be catered for professionally, as happened this year, or if CAFNEC wanted to save a fair bit of money, it could organise the dinner itself - it doesn't have to be flash just hearty.



The other area where the ride could do with some CAFNEC help is in regard to a couple of volunteers for the week to help around the camp and particularly in the food prep area. If we are to take the stress out of feeding 80 plus ravenously hungry riders and crew each day, the task will need to be achieved by a team working under the general guidance of our cook Janet Walder.

Most volunteers find the ride great fun. You meet interesting people and make great friends while camping in remote locations. Could every CAFNEC member seriously consider what they can do to assist the bike tour next September? In the meantime have a safe holiday season.

Jonathan Metcalfe,
For the organising committee,
Far North Wilderness Bicycle Tour.

CONSERVATION COMMUNITY FORUM - KURANDA RANGE ROAD 'UPGRADE'

**DATE: Monday 13th
December, Time: 6 pm 9 pm
Venue: Rose Blank Gallery,
Cominos House,
27-29 Greenslopes Street,
NORTH CAIRNS
Refreshments will be
provided**

This is a session specifically for us (i.e. anyone who is concerned about the environment and conservation) to focus on the environmental impacts and the flow on consequences of the road.

DMR will make a presentation as will the Kuranda Range Defenders. There will be an independent facilitator, Jim Petrich, and representatives from the Wet Tropics Management Authority and Department of Local Government and Planning, as well as consultants who have been involved in writing the plan who will hopefully be able to answer any questions from the floor. Two hours have been set aside for a working session for questions and answers as well as a section on submissions - the 'where to from here'.

We strongly encourage your attendance. In preparation for question time, we encourage you to visit the Main Roads website for the project;
www.kurandarangeupgrade.com
and the Kuranda Range Defenders website;
www.envirocare.org.au/campaign,
or obtain an interactive CD containing visuals of the design and impact assessment study reports by calling 1800 184 317. Cafnec have several copies of the CD available as well as the full report (all 3 volumes) on display, which you are welcome to come in and peruse (Call 40 321746/321586 first).

If you require any further information call Nicky Hungerford at CAFNEC on 40321586 or email campaign@cafneec.org.au or Di Horsburgh (Kuranda Range Defenders) on 40 938901 or email dianne.horsburgh@bigpond.com

Eco - Updates

-by John Rainbird

Wet Tropics

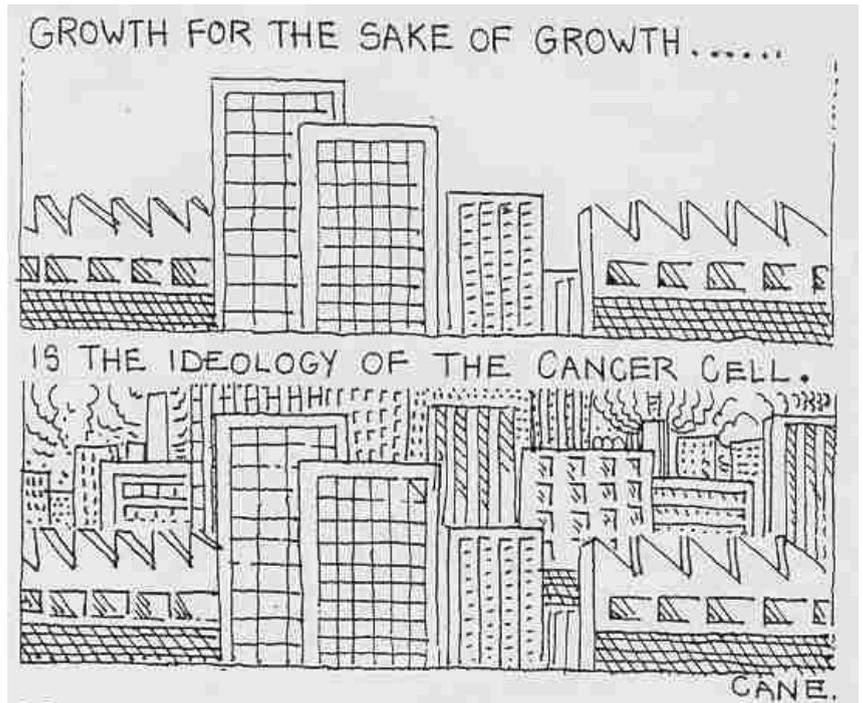
The Wet Tropics draft NRM Plan is now being written up for its final version. This plan is an excellent document outlining the priority environmental issues for the Wet Tropics region. This plan (together with the supporting condition reports) and the Wet Tropics Conservation Strategy provide a fantastic resource for anyone interested in conservation issues in this region. Congratulations to Nigel Weston and Campbell Clarke who did the bulk of the work in writing these two key reports.

Turtle and Dugong Hunting

Turtle and Dugong Hunting - there has been a lot of focus on this issue in the media recently. It is a complex issue, and CAFNEC along with other groups is engaged in supporting proper protection for these species along with supporting traditional owner hunting rights. The healthy populations of these species tend to occur in areas adjacent to Indigenous communities. Dugong populations have plummeted south of Cooktown to an estimated 3% of their original population levels. Whilst there are issues in some communities with Indigenous harvest, it is the Indigenous communities themselves that are driving the process for better management in many parts of northern Australia. Considering the historical and current track record of Anglo-Saxon society in relation to driving species to the brink of extinction and beyond, we need to be careful about pointing fingers. We expect responsible behaviour from everyone.

Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park

GBR Coast Marine Park - the State has created this new park extending 3600km along the GBR coast. The



coastal region tends to be the areas that is under most pressure, both from fishing as well as boating and land-based activities. Some important areas such as Missionary Bay, Bowling Green Bay, Cleveland Bay, Shoalwater Bay and Broadsound Bay were excluded from the park, as well as estuaries and creek mouths. The government has tried to strike a balance between fishing and conservation interests. We believe fishing interests were given significant concessions, but they continue to fight against these measures to protect both the natural values of our marine areas as well as fish stocks.

Fitzroy Island

We are greatly concerned by the development proposal for this beloved island. We believe the development proposed is inappropriate for an Island National Park, and will forever change the nature of the Fitzroy experience dear to locals and visitors alike. Concurrently, the EPA are developing a draft management plan for Fitzroy, and CAFNEC are a member of the advisory group. Due

to the development being on a perpetual lease, the EPA are ignoring it in the management plan. We will be pushing to ensure impacts associated with the development site are properly addressed in the plan.

False Cape

Currently the developers are writing a Public Environment Report for the Dept. of Environment and Heritage to address a range of specific environmental issues. There will be a period for public consultation once this report is completed. This development is symptomatic of the direction of Cairns at present which allows large scale developments on ecologically significant stretches of our diminishing coast. We have little in the way of legislation to assist us in stopping this monster, so urge everyone to express their outrage through the media (write to the editor) about this development and about the wave of inappropriate and destructive development in Cairns.

Daintree

For a situation that could so easily be resolved, the protection of the Daintree has been a convoluted

and frustrating process. Time is running out still as politics gets in the way of outcomes again. The Federal government has decided to give its \$5 million to the Australian Rainforest Foundation. We as yet don't know what if any conditions have been attached to this money, but it is essential that it be dedicated to acquiring land. Warren Entsch has called for the disbanding of the Daintree Planning Group set up to, amongst other things, provide direction for the buy-back process. We will continue to push for unity on this issue, for the DPG to remain, and for the ARF and other agencies to follow the directions outlined by the DPG.

Cassowaries

Detailed mapping of cassowary habitat by QPWS is now essentially complete. This mapping will be a very valuable tool to progress protection of cassowary habitat. In addition, the revised Vegetation Management Act has in it codes to protect regional ecosystems mapped as critical cassowary habitat, as well as identifying some key corridors. Sadly this act does not protect urban areas where a great deal of critical habitat is located. We continue to push cassowary conservation with the State government, who own a significant amount of unallocated state land that is important to this iconic bird.

-ecotone-

**JOSIE'S CRAFT ROOM -
CAIRNS BASE HOSPITAL**
*needs your used cards -
Christmas, birthday, Mother's
Day, Father's Day, Easter, etc -
and old calenders and
postcards. Please leave these at
Reception at Cairns Base
Hospital, The Green House
Shop, 55 Spence St OR
Community Foods Co-op,
Andrejic Arcade*

Lizard Island trip great fun for Nautilus

- by Carl Stepath

The Nautilus Scuba Club of Cairns participated in coral reef monitoring at the Lizard Island Research Station from May 1 to May 8. Carl Stepath, a PhD candidate at James Cook University coordinated the project, with the assistance of Karlina See Kee, a JCU Zoology graduate, Peter Familio of Nautilus and Bruce Wynn of Port Douglas. The purpose was three-fold: to learn about reef ecology, facilitate club involvement in a global reef monitoring effort, and participate in research concerning community members' awareness and personal interest in the reef environment. In this CAFNEC sponsored project, everyone learned about coral reef ecology, and gathered data from the lagoon reefs. Two teams recorded the fish life; invertebrates and substrate every day, and this was done by use of transect lines and underwater data sheets. The indicator species counted are those typically targeted by fishermen or collectors, and thus can give an indication of coral health and overfishing. The findings from this project and the connected research will be used in

a PhD thesis and associated journal articles. Results will be presented educators via the MTAQ (Marine Teachers Association of Queensland) Conference and the Australian Association of Environmental Education later this year. The hope is that this work will also promote coral reef ecology and support for marine preservation in the coastal communities of Queensland.

Even though the weather was very windy, beautiful Lizard Island provided a wonderful location to do the research and learn more about coral reefs. The monitoring system used was Reef Check, which is the largest global "community-based" coral reef monitoring program. It involves volunteer recreational divers led by experienced marine scientists. Over 40 countries now participate annually, with results published in technical reports and scientific journals. The gathered data have been used to formulate government policies in relation to recognising the value of coral reefs and finding sustainable solutions to problems affecting reef health and



Reef Monitoring. Photo: Carl Stepath

viability.

This one-week reef education trip had coral reef monitoring as the reef ecology education focus. Reef monitoring used Reef Check methodology, and the data is sent to Reef Check headquarters at UCLA in Los Angeles. The data is posted on a website and used in conjunction with other monitoring sites around the world to give a snapshot of reef health on the planet Earth (www.reefcheck.org). Thirteen members of the Nautilus SCUBA club from Cairns stayed at the Lizard Island Research Station and learned to monitor reefs during the day, while also learning about reef ecology with a 45-minute lecture everyday. The trip is all part of research concerning the use of experiential education and its relationship to responsible environmental action. Last year the focus of this research was on high school students in Queensland, and this year it focuses on adults. Karlina See Kee, a research assistant, accompanied the group and helped as a boat operator, safety diver, and project scientist. Karlina made certain safety standards were met, as well as helping to monitor and identify marine organisms for the data collection.

The group also met other researchers staying at the station. We were lucky enough to get an introduction to Coral Watch by Uli Siebeck, from Vision, Touch and Hearing Research Centre, University of Qld. This is another international survey monitoring coral bleaching. Observations are submitted to a website data sheet, and for more information go to www.CoralWatch.org. Another visiting scientist was Alexandra Grutter, from the Dept. of Zoology and Entomology at UQ. She is a world expert on cleaner fish, and we were lucky enough to hear her presentation on 'Fish Cleaning Behaviour - keeping blood-sucking parasites at bay.' We definitely know more about

cleaner fish now!

The highlights of the week for club members were many, especially since we were in such a beautiful setting on the lovely island. Everyone really included getting to know other club members in a really new and great way, as we had to work from the morning until preparing the evening meal at the station. While on the island, everyone pitched in, and social interactions included BBQs, reviews of diving photos and sharing the workload of keeping the operation going. The trip also provided an opportunity to learn about the island, meet the exceptionally friendly and competent staff and experience

firsthand the work conducted at Lizard Island Research Station while also doing our own research. Being volunteer research assistants meant carrying and filling tanks, organising all the dives, collecting and transposing data, taking care of the tinnies and mandatory use of new dive tables that was a especially challenging for a few of us who are mathematically deficient! Barbara Waterhouse from AQUIS in Mareeba conducted beach walks, where we learned about the native and introduced species on the island. Barbara's expertise in botany and biology so impressed the station directors, she has been asked back for further volunteer work.



Ready to Dive off Lizard Island. Photo: Carl Stepath



Checking the Dive Site. Photo: Carl Stepath

Overall the Lizard Island adventure was a fantastic experience, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience interesting dive sites while learning science, and we all came to appreciate the hard work involved in transporting equipment, manoeuvring boats in reef areas, as well as filling tanks and cleaning up all the dive gear. The dives were wonderful, even with all the wind, and it made all the hard work worthwhile! It was great to see healthy living coral reefs, surrounded with abundant sea life. So, many thanks to CAFNEC and the Lizard Island Research Station staff for all their help in making this reef education program successful. It was a fun time for all, but we did not think the scientist had to work so hard while out there at beautiful Lizard Island!

-ecotone-



Crinoid gorgonian. Photo: Carl Stepath

COMMUNITY FOODS CO-OP

needs your spare clean plastic shopping bags and clean jars.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
needs your used
phonecards, postage
stamps + postcards.

Please leave these at
**Kaotica, Andrejic
Arcade, 62 Grafton St,
Cairns OR The
Greenhouse Environment
Shop, 55 Spence St,
Cairns OR send direct to
John Smith, 7 Carlton
Gardens, ILFORD,
ESSEX, 1G6 ILT, UK**

**make your gift-giving
go further & greener.....**

spend \$10 or over and go in
our special Christmas draw for
**a \$200 gift voucher
plus \$200 cash donation
for your favourite
“green group”**

(drawn Christmas Eve)

**plus special offer for CAFNEC members
10% off all Wilderness Society calendars**

**the green house
environment shop
55 spence street
ph: 40318787**

Now in Cairns, The Green House Environment Shop began life as a volunteer centre 12 years ago on Kuranda's main street. A sister shop to the old Green Possum, both were CAFNEC initiatives. Many changes have occurred since then including the sad closing of the Green Possum and the happier sale of The Green House to long time CAFNEC member and supporter Ann Mansfield who has continued to offer a little extra “green” to her customers every year with a percentage of profits being donated to CAFNEC and the Australian Conservation Fund. Information/membership forms for CAFNEC, ACF, Wilderness Society and Amnesty International can also be picked up from the shop at 55 Spence St. It is also a drop off point for used stamps, phone cards and postcards which Amnesty collects and resells in a scheme which has been running successfully for many years. The Green House wishes all those with a green heart joy and peace for the holiday season and best wishes for a wonderful and (hopefully) very wet 2005.

CAFNEC PRESENTS

envirofiesta

The Web Of Life 2004

- by Paul Christie

After a few months of reflection on the largest Envirofiesta festival program CAFNEC has produced, I can say it was a pretty damn good effort from all involved. The production began with both excitement and hesitation from within the dedicated group organizing 2004's program. I must admit my part was of undaunted excitement. With hindsight and months of burnout I often wish I had listened to those with the more cautious mindset.

The seventeen events held between the blue moon in July and the full moon in August presented Cairns with a wide array of local and interstate talent from many sectors of the Arts (some coming from as far as Cocos Islands). There were many success stories, and a few not so successful, yet overall we had a great festival month bringing Cairns together to celebrate our wonderful environment. There were new relationships and many lessons learnt and at the end CAFNEC came out with just under \$6000 as well as some money to produce next years event.

Envirofiesta 2005 will find itself back as a one-day festival with the preferred site being the parkland adjacent to Cominos house on Little Street. This will see many Cairns residents discovering, for the first time, the location of CAFNEC while enjoying live music, dance, circus, great markets, great food, a huge kids activity area and much much more. This location will provide CAFNEC members with a greater opportunity to get involved in the projects that are already in planning or alternatively to generate and produce a project of their own.

Envirofiesta is continuing to grow in size and content and is widely regarded as North Queensland's premier environment festival. There is a lot that volunteers could do to assist in the production and growth of Envirofiesta so if any members or friends of CAFNEC are interested please email us your contact details and interests with attention: Envirofiesta volunteer

CAFNEC will also produce another two of the successful events that happen during Envirofiesta 2004. Stay tuned for Metamorphosis, a funky masquerade party, on the World Environment Day weekend (June4/5) and "Diversion" CAFNEC's Cabaret and Recycled Fashion Parade which is being planned to be incorporated into Festival Cairns 2005.

We all deserve to live in a healthy, vibrant, creative community that shows real respect toward the environment. Getting involved in community projects, such as Envirofiesta, is one positive way we can help make this a reality.

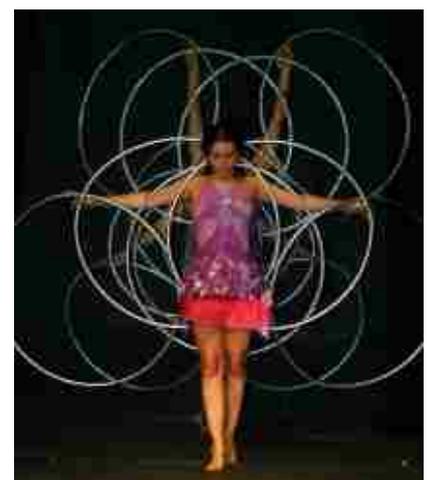


*Photos from last years
EnviroFiesta:-*

Left: Italian Social Club

Right: Hula Dancing

Photos: Cameron.



Frogs

- (from Wildlife Bites (WPAA newsletter) 26/11/04)

The beautiful nursery frog clings to the cloudy summit of Thornton Peak in far north Queensland. It seems it's found nowhere else in the world. Come climate change, it can climb no higher. With just one degree rise in temperature the climate gap that the frog lives in will disappear. Last week this frog, known as *Cophixalus concinnus*, was classified as critically endangered by the World Conservation Council (IUCN). Its congress opened in Bangkok with 4000 delegates representing nation states and environmental groups. Frogs figured greatly in the bad news for Australia with 11 new species, including others of the same genus as the beautiful nursery frog, being added to the IUCN Red List of endangered species. It is believed to be an early indicator of massive climate change impact. Australia had 621 animals and plants included in the 2004 Red List and those under greater threat included the humphead wrasse (a fish prized for eating in southeast Asia) and the Australasian bittern (a bird whose wetland habitat has shrunk by drought to perhaps 500sq km)* Network Item.

ECOTONE

Is the newsletter of the Cairns & Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC). Ecotone is published every three months and sent to over 300 readers.

Reader contributions, including letters, are very welcome; content is subject to the editor's discretion.

Disclaimer:-

Views expressed in Ecotone are not necessarily those of the CAFNEC as a whole.

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ECOTONE is produced by Steven Nowakowski with editorial assistance by John Rainbird & Di Horsburgh

OUR MEMBERS ARE OUR LIFEBLOOD! USE THIS FORM TO JOIN CAFNEC OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name Address
 Post Code
 (H) (W) Email

Membership type (Please circle)

Individual	Family	Group	Concession	Cafnecc pays GST on the base membership fee of \$15.00. The donation component goes to our Gift Fund & is GST free & is TAX DEDUCTIBLE for members.
\$15.00 + \$15.00 donation <u>\$30.00 TOTAL</u>	\$15.00 + \$25.00 donation <u>\$40.00 TOTAL</u>	\$15.00 + \$25.00 donation <u>\$40.00 TOTAL</u>	\$15.00 (for the unwaged) <u>\$15.00 TOTAL</u>	

Payment Method
 (Please circle)

Cheque Money Order Credit Card
 Note: Cheques and money orders should be made payable to CAFNEC

If Credit Card (Please circle)

Bankcard Mastercard Visacard

Card No. ____/____/____/____ Cardholder Name

Signature Expiry Date ____/____ Total: \$.....

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

WHY NOT GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP!

COPY DEADLINE

Deadline for the next Ecotone is the 15th March 2005.

Please send or email article or letters to CAFNEC, (with graphics if you have them).

Kuranda Range 'Upgrade' Submissions due by 31st January

As our readers will be aware, public submissions have been invited for the proposed Kuranda Range 'Upgrade'. We encourage everyone to make a submission. A generic submission has been inserted with space for you to add your own comments, sign and send off.

Individually written submissions are preferable to generic ones. If you can spare the time, please use the points discussed, plus your own comments, to write an original submission.

For More Information

Kuranda Range Defenders: www.envirocare.org.au/campaign, call or email Di Horsburgh 40938901; email: dianne.horsburgh@bigpond.com

Department of Main Roads: www.kurandarangeupgrade.com or call the Kuranda Range Upgrade Hotline (freecall 1800 184 317)

Send your submission by 31st January 2005 to:
The Public Consultation Office, Reply Paid 6185, Cairns Q 4870

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Two designs are available in FOUR sizes



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North Cairns, Qld 4870**

**ph: 07 4032 1746
fax: 07 4053 3779**

