

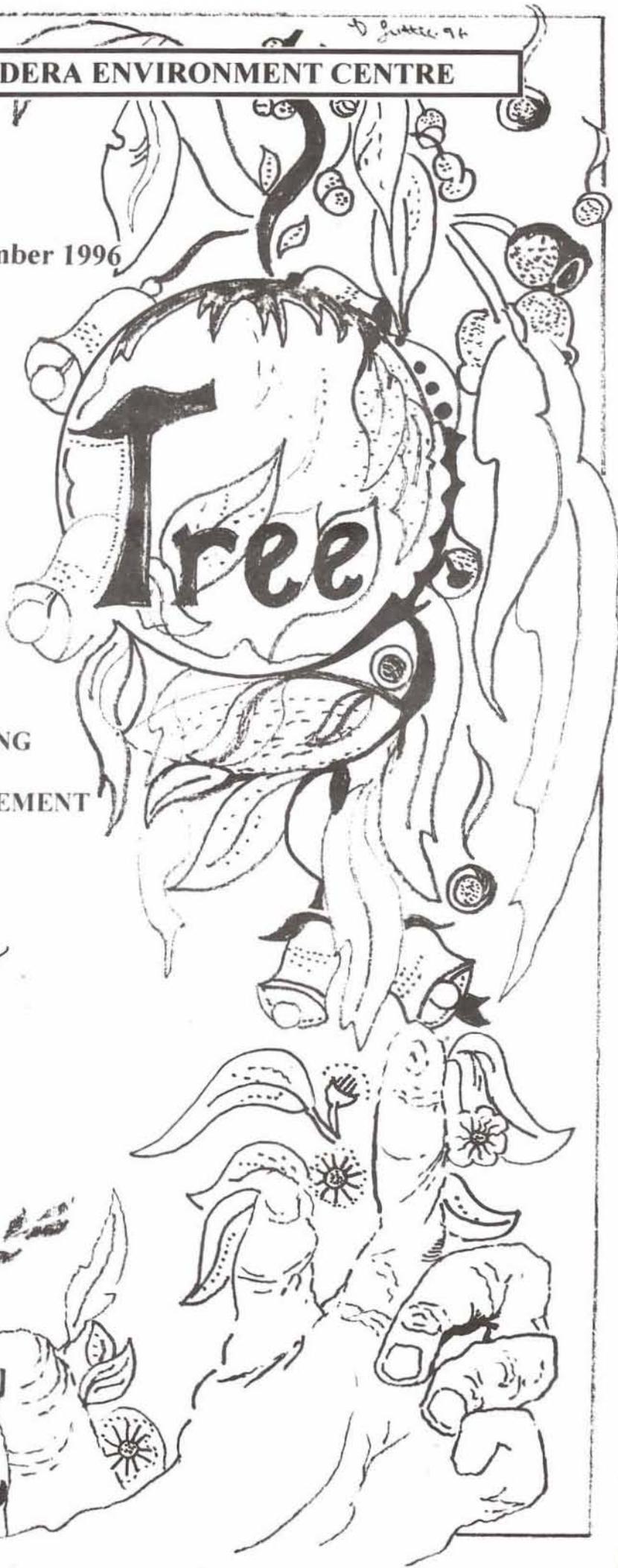
NEWSLETTER OF THE CALDERA ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Tweed River Environmental Echo

VOLUME 6 November/December 1996

THIS ISSUE

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- \* FLYING FOXES
- \* FOREST UPDATE
- \* DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN
- \* ON SITE NUTRIENT RECYCLING
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\$1

## **AROUND THE CALDERA**

### **SHOP NEWS**

Summer is here, and with it, the busiest time of the year in the shop!!!

Lots of new goodies are appearing on the shelves in readiness, so don't forget to call in when you're in town.

Thanks to Cynthia for her efforts to co-ordinate the volunteer staff...not an easy task !@#\*!...the shop has remained open for over six years - WELL DONE!!!

New volunteers are needed, especially now and in the days leading up to Christmas. Please phone Cynthia on 793 405 if you can help out - it's a great opportunity to lend your support to the centre...and also lots of fun!

Many thanks to our troupe of dedicated staff, without whom the centre would be a dull place indeed!

Membership renewals have been a bit sparse lately, so please check to see if you're up to date...and don't forget to introduce your friends and associates also..without our members, we are broke!!!

So, put the C.E.C. shop at the top of your list for your special shopping during the festive season and remember that your purchases help keep the centre alive and well.

**SEE YOU SOON AT THE GREENEST SHOP IN TOWN.** Shelley



- gift vouchers
  - cards, calendars, diaries
  - recycled paper stationery
  - wildlife & gardening books
  - essential oils, fragrances & massage oils
  - natural skin & hair care products
  - pottery & jewellery
  - handmade local crafts
  - ethnic handicrafts
  - posters, postcards
  - 100% cotton mossie nets
  - hemp & cotton clothing
- and much much more!!!



## **ON SITE NUTRIENT RECYCLING**

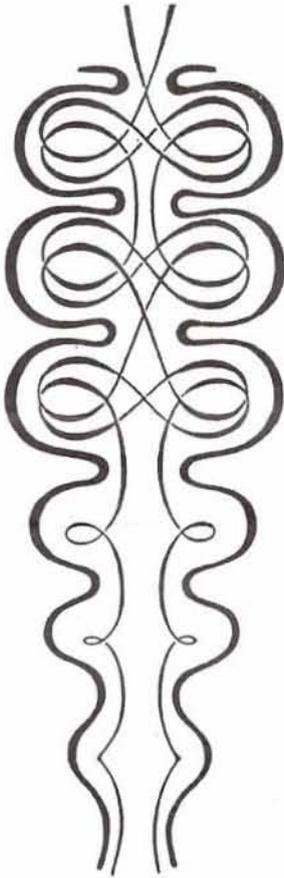
A four day symposium was recently (Nov 23-26) held at Southern Cross University on "Flow Forms" and "On Site Management of Waste and Water". The conference was organised by Dr Leigh Davison and supported by Richmond Catchment Management Committee. Over 100 people listened to 20 speakers present papers on both wet and dry systems.

The first two days looked at Flow forms in theory and in applications for agriculture and on-site Waste water management. Flow forms were devised and developed by the English sculpture John Wilkes during the 1970's, but Rudolph Steiner incorporated similar ideas as part of his Bio-dynamic system of agriculture. The rhythmical back and forth, spiralling and eddying meander, which characterises the flow form cascade, has found application in waste water purification, agriculture and ornamental fountains. E.coli bacteria are killed by the combined action of swirling, oxygenation and ultra-violet radiation; oxygen is trapped in the water; and water is "refreshed" when it flows through a series of stepping basins.

The third day consisted of a bus tour around Lismore and Nimbin to look at working examples of on-site systems using composting toilets, gray water treatment via wetlands and reed beds, and flow forms.

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The final, main day looked at septic tanks and the way of improving their performance by: increased capacity, filtration systems, mechanical aeration systems, artificial wetlands, reed beds, worm beds and flow form cascades. Gray water treatment employs similar methods after the grease has been collected in a grease trap. Worms can convert grease, hair and food scraps in a worm powered compost heap or pit.



Dry composting of excreta is done in two ways:

- \* the continuous inclined system such as Chivus minimus and chivus multrum where excreta is deposited on top of a mound, with carbon material such as sawdust, vegetable scraps, leaves etc, within an inclined, insect proof, chamber or vault, and where the mouldering material gradually descends past aerating baffles of PVC pipe to finally arrive at a small door at the bottom of the heap many months later in a harmless, benign, composted state.
  - \* the batch system which employs two or more chambers of at least one cubic metre each, and where deposits of excreta and carbon material are made for a year in one, whilst the contents of the second chamber gradually moulders into compost.
  - \* other variants use rotating bins, worms and even wheelie bins
- The "Doumus" system takes liquids and all compostible material into a worm powered digesting chamber.

The main advantages of humus closets are: reduced use of water, no use of external energy, and a valuable, recyclable end product.

Lismore council has approved certain composting toilets on a trial basis and is actively monitoring results. The NSW Department of Health is taking a very cautious approach and has produced a "Draft Approval Guidelines" for local authorities. They recommend a storage of the composted material for 3 months, and shallow burial thereafter.

Many representatives of local authorities attended the main day of the conference. There was NO representation from Tweed Shire. This is disappointing in the context of contentious and demonstrated water quality problems in the Caldera, and a large population of dispersed peri - urban residents.

The effect of phosphorus and sodium both derived from laundry soaps and detergents, was graphically illustrated by a simple experiment where rainwater and laundry water was passed through various types of soils. The sodium dramatically slows the passage of laundry effluent through soils, demonstrating a marked decreased capacity to absorb or filter water. Reduced P and NaCl in laundry powders and detergents should be mandatory. Tweed Shire Council should promote detergents with low or zero P and NaCl. One presenter advocates the use of ceramic discs in preference to laundry powders.

The C.E.C. will attempt to stock some proceedings of the conference for sale in the shop. Likely cost about \$25. The contributing authors of this collection of toilet papers come from Darwin, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle, Maleny, Auckland and Madras. All interested residents should keep on the backs of Don Buckley and Geoff Edwards from the Health and Community Services section of Tweed Shire Council. Lismore council is way out in front on this important issue.

*Paul Hopkins*

## **DRAFT TWEED STRATEGIC PLAN - SUBMISSION**

*The following is an extract, of which C.E.C obtained a copy, from a submission by G.Chislett to the Draft Tweed Strategic Plan. A copy of the Plan and a complete copy of the submission is available at the C.E.C.*

### **PLANNING FOR "UNPRECEDENTED CHANGE"**

The Mayor in his message (p.3) concludes that vision and foresight, as the basis for planning, will give the best chance of achieving the desired outcome of taking good care of the Tweed; but the draft Plan is actually based on hindsight.

The vision of the future economy of the Tweed, its quality, viability, growth, is based on projecting past experience into the future (p.p.6-8). (Projections are mistakenly referred to as "forecasts" on pages 5, 6 & 7. Projections are simply extensions of previous experience - rates of change - into the future: a statistical process, whereas forecasting involves judgements relating to the projections).

#### **Not mechanics, but judgements**

The real art of management is in deciding the influence to be accorded new or foreseen factors in the planning process.

The Tweed does not operate in a vacuum. The Background chapter (p.p. 2-9) should have included a section putting the Tweed into the context of the Australian economy, and relating previous experience to future expectations.

There are two known influences which over the "20 years time and more" will affect the slope of the Tweed population trend and its quality:

- . the ageing of the Australian population, and
- . the decline in the rate of increase in the Australian population.

At present 31% of the Tweed community are 55 years and older. As the Australian population is aging and retirees are the main source of increase in the size of the community (p.6), the percentage of older people in the Shire can be expected to increase.

They will be looking for something better to do than gambling their time away in the 'clubs', but they will find cultural facilities thin on the ground. The consequent needs for service infrastructure and support are impinging on Council which acknowledges that "past investment in services such as regional sports facilities, libraries and community centres has been insufficient to maintain standards of provision". (p.25)

To catch up, and then improve the facilities will require significant investment.

#### **Economic conditions never experienced before**

The second influence on the future of the Tweed population is the slowing rate of increase in the Australian population. In time, this will have profound effects on the national economy. It is part of the changing scene to which we cannot afford to turn a blind eye, especially when making investment decisions.

In line with many 'western' economies the rate of increase in our population is declining: it could peak as early as 2033, depending on decisions about immigration (Projections of the Populations of Australia, States and Territories, 1995-2051. Australian Bureau of Statistics - July 1996)

Australia, and many other countries are heading for economic conditions **never experienced before**, population growth declining to zero.

Sooner or later investment must shift away from development in favour of improvement. Under circumstances such as those applying to the Tweed, it can be argued the sooner the better.

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Contrary to the outlook adopted in the draft of a steady 850 per year lot take-up, equating to 2,200 persons per annum through to 2025, there is nothing to be lost by being more cautious about development.

It should be a provision of the plan that, if Council is prepared to approve a substantial development application, Council also accepts responsibility to demonstrate there will be a nett gain to the community.

Trends in the influx of people to the Tweed will be influenced by conditions within the Australian economy which are more likely to be subdued than buoyant.

#### **Tweed development-bubble could burst**

We have a record large external debt to be serviced whereas the prospects for our exports are restrained. “--- population projections of some of Australia’s main trading partners show very low and even negative growth rates”, with Germany and Japan in the latter category (ABS as above).

Consequently, not only will the size of our markets be limited, but we will also feel stronger competition from those countries in other export markets.

If the Australian economy is subdued, then the determination to control inflation will have a good chance of succeeding which, together with the decline in population increase, should dampen metropolitan house prices, thus slowing the exodus from Sydney and Melbourne. (There have been some anecdotal reports lately of families returning to Victoria).

#### **Planning in, and for, unprecedented change**

“--- Australia, and the Tweed, are undergoing unprecedented change” (p.2) producing a complicated climate within which to conduct planning operations, which makes it especially important to be clear as to the objective.

Through the medium of this planning exercise the community have nominated improved quality of lifestyle as the main objective. They have indicated the way in which they want Council to move in future, in relation to the Vision component of the plan. (p.3)

However, the Vision statement featured in the panel on page 2 thoroughly confuses the objective. It reads:

“Vision. To manage growth so that the unique natural and developed character of the Tweed Shire is retained, and its economic vitality, ecological integrity and cultural fabric are enhanced”.

What about the people of the Tweed?!

The statement uses the meaningless ‘growth’ word (vide Prof. Tobin). It concludes with a string of clichés.

The “developed character” of the Tweed is not unique.

How could the “developed character” be “retained” when the plan is to carry on with development, as before?

A strategic plan is a guide to the conduct of operations: to set Council’s sights on the above Vision statement under conditions of rapid change would only add to the confusion.

The General Manager’s statement (page 5 panel) provides the germ of what is required - a strategic plan which “will provide for the attendant infrastructure, financial and human resource planning commensurate with community aspirations”.

In a complex, fluid situation, a simple test is invaluable. Within the above context it could be asked of each proposed action, “In what way will this enhance or detract from, community aspirations?”

In essence, be clear on, and aim for, the agreed objective.

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## THE CHOICE - QUALITY OR QUANTITY

There are no means for determining what proportion of Australia's population the Tweed should hold, or aim for.

The myth that development is inherently, and always, good, deserves to be exposed. For every development there are gains and losses; the nett result may go either way.

Australia has been in development mode for the last 50 years. The result? A community so disaffected that it threw out its government with a resounding thump, a huge foreign debt, continuing high unemployment levels, environmental problems possibly beyond our financial capacity to repair, a population size beyond the country's ability to sustain in the long term (according to some expert opinions).

Scale this down to the local level and what do we find? A majority of the Tweed community voting for a significant change in the character of the Council at the latest election, a Council with serious financial difficulties arising from developmental activities, significant environmental problems, the highest rate of unemployment in the State.

### GAINS AND LOSSES FROM DEVELOPMENT

What is the advantage to the Tweed community of an invasion of 25,000 people proposed for settlement in the open space between Bogangar and Kingscliff?

What will we do with their rubbish, their effluent, their pollution of the atmosphere, their 10,000 cars on our local roads, and so on ?---?---?

Even now, much to our surprise we find there are problems with our waterways, with hospital services, finding a parking place, increasing criminal activity ---.

Development imposes losses as well as gains. Every development, from the erection of a house next door, to the proposed Kings forest and Kings Beach projects inflicts a loss on the individual and on the community as a whole.

The connection between gains and losses is not generally made: the media extol development activities (more advertisement revenue and increased paper sales) but - shock, horror - it is not until much later that the community finds serious, costly, problems arising.

### MANSCAPE V. LANDSCAPE

Overseas, in developed countries, people by the million travel to visit towns and villages which appear to be much the same as they were before settlement in Australia began.

#### The Australian ugliness

Yet, in Australia, people, after they have been to Ballarat and the Blue Mountains, are journeying increasing distances to get away from what we have done to our coastal landscape by developing what the distinguished architect, Robin Boyd, described as long ago as 1960 as "The Australian Ugliness" (publisher F.W. Cheshire, Melbourne).

His strictures seem largely to have been ignored in the planning process.

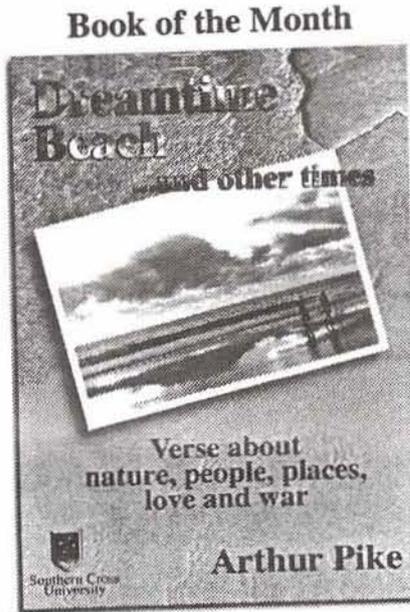
The replication of the western suburbs on the western plains is bad enough, especially for those who have to live there, but when it spreads to the Tweed Valley described by the Mayor as "a priceless green jewel" - and it is by world standards - the question arises "How could this have happened?"

At bottom, "politics" is the answer - the "developer industry" has had the inside running. Ancillary to that were those who were persuaded that "development" was good - that to oppose it was bad: they did not fully realize that every development entails gains and losses for the resident community.

G.Chislett

## GREEN READING

***Dreamtime Beach.....and other times*** This verse, recording a lifetimes random thoughts and observations, reflects a very Australian experience of one man's colourful and diverse career. This experience is expressed in words that appeal to people in all walks of life, whether it be attitudes to the futility of war or the hopes and joy of living. Arthur Pike describes his writing as being words of people.



A sixth generation Australian, Arthur Pike served as a foot soldier in WWII at Kokoda and Buna and behind the Japanese lines in New Britain; has travelled widely in Europe and Asia, worked in the peace movement, been a student, activist, journalist, builder's labourer, salesman, businessman, community arts officer and director of Commonwealth government departments. For the past six years he has lived locally at Kingscliff. In the coming year he intends to join his son, daughter and three grandsons when he builds a mountain rainforest home near Nimbin.

Arthur is also a member and supporter of the C.E.C.

\$12.95 Available from the Caldera Environment Centre

## PROBLEMS WITH THE FOREST DECISION

The deliberations of the RACAC committee (the all party group set up to examine NSW forests) resulted in a system of "reserve areas" which were supposed to be set aside from logging while the final CAR ( national park - wilderness - logging mix) system was determined. While the CAR deliberations were in progress, the NSW Government had undertaken to not issue definitive logging quota licences.

Presumably under pressure from the unions, next month the NSW Government is now intending to issue licences for resource security for five years renewable for five years. These licences will guarantee logging companies timber supplies at 50% of the rate prior to the RACAC process. This timber is supposed to come from the areas outside the reserves.

Unfortunately, particularly in our NE forests, the timber resources have been overestimated by factors up to 100% - all parties agree this is the case. This means that either logging will be permitted in the reserve (national park) areas or the taxpayer will have to compensate the timber interests for their quota shortfalls. Cutting in the future national parks and wilderness areas is the most likely prospect..

Please write to Bob Carr, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000, FAX 0292283935, and strongly suggest that these licences are not issued.

*Tom Tabart*

PS A woodchip mill is to be built in South Queensland. Timber supplies not available in this area. Guess where the trees will probably come from???



## **"Killer Bats" "Warning over rabies virus in Fruit Bats"**

These and other morbid headings in our newspapers were the inevitable media response to the discovery of the Lyssavirus isolated from a Northern Black Flying Fox. According to Dr Len Martin, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Uni of Queensland this does not mean rabies. the genus Lyssavirus falls within the family

Rhabdovirus. There are 6 serotypes recognised within the genus. these are Rabies virus, Lagos bat virus, Mokola virus, Duvenhage virus and the European bat lyssavirus. The latter non rabies Lyssavirus appear to be lacking in their ability to spread to terrestrial mammals that could establish a cycle of infection. For this reason sylvatic and domestic cycles of infection do not occur and human cases, although serious are rare and sporadic. it is accepted that a person can only contract LV by a bite or scratch from an infected animal (which animals are extremely rare) and there is no evidence that infected bats attack, unless provoked. LV produces 100% mortality in bats.

As to the so called Equine morbillivirus in flying foxes Dr Len Martin is concerned to present evidence that the bay Paramyxovirus (BPV) detected in flying foxes is not identical to the Equine morbillivirus (EMV). BPV isolates must be tested for pathogenicity to determine whether BPV has the same characteristics profile as EMV, or is a harmless biotype.

The sensationalist headlines only encourage fear and violence against our native animals. The only thing we can be certain of is that there are approximately 80 species of bats in Australia, nearly one third of all our land mammals, yet they are the least known. two species are extinct and many are endangered yet flying foxes have a vital role in maintaining biodiversity through pollination of forest trees and are integral in the dynamics of rainforest by assisting the regeneration of trees. The global reduction in the numbers of bat species through loss of habitat is not going to be helped by the current phobia oriented media coverage.

Members of the Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers who have prolonged intimate contact with flying foxes will naturally observe normal good hygiene and care in handling flying foxes, and will continue to care for these beautiful animals.

*Trish Mann*



## **SEARANCH DEVELOPMENT - HASTINGS POINT**

The Department of Urban Affairs & Planning notified the Tweed Shire Council on 21st November that a direction under Section 101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act had been issued by the Minister, Mr Craig Knowles. The Minister is now the consent authority for all development applications within the whole development site. Tweed Shire Council will still be responsible for assessing the development applications and will make recommendations to the Minister. The Minister makes the final decision on the development application and the developer has no right of appeal on this decision.

To date the developer Brian Ray has completed Stage 1 of the development (over 100 residential lots) and in July this year was granted a deferred commencement for a further 67 lots in Stage 2. The Searanch development site, now renamed Koala Beach is located west of Cudgera Creek at Hastings Point and is surrounded by significant coastal vegetation which provides habitat for a large number of threatened species.

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There is still a large proportion of the site which has been rezoned for residential purposes still to be developed. The first stage was by no means the most sensitive as was stated in the press, it may have been the most politically sensitive, but not the most environmentally sensitive. Every stage in the development is environmentally sensitive and each will have individual problems.

It is time that both the Tweed Shire Council and the State Government address the proposed development of large parcels of land along the Tweed Coast. The opportunity to develop this land was created by previous governments when the land, often significant native vegetation, was inappropriately rezoned for residential and tourist purposes.

*Rhonda James*

## THE NORTH COAST FREEWAY

As you are probably aware, the NSW and federal Governments have funded a four lane highway from Newcastle to the Qld border.

This construction is NOT an upgrade of the present road, it is a completely separate project which will require a corridor of 50 to 150 metres all the way.

The environmental and social implications of this project are horrendous. This freeway will be an invitation for increased traffic, will intensify development pressure from the North, will destroy the atmosphere and lifestyle of the coastal villages, will be a flood barrier of unknown effect, will liberate acid runoff, will destroy productive farmland and will be an unprecedented killer of endangered wildlife.

It will not save any more lives than a reasonable upgrade of the present highway, as has been illustrated by the success of the Burringbar Range speed restrictions (no fatalities since their introduction).

This road is being built with your money for the benefit of the large road transport interests which stand to save millions of dollars each year in fuel costs and time reductions. This at a time when petroleum is coming to the end of its ready availability and governments should be looking to more efficient and environmentally friendly modes of transport.

The C.E.C. has joined a growing number of groups (14 at last count) in a NO FREEWAY COALITION. The NFC supports an upgrade of the Summerland Way for heavy transport in conjunction with a better rail system and improved public transport.

Please write to politicians urging the dropping of the freeway project and support the NFC in its fight to save the environment, our social structure and our money. *Tom Tabart*

## DREAMS OF YOUTH

A NEW INTAKE OF PLANNING STUDENTS

IMAGINE PLANNING A TOWN CENTRE WHERE EVERYONE WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO FACILITIES, PEDESTRIANS WOULD BE SAFE FROM CARS, AND LAND USES WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED RATIONALLY - AND HAVING THE SATISFACTION OF SEEING PEOPLE ENJOYING THEMSELVES.

YESTERDAY



IMAGINE SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATING PLANNING PERMISSION FOR A TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT TWICE AS BIG AS THE PLANNERS WANTED, CUTTING BACK THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT TO PRACTICALLY ZILCH, AND BEING REWARDED WITH A BMW BY A GRATEFUL BOSS.

page 9



TODAY

*Cowan*

## Kings Beach Development Application

In early October the owners of the land along the beach at south Kingscliff lodged a development application with Tweed Council for a large part of their property south of the so-called Sahben site. Lenen have applied for approval of a 'Master Plan', relocation of the part of the coast road south of the Old Bogangar Road intersection and subdivision of the parcel into 7 lots which can be sold on to others to 'develop'.

The application was lodged a couple of weeks after a draft LEP for their land went on public display. It seems reasonable to assume the application was made in part to pre-empt the outcome of the LEP which proposes the rezoning of some of the subject land from intensive urban purposes to environmental protection.

Over the last few years, council has prepared draft Development Control Plans for the subject land which indicated that some of the natural areas along Cudgen Creek were inappropriately zoned for intensive urban development. However, only a rezoning (or LEP) could really protect these areas. Lenen would have realised that a rezoning was on the cards as early as September 1995, after the last local council election, but it was not until March this year that council resolved to prepare a draft LEP for the area. By then Lenen knew it had only limited time to take action if the company wished to try and avert the outcome of the rezoning.

On a site which totals 178 hectares (ha) the Master Plan proposes to 'conserve' approximately 41 ha which have been zoned for intensive urban purposes for a number of years. Thirty three hectares of this would remain in private ownership. An additional 10 ha which is currently zoned for environmental protection would also remain as part of the 'private conservation area'.

Most of the balance of the site - 125 ha - is proposed for intensive urban development, including 23 ha of land proposed for environmental protection in the draft LEP.

Development of the 23 ha would destroy the habitat of a number of threatened species of fauna, including Koala, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Queensland Blossom Bat, Little Black Flying Fox and a number of smaller insectivorous bats. It would also destroy inadequately reserved coastal plant communities and involve the filling of wetlands along Cudgen Creek.

Along with development for housing and tourist accommodation, the relocation of the coast road would drastically reduce the width of vegetation along Cudgen Creek for about a kilometre, taking a big chunk out of the network of fauna habitat stretching from Kingscliff High School to Round Mountain and beyond.

The adverse effects of the road relocation could be greatly reduced by choosing an alignment generally a little further from the creek. At the moment, the proponents seem intent on using an existing unformed road reserve regardless of the consequences for creekside vegetation.

So what would be reasonable for council and the state government to approve in this locality? Of the 178 ha subject of this application, the draft LEP proposes that 70 ha generally along Cudgen Creek would be zoned for environmental protection. The bulk of the remaining 102 ha would be available for intensive urban purposes, with the exception of about 3 ha in the coastal erosion zone.

The 102 ha consists generally of Coastal Banksia and Casuarina regrowth, with a fair smattering of exotic grasses, Bitou and woody weeds. Nonetheless, it provides habitat for a number of species of fauna, including threatened fauna such as Queensland Blossom Bat. Even if development was restricted to this area, many people will still be shocked at the scale of the clearing, if and when it happens.

They may also ask if it is wise for governments to allow major urban expansion on a relatively narrow sand spit located on a coast at risk of long term recession. Rises in sea level would

cause widespread problems for coastal development, but development on sandy, exposed shores would be particularly at risk in this circumstance.

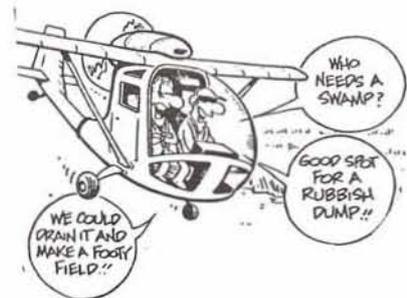
Fortunately for Council and the community, this application falls into a category of development called a 'Section 101'. The Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning makes the final determination after considering council's recommendation. More importantly, with this class of development, the applicant has no right of appeal to the Land and Environment Court and cannot hurry council or the Minister into hasty compromises.

With the co-operation of the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, it is possible for council to ensure that Lenen will not get a development approval which pre-empts the outcome of the draft LEP.

It may even be possible to persuade the owners there is no point in making further development applications unless they:

- Do all that is reasonably possible to protect the plant and animal communities along Cudgen Creek.
- Ensure that stormwater which leaves the site is treated to a high standard.
- Provide adequate infrastructure and community facilities.
- Minimise the exposure of public and private property to coastal erosion.

Given the long history of contradictions, I would not hold my breath. Henry James



# TWEED TOTAL CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Tweed Catchment Management committee recently re-constructed with a new full time Co-ordinator (Gary Varga), with a new chairman (Bruce Graham) and with two C.E.C. members (Rhonda James and Paul Hopkins), has hit the ground running with a comprehensive and reforming agenda.

Rather than splitting into three sub-committees on water, soil and vegetation, it seems likely that more small focus sub-committees will deal with a wide range of specifics such as : Camphor laurel, promotion and education, organic solutions to estuarine banks and foreshores, on site treatment of household by-products, endangered species etc.

It is too early to tell just how effective the current committee will be, but most members seem keen to effect change.

There will be a government review of the TCM concept and composition in 1997, and appointments are only valid until mid-year.

If the concept and funding receive generous on-going government support, there is much that can be done; especially in Tweed Shire/Caldera, where the catchment and political boundaries coincide.

The input of the public, especially via Dunecare, Landcare, Rivercare and focus groups is actively sought. Rhonda and Hop E will be advancing the need for Riparian repair, conservation of native vegetation, wildlife habitat and corridors, on site treatment of household by-products, on site collection of water, soil conservation of steep and erodible land.

If you have any constructive ideas, contact Rhonda or Hop E. if you have any spare energy start a local Dunecare, Landcare or Rivercare group.

*Paul Hopkins*

## UKI (South arm of the Tweed River) Rivercare/Landcare Group

Interested local residents and guest speakers met at the Uki Hall on 30th October to form a Rivercare/Landcare group to undertake regeneration along the Riparian zone of the south arm of Tweed River. Projects have been undertaken along the riverbank by LEAP trainees and ongoing maintenance is required in these areas. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Janaki 797163

**Dreamtime Beach A. Pike**  
*Living here, we are blessed  
Here, it is so clean and green  
here, it is so full of peace,  
a sense of place and being.*

*This is a place for lovers,  
a place for lovers to dream  
to stroll hand in hand,  
along the sighing shore  
beside bright clear waters;*

*where blue is above  
and blue is below  
on our part of the  
wide Pacific Rim;  
still safe and sound,*

*in what has been  
for munition makers  
the killing century.*

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE





**YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**  
 General Meeting Tuesday 10th December  
 Tuesday 11th February  
 Upstairs at the Courthouse Hotel  
 Main Street Murwillumbah 5.30pm  
**SHOW YOU SUPPORT BE THERE**

**TREE** is now published on a bi-monthly basis and preparation is undertaken during the last week of the month. The next edition will be distributed in late November. Editorials, Letters to the Editor and activities are welcomed. Assistance with collection of items, editing, line drawings, cartoons, typing and layout would also be welcomed. Advertisements may be lodged at the shop or phone 721121. Tree is edited and collated by Rhonda James, front cover by Barbara Suttee.

**MAKE THIS A GREEN CHRISTMAS Support your local Environment Centre and shop at the CALDERA. Discount to all members**

**MEMBERSHIP**

The due date of membership is now noted on the label below if membership is overdue or approaching renewal. The executive thanks members for their support and welcome new members. There are currently 118 members of various categories including individual, family, concession and groups. Through an increased membership the Caldera Environment Centre increases their support base and is able to communicate with like minded members of the community. **Join up a friend NOW.**

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE IN**

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT GROUP - Act Locally**

CALDERA ENVIRONMENT CENTRE PO Box 5090, Sth Murwillumbah 2484  
 Become a member of the CALDERA ENVIRONMENT CENTRE and receive your bi monthly copy of "TREE" magazine.



Phone.....

MEMBERSHIP Single Regular	\$20	Family Regular	\$25
Single Concession	\$12	Family Concession	\$15



HO! HO! HO!

It's that bit of the year again when time catches up with us. So here are some nice things to think about while you're waiting.

Auroville, on India's Coromandel coast, is an alternative community which has been operating successfully since 1968. 800 people live in 30 or so settlements spread throughout 1,000 hectares of semi-tropical forest (30 years ago it was an overgrazed wasteland).

Their main source of power is Bio-gas. The family-sized operation, for instance, needs two buckets of kitchen slops, garden waste and human or animal excrement to produce two buckets of processed fertilizer and enough methane to fuel a stove for 5 hours.

They make and sell cloth, food and various alternative energy devices, such as solar hot water systems and windmills, and they trade with many surrounding villages and the wider world. This is a success story and it gladdens the heart.

Another heart-gladdener was the series of anti-racist demonstrations held throughout Australia in November. There were even 1500 people who marched in Pauline Hanson's electorate. In the nasty atmosphere that's been generated lately we need this stuff.

Some people say that since gross sentiments exist in the hearts of Australians, it's best to let them out. But attitudes are one thing and behaviour is another. Racists and other low-life need to realise that their ideas are unacceptable, and the racism which the likes of you and me feel from time to time needs to be treated as the shameful blot it is. We can't stop people having racist thoughts, but to sanction those ...

sentiments is to unleash hatred and violence on people whose only crime is they weren't born white.

There's too much to say, but thank god for those marchers and let's keep decency alive.

That's enough of the deep and meaningful. Did you know that if you have a computer, you probably have energy-saving devices on it which are not switched on? SEDA (Sustainable Energy Development Authority), which is based in N.S.W., has a Home Page on the Web, and they'll be able to give you the information you need to activate! The organisation has calculated that if we got the energy-efficiency features activated on computers in N.S.W. alone, it would be the equivalent of taking 50,000 cars off the road! So this is their Web-Site

[HTTP:\\WWW.SEDA.NSW.GOV.AU](http://www.seda.nsw.gov.au)

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