

TKMG President's Report 2008

The past year at TKMG has seen the completion of some long-term projects, steady progress on others, and the continuation of the group's various community-based activities.

The recently installed Tree Kangaroo display at Malanda Falls Visitor Centre is the culmination of a joint effort between TKMG, the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and the visitor centre. The large space was offered to the group in early 2007, and WTMA stepped in with an offer to cover the graphic design costs. We provided the text and many of the photos and illustrations, and with the expertise of designer Tim Parker the display achieved an attractive and useful format. Our mounted Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo, on display for the past three years at the centre, has also become part of the new exhibit. There was an official launch on September 12th, when the centre also opened its Cyclone Larry display. Many thanks to all concerned for a display that has already attracted numerous positive comments from visitors.

The Australian Geographic Society was another of our major benefactors in the past year, by means of a fundraising effort aimed at conservation of Bennett's Tree Kangaroos. The funds raised have been passed on to TKMG and Daintree Rainforest Rescue, to tackle different aspects of the issue – Rainforest Rescue will use its half to help purchase Bennett's Tree Kangaroo habitat, while TKMG will use the money to help kick-start a community survey on distribution and habitat. It is hoped that the funds (just over \$7000) can be used as 'seed' funding to access a larger pool to cover the survey costs.

TKMG has again been involved in local revegetation efforts, sponsoring three Envirofund projects on members' properties and receiving Eacham Shire Council funding to conduct follow-up maintenance at another site. As always Larry Crook has been our man at the helm, and special thanks are due to Larry for his tireless efforts on this front over many years, as well as his other critical roles at TKMG, as our treasurer and newsletter editor. Larry does all of these jobs with modesty and efficiency and I think it is safe to say that he contributes more time and energy than any of us. Thanks Larry!

In addition to our regular roles on community consultative committees such as the Conservation Sector Liaison Group at WTMA, it was a pleasure to also contribute this year to the Atherton High School's science academy by providing a presentation (by yours truly) on Mabi Forest Mammals. The endangered Mabi forest ecosystem is the main theme for the academy, and

the presentation was given to primary and high school children from Atherton and Tolga.

It has been good to see some new faces joining the TKMG committee this year. We welcomed Ian Sinclair, Ruth Whiston, Ilona Moerman and Dale Rogers, and I would like to thank them and all committee members for their time and energy over the past year. Many thanks also to our wonderful speakers this year who included Sarah Kerr, Lisa Dabek, Gabriel Porolak, Susan Tallarico....

Finally thanks to the community members and organizations who support us in different ways – Yungaburra and Malanda Falls Visitor Centres, Malanda Medical Centre and Lake Eacham Caravan Park for distributing our merchandise, Liz and Lionel Carroll for storing our merchandise and other paraphernalia, the Lake Eacham Hotel for hosting two meetings this year, and finally a huge thank you to the Malanda Hotel for hosting all our other meetings in such friendly and stylish surroundings.

We look forward to seeing you all at our meetings in the coming year.

Jack Grant
President