

NEWSLETTER 4

February 1999

## TREE KANGAROO AND MAMMAL GROUP

Post office box 1409 Atherton 4885

# MAMMAL MAIL



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**PUBLICITY**  
Beth Stirn &  
Tania Murphy

**DISPLAYS**  
Gloria Anderson

**NEWSLETTER**  
**EDITOR**

**Robyn Gobert**

Articles submitted by members suitable to the format of the newsletter much appreciated.

Closing date for contributions to our next Newsletter received before 15<sup>th</sup> April.

### *Trees, trees and more trees*



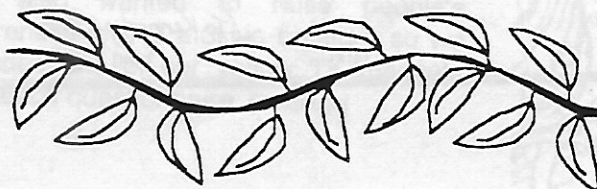
As part of the Tree-kangaroo survey, many people expressed an interest in receiving information on what sort of trees they could plant to create a Tree-kangaroo attractive habitat, therefore encouraging these animals to live on their property.

One survey respondent gave us details of 40 sightings on his property alone!

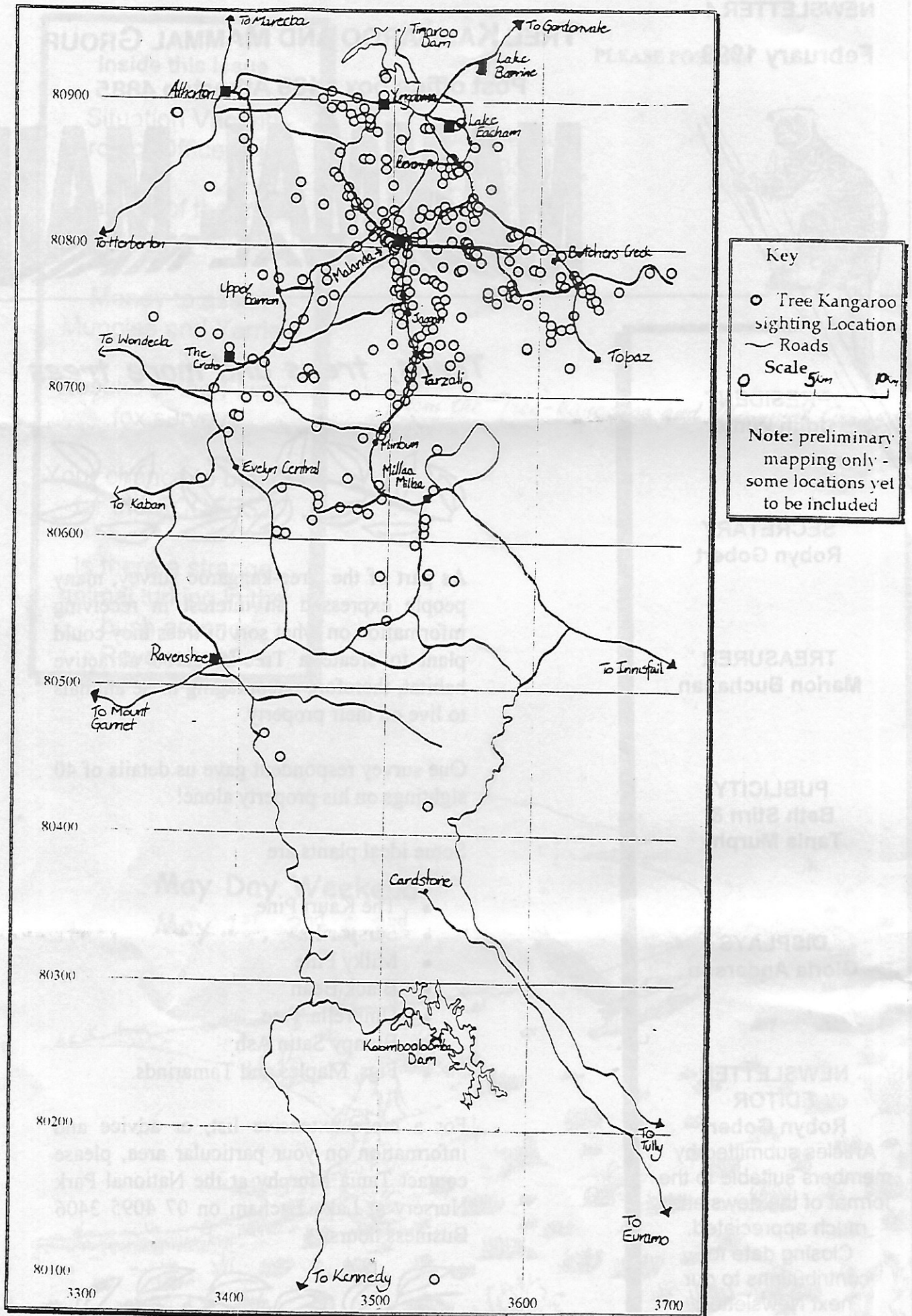
Some ideal plants are

- The Kauri Pine
- Sarsparilla
- Milky Pine
- Black Bean
- Umbrella Tree
- Bumpy Satin Ash
- Figs, Maples and Tamarinds.

For a more extensive list, or advice and information on your particular area, please contact Tania Murphy at the National Park Nursery at Lake Eacham on 07 4095 3406 Business hours.



# Malanda and district Tree Kangaroo questionnaire - Map of Sighting Locations







## The Tree-kangaroo Survey Malanda and District By

Olivia Whybird and Beth Stirn

The finishing touches are being made to the Tree-kangaroo Questionnaire of the *Malanda Postal District Project*.

The project was commenced in March 1998, thanks to a Queensland Department of Environment 1997-98 grant to "non-Government Conservation Organisation Programs" of \$1,500.

### Success!

Our teams of TK&MG volunteers folded letters, stamped and stuffed envelopes and posted questionnaires to all 1300 householders in the Malanda postal area. The survey was a big success.

A response rate of 10% for these type of surveys is considered to be fairly good, but we achieved 221 replies, which is just under a 17% response rate.

After the surveys were returned the volunteers took to the phones to verify the sightings and seek extra information. We were again pleasantly surprised by the responses.

Almost every person we spoke to *really knew their Tree-kangaroos*.

Many of the more recent residents recounted the shock of their first encounter. They often rushed to ask friends or looked up their books to discover what this strange and unlikely creature was. Lots of people we spoke to felt very lucky to have encountered a TK and especially lucky to have them living on their property.

### Tree-kangaroo attacks Poodle

Unfortunately, many stories came to light of people's dogs having attacked and killed Tree-ros, however there was one story in which there was a role reversal. Fortunately the poodle escaped relatively unscathed.

Here is a small example of the information documented by the survey.

- Of the 220 responses, 24 had *never* seen a Tree-kangaroo, after living in the area for anywhere between a few months and 20 years.
- We received news of 465 places people had seen Tree-kangaroos, which resulted in 298 *different* places Tree-roo had been seen.
- Malanda Falls was by far the *most common site* people had seen Tree-kangaroos.
- The minor placing were taken by Fig Tree Close with 16 and Winfield Bridge with 10 records.
- There also appears to be some general areas where *many* people see Tree-kangaroos, these include, Malanda scrub, sections of Glen Allyn road, Winfield Park area and the section of the Malanda Road between the Tree-kangaroo crossing signs... (not a coincidence that the signs have been erected there).
- As you will notice from the map, most of the sightings are around places regularly visited by locals, or along roads regularly travelled by locals.

There was only one sighting of the Northern Species, the *Bennetts* Tree-kangaroo, and that was by an overseas tourist who had recently been to Shiptons Flat before visiting the Tableland.

A local resident gave him the form after hearing of his experience.

(Shiptons Flat is a well known Bennets TK habitat situated about 150k south of Cooktown.)

Our main aim was to collect and document local knowledge of Tree-kangaroo's. Scientist cannot be everywhere and (even ours) certainly cannot go back in time, so local knowledge of Tree-ros (or Tree-climbers as some folk call them,) is very valuable. Historical records are priceless.

### Thirteen hundred Tree-Kangaroo

We also wanted to raise people's awareness of this elusive creature so we included one of our yellow TK magnets with each questionnaire. *Continued*



### "Muppies" to benefit from Natural Heritage Trust funding

The TK&MG has been successful in obtaining funding from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) for a project which will improve our scant knowledge of tree-kangaroo (Muppy) distribution and habitat.

Money has been made available to employ a project officer to collect historical information on the distribution of tree-roos, both by interviewing people and by obtaining records from existing data sources.

This information will be augmented by direct observation surveys in selected areas.

Existing maps of remnant rainforest patches will be used to produce a map identifying tree-roo hot-spots and to prioritise areas for habitat protection and rehabilitation.

The results of our work will be used to inform local authorities of priority rainforest remnants in their shires so that important wildlife habitat can be incorporated into their strategic planning.

**Several local Shire Councils have already committed**

to this course of action.

The results of this project will also assist on-ground habitat rehab groups such as the Wet Tropics Tree Planting Scheme and Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands (TREAT) by suggesting priority areas for revegetation projects to assist wildlife.

Funding is dependant on the group fulfilling a number of conditions, one of which is to incorporate the objectives of another project which was submitted to the NHT. It is the "Wet Sclerophyll Forest Rehabilitation within the Wet Tropics Region" project.

The success of both of our projects will be dependant upon the TK&MG members continuing to make themselves available for a wide variety of tasks associated with the projects, and the groups activities in general.

If you have some spare time and you would like to become involved in project work, or group activities, come along to one of our meetings (details in advert on page 9) and join up.

### We also have a "Yarri" Project under way

The TK&MG has also obtained funding to develop an Awareness and Recovery Strategy for the spotted-tailed quoll (or Yarri).

Money has been made available through the Endangered Species Program of the Natural Heritage Trust.

The project aims to:

- 1) reduce threats to Yarries by raising awareness

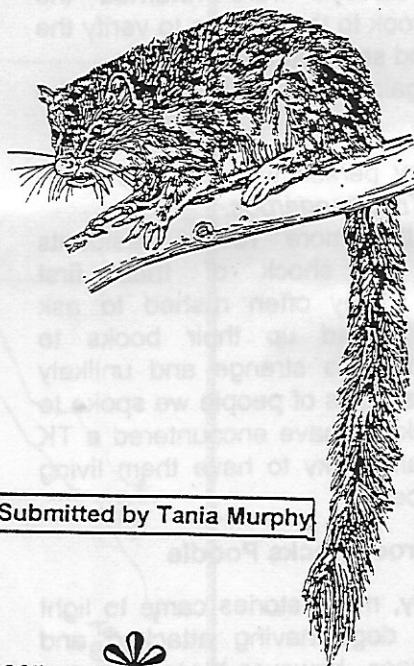
among local communities of the Yarries status and conservation significance ~ particularly in areas where they interact with landholders and their domestic animals (by eating their chickens,) and

- 2) hire a consultant to write a draft, interim recovery plan for the Yarri, which is listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Protection Act.

Project activities will include:

- the production of a leaflet/pamphlet with pertinent information about the spotted-tailed quolls
- working with landholders in key areas, providing them with information both directly (by visiting them), through public talks (invitations to TK&MG meetings at which there will be talks on Yarries) and advertisements in local papers.

Where appropriate, the group will initiate any other actions able to be undertaken by the TK&MG to facilitate this aim.



Submitted by Tania Murphy



### Project Officer

The Tree-kangaroo and Mammal Group Inc. invite expression of interest from suitably qualified persons who may wish to apply for the position of Project Officer.

The position involves raising public awareness on the significance of remnant vegetation to wildlife, and determining through surveys, the current and historical distribution of tree-roos. Applications close 23/2/99.

To receive a position description by mail, please leave your name and address by phoning the secretary on 4096 5684.

Please see our advertisement for the position of Project Officer



A treat is in store for us at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting



# IN A FLAP OVER BATS

## Night Manoeuvres for BAT-tle

It was dusk.

The watchers, arriving from far and wide, gathered at specific locations dotted throughout the North Queensland Rainforest.

Huddled together they quietly discussed their strategy before dispersing to surround their tree-top quarry.

They waited.

The cries from the forest canopy reached a crescendo. And then they heard it.

WAP...WAP, "WAP...WAP," *There!* The first was sighted over the treetops, it circled and was gone.

Then another was counted, and another, until they began to arrive in small groups!

CLICK, CLICK.... CLICK CLICK... "Another Twenty" is heard, muttered in muted tones.

A STILL larger group appears and the concentration is immense, but soon they begin to peter out until finally, they are gone.

The watchers gather. With excitement they discuss their achievements. Then, like their quarry, they disperse back to their homes, only to gather again the following two evenings.

An odd bunch, it would seem.

But in fact this diverse group of farmers, scientists, wildlife carers and other interested participants has just achieved something remarkable.

**They have provided the first comprehensive census of Flying-fox populations.**

There is much concern over Spectacled Flying-fox numbers and this has highlighted a need for this information on population trends.

To date, populations of the Wet Tropics Spectacled Flying-fox have been counted twice.

In March 1998 14 colonies were counted when the young were first flying and the population would have been at it's highest.

The second count took place in November 1998 (18 colonies) and this was before the new-born young could fly, so the population of flying mammals would have been at it's lowest.

The number of Flying-foxes in these two counts are not directly comparable due to the different timing, but both counts help establish a "loss rate" over the year.

Thank you to all of those who took part in the survey.

Another count will take place on 12th, 13th and 14th of March 1999.

If you'd like to be involved this time, or if you'd like to ask questions, please phone Steve Garnett (07 4052 8736) or Olivia Whybird (074097 2303)

Submitted by Olivia Whybird

Table 1. Best Counts of Spectacled Flying-foxes in March and November 1998

Camp	March 1998	March Notes	November 1998	November Notes
Bloomfield	6,000	one count only	11,500	one count only
Rossville	4,000	one count only	0	None present
Daintree	30,000	one count only	18,000	one count only
Newell Beach	5,000	one count only	4,500	one count only
Daintree District	45,000		34,000	
Mareeba	0	None present	1,000	4x as many Little Reds
Tolga	7,000		4,000	
Powley Road	9,000		6,000	
Whiteing Road	19,000		8,000	
Zillie Falls	0	None present	2,000	Estimated from ground
Topaz	6,000		0	None present
Tablelands	41,000		21,000	
Maria Creek	Not counted		400	
Mt Myrtle	Not counted		400	Single estimate from Maria Creek site
El Arish	Not counted		20	Counted in trees
Mission Beach	Not counted		50	
South Barnard Islands	50	seen flying ashore at Cowley Beach	1500	one count only, identity uncertain as possibly Blacks
Russell River	14,000		8,000	
Cassowary Coast	14,000		8,000	Totals exclude camps not counted in March
Kuranda	10,000		500	
Fishery Falls	3,000		3,000	
Cairns	40,000		45,000	
Green Island	60	Counted in trees	90	Counted in trees
Cairns District	53,000		49,000	
TOTAL	153,000		112,000	

Jenny McClaine will be speaking about the flying-fox



We are in the process of planning



## The Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group's

# ECOFEST

May Day Weekend

at

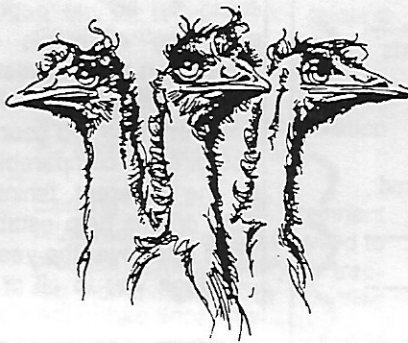
"Minnamoolka"



The long weekend of May 1st, 2nd and 3rd  
at "Min-na-mooool-ka".

Two days and nights crammed with eco-oriented activities during which we will explore and discover many interesting aspects including:

- the history of the property
- the huge billabong and it's aquatic life
- the Native Wells
- the historical Outstation
- the puzzling lake
- the quarry and it's geology
- the flora - bush tucker
- several different species of kangaroo
- many species of frog
- the extensive birdlife
- the smaller, nocturnal animals
- the "antique" Morris Commercial truck
- the old cattle yards
- the dam and it's noisy, popping occupants



To maximise our enjoyment of the area and take full advantage of this "one off" excursion, we are hoping to avail ourselves of the extensive knowledge of (around) ten experts who will speak on the subjects above. We also hope to share the mysteries of bush tucker and historical stories from a representative of the traditional owners of *Minnamoolka*.

*We are wanting a "guesstimate" of how many people will be interested in attending, so please let us know if you'll be there, yes, at this early stage.*

*Prices will be \$15 per adult, \$5 per child for the whole (camping) weekend. Numbers will be **strictly limited**, so it's "first in best dressed".*

*An invitation will be extended to other eco-minded clubs if numbers allow, so if you want to be included with the TK&MG, please make sure you're a *financial* member.*

Please see the cut-out on the back page of this newsletter



## For Sale

**Quality T-shirts and Polo-shirts with this Tree-kangaroo (right) lasercopied onto them**

The group are fortunate enough to have had two original works of art donated to us.

These pen and ink drawings of a tree-kangaroo in two different poses and are ours to use as we see fit.

We are having them printed onto quality, Australian made polo-shirts and T-shirts.

Rainforest Artist and TK&MG member, Bill Cooper has been responsible for this most generous gift.

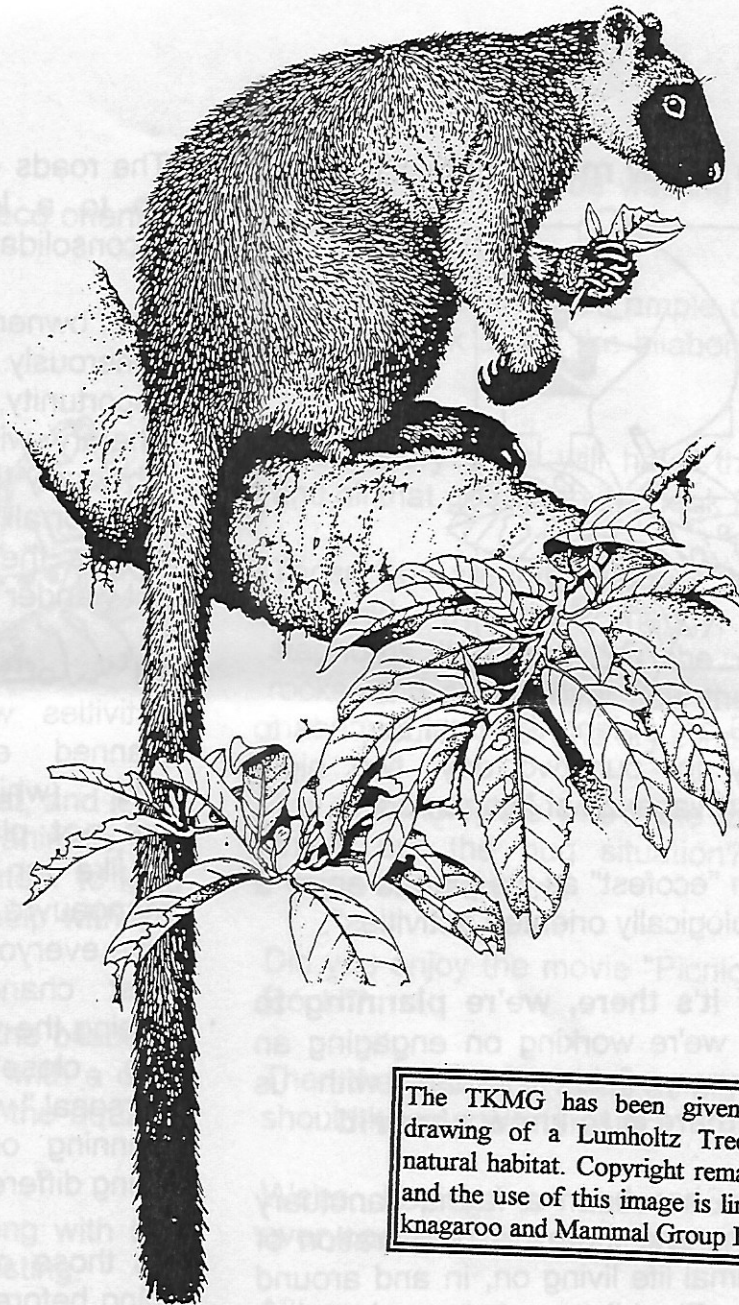
A quiet, modest man Bill proved to be a difficult subject to interview as he "didn't want any fuss".

Those of us who have the magnificent book *Fruits Of The Rainforest* by Wendy Cooper will be familiar with Bill's work.

The shirts are the group's second marketing project, the first being the still very popular Tree-roo fridge magnets.

To purchase one of these shirts, please attend the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Malanda Hotel.

The shirts will be retailing for between 20 and 25 dollars each.



The TKMG has been given the use of this drawing of a Lumholtz Tree-kangaroo in its natural habitat. Copyright remains with the artist and the use of this image is limited to the Tree-kangaroo and Mammal Group Inc. 1999

### **Tree-kangaroo and Mammal Group Inc Post Office Box 1409, Atherton 4883**

The TK&MG is a community group made up of people interested in promoting awareness and conservation of tree-kangaroos and other North Queensland mammals.

The group was formed in 1997. Since that time, with a rapidly growing membership, interested members have undertaken a tree-kangaroo survey, have been involved in a bat survey and this year we are to instigate a new project.

We have obtained Natural Heritage Trust funding for a project to assist wet sclerophyll forest remnants as wildlife habitat, particularly for the tree-roos and the yellow-bellied gliders.

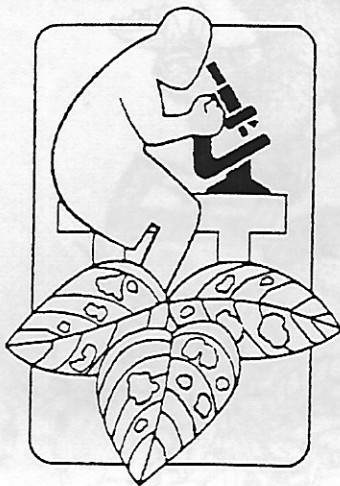
We will be taking interested persons, in small groups at a time, on spotlighting walks to see the gliders at a site near Tomoulin. It is not uncommon to see sugar gliders and feather-tailed gliders at the same time on these outings.

We try to have a guest speaker at our meetings and to date we've heard all about such diverse subject as the aboriginal perspective on the tree-kangaroo (or Muppy) to the Bramble Key Melomy.

**At the March meeting we will learn all about the flying-fox from Jenny McClaine.**

Like to know more about the

TK&MG  
ECOFEST



The TK&MG are putting the final touches to the itinerary for our two day, two night camping extravaganza at Minnamoolka.

It's called an "ecofest" as we plan to enjoy a "feast of ecologically oriented activities".

Basically, if it's there, we're planning to see it, and we're working on engaging an expert in every field to share with us **everything there is to know about it!**

Minnamoolka has been a fauna sanctuary for some time and there's a proliferation of bird and animal life living on, in and around the bilabong. The bilabong is huge.

However, there is also a lake which sounds intriguing. Apparently it fills with grey, brackish water every so often, even in the middle of a drought

It will be interesting to learn more about this phenomenon from the folk who've seen it dry one night and full the next day - as well as from the experts.

If the weather allows, the weekend is set for the May Day long weekend.

However, there is an *outside chance* that the wet season will last longer than usual this year, and if that happens we may be forced to put the date back by a few weeks.

The roads on the property would not stand up to a lot of traffic if they have not reconsolidated after the long wet season.

The owners of the property, who have generously allowed us this "one off" opportunity, are very private people and our itinerary will be finalised with their input. Obviously the weekend is not going to be a "free for all": people will be expected to only access the property in organised groups, not wander 'round at will.

All of the activities will be planned events, and (while we are **not** planning it like an army manoeuvre,) to give everyone the best chance of seeing the wildlife "up close and personal," we're planning on small numbers, in groups, doing different things at different times.



As those of us who've done this sort of thing before will know, if 100 people go on a spotlighting walk, the animals etc., even though they are usually relatively unafraid, would surely panic and make themselves scarce in the face of *that* much disturbance.

Minnamoolka is a cattle stud and beef cattle producing property.

Accommodation, food, toilet, bathing, drinking water... **everything...** is a BYO situation, *so be prepared.*

We'll be camping in an open woodland paddock of mostly gum and ironbark trees.

**It's NOT a caravan park**, and there's no shop or fuel unless you're willing to do a round trip of about 160 klm back

to Mt Garnet so..... **BYO**

**EVERYTHING**



We plan to look at everything "eco oriented" on the property, in detail.

For the frog lovers among us, we're hoping there will still be plenty of subjects to see. Over the Christmas holidays, when we were last out there, the place was "a-jumping and a-croak" with all kinds of different frogs.



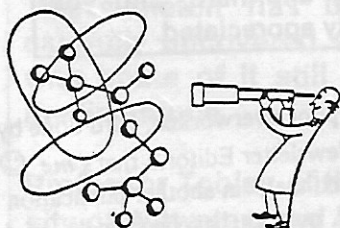
We'll want to have a close look at, and learn about, the smaller, nocturnal animals, so we're inviting members to volunteer to lead those of us who would like to help with the setting of overnight traps.

It would also be terrific to drag the bilabong with a drag net - or try our luck with a cast net - just to get a closer look at the aquatic life.

Comparing the life in the bilabong with the life in the lake would prove interesting.

Perhaps someone who is qualified might like to scuba-dive the bilabong?

Even the stars will not escape our scrutiny. Bring your binoculars and a telescope if you have one, as the skies out there are usually crisp and clear and just right for stargazing.



We're aiming to have someone who is very knowledgeable to keep us interested and informed on the planets etc. It will be a full moon on 1st May.

Bushwalkers should enjoy the walk around the lake. It encompasses a variety of

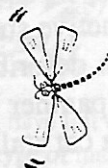
habitats and you'll be walking along an old bush track.

Birdwatchers will have ample opportunity to enjoy a walk along the bilabong with plenty to see.

The history buffs will have the Outstation and all that goes with it to look forward to.

Those who are interested in flora might be intrigued by the shaggy, grey-green staghorns that grow on the sides of the rocks, and puzzle over how they've survive in the (usually) hot and dry climate.

Any entomologists who'd like to check out the bug situation? Please step forward.



Did you enjoy the movie "Picnic At Hanging Rock"?

Then the boulders, some as big as a house, should keep you interested!

We're hoping to have something for everyone and still keep the price down.

Although we are aiming to raise funds for the Wildlife Rescue Team, we also realise that a weekend like this could end up being out of reach of some if we don't "aim high but charge low".

This event may still seem a long way off to you but it doesn't seem far away to us, the organisers!

Numbers **will** be strictly limited, so if this sounds like an event you wouldn't want to miss, ***please fill in the form on the back page to give us some idea of numbers.***

**Financial TK&MG members will be eligible for the discounted gate fee.**

Paul and Robyn Gobert

# THYLACINES?



Jane Rodwell has contacted us with information on repeated sightings of a strange animal in the Ravenshoe area.

Jane is a well known Ravenshoe resident. She "wears many hats", one being that of a volunteer worker at the Koombooloomba Visitors Centre.

Jane writes: "People are coming in to tell us of having seen a "dog-sized" creature which, they insist, most closely resembles the (extinct) Tasmanian Tiger. It's markings and size are similar to drawings of the Thylacine, with dark, distinctive stripes towards the tail.

When describing the way it moves they report it as prowling in a "panther like" way, saying it slinks close to the ground the way a cat stalks it's prey.

The animal has only been seen and heard at night.

## Sightings

Over the past few weeks a family, who live toward the Herbert River Gorge area, have had numerous sightings of three individual animals near their house.

## Terrified Tourists

A family of tourists, who planned to camp near Koombooloomba Dam for a week's holiday, was so terrorised by a pack of three of these animals they quickly rethought their plans and moved after two, very disturbing nights.

They came in and told us of a pack of three striped, wolf-like animals slinking around and around their camp, kicking up "one hell of a din".

continued on page 12

## Tree-kangaroo Survey

continued from page 3



The number of Malanda refrigerators sporting their free Tree-kangaroo magnet is sure to go some way towards achieving this aim for years to come.

The phone survey is yet to be analysed. It is expected that much more information will come from this project.

The knowledge of the current and historical distribution of Tree-kangaroos has been greatly expanded by the generous response of the Malanda people. Hopefully we will be able to survey other districts in the future, in our endeavour to increase this valuable resource of information.

In conclusion, let us assure you that we also learned lots about surveys. The comments made on the questionnaires will be used to improve the way we design future surveys. For those who felt the map could have been improved... "We hear you".

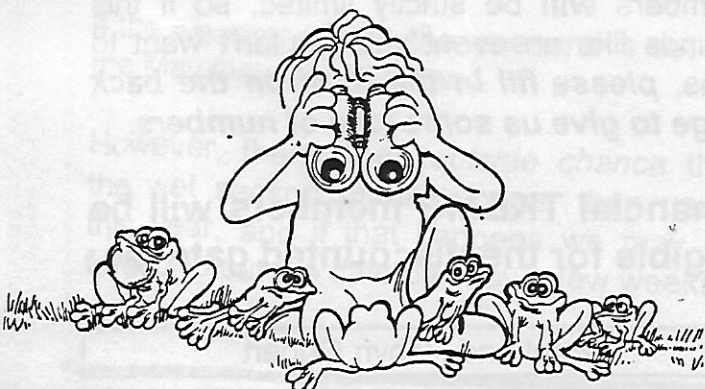
## Thank you

We would like to thank each and every person who responded to the survey, and we hope you enjoy this special edition of the TK&MG Newsletter, with our complements.

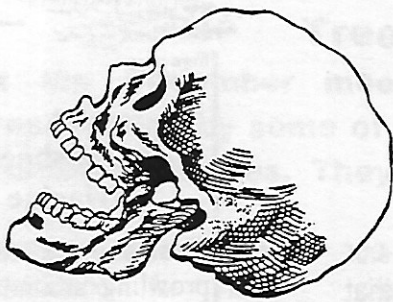
We're happy to welcome new members. You can join by attending a meeting or sending in the membership form from the back page.

Editors note: On behalf of the members of the TK&MG, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the people who have volunteered their time to undertake this valuable project. You've all worked long and hard, and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

*Sorry....* Your poor overworked, hard done by and not-paid-at-all Newsletter Editor... that's *me* ☺ has just been informed that, "in another publication that should know", *muppy* has been spelt, M A P I. Even though it's said, "Muppy". I guess one man's Mapi is going to have to be another man's "Tree-climber" for this edition, as this Muppy-lover is not feeling inclined to begin 16 pages all over again!







## A Missing Link

Four million years ago early man, the ape-like creatures *Anamensis*, roamed the Earth.

Three million years ago *Afarensis* were the go.

However, palaeontologists have recently discovered the complete skeleton of an ape-like man, which they are calling one of evolutions missing links.

Prior to this the most complete set of bones was of the 3.2 million year old "Lucy" which was found in Ethiopia in 1974.

The 3.6 million-year-old skeleton of the 1.2m-tall adult from the *Australopithecus* family was found in caves near Johannesburg.

It appears the individual had fallen down a 15-metre limestone shaft in the cave.

It's believed the creature had walked upright, but he/she was also still a tree climber.

The skeleton has been being carefully uncovered since 1994, with some of it still trapped in the limestone.

Professor Tobias of the University of Witwatersand described the discovery as "probably the most momentous find ever made".

## Tarzali Tree-Kangas

Shirley Hamilton tells us: Tarzali residents have been lobbying for a park in their township.

The old school has been removed and that land has reverted back to the Department of Natural Resources

Residents organised a meeting and Councillor Bill Sneath undertook to take their recommendations back to the Eacham Shire Council.

Tarzali folk are hoping the Council will turn the land into a Park, which will attract tourists as a rest stop.



It would eventually have park benches and playground equipment etc.

To make the park a "must see" for tourists, Shirley (and friends) have been busy working on a clever idea.

They have made an extremely life-like fiber-glass statue of a tree kangaroo. They're hoping the beastie, with "it's family" of other tree kangas (which they will make,) will be displayed in the park.

The TK&MG Inc have been asked to provide an information board to accompany this display.

The idea, and Shirley's TK, met with a most favourable response at the January meeting.

## Other than Tree-Kangaroos, what else interests the group?

### Mammals!

What's a mammal?

Three basic "models" of mammal have evolved in parallel, all of which have fur and suckle their young on milk:

- monotremes lay eggs - the platypus and echidnas
- marsupials give birth to their young at a very early stage and complete the process with the young attached to a teat, usually in a pouch (marsupium) - wombats, antechinus, possums, bandicoots, wallabies, quolls etc.
- placentals have a placenta and give birth to well developed young - humans, cows, bats, rats, dogs, elephants, monkeys, whales etc.



The monotremes we have left today are the remnants of an ancient type of mammal, forced out of existence by more adaptable mammal groups. Now found in Australia and New Guinea only.

Marsupials became confined to the great southern continent, Gondwana, early in their evolution which explains their present day occurrence in South America and Australasia.

Placentals spread from the great northern continent, Laurasia, into more southerly continents over millions of years. Bats may have been very early arrivals in Australia, whereas rats have been here a few million years only, the dingo for a few thousand and the rest less than a couple of hundred.

Marsupials in general have pouches

So if it has a pouch, it's a marsupial?

Yes, but not all marsupials have pouches Ms Antechinus, for example. Her young fasten onto her teats and she drags them about wherever she goes.

You know you have a marsupial or a monotreme if it has a single external opening (cloaca) for their faecal/urinary/genital plumbing

So, don't look for a pouch, just lift its tail to identify a marsupial!



# Picking over the Bones

An Asian "tail"

The marsupial missing link found!



The Deltatheridium, an Opossum-like creature with long canine teeth and very sharp molars, lived 80 million years ago in the Gobi Desert.

A carnivore, it roamed the earth beside the dinosaurs.

The discovery of its fossilised remains is allowing scientists to unravel the evolutionary history of the marsupial right back to the Jurassic period - the age of the dinosaurs.

The Gobi Desert, located in the Mongolian region of Ukhua Tolgod, is one of the World's most productive fossil sites.

Scientists are suggesting that our own modern marsupials, which are most prevalent in Australia and South America, could well have originated in Asia.

The discovery of these specimens has provided new insight into the evolutionary split, which led to the development of the marsupials and mammals of today.

The bones suggest that our kangaroo have a lineage that originates in Asia.

Prior to this discovery the existing evidence of this extinct branch of mammals consisted of a few poorly preserved teeth which had been discovered in Asia 70 years ago.

The new find - consisting of the skull, jaws and arm bones of two animals - has allowed palaeontologist Guillermo Rougier to glean enough information to produce a comprehensive family tree of marsupials.



As one of the specimens was found with a fragment of a small mammal's skull in its mouth, scientists believe the hapless victim could well have been Deltatheridium's last meal.

With a 5cm skull the specimen is considered to have been large compared with other early mammals and it's believed it's diet would have included lizards and other, smaller mammals.



from page 1

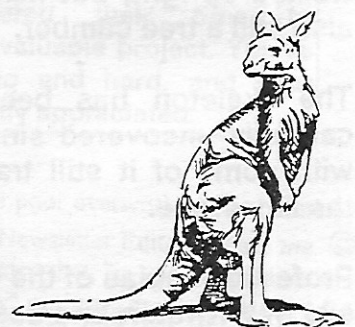
## The Ravenshoe Thylacine

The animals were prowling around for most of the night over the two nights, making the tourists feel it would be wise to shift camp to somewhere safer."

### Is it out there?

Jane has taken an interest in the reported sightings.

"After talking with some of our old-timers about the sightings of these animals," Jane said, "coupled with the number of people coming in to say they have seen them, I'm quite convinced that somewhere out there in our vast tracts of untamed land, the Thylacine is alive and well and is breeding up again in this area!"



Courier Mail



## Tree-Roo Spotting

**At the December meeting members were treated to a presentation by some of the students from the SFS Centre for Rainforest Studies. They write:**

We are six students from the School for Field Studies. Students from all over the United States come here to participate in the four-month long SFS program in Australia.

While we are here, we undertake three to four weeklong projects called Directed Researches.

A Directed Research project is an opportunity for American students to gain experience in fieldwork, which involve important environmental issues.

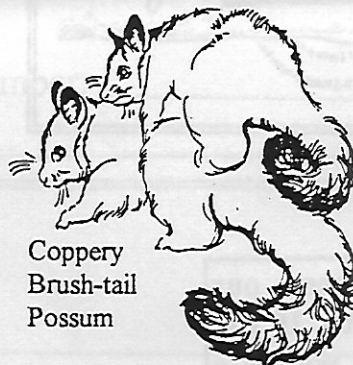
On 3<sup>rd</sup> December we presented our findings on the relative abundance of tree-kangaroos and other arboreal marsupials in the area to the TK&MG at their meeting in Malanda.

We had spotlighted for a total of 60 hours, over the course of a month, at Peeramon Scrub, Yungaburra State Forest (Curtain Fig), Lake Eacham and Lake Barrine.

We also examined scat and scratches, as well as

the vegetation, at the four sites.

We found tree-roo scat at Peeramon Scrub and Curtain Fig and we also discovered a lot of other scat at those sites. However, we only saw four tree-rooms - all at the Curtain Fig.



Coppery  
Brush-tail  
Possum

One of the roos was seen around 6am, while the rest were observed around 9pm.

We found it interesting to note that the three we saw in the evening were all spotted immediately after one of your severe thunderstorms.

Of course we were hoping to see more tree roos, but given their elusive character, we felt

fortunate to have found those four.

We hoped to see TKs at Peeramon Scrub but unfortunately we only managed to hear one crashing to the forest floor one night.

There were many coppery brushtail and green ringtail possums at Peeramon Scrub and the Curtain Fig.

Two lemuroid ringtail possums surprised us by being at Lake Eacham. We had not expected to find any arboreal marsupials there and were pleased to have the opportunity to see these possums.

Over the course of our semester on the Atherton Tableland we found that spotlighting along forest edges along roads was a good way to see these animals.

In our experience, Curtain Fig and Thomas Road near Yungaburra are excellent places to catch a glimpse of these wonderful animals in their natural habitat.



**The next meeting**

**will be held at  
7.30**

**Thursday night,  
4<sup>th</sup> March**

**in the  
Malanda Hotel  
Dining Room.**

**Everyone Welcome**

Contributions to the newsletter are accepted in good faith and are meant to entertain and inform our members.

Content does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Tree-kangaroo and Mammal Group Inc.

Queenslanders  
Masonry Block  
Brick Veneer  
Restorations



Pole & Timber  
Constructions  
Commercial  
Decks &  
Pergolas

Land Road,  
Butchers Creek  
P.O. Box 776,  
Malanda, Q. 4885

Q.B.S.A. No. 76009

Phone/Fax:  
(070) 968 230

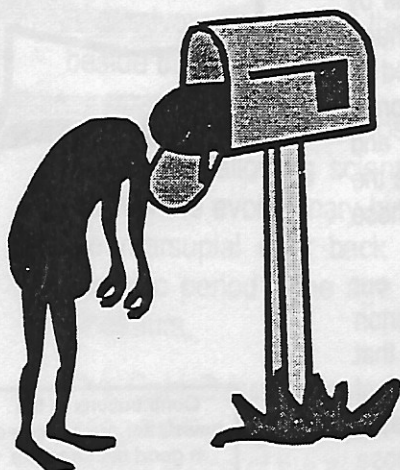
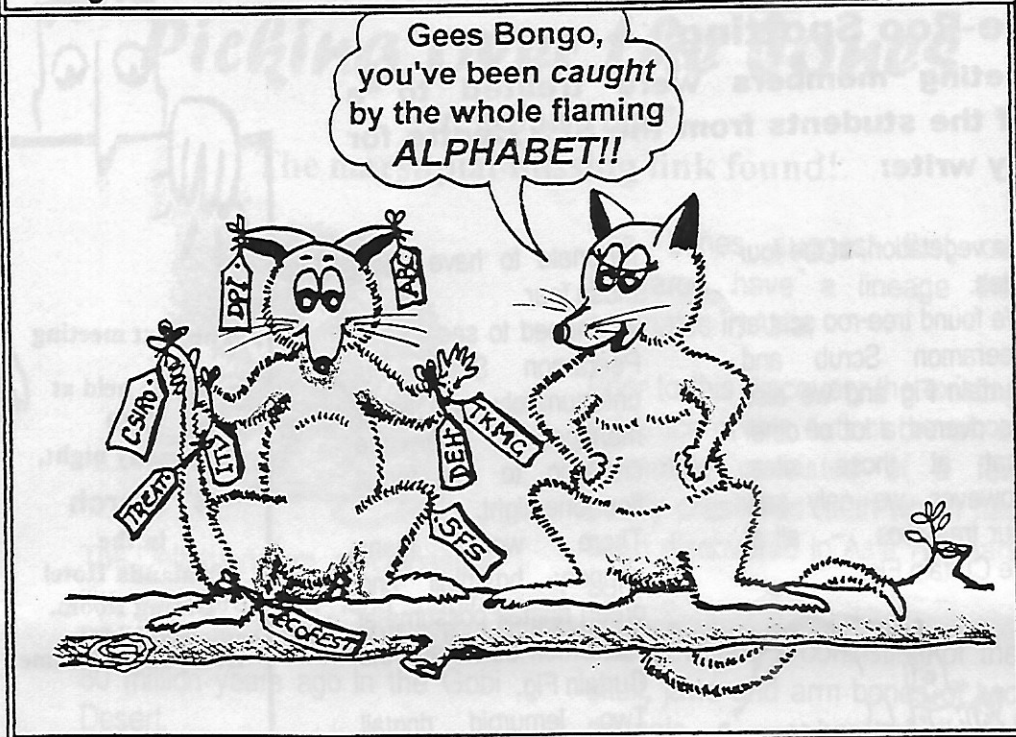
Mobile:

Jon 018 774 463

Geoff 018 770 638

"BUILDING QUALITY HOMES ALL OVER NORTH QUEENSLAND"

**In the last Newsletter, members were asked to help out with the added cost of this edition by sending in their business card, which would be published in this edition, with a \$5 donation. Mr Nott was the only member to respond, and he sent us a \$20 donation. Thank you Mr Nott, your participation is greatly appreciated!**



Please help us keep our records up to date. If you know of someone who is a member and they haven't received their copy of Newsletter number four, please contact Robyn on 4096 5684

Closing date for contributions to the May newsletter is 15th April

## Newsletter contributions

People are most welcome to make written contributions to the newsletter. Suitability of the subject matter, available space and whether or not you've made the deadline are all to be considered. There is a great deal of work involved in getting a newsletter to you, and offers of assistance with writing the subject matter, or doing the photocopying, compilation and mailing are most welcome.



This is one of the drawings prepared for the group by Bill Cooper. It's been suggested by some members that we adopt it as our official logo. What do you think? Give us the benefit of your opinion at the March meeting.



**YES!** I want to attend the ECOFEST Weekend at Minnamoolka.

*Yes! I am a financial member.*

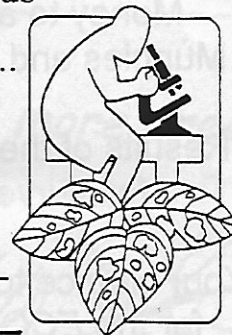
- \* I am interested and will make it my business to find out more.
- \* I am *very interested* and would like you to contact me with the final details, please find my stamped, self addressed envelope enclosed.
- \* **Don't go without me!** *and here is my \$10 deposit which will be deducted from my gate fee.*

\* Please consider inviting the ..... Club

Their address is .....

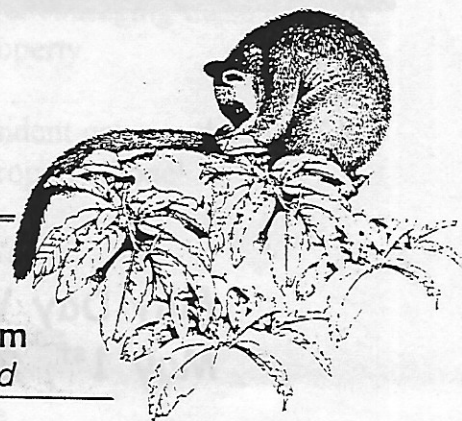
Comments:

Name, address, phone number: .....



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**T.K.M.G. Inc.**  
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**Inside this issue**

Situation Vacant!  
Project Officer's job

Results of the tree-  
kangaroo survey

Money to assist  
Muppies and Yarries

Results of the Flying-  
fox surveys

Your chance to book in  
for the *ECOFEST*

Is there a strange  
animal lurking in the  
bush around  
Ravenshoe?

*From the Tree-kangaroo and Mammal Group Inc*

**May Day Weekend**  
**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

