

Welcome to the first edition of the State-wide Survey Newsletter in the Far North. As you know, the Queensland EPA is currently undertaking a heritage survey of the Far North Region (Atherton, Eacham, Caldwell, Johnstone, Douglas, Cook, Herberton and Mareeba Shires). The EPA is keen to keep you up-to-date with the survey team's activities and progress via this newsletter. Please contact us if you have any further queries or information that you think may be useful.

Community engagement meetings

Thank you to all those who attended the community engagement meetings in Atherton, Malanda and Millaa Millaa, and contributed to their success. A mixture of local residents, heritage enthusiasts and local councillors all contributed their local knowledge and experience to help us run the project. The Director of Northern Region EPA, Rob Lawrence, also attended the Atherton and Malanda meetings.

Using a thematic grid to help identify places within each shire proved most effective. Each meeting provided the state-wide survey team with between 10-15 different places for consideration. Although not all of them will appear in our final list of places with state significance for each shire, EPA staff will visit those that meet the criteria for consideration.



The community meeting held at Malanda Hotel, 7 June 2007



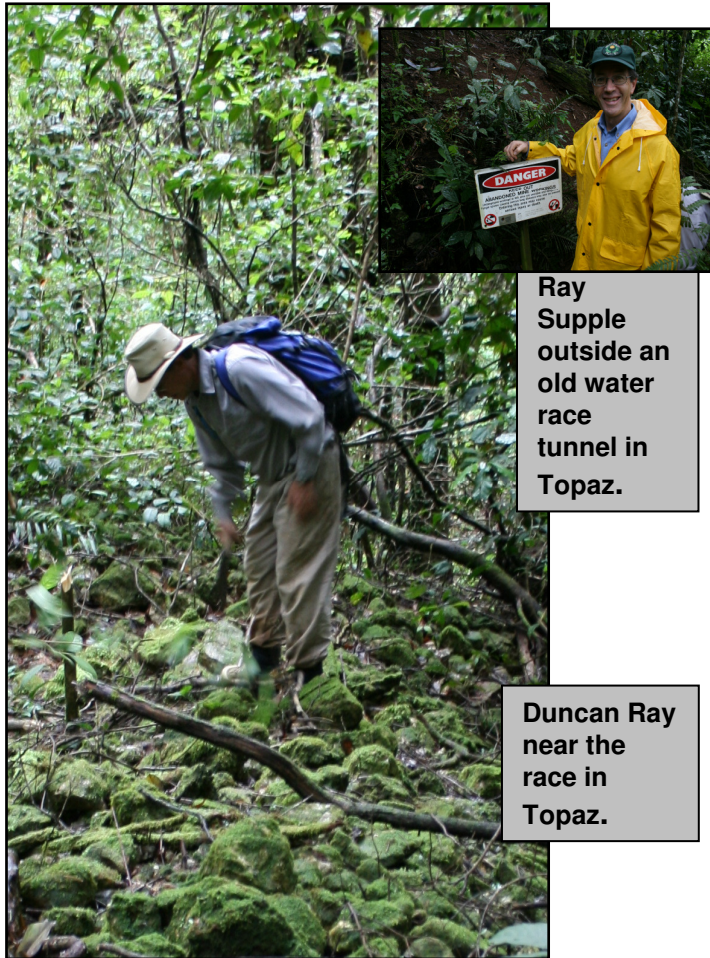
Places being considered in the SWS

The SWS team have more than 40 places to visit, assess and investigate. Not all of these will be deemed of state significance, but most are considered locally significant heritage places. Sites being considered as part of the project include:

- Lake Barrine Tea House, Lake Barrine
- Euramo School & Danbulla QFS Nursery & Arboretum, Danbulla
- Nurses Quarters, Atherton
- Atherton War Cemetery, Atherton
- Kjellberg's Beachview Residence, Millaa Millaa
- Majestic Theatre, Malanda
- Robson's Track, Yungaburra
- Malanda Falls Swimming Pool, Malanda
- The Jungle, Malanda
- Curtin Fig, Yungaburra
- Atherton Courthouse, Atherton
- DPI Research Station and Silos, Kairi
- Tinaroo Dam, Tinaroo
- Barron Valley Hotel, Atherton
- Malanda Hotel, Malanda
- Lady Olive Mine Site, Malanda

Heritage in the field

After the community meetings, Duncan Ray and a few colleagues spent a couple of weekends clearing a path so that they could take Ray Supple and Jo Wills to locate the Lady Olive mine site, water race and tunnels. We are very grateful for their help and enthusiasm.



Ray Supple outside an old water race tunnel in Topaz.

Duncan Ray near the race in Topaz.

Ray and Jo have also visited a number of other sites in both Atherton and Eacham shires since the community meetings. These include the Atherton Hospital where they were shown around the Nurses Quarters by two particularly helpful nurses, the Barron Valley Hotel where Michael Nassar provided them with information and a guided tour, and the Atherton War Cemetery.

Laurance May from EPA at Atherton discussed forestry related sites with Ray and Jo, building on the information provided by Sam Damsie in an earlier interview. Laurence took us to Wongabel State Forest to give us a first hand view of some of the area's important forestry sites.

In brief

Meetings with local councils

Ray Supple and Jo Wills have met with both the Atherton and Eacham Shire Councils to provide an overview of the project and request council support. Like the community meetings, these presentations raised the issue of local and state heritage significance, and how this can be understood

They have also met with council planners and community engagement staff to ensure they have a better understanding of each shire and to work collaboratively with them.

Thematic histories

Thematic histories are being written by a range of professionals for the Far North. These histories will provide background historical information for assessing the significance of places. Themes include: sugar, dairying, agriculture, mining, forestry, Chinese migration, migration, tourism, transport and communication, and post contact history. These histories are well underway.

ICOMOS conference

The SWS team are developing a promotional poster for the Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) conference being held at JCU in 19-21 July.

Cairns Heritage Study

Cairns City Council and the EPA have entered into a partnership to commission a heritage study for the City of Cairns.

What's next

The SWS is moving onto Cardwell and Johnstone Shires. If anyone has any information about significant places in these regions, or knows any individuals with particular expertise in these shires, please contact the SWS team.

Contact the SWS team:

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