

Cycling the world

By Frank Russo

FOUR sets of tyres later, Jules Cooper and Jess Macaulay are completing the last leg of their worldwide bike tour.

The Aussie couple arrived in Innisfail this week to continue with their southbound travels.

Their journey which started in November 2008 in Argentina has seen them travel just under 33,000km, across four continents and 27 countries.

Mr Cooper said they have travelled from South America, Europe, China and Asia.

"It has proven to be a good way of travelling," Mr Cooper said.

"We've cycled across the Andes and the largest salt lake in the world."

Mr Cooper said the other reason for their adventure was to raise money for the Ardoch Youth Foundation for disadvantaged children in Australia.

The couple said they plan to arrive in Melbourne on July 3.

If you would like to donate go to www.julesandjess.com



DETERMINED: Jules Cooper and Jess Macaulay dropped into Innisfail this week. The couple are on the last leg of their world bike tour. *Photo: Frank Russo*

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weather & tides



TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Few Showers: 22 - 28	Few Showers: 22 - 29	Few Showers: 23 - 29	Few Showers: 23 - 29

MOURILYAN HARBOUR

Today: 3:47am 2.61m, 11:11am 1.41m, 4:09pm 1.83m, 9:38pm 1.30m
Tomorrow: 4:44am 2.76m, 11:38am 1.22m, 5:07pm 2.07m, 10:45pm 1.17m
Friday: 5:27am 2.90m, 12:04pm 1.04m, 5:51pm 2.32m, 11:39pm 1.03m
Saturday: 6:04am 2.99m, 12:32pm 0.86m, 6:32pm 2.57m

Turtle death anger

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Mr Epong said the areas where the turtles were taken, including the latest at Double Point, fell within the Mamu Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA), which stretches from Maria Creek to Coopers Point.

The Mandubarra people were traditional owners of the Cowley Beach area and project leaders of the Mamu TUMRA, Mr Epong said.

"It's hard to sleep at night thinking about these things happening," he said.

"For every take that we know of, we can positively say there are about three we don't know of.

"We are furious. This stealing is just plain wrong."

The Mandubarra people have placed a complete ban on the taking of turtle and dugong from their sea country.

"Mandubarra have taken a stance on the protection of turtles," Mr Epong said.

"We're going to start a campaign here. We're the first to campaign for a complete no take of turtle."

The Mandubarra people, as part of their turtle monitoring project, have an educational turtle presentation that has recently been presented to council and at the 2010 Sea Forum in Cairns.

Mr Epong said the illegal hunting of turtles in the Mamu TUMRA area compounded the problems already facing the turtle population at Cowley Beach.

"The sustainable futures people are saying our population is unique to this area," Mr Epong said.

"They hatch here and they stay here. It takes turtles about 35 to 40 years to mature from a hatchling.

"Do we wipe out all our turtles now and just hope they come back in 35-40 years?"

Mr Epong said research undertaken by the Mandubarra people and in the last two years revealed that the turtle population was declining in the TUMRA area.

"We got seven months until the next breeding season," he said.

"If anyone is caught taking turtle from Mamu TUMRA country without applying for a permit, without contacting the traditional owners — they're on their own.

"We will support the authorities to put the offence on them."

Any illegal harvesting can be reported to DERM for investigation on 1300 130 372.

comment

with Bob Katter, MP



THE Tyranny of the Majority, this is what de Tocqueville (on Darwinism) and John Stuart Mill (on Liberty) called the great evil of democracy.

Without North Queensland leading the fight, Brisbane, with the majority of voters and politicians, will decide if and how daylight saving will be introduced.

Political convenience appears to have led the Queensland non-government into using the daylight saving, split time zone debate to distract Mr and Mrs Thong (mum, dad and 1.5 children) from their total incompetence.

Because of this, farmers who work from dawn to dusk will miss out on the news and valued time with their families; parents will struggle to feed, bath and

put to bed their young children in the daylight and oppressive summer heat, and sporting teams will not be able to train in the cool of the night unless of course they are prepared to finish training after 11 pm.

Surely our contribution to the south-east is worth more than this contempt.

North Queensland produces Queensland wealth. We have the coal, the cattle, the cane, the copper and the aluminium, we risk our lives in the mines and on the land and sea to feed the south-east Queensland's greed.

Bligh's non-government has spent \$5000 million upgrading the approaches to Brisbane airport. It takes south-east centric politician Peter Wellington about 50 minutes to drive 80km to the Brisbane airport. To drive a

similar distance from Innisfail to Cairns airport it takes about 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Still this is not enough. Mr Wellington's daylight saving, split time zone proposal treats the north with complete contempt and the Bligh non-government is encouraging this lunacy.

And yet there's more: \$9000 million south-east Queensland water grid, \$1267 million south-east pipelines, \$2000 million Clem Jones Tunnel, the \$82 million Queensland Tennis Centre, \$1880 million Gateway upgrade, and \$4000 Western Corridor transport projects.

Where is our share of this honey pot?

North Queensland is running out of electricity, has bridges falling down, roads that can barely be driven on, bans on water, bans on agriculture and land management, bans on housing developments, and mines that can't be opened.

Successive ALP and LNP governments have closed down the north: 2000 job losses with tobacco, 2000 job losses with timber, 2000 job losses with sugar deregulation, 1000 job losses with dairy deregulation and counting.

Now we have the threat of more than 8000 job losses with banana importation and fishing bans.

Captain Bligh is enforcing the Howard Government runoff restrictions. This, coupled with the now infamous ban on water (in an area with an annual rainfall of over 4m), is tantamount to a phased shut down of the sugar and banana industries and some 50,000 jobs in coastal communities.

If the south-east wants a separate time-zone, they can have it. Just give NQ back the wealth generated by our mining royalties, our farmers, our fishermen, our tourism and our trade and commerce.

Tully left out as Maryborough strikes new deal

By Michael Thompson

MARYBOROUGH Sugar Factory has signed a binding agreement with Bundaberg Sugar to establish a 50/50 joint venture for its Far Northern milling assets.

The announcement is a shock development. The Tully Sugar Mill in March had moved a step closer to acquiring the Bundaberg assets.

Both Bundaberg Sugar and Tully Sugar

had entered into terms and were negotiating final transaction documents.

Tully Sugar chairman Dick Camilleri said he was surprised by the announcement but had no doubts the Tully mill could still develop.

"Some clouds can have silver linings," he said.

"There's other ways of looking at this. If we had merged with Bundaberg we would have had a fair debt to overcome.

"This way there is no debt, and we have more than two million tonnes of cane to crush this season."

MSF said on Monday that on execution of final joint venture documents they would pay Bundaberg Sugar a non-refundable \$20 million to have entitlement to 50 per cent of the joint venture's future sugar production.

The unincorporated joint venture will be formed, compromising the operation of the Mulgrave, South Johnstone, Babinda and

Tableland mills, and associated milling assets including contracts, cane rail networks, easements, leases and licences, with an effective date of December 1.

MSF will also have a call option to acquire Bundaberg's mills and all of the assets Bundaberg is contributing to the joint venture, exercisable from December 1 until February 2012 for additional consideration of \$50 million.

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