

Subdivision rejected

TABLELANDS Regional Council has voted against a recommendation to allow a Tandara block to be subdivided from a single 2ha lot into five 4000sq m blocks.

A report on the application for 36 Equestrian Drive noted it complied with all provisions except for a Tandara-specific minimum size of 1ha, and recommended approval based on a logi-

cal layout, being opposite existing 4000sq m lots and appropriate consolidation within an established rural residential node.

Councillor Chris Adams argued against the approval saying it was an unprecedented breach of size requirements. Cr Adams moved the application not be approved and was seconded by Cr Len Curtis.

Temporary road closure

A REPORT recommending the Tablelands Regional Council agree to the permanent closure of a section of Wayne Bishop Rd near Wondecla Creek has been overturned.

Owners of a nearby lot requested the closure and its amalgamation with the adjacent Herberton

Range National Park, as it did not provide a through road or practical access and there was evidence it was regularly used by off-road motorcycles.

The council voted to approve a temporary closure of the section of road.

TABLELANDER

published Tuesdays

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TABLELAND NEWSPAPERS
 Published by The Cairns Post Pty Ltd ACN 009 655 752 of 22-24 Abbott St, Cairns, and printed by The Cairns Post Pty Ltd ACN 009 655 752 at Dutton St, Cairns. Registered by Print Post No.a PP 403 774

Cyclists' world tour

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COMING home can mean many things. A short walk from a neighbour's house, an easy drive from a restaurant, possibly cycling home from work or school.

If you have been living in London, then most likely a plane trip.

But for Jules Cooper and Jess Macaulay, coming home from London has, so far, meant 16 months on bicycles, and 29,000km of pedalling.

The final few thousand kilometres, from the Tableland along the east coast to Melbourne, is something the pair viewed with obvious delight when they described it to the *Tablelander* as "all down hill from here".

Their odyssey began when they flew in to Argentina in November, 2008, and cycled north along the Andes, then flew back to London to cycle through Europe, along the Alps to Moscow.

Following that the couple flew to China and spent three months cycling across it to Singapore before flying in to Darwin, pushing pedals to Tennant Creek, then Mount Isa, Normanton and on to the Tableland and, eventually, Melbourne.

During their Australian leg the couple are fundraising for Melbourne-based charity, the Ardoch Youth Foundation, which works to improve the educational opportunities and outcomes for disadvantaged children.



Jules Cooper and Jess Macaulay are riding home from London to Melbourne.

Picture: DARRYL DAY

As part of this, they visit local points of interest and put material about them online, for children to follow their adventures.

"Cycling around the world is massive, but if you break it down in to small bits - we do 100km per day - you can do it and we want to show kids struggling with education that, by breaking things down you can get there one piece at a time," Jules said.

Jules was a stockbroker and Jess an osteopath before setting out for

Australia and emphasise they are funding the trip themselves.

"All donations go directly to Ardoch," Jules said.

Despite the vast distances and challenging roads they have covered, they have so far worn out only three sets of tyres. Their fourth is awaiting them in Cairns.

Their adventure can be tracked at www.julesandjess.com and donations made via the website.

House prices head for \$1 million mark

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"To state median house prices would rise to \$1 million, is a very brave move," he said. "It's very difficult to forecast 10 years in advance.

"The best thing you could do is say if property prices grow over the next 10 years like they have in the last 10,

then this will be the case."

And while local real estate agents refused to endorse such massive jumps, they uniformly agreed a doubling in value was reasonable.

LJ Hooker Atherton owner Kevin Ramke stressed factors such as interest rates and business in the area would affect prices.

"I don't think there are going to be \$1 million houses," he said.

"Double will probably be the max."

First National Atherton's Richard Cahill said he was not convinced median prices would triple either.

"Tell them they are dreaming," he said. "We can double

but I can't see we can get to \$1 million".

Ray White Atherton owner-licensee and principal Margaret Black thought the \$1 million price tag was not realistic.

"We are seeing a lot of activity but buyers are taking their time," she said.

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