



MEDIA RELEASE

DAINTREE DISCOVERY CENTRE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

The Daintree Discovery Centre has celebrated its 30th birthday, marking three decades of hard work, innovation, education and environmental guardianship of this unique piece of Australia.

The Centre has been a fun and informative introduction to the Wet Tropics for over 1.8 million visitors, giving them an appreciation of the significance of the world's oldest lowland tropical rainforest and easy access to all its beauty and secrets from the heights of the canopy to the depths of the jungle floor.

Throughout its 30-year history the Centre has personified invention: its creators Ron and Pam Birkett built it from scratch on a site without power, phone service or reticulated water with only dirt road access.

Today it is world-class visitor and interpretive centre, leading the way in eco-tourism and providing an important scientific site for research, including participating in a global carbon flux study.

The centre is now steered by the Aboriginal Development Benefits Trust and general manager Brian Arnold said the 30th anniversary is an important milestone.

“The Centre is the cornerstone of tourism in the Daintree. It provides visitors with the knowledge to make the most of their visit to this very special swathe of lowland tropical forest, which we want to share with as many people as possible.

“The Centre has always been innovative and intrepid, from the building of Australia's first canopy tower in 1998 to its embracing of sustainability and a very soft environmental footprint.

“We still don't have mains power, reticulated water or sewage – that pioneering spirit the Birketts brought to the project makes the Daintree Discovery Centre what it is today – an exceptional and one-of-a-kind tourism experience.”

The Centre has won more than 30 state and federal tourism awards as well as a United Nations award since it opened in 1989 and is a prime mover in a number of environmental campaigns such as increasing cassowary numbers and regeneration of rainforest.

The big 3-0 for the centre was celebrated with visitors, former employees, the ADBT board and local dignitaries.

The Daintree Discovery Centre is on Tulip Oak Road (off Cape Tribulation Road) in Cow Bay. It is open every day except Christmas Day from 8.30am to 5pm.

For more information on Daintree Discovery Centre visit www.discoverthedaintree.com.



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