

CAIRNS TO BE : ECO-CITY

Planning Minister Desley Boyle is encouraging Cairns to be Australia's premier eco-city. Good planning and management is required to cater for the high growth, protect the sensitive tropical ecosystems, and the character of the city. She calls upon all professionals, including Council, and locals to help manifest this vision. Here Here! BEN GUY gets dreamy about what this means for Cairns.

Desley Boyle is an advocate for good urban planning and sustainable design. It is unclear exactly what this means in terms of 'how' to build a villa or design a subdivision, but on the larger scale, the minister for planning (and minister for Environment, and Minister for Women, and member for Cairns!), who you think would have some clout, has strong views on Cairns as a cutting-edge eco-city.

For example, when I asked for a view on the recent proclamations of tunnels to East Trinity, the minister was only too happy to comment:

"Warren Entsch's plan for a tunnel under Trinity Inlet and thousands of homes at East Trinity is a bad dream. East Trinity is part of Cairns' special green backdrop - part of what makes Cairns so unique. The State Government will not be selling East Trinity to the Commonwealth and we certainly will not be approving any plan that destroys Cairns' green backdrop."

One assumes this means that interrupting the green-scape at False Cape or other prominent

headlands, may also be opined as a negative. Certainly millions of tourists meander past this locale every year, on their way to the reef or Green Island, skipping along the ocean surface, and the scenic flight into Cairns, with a reasonably clear demarcation between green and built, might be less so. Is this green-scape the 'character' we desire?

Sticking thousands of people at the edge of cities, or outside the edge, tends to go against most contemporary thinking about sustainable design. That is, to create economic and environmental efficiencies, and cultural vitality, by having lots of people together in 'hubs', city centres and nodes with social streets and places. Think : walkable village with rapid transit to happening creative centres. Think : streets with social interaction and creativity, linear parks, serious bikeways and lanes dripping with counter-cultural expression. The trouble is, our most recent attempt at a hub was the Smithfield Hub. The next one will be at Edmonton, and it is looking better, thanks to a recent urban design workshop inspired by Queensland Transport. Towers are not necessarily the answer to high density, with some of the highest density places (eg Kensington and Chelsea in London) having no towers at all.

But more on East Trinity, the minister states that the future for East Trinity will more likely be as an environment park - for tourism, conservation and research - not residential and commercial development. As a postgraduate JCU planning student, I did consider putting some rhinos there

as a conservation project (there's not many left, in case you don't know), and it did generate some excitement, but alas for now. After this, as an author of the Trinity Inlet Management Plan, on which the local and state governments spent several million dollars writing and administering throughout the 90's, it would seem clear that ecological integrity was the intent. In fact - it said it as the mission statement. The state is sticking to its guns and is looking for the latest and the best science for how to deal with the acid sulfate soil at East Trinity, the minister says, with about half a million dollars for property management and soil remediation.

Ms Boyle does not want to see Cairns become a 'second Gold Coast'. "Far better we should take advantage of our natural assets and make Cairns the premier Eco-city in Australia". However : how might this be achieved? If we don't want to sprawl north and south, consuming quality agricultural land (i.e. for food production), nor east, across the Inlet, nor west, up the hillslopes - then we can only intensify.

And intensify we must. But to intensify without 'Gold Coast-ifying' requires clear, good design guidelines, which we don't have. Urban design shows people 'how' to build. The Cairns Corporate Plan does say that Cairns should have a 'Style Guide', which is nice, but as yet undone. But is adding timber slats and skillion roofs enough? A recipe book of 'how to do appropriate design' would be handy. Developer's like that kind of stuff - providing certainty and no-brainers for fast movement through the planning

MAREEBA RODEO DRIVE IN



FRIDAY 15TH
SATURDAY 16TH (G)

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+ PACIFIER (PG)

GATES OPEN 6.30PM
FILM STARTS 7.30PM

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process. 'How to' guides can give us poor sods, who have to see the outcomes everyday, at least a decent worst case. Recipe books save, and make, money.

'How to' guides are cheap to make, by comparison. The Far North's population increased by 10,686 to 234,849 people in three years (to June 30, 2004), with Cairns topping up by 7503 to 125,132 persons. The building industry is booming and could do with some direction - some masterplans, some visions. A 'how to create a tropical 6-pack' type book could save millions in preventing slum growth (which poor design creates, on a large scale), and actually make millions by attracting residents to enjoy the character of Cairns. Imagine visiting Cairns, like you do a Tuscan village, to enjoy the townscape - as well as the nature! Just imagine...

Go Desley.

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Liquid Architecture : HERE NOW!

After a successful program of sound art and new music making in Melbourne and Brisbane, the Liquid Architecture sound art festival weaves its way to Cairns this week.

The nationally tour starts tonight at The Tanks with Ai Yamamoto, Robin Fox and DJ Olive, starting at 8pm. Tomorrow, on Friday, Lawrence English/Ai Yamamoto and

File Error perform at the same time, same place, with the final concert of this aspect of the busy arts week being Saturday night. The third concert includes Machina Aux Rock, DJ Olive, TBA (Natalie Beridze) and Thomas Brinkmann.

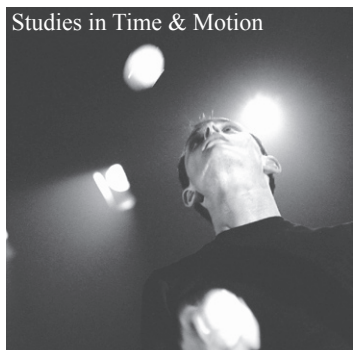
The Cairns cultural hub, the Tanks, don't do things by half, and so Liquid Architecture is but a part of the On Edge contemporary performance and media week. Liquid Architecture does present a swathe of International and National sound artists, including Germany's Thomas Brinkman.

Brinkmann is a former artist of the famous art school in Düsseldorf, but got kicked out because of his radical arguments and modern thinking in terms of art. He started doing scratch loops in the beginning of the 80s because he liked the idea of a step sequencer.


Brinkmann's music is the most stripped down techno you can hear, inspired by the likes of Mike Ink. (Studio1 Records), Richie Hawtin, Panonic, Daniel Bell and favorites of the past like Sakamoto. Mathematically thought out, he developed a precise art of scratching the grooves with a sharp knife-like instrument into the vinyl.

Complex grooves were the result, but were not used by him until 17 years later when he won back his enthusiasm for music through Mike Ink's Studio 1 series. He turned down the speed and came up with a dopplereffect which sounded like dub...he then created his own label called Ernst, which means 'serious' in English.

Thomas Brinkman performs on Sat 16th July, as part of the Liquid Architecture program, at the Tanks Arts Centre. Also performing are tba (Germany), DJ Olive (USA), Machine Aux Rock (Melb) and Urban Monkeys (Cairns). Tickets are \$15 / \$12 concession, and available from Ticketlink, 07-4031-9555, www.ticketlink.com.au



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INVOLVE ME: I UNDERSTAND"
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JUTE

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16 + years - for people with little or no experience in performing or public speaking

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On Edge Week 2005


Tues 12th - Sat 16th July

Thurs 14th July
Sound Art Festival
Liquid Architecture 6

Friday 15th July
Performances & Sound Performance
Time Motion Studies - Circa
Brink - Bonemap
+ Zane Saunders and Ian Connelly, Lawrence English (Bris) & AiYakamoto (Japan), File_Error and The Impurist.

Sat 16th July
Sound Art Festival
Liquid Architecture 6

Full program check ad this issue.
Info: www.bonemap.com
Tickets: Season Ticket \$40 / 30
Ticketlink - 07-4031-9555,
www.ticketlink.com.au



PeaceWeek 2005

Sat 23rd - Sun 31st July

Wed 27th July - Film
Children Of Tibet

Thu 28th & Fri 29th July - Film
Being Human Doco Festival

Sat 30th July - Craft Expo
Pacific Island Dreams

Sun 31st July - Culture Markets
Tanks Peace Week Markets

Sun 31st July - Afro/Latin Party
Weaving Rhythms



Tujiko Noriko (Japan)

Fri 5th August

Tujiko Noriko presents her quirky blend of pop and sound art.

Times: 7.30pm
Tickets: \$15 at door



Finlandia Jazz Trio

Sun 7th August

Three of Finland's finest musicians perform ecstatic chamber jazz with classical overtures.

Times: 8.00pm
Tickets: \$30 / \$25
Ticketlink - 07-4031-9555



NAIDOC Exhibition 2005

Until Sun 31st July

Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts and Crafts from the Tropics.

Times: Mon - Fri
11.00am - 4.00pm





Tanks Arts Centre

July/
Aug
05

Address: 46 Collins Ave, Edge Hill
Info: tanks@cairns.qld.gov.au, 07-4032-2349



music > arts > community > culture >