

Local News

Arakwal launch bush tucker book

A booklet that describes the range and purpose of plants that are used by the Byron Bay Arakwal people was launched last week at the Cape Byron Lighthouse.

Called *Place of Plenty*, the 30 page colour booklet was launched by local Aboriginal Elders Lorna Kelly and Linda Vidler with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) deputy director general Dr Tony Fleming.

The booklet describes the plants, their habitats and uses based on the knowledge and traditions of Byron Bay Arakwal Elders Lorna Kelly, Dulcie Nicholls and Linda Vidler. Chairperson of the Arakwal National Park Management Committee, Yvonne Stewart, said the booklet was interwoven with historical accounts to provide an insight into the past as well as documenting the continuing use of the plants that are an important part of Aboriginal culture.

'This booklet documents how our Elders use the abundant plant resources of our Country', said Mrs Stewart. 'It is important to teach our young people about culturally important plant species and will be of interest to the wider community.'

'For example, the local



The crowd assembles at the Cape for the Arakwal book launch. Photo Dale Roberts

Banksia, known as Honey-suckle to us, are used in many different ways by our Elders and their families. The flowers provide nectar that is used as a sweet treat on bread. The bloom is then dried to provide a hair comb. The dry cones or nobbies as we call them are used as fuel for the campfire.'

Dr Fleming said the booklet was produced as part of a collaborative project between NPWS and the Arakwal Aboriginal Corporation.

'This project looked at

plants that are culturally important to the Arakwal people and how parks and reserves that are part of their Country can be managed to continue to provide for their sustainable use. This is joint management in action and is a positive step forward on the path to reconciliation,' he said.

'This type of wild resource use by the traditional owners will be an important part of the draft plan of management for Arakwal National Park currently being prepared.'

The booklet was produced

with funding from the NSW Biodiversity Strategy. EPM Consulting was engaged to produce the booklet in association with other consultants such as the renowned Australian naturalist and author Tim Low.

The *Place of Plenty* booklet is available for sale at the Cape Byron Lighthouse shop for \$17.50.

Part of the proceeds raised will contribute towards cultural education and renewal programs by the Arakwal people.

New employment opportunities available at Island Quarry

SCENE – the Sustainable Communities Employment Network Enterprise – is a Community Employment initiative developed by Island Quarry. SCENE is linking volunteers and the unemployed with community and arts organisations and ecologically sustainable industries and businesses to provide flexible training and

work experience opportunities from bush regeneration to web design.

Funded by the Department of Family and Community Services [FACS] under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, IQ SCENE is an innovative pilot providing experience in community development, community employment, and

management of self-employment prospects.

The IQ SCENE is a great opportunity for participants in Work for the Dole and Mutual Contribution programs to be involved in the creation of the Island Quarry Arts and Eco Centre.

New projects starting mid February include organic community market gardens

and irrigation. There are 10-15 positions available for Work for the Dole, Centrelink Approved Activity, etc. You can also do your community service hours at IQ and volunteers/mentors are welcome to join in.

For more information contact Shane Rennie on 0414 779 881, 6685 9999 or visit www.IQ.org.au.

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