

Heritage in the field

After the community meetings, Duncan Ray and a few colleagues spent a couple of weekends clearing a path so that they could take Ray Supple and Jo Wills to locate the Lady Olive mine site, water race and tunnels. We are very grateful for their help and enthusiasm.



Ray Supple outside an old water race tunnel in Topaz.

Duncan Ray near the race in Topaz.

Ray and Jo have also visited a number of other sites in both Atherton and Eacham shires since the community meetings. These include the Atherton Hospital where they were shown around the Nurses Quarters by two particularly helpful nurses, the Barron Valley Hotel where Michael Nassar provided them with information and a guided tour, and the Atherton War Cemetery.

Laurance May from EPA at Atherton discussed forestry related sites with Ray and Jo, building on the information provided by Sam Damsie in an earlier interview. Laurance took us to Wongabel State Forest to give us a first hand view of some of the area's important forestry sites.

Contact the SWS team:

Ray Supple - ph: 4046 6732; email: ray.supple@epa.qld.gov.au;

Jo Wills - ph: 40466684; email: jo.wills@epa.qld.gov.au

In brief

Meetings with local councils

Ray Supple and Jo Wills have met with both the Atherton and Eacham Shire Councils to provide an overview of the project and request council support. Like the community meetings, these presentations raised the issue of local and state heritage significance, and how this can be understood

They have also met with council planners and community engagement staff to ensure they have a better understanding of each shire and to work collaboratively with them.

Thematic histories

Thematic histories are being written by a range of professionals for the Far North. These histories will provide background historical information for assessing the significance of places. Themes include: sugar, dairying, agriculture, mining, forestry, Chinese migration, migration, tourism, transport and communication, and post contact history. These histories are well underway.

ICOMOS conference

The SWS team are developing a promotional poster for the Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) conference being held at JCU in 19-21 July.

Cairns Heritage Study

Cairns City Council and the EPA have entered into a partnership to commission a heritage study for the City of Cairns.

What's next

The SWS is moving onto Cardwell and Johnstone Shires. If anyone has any information about significant places in these regions, or knows any individuals with particular expertise in these shires, please contact the SWS team.

