

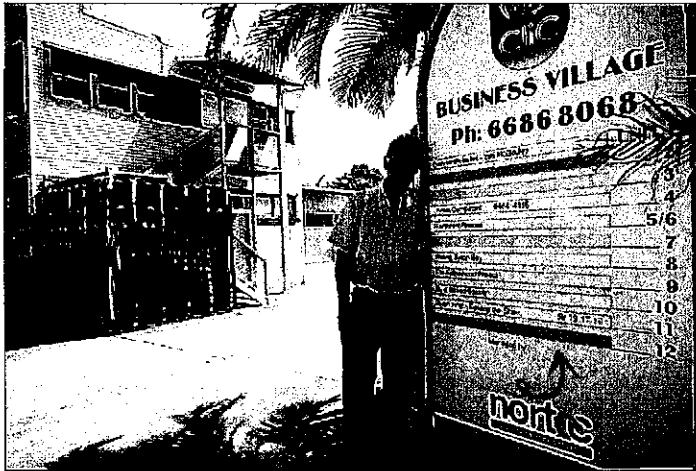
Further revamp for business village

Story & photo Lou Beaumont

Phase three of the development of the CLIC Business Village in Mullumbimby is underway. The development has been undertaken and sustained by Byron Regional Community College (BRCC, otherwise known as ACE Byron) and Nortec Employment and Training Ltd with the aid of Federal Government grants (part of the Education Rescue Package) and fire safety contributions from Byron Shire Council. A new cash injection from Council will assist this most recent phase.

Paul Jameson, Treasurer of CLIC and Business Incubator Manager for Nortec, told *The Echo*, 'We took over a semi derelict building several years ago and to date the community has indirectly contributed two million dollars to its improvements. Council have now answered our request for a donation. They have given us \$20,000 which is fantastic.'

'We are very happy. We really do see this project as a partnership between Nortec, BRCC and our Council so it is great that Council sees it that way too. Everyone involved is a not-for-profit organisation and



CLIC treasurer Paul Jameson at the entrance to the Mullumbimby business village.

it really is a win-win situation.' Nortec is now in the seventh year of a twenty year lease of the Council-owned building. The development of the site began with the building of the business incubators, and phase two saw the refurbishment of those offices.

This new development stage sees the conversion of the big shed on site into a flexible classroom and exhibition

space, asbestos removal, and roof work. All building work is being conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner, with improvements being added that make the buildings more energy efficient.

Jameson said, 'ACE Byron has moved out temporarily while the renovations take place in their building and the shed behind them. We will be redoing the roof of the ACE

building, replacing the rotten windows, removing asbestos and installing energy saving devices inside and outside the two buildings, such as awnings. Solar panels are also being installed.'

Currently, and as building continues, ACE Byron will be located on the corner of Burringbar and Dalley Streets (diagonally opposite the post office).

Climate Fair calls on community to rally for change

The 350 Climate Fair scheduled for Saturday October 24 at Missingham Park, Ballina, 'is shaping up to be a great event - both informative and fun,' say organisers. It is open to young and old starting at 10am and running through to 2pm.

Presenters will cover a range of topics from backyard food growing to climate change and impacts on coastal communities. There will be stalls showcasing 'green living' and steps all of us can take.

The kids' 'local sustainable solutions' art competition will

be displayed and winners announced. You can bring your unwanted books and swap them at the Book Exchange. You can go in a range of draws to win gifts. The full program is listed at www.nccag.org/350event.

The 350 human formation at 12 noon will be broadcast live at www.beyond-oil.com/ events. If you can't make it on the day you can give your support by checking it out online.

'As a community we have the capacity to make change,' said Gayle Russell from North

Coast Climate Action Group. 'We've met great challenges in the past, the Great Depression and World War II were huge world-changing events. We responded to these challenges. We can do it again.'

'With more than 140 nations and more than 2,000 rallies scheduled worldwide the event is aimed to convey a strong message to our leaders. The latest science makes the message clear: we can't tackle global warming unless we get our atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide down

below 350 parts per million.

'This sounds challenging, but it need not be. What it means is that we need to really speed up our transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and get dead-serious about energy efficiency. This won't happen fast enough unless we come together to make some noise for change.'

A shuttle bus will run from Byron Shire to Ballina for the event with a ticket price of \$5 return. Phone Peter Wadams on 6680 5007 for details of pick-up times and locations.

Grail Quest

Introduction to Grail Quest (an 8-week course) which is the opening term of the two year part time foundation course.

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