Ride for the Rainforest Sri Lanka Cycle Challenge - Part 2

The outdoor lifestyle specialists

Proudly supporting Rainforest Rescue's Plant a Rainforest Project in Sri Lanka



Do you have the perfect outdoor living area?

We have the perfect solution!

Call today for a free design consultation...

Call 6687 2881 www.trueline.net.au

Licence # 207 223 C



organic passion Where love \S food meet..... Call 02 66 844 559 or 0422 383 151

Supporting Sustainable Events in the Byron Shire.

info@organicpassioncatering.com www.organicpassioncatering.com





'Wolf Pack' tackles Satan's Steps and cycles on to success

Mist slowly rose, whiting out the sky around us. The cliff-face beside us dropped away to meet terraced tea plantations below. A rocky path of mini-boulders and broken bricks stretched out in front of us. We were at the gates of hell, Satan's Steps beckoned. We set off, jackhammering our bikes down the mountain, ricocheting off rocks and a road-in-ruin. Our brakes burned as we tried to slow our descent. Each jolt jarred our wrists and elbows, every rock knocked our knees.

The path levelled out and

soon our descent became a climb. A mountain loomed up ahead. A criss-cross of roads led up its face like a zipper to a small pass between two peaks. Up we climbed, above the mist, ever present of the cliff's edge but a metre away. The constant vibration of rubber on rubble rode our bodies. Back and forth we crossed the mountain, up, up, and finally through the mountain pass. It was all down hill from here but it was also late. Our busted bikes didn't have lights. There were no street lights, no moon light. We had a mountain to get to the bottom of in a hurry otherwise we'd have to find our way down in the dark. Our fate had been decided, we'd have to 'gun' it.

"Yah!" we shouted and charged down the mountain path, gripping our galloping steeds of steel. We loosened our death grip on our brakes and allowed our bikes to bite. The jackhammer rhythm of machine against mountain intensified. We gritted our teeth, steadied ourselves in the saddle and back and forth we swooped down the mountain. Darker still it became. We reached a cement path and faster we flew. The cement path



Ride for the Rainforest team plant trees with local farmers

became sealed road and faster again we went, tearing through a small village. A child played with a cricket bat carved from a palm frond, an old woman slapped her washing against a rock in the river, but all they saw of us was a blur.

Just on nightfall we reached the main road and had 10 kilometres to go before reaching the camp site. Cars, buses, trucks and tuk-tuks lit our way as we flew along the road. We weaved past slow-moving traffic, effortlessly climbed up hills and shot down the other side. Wet, tired, sore, hungry, and absolutely exhilarated, we finally made camp. We were alive, we had done it. We had conquered Satan's Steps and lived to tell the tale. A fraternal bond that could never be broken had been formed. We had entered a wild realm borne of steel and stone and had emerged half-beast, half-machine. The 'Wolf Pack'was born...

The Sri Lanka story doesn't end there. This amazing journey saw Krista Bernard, Daniel Coward, Ebony Lowe, Colin and Leree Roden, Clint and Negin

Maddock, Angela Standley and me physically and emotionally challenged as we cycled 300 kilometres from Kandy in the middle of Sri Lanka to Galle in the south west.

We embarked on this adventure to raise funds for and awareness of Rainforest Rescue's Plant a Rainforest Project in Sri Lanka. We rode through tropical paradise, trekked through rainforests, we planted a tree, we got lost in a tea plantation, we saw lots of frogs, lizards and birds, we

spoke and laughed and head waggled with the people, we ate food made from the rainforest, we got tipsy on toddy, and jacked-up on jaggery, Ebony twisted her ankle and had it attended to by a medicine man. So much happened, it's too much to tell week after week in the *Echo*, why not watch the movie instead...

The adventure continues Thursday, 14 April at 7pm in Rooms 2 & 3, Byron Region Community College with the screening of Wolf Pack in Sri Lanka, a mini-



Excited school children cheer on the cyclists





The all-new Apple TV.

The sleek new Apple TV is small in size but big on entertainment. Rent thousands of HD movies. And stream them instantly to your HDTV.



Behind Byron Region Community College Corner of Gordon & Burringbar Streets Mullumbimby



(02) 66 191 777

info@mullummac.com www.mullummac.com

16 April 5, 2011 The Byron Shire Echo www.echo.net.au

Don't forget to come to the movie night - Thurs 14 April 7pm

Continued...

doco of our adventure in Sri Lanka, followed by David Suzuki's final movie Force of Nature. Tickets are \$15 with all proceeds from the event supporting Rainforest Rescue's Plant a Rainforest Project in Sri Lanka. A raffle draw will also be held on the night with winners receiving prizes generously donated by the businesses at the bottom right of this page.

Organic Passion Catering will be selling food on the night with a delicious Sri Lankan inspired, vegetarian menu, which includes Pumpkin Curry with Rice, Samosas with Peanut Sauce, and Sweet Corn Fritters with Sweet Chilli Sauce. Please come and enjoy some great food and film and support a worthy cause.

Story supplied by Obi McDonald-Saint. Photography courtesy Krista Bernard, and Colin and Leree Roden.

Proudly supporting





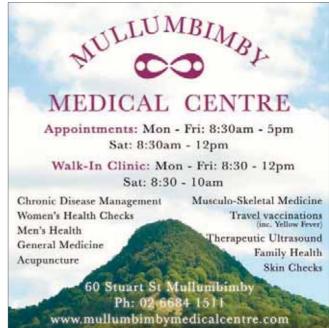




The 'Wolf Pack' arrives in Galle, final destination of the cycle challenge in Sri Lanka



Tea picker collects new growth tea leaves





Rainforest researcher tames tree snake



Angela marvels at endemic lizard species



Burringbar St Mullumbimby

www.yogapeace.com.au

MOVIE NIGHT... \$15 Thursday, 14 April @ 7pm

Featuring

- » Wolf Pack in Sri Lanka
- » David Suzuki's Force of Nature

Byron Region Community College Corner of Burringbar & Gordon Streets Mullumbimby

Raffles prizes & delicious vegetarian food by Organic Passion Catering





Raffle prizes donated by:



4 / 4 | Burringbar Street Mullumbimby NSW 2482 PHONE (02) 6684 2400



6684 1660 28 Burringbar St Mullumbimby



Ph: 6684 1007 97 Stuart St







Tel 02 6684 3343 22 Burringbar St Mullumbimby



Cafe & Restaurant (02) 6684 2220 (02) 6684 2227



(02) 6684 6644 24 Burringbar St Mullumbimby Easter sale soon...



Restaurant Bar & Tapas Shop 2 Fingal Street Brunswick Heads

Tel: (02) 6685 1688