

# JEWEL CAVE PRESERVATION AND RE-DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

– Jayme Hatcher



The Jewel Cave Preservation and Re-development Project is progressing well as can be seen from images on this page. The building has been constructed quite quickly with CivilCon, our builders, in full swing. It is great to see the building slowly take shape and the conceptual design by Willcox Architects becoming a reality after twenty years in the making. We are very grateful to so many sponsors who have come onboard with grants in supporting this unique project (Lottery West, Royalties for Regions, Envirofund, Regional Infrastructure Funding Program, South-West Development Commission, Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and TQUAL).



We also have the full support of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council with a working party of five families visiting Jewel cave in June 2009 with anthropologist Guy Wright and archaeologist Joe Dortch, who completed a heritage survey. It was a very positive day, with the people involved being very supportive of the development. They were happy for us to proceed.

In total, the project directly and indirectly will see the creation of approximately fifty jobs, not including those employed during the construction phase. It will also ensure the preservation of positions within the AMRTA and employment in the tourism-related industries in the Augusta region.

The purpose of the project is to restore the natural vegetation within the Jewel Cave precinct to allow natural infiltration of water into the karst system. This will encourage increased cave decoration activity within the cave, assist in recharging the water table and help preserve threatened local ecological communities.

We will be removing all of the existing infrastructure and car park – which is presently over Jewel Cave – and building the new visitor centre off the cave.

