

Economy's doing nicely

LIFE in the tropics has rarely been better with record employment, a strong outlook for tourism and rising confidence among Cairns business.

Unemployment is below 5 per cent and the job advertisement trend in *The Cairns Post* has just increased for the 17th consecutive month.

And according to the latest Herron Todd White CairnsWatch report, the Cairns and Far Northern economy will continue to bubble along nicely with

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projections of more of the same well into next year.

The CairnsWatch outlook paralleled the latest PricewaterhouseCoopers business confidence index for Cairns, which showed a rise of three points to 7.407, a massive spike on the 1.25 level in the same quarter last year.

"Consumer demand is expected to improve on the September result, although much of this demand will be absorbed in mopping up excess capacity," PWC partner Trevor Mahoney said.

HTW research director Rick Carr agreed the outlook was buoyant.

While not at the boom levels of 2004/05, the tourism market is still rated as "strong" as airport passenger numbers continue to trend upward and accommodation occupancy stays

close to a decade-long high. The tourism market has gone from rapid boil to nicely simmering," Mr Carr said.

"And the latest ABS figures show the region's unemployment trend continuing to head sharply down.

"There was a big spike in the ABS employment figures for the Cairns region with 124,000 people now employed and that completely surpasses the previous trend record of 121,000 set in mid 2004."

Sneak preview

THE business community can get a sneak preview of Westpac's Regional Economic Report at a lunch on November 17. Tickets cost \$55. To book phone Jennifer Thompson on 4034 2244.

COMMODITIES

FINAL prices for commodities at the close of trading yesterday:

GOLD: The price ex Perth Mint yesterday was \$A811.50 per ounce, equivalent to \$A26.09 per gram.

SILVER: The base selling price ex Perth mint yesterday was \$A16.49 per ounce.

SUGAR: The New York price yesterday was US11.75c per pound.

COPPER: The Comex price yesterday was US333.70c per pound.

OIL: The London price yesterday was \$US60.11 per barrel.

All prices courtesy of ABN AMRO Morgans Ltd in Cairns phone 4052 9222.



Tasty coffee: Linda and Nat Jaques with their medals from the national roasting competition.

Mareeba couple roast opposition

MAREEBA'S Nat and Linda Jaques roasted the competition at a national coffee competition last week.

Their Jaques Australian Coffee company scooped the gold medal at the Golden Bean Roaster Competition, beating 240 other contestants.

They also won a silver and bronze medal in separate categories.

"We grow, harvest, wet and dry process the beans right through to roasting and packing," Linda said.

"So being able to control the whole process gives us the advantage to maintain quality control from the coffee cherries on the trees to the cup.

"The award is recognition that Jaques Australian Coffee is truly world class."

Linda said the Mareeba coffee plantation had expanded to become a tourist attraction.

Demand for their coffee is growing internationally through the website at www.jaques-coffee.com.

ASX INDEX

STOCK	Nov 7	+/-VAR
All Ordinaries	5456.7	+46.6
All Ords Gold	4579.5	+19.7
Metals & Mining	3720.7	+71.7
S&P/ASX 20	2966.3	+27.2
S&P/ASX 50	5370.6	+48.3
S&P/ASX100	4447.3	+39.1
S&P/ASX200	5491.6	+47.5
S&P/ASX300	5496.2	+46.7
S&P/ASXMidCap50	5459.0	+41.6
Small Ords	3227.7	+19.6
CnsmrDiscr(GIC)	2603.0	+12.1
CnsmrStapl(GIC)	6838.7	-11.0
Energy(GIC)	11802	+151.7
Financials(GIC)	6581.0	+50.4
FinxPropTr(GIC)	6809.1	+50.2
HealthCare(GIC)	7105.5	+72.3
Industrial(GIC)	5823.6	+52.0
Info Tech(GIC)	498.5	+4.5
Materials(GIC)	11044	+174.1
PropertyTr(GIC)	2221.3	+19.2
TelService(GIC)	1381.8	-2.1
Utilities(GIC)	6418.4	-10.1

ALL ORDINARIES

2006 low	Jan. 3	4721.1
2006 high	Nov 7	5456.7
Peak	07/11/06	5456.7

EXCHANGE RATES

\$A1eq:	BUY	SELL
Bahrain Dinars	0.2937	0.2861
Canadian \$	0.8794	0.8650
CFP Francs	73.9100	68.5800
Cyprus £	0.3579	0.3553
Danish Kroner	4.5667	4.4276
Euro	0.6123	0.5965
Fiji \$	1.3581	1.2807
Hong Kong \$s	6.0565	5.9250
Indian Rupees	35.3980	32.7690
Japanese Yen	92.1100	89.7400
Kenyan Shilling	58.5000	51.0500
Kuwaiti Dinars	0.2272	0.2149
Maltese Lira	0.2702	0.2434
NZ \$	1.1615	1.1337
Norwegian Krone	5.0646	4.9153
PNG Kina	2.4971	1.9638
Pakistani Rupees	48.2400	35.8170
Philippine Pesos	39.2880	36.1980
S. Arabian Riyals	2.9198	2.8524
Singapore \$	1.2199	1.1873
Solomon Is. \$	6.1258	4.8539
Sri Lanka Rupees	84.0200	76.9600
Sth African Rand	5.7337	5.5402
Swedish Krona	5.6170	5.4564
Swiss Francs	0.9794	0.9545
Thai Bahts	28.7080	26.5960
UAE Dirhams	2.8614	2.7876
UK £	0.4095	0.4016
US \$	0.7741	0.7659
W. Samoa Tala	2.2118	1.9147

Published exchange rates vary from day to day and anyone wishing to convert foreign currency should check with their bank for the latest rate. The rates above are opening rates only and may vary across the counter during the day.

TOURISM STOCKS

COMPANY NAME	LAST SALE	MOVE	VOL.
AllBrands	.275	+01	500
ABC Learn	6.94	+12	10720
ABC Learn cvprf	7.06	-	-
Ainsworth	.35	-03	9627
Ainsworth unscn	.855	-01	270
Aircrusin	.07	-	-
Aristocr	14.92	+07	5624
CFKChild	.36	-02	982
Centrebet	1.75	-	427
Cypress	.23	-	-
CapIntell	.074	-01	67
CapIntell opt09	-	-	-
Celtex	.12	-	174
Dominos	3.10	-05	1979
Eumundi	.26	-01	50
Ebet Ltd	.175	-01	738
Ebet Ltd cvn06	25.21	-	-
Easycall	.071	-	-
FlightCtr	16.68	+01	2524
IAllSport	.28	-	103
IBTEducat	1.90	+01	100
Invocare	5.20	+12	862
Jetset	1.38	+02	88
KipMcGrat	.95	-	925
Lasseters	.045	-	-
MacroCorp	.036	-	-
Morn Star	.075	-	1900
Newhaven	1.57	-	-
NatLeiGam	.415	-01	250
Norwood	.016	-	-
Norwood opt08	.001	-	-
OceanCap	.425	-	-
PlanetPlt	.14	-	-
Qld T&I	.64	-	-
ReefCsino units	3.89	-01	67
RtlFood	.94	-03	1019
SAquarium	5.40	+03	90
StadiumAu stpld	.10	-	-
Sundowner	.215	-	-
S8 Ltd	4.68	+01	1507
S8 Ltd usn09	106.20	-	3
S8 Ltd opt07	3.20	+05	633
SkyCitAce aces	103.80	+10	12
SkyCity	4.43	-	195
Tabcorp	16.61	+18	7723
Tranmetro	.41	-	-
TattsLtd	3.63	-	19715
TravelCom	.32	-01	700
Viagold	1.60	-	-
Webjet	.39	-	13346

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From Page 23

"I didn't encounter any negative feedback about the ad and I think it delivered a message that was very enticing."

The Australian Coffee Centre's Ian MacLaughlin, who won the award for best new tourism development, was pleas-

antly surprised by the campaign.

"Like a lot of people on the night I was quite prepared to be disappointed but I think the ad's got a lot of mileage and it's a building block that we can all work and build on."

Ms Keech said the

ad would be tested in consumer focus groups before being rolled out early next year.

TTNQ chief executive Rob Giason said support materials and other opportunities for operators to embrace the regional branding will begin early next year.

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* Roy Morgan June 2006 (m - s average)

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Cairns Post
Weekend Post



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