



Save the Nature of the Kimberley

environs
KIMBERLEY
INC

PO Box 2281 BROOME WA 6725

Phone: 08 91921922

Fax: 08 91925538

Email: envrkimb@broome.wt.com.au

Web: www.environskimberley.org.au

Media Release

4th December, 2008

EK Leadership Changes Hands

After more than a decade at the helm, EK's Director Maria Mann will step down. She will be replaced by Martin Pritchard who hails from Busselton in the south-west of W.A.

"It's been a fantastic journey, from the heady early days when we had no office and every one of us was a volunteer, to the present, when we boast not one but two (small) offices and four paid staff members," Ms Mann said.

"EK was founded to protect the Fitzroy River from damming and the west Kimberley from broadscale landclearing, irrigated agriculture and GM cotton. Thanks largely to our efforts, and those of our partners and associates, the Fitzroy still flows free," she said.

Ms Mann started her involvement with EK as committee secretary, graduating to Coordinator and then Director as the organization secured funding and gained prominence.

"I'm really looking forward to working in one of the world's most incredible natural areas that has a wealth of cultural heritage and continuing the work of EK in protecting the Kimberley," Mr Pritchard said.

"I have been working in natural resource management down south, mainly on protecting and rehabilitating waterways and what little remains of the habitat of threatened fauna. The Kimberley will be a totally new experience for me and I believe it's really important that the environmental tragedies of the south are not repeated in the north," he said.

"Leaving the position won't be easy, especially with the Kimberley under such intense pressure just now from industrialization, but I guess there's never a perfect time to go. It's good to know EK is in good hands though and I wish Martin and the EK team all the best as they continue to work towards protecting the Kimberley environment," Ms Mann said.

"It's also great to know that thanks to our lobbying efforts the Federal government is looking favorably at heritage listing for a large part of the region.

"I don't know what I'll be working at next, but I am looking forward to taking a break and doing a bit of traveling while I decide."

"Taking over from Maria will be a huge challenge given the amazing work she has done for EK and the Kimberley and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors," Mr Pritchard said.

Media contacts: Maria Mann Ph: 0427 935052; Martin Pritchard Ph: 0427 548075.