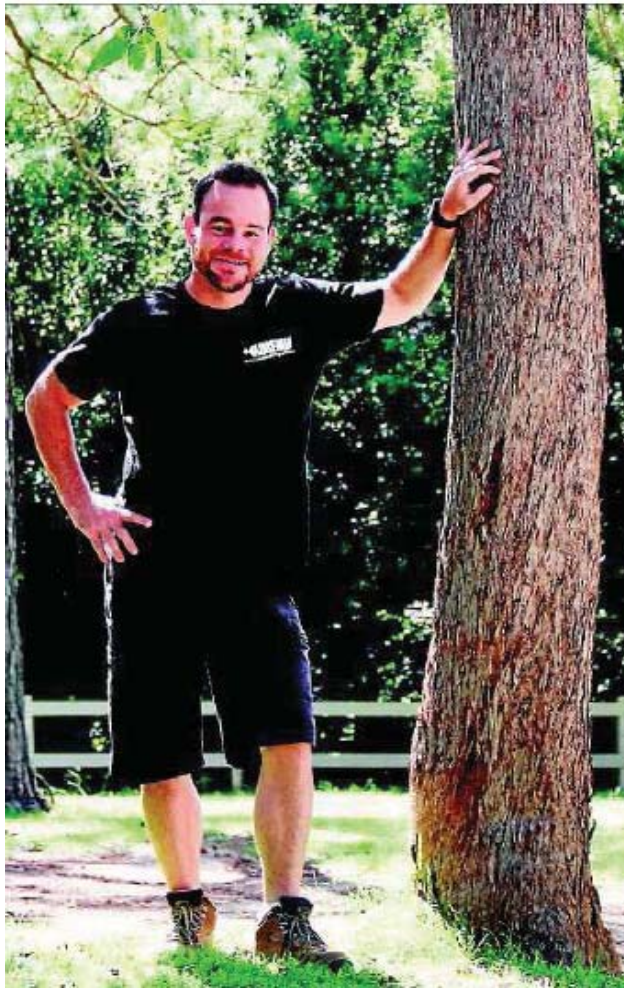




Coffee king full of beans for the bush

Source: Sun Herald
Date: 21 March 2010



Wealthy businessmen Kenton Campbell is the first to admit he has a lot to learn about the environment but he is experienced in giving money away to help the cause.

Mr Campbell, of Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast, owns 41 Zarraffa's Coffee outlets in the Greater Brisbane area but spends only half his time building up the business.

The other half he spends researching conservation issues trying to help environmental experts. He knows his outlets' takeaway paper cups are not environmentally friendly and is working on ways to encourage people to recycle them. "I realised making lots of money didn't make me happy so I starting considering ways I could give back to society but I wanted to do something more than simply write cheques for people." he said.

He met and was impressed by Steve Irwin, who was killed in 2006 after being pierced in the chest by a stingray bard while filming on the Great Barrier Reef. Steve Irwin's father Bob, is now a mentor.



"When I first met Bob I thought Australia had a fairly good track record on native animals but he told me different." He said. Mr Irwin informed him Australia had the worst record for extinct and endangered species of any developed nation in the world.

Last week, Mr Irwin called him about wombats in South Australia buried alive by farmers bulldozing their land. "Bon needed to get there in a hurry to try and save them so we organised for him to fly there. The business is a conduit to conservation: some things I can make happen quickly but others will take years."

Mr Campbell, whose life will feature on the *ABC's Australian Story* tomorrow night, moved to Australia from the United States "with very little money" when he was 25. He's spends hundreds and thousands of dollars and much time help protect endangered and threatened species.

He sponsored a three-year koala research project at Ironbark Station in Queensland's South Burnett region and supports a breeding program for endangered turtles on the Mary River, south of Gympie.

He and his company's software experts are now spending \$80,000 to develop a koala collar for scientists to track the animals to control rising mortality rates. His wife, Rachel supports him and the eldest of their three sons, Vaughan, 10, told him he was doing a "great" job.

Australian Story airs at 8pm tomorrow on ABC1.