

COMMUNITY SPIRIT ON THE COAST

Training organisation has unique team-building approach

Couple on track to better world

By CANDICE HOLZNAGEL

WHO said business had to be all work and no play?

It certainly wasn't husband and wife team Mark and Jeanette Jones.

The pair has spent 10 years building up their Mooloolah consultancy and training organisation, TRAC Consulting.

Not only do they keep their clients smiling but also promote community spirit.

"Anyone can do normal boring seminars but we're not boring people," Mrs Jones said.

"We're out of the box well and truly. It's hugely rewarding."

Put 25 business professionals in a Bali orphanage and you've got an example of the Jones' team-building projects.

"Flight Centre and Infinity Holidays (employees) thought they were going on a traditional leadership team-building event," Mr Jones said.

"They do so many conferences and wanted us to come up with a team-building activity that involved a project that was giving back to the community.

"They went into it thinking they were staying in a



posh five-star resort and having all the trappings of a team-building junket but didn't realise that each day we would take them into this orphanage environment."

The group did a "backyard blitz" for three days and transformed 300sq m of rubble at the Lion King Orphanage into a landscaped playground.

The Jones' community projects don't end there.

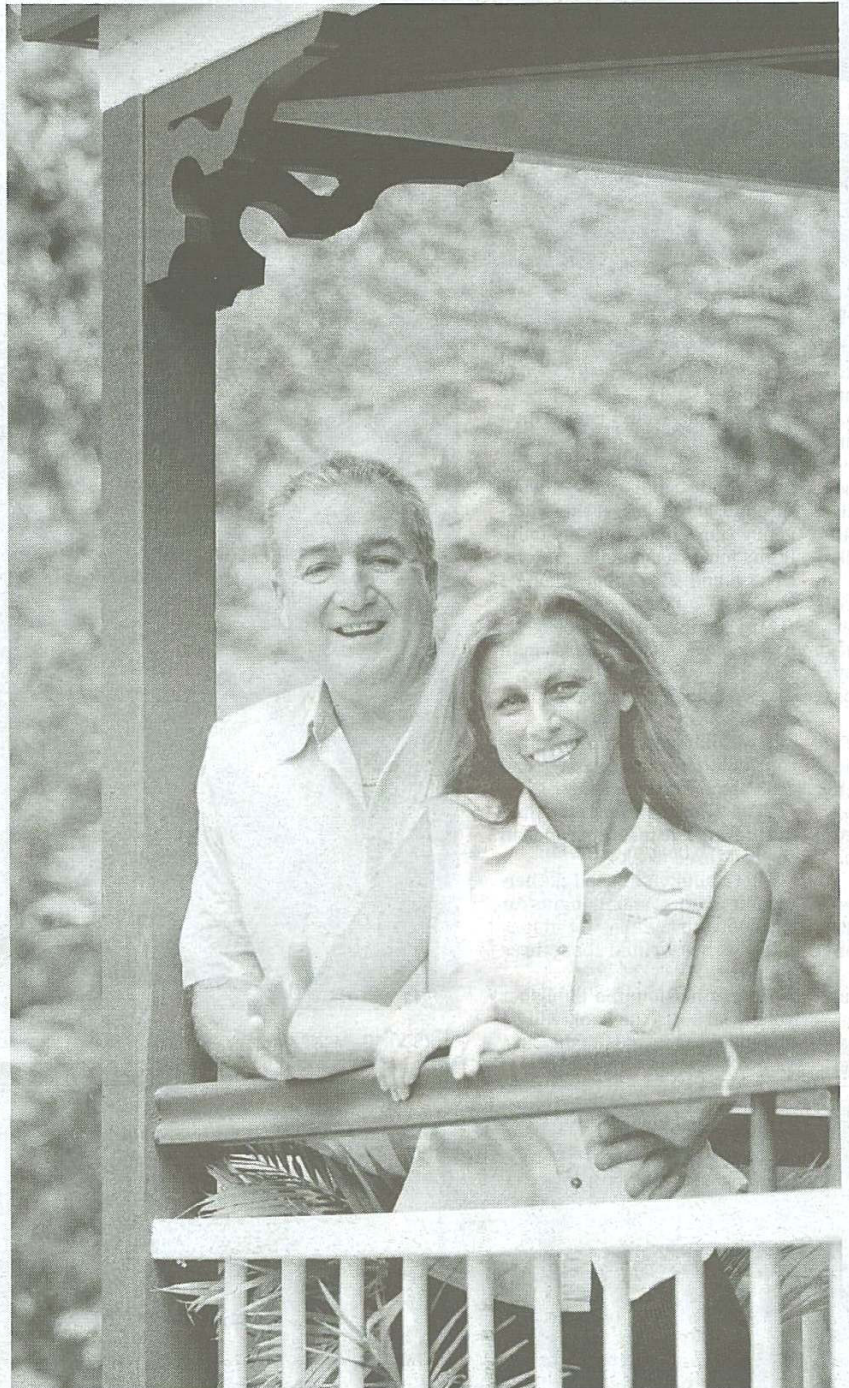
Their ongoing "Bikes for Tykes", created as a community benefit program, involves participants in a treasure hunt for bicycle parts.

The bicycles are constructed as a team-building exercise and then given to children.

"These people come from impoverished backgrounds or are new refugees into the country," Mr Jones said.

Recently the Jones' have helped victims of Innisfail's Cyclone Larry through mentoring and developing new business plans for tourism operators.

But the couple has even bigger plans for the Sun-



LENDING A HAND: Mark and Jeanette Jones enjoy the help they give others through their consultancy and training organisation.

PHOTO: WARREN LYNAM/160593B

shine Coast community.

Their goal for 2007 is to host a major mentoring program for businesses.

"It would be great to pull together and say let's run a

huge training event that delivers extraordinary business and community outcomes," Mrs Jones said.

"If the greatest outcome was for a selected charity to

benefit beyond its own capacities and we facilitate it as a regional project, how great would that be?"

To find out more log on to www.tracc.com.au.