

Introduction

My name is Kaye McKinnon. I am Public Relations Manager for the Ivory's Rock Foundation (IRF). The foundation oversees a beautiful, rural conference facility situated Mt Flinders Peak Crossing in South East Queensland (IRF lawyer, Dr Matthew Turnour, Jeffrey and Jan were witnesses at the public hearing, yesterday). Of great concern to us is that the proposed inland freight rail line (Calvert-Kagaru section) at its closest point, comes within 500 metres of the property. The impact of the construction phase and subsequent noise of 40-freight trains every 24 hours will seriously compromise the future viability of the venue.

Being here today I represent thousands of people from all around the world and across Australia, who have invested in making the place what it is today, simply magnificent. There is a passion behind this place which makes it unique. People have donated time or invested financially to make it possible for the international centre to become a world-class amenity dedicated to personal peace and nature. Prem Rawat, author and international peace ambassador is invited to speak on a regular basis on the topics of personal peace and wellbeing. His message appeals to people from all walks of life regardless of their religious or cultural backgrounds.

History

I was very fortunate to be involved right from the outset when the property was first purchased back in 1992. The location was chosen because of its potential, its tranquillity, abundance of wildlife and with beautiful mountain backdrop (Ivory's Rock and Mt Flinders Ranges).

It seemed like an eternity but for several years in the early 90s, all we did as volunteers, was to clear dead trees and lantana and create bon fires. I was in my 30s and my husband and I became fit and healthy with weekends spent helping clear the property. With the dedicated effort of volunteers slowly over time this place has transformed. The property has undergone 25 years of rehabilitation and restoration of the natural habitat and forests.

Prime purpose

The property's prime purpose has been to host International Peace Events attracting up to 5,000 guests from 50 different countries. The first peace events were very low key with everyone using walk-man's sitting on a hillside. Year after year, guests return from all over the world to attend the five-day events, to celebrate peace and enjoy the nature experience. For guests it's about taking time-out to relax and unwind and enjoy the beauty of the Australian natural environment. Overseas visitors are attracted to the Australian wild life, the milky-way, the sunsets, the sunrises and the full nature experience (guest feedback survey comments included as an attachment to my submission).

Significant Volunteer Contribution to Development of the Global Peace Centre

Over a 25-year period massive investment has gone into developing Ivory's Rock. There has been an incredible focused effort in making the transformation from a run-down cattle property to a pristine rural conference centre. This has been achieved with an incalculable amount of volunteer hours contributed over this time period. Volunteers, staff and stakeholders with both a passion and a vision for humanity, have made Ivory's Rock an international attraction for peace events and a place to connect people to nature.

Facilities

The 600-hectare property is *purpose built* for international peace events, with an investment of over \$20M in infrastructure and services. This includes underground power, a waste treatment plant, a 350-seat conference hall, an outdoor amphitheatre, an outdoor plaza, 3-function venues and 6-bathroom amenity blocks. Up to 5,000 people can be accommodated on-site with a range of accommodation including chalets, cabins, caravans, motor homes and camping.

Significant Economic Contribution to the Local Economy

From its commencement in 1992 Ivory's Rock is estimated to have contributed \$168 million to the local economy. Every international peace event held at Ivory's Rock generates approximately \$5 million in revenue for the surrounding economy.

Financial Support Provided by Ivory's Rock to the Local Community

Ivory's Rock places a high value on community relations and has provided support to community groups and organisations including schools, rural aid projects and local families in distress.

Detrimental Impact of the Inland Rail Project

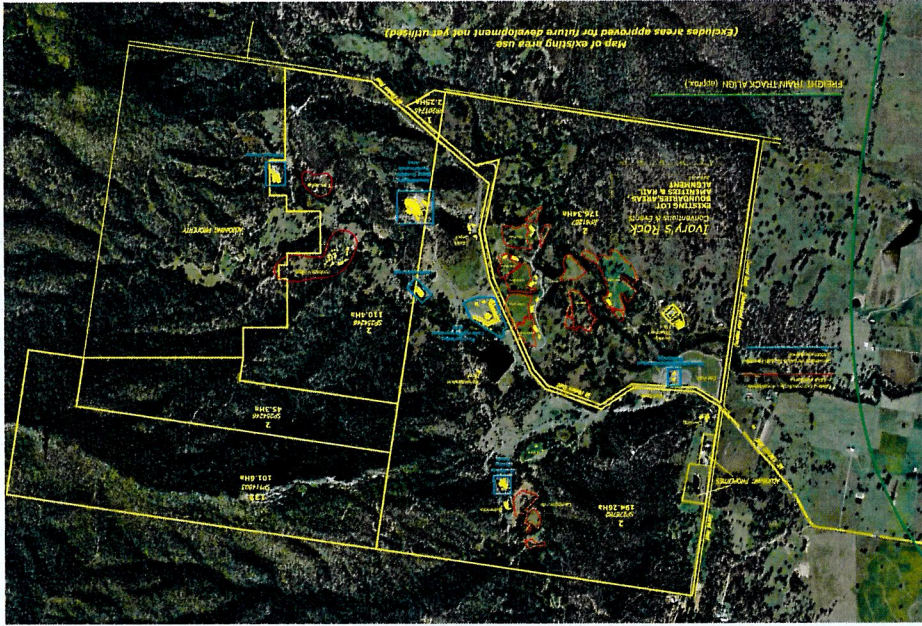
We are very concerned regarding the adverse impact of the proposed Inland Rail on the International Peace Centre. The noise impact of 40 trains over a 24-hour period will be substantial, even with mitigation strategies in place. Camping is a key feature of events at Ivory's Rock and night-time trains will be intolerable. It is questionable whether the facility will continue to be viable for International Peace Events.

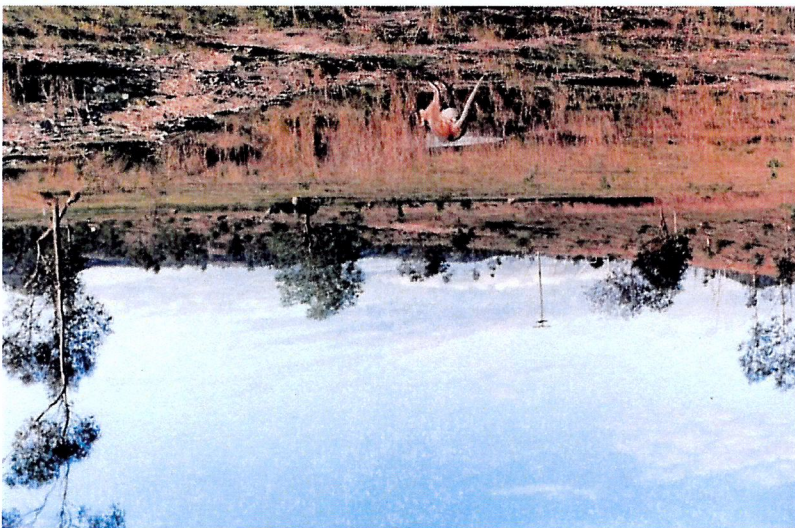
The next 5 years... The Ivory's Rock Foundation is very much aware that there is a growing interest in events that focus on personal peace in a natural environment setting. We are currently collaborating with Ipswich City Council and Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) on how to respond to this growing interest. Over the next 5 years we are looking at how we can reach wider audiences across Australia and globally inviting those people who both value personal peace in their lives and enjoy time-out in nature.

Thank-you - We are grateful for the opportunity to raise our concerns at the Senate standing committee public hearings.. We humbly ask the senate committee to consider alternative options so we can protect the integrity of the beautiful, unique, rural facility.

Overview of Ivory's Rock International Peace Centre – Video 2.5 minutes
<https://vimeo.com/373394494/5110fae274>

Map showing the rail line in close proximity to the Ivory's Rock Venue
The green line is the rail line Yellow lines define Ivory's Rock boundaries

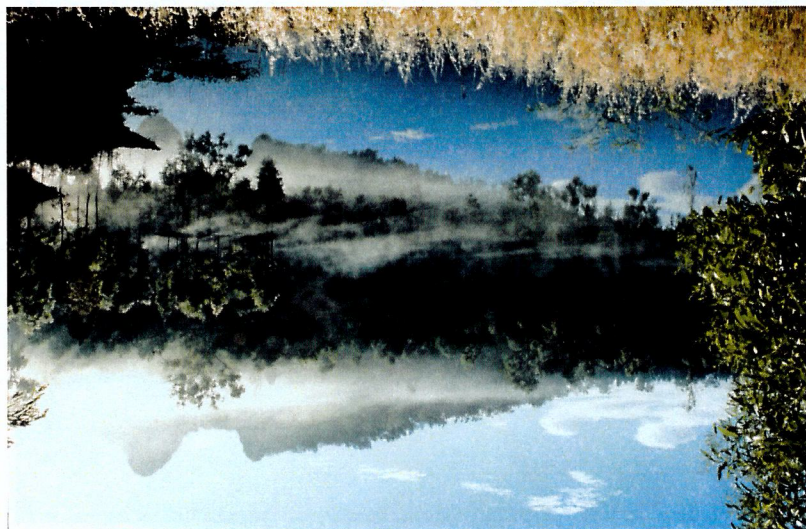
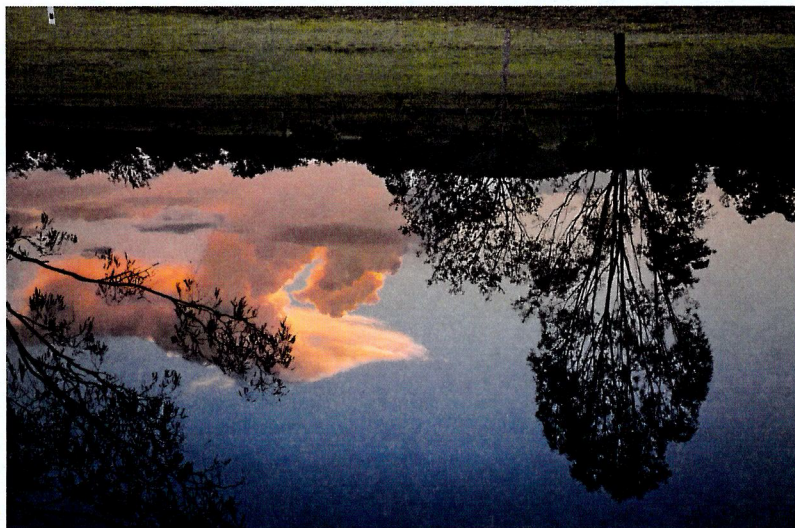




The early days....

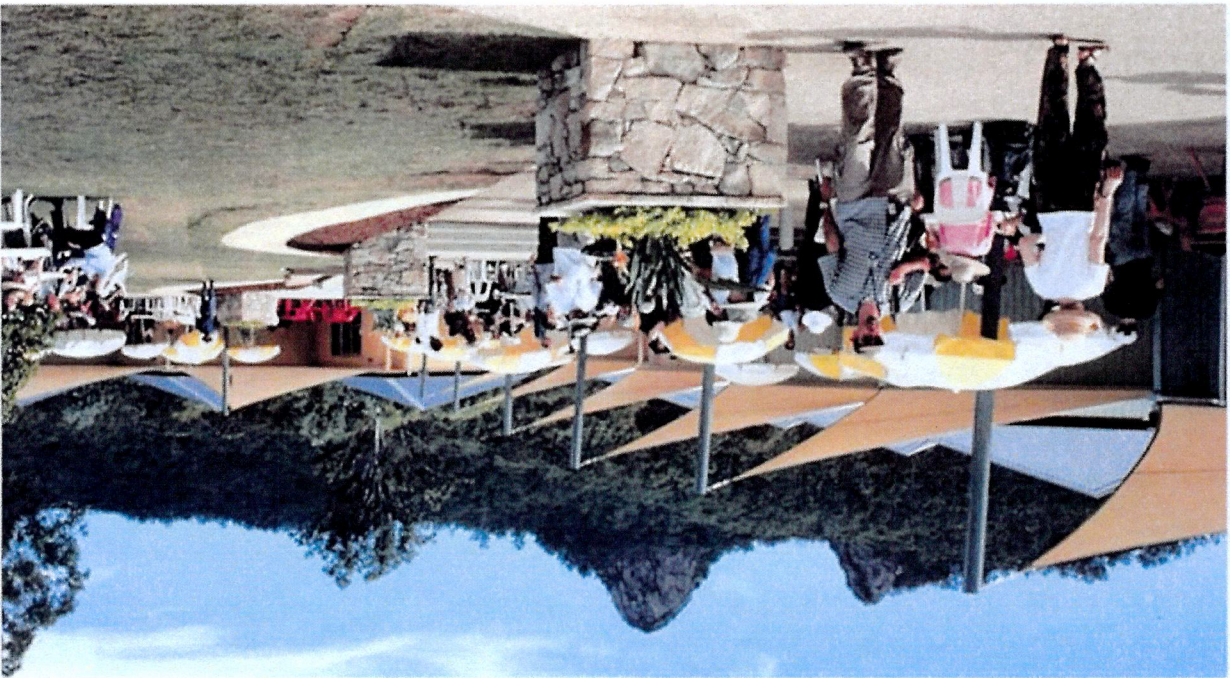


The magnificence of Ivory's Rock today.... combination of parklands & bush setting

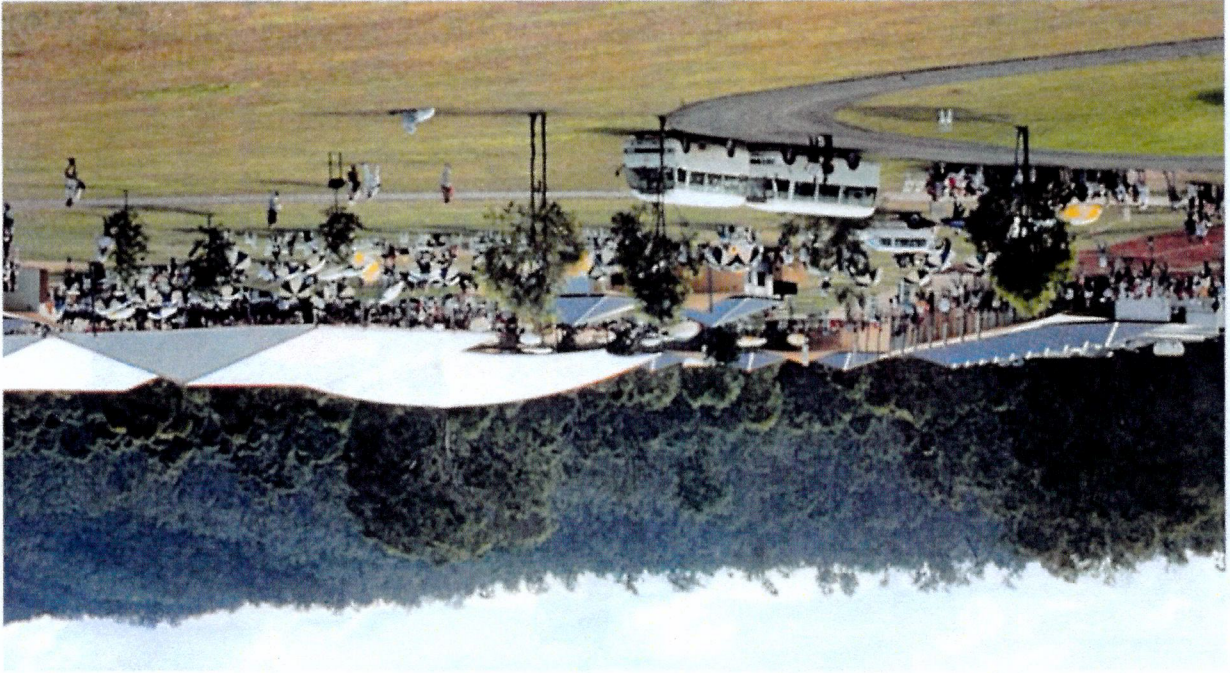


Hosting International Peace Events.. the amphitheatre



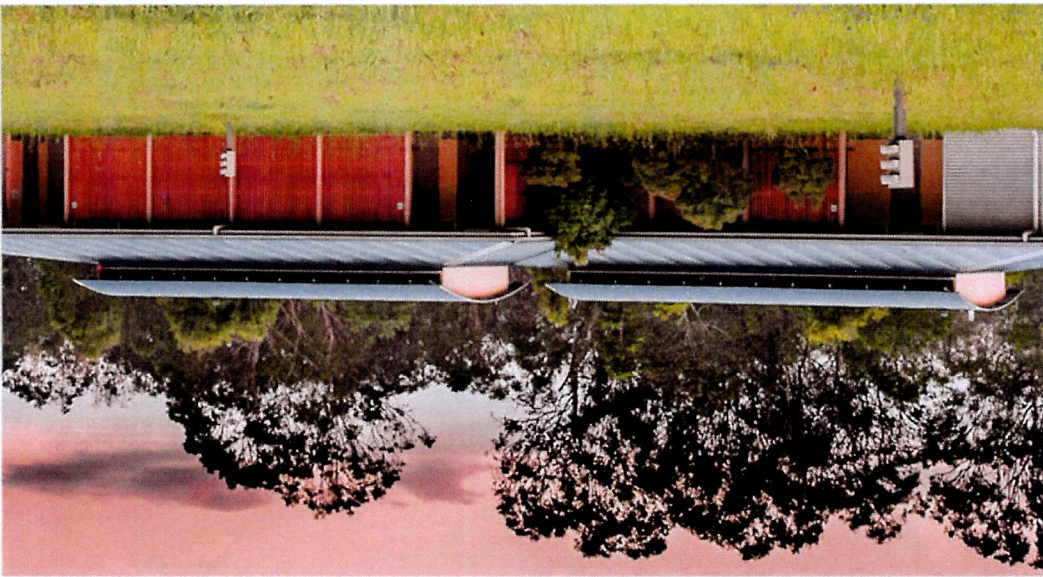


The Pavilion area becomes the hub...



Accommodation & Amenities...

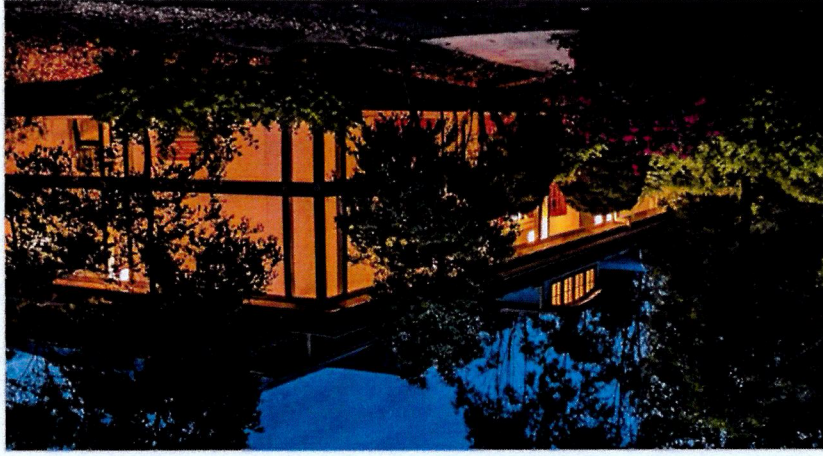




One of six bathroom shower blocks...



Functions centre / restaurant



The nature experience - a big drawcard for overseas visitors...

