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Lifestyle

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Ken's chronic case of the knowledge bug

A 'BUGGING' love for sustainability has Ken Bellamy at top of his game.

The founder and managing director of Townsville-based company, Vital Resource Management, has found his calling in microbial technology which provides targeted nutrient uptake for specific elements in agriculture and waste management through the introduction of friendly bugs.

While Ken has always had a keen interest in the 'bugging' things of life, it took him a diversified number of jobs and early interests to reach his present career.

Ken's interest in the creepy crawlies was first awakened in at high school in Ipswich in 1976, when the then 10th grader got into an argument with friends over which was the deadliest spider in the world.

Eager to learn more, he went to the school's library to follow-up on their discussion.

"When we got there we opened up three encyclopaedias and realised that the answers didn't match each other," Ken recalled.

"That was in 1976, over the years I realised you couldn't believe everything you read and that there was still much to be discovered."

The then 15 year-old's curiosity of the world found no end and he secretly applied for an American sports scholarship, which he won.

Packing his bags two years later and leaving behind a collection of 3000 living spider for his mother to dispose off, Ken set off to a new world where he studied religion.

"I come from a very religious family, and have always been interested in why people think how they think," Ken said.

"But most of all I like being there because we didn't have to attend class as long as we sat our exams and handed in our assignments — that gave us a lot of time to follow up on the more fun things in life."

In Ken's case it was his passion for basketball which soon led to the 'tall white boy' entering a big brother basketball program to help develop the skills of underprivileged kids.

Ken could also often found in the college's library where he read up on educating the handicapped.

"I have always been interested in that as, when I was younger, I was told I could never walk or run on my own," Ken recalled.

"I looked liked Forest Gump with braces around my legs — but I overcame that which once again shows everything is possible."

His newfound interest led to Ken's next journey in life, to the Middle East and Jordan.

"I was commissioned by the Royal Family to help bring handicap education back into the public arena," he explained.

"Back then they were totally secluded from the rest of the nation, almost prison-like.



Meet a Local

Lydia Kellner

"That was in 1983, a time when Jordan was heavily affected by polio which saw many of its people crippled.

"Getting them out amongst their own people again became a challenge I really enjoyed in life."

The challenge proved to be a great success.

In 1986, Ken finally returned to Australia but realised his overseas acquired skills and qualifications meant nothing in his own country.

"I pretty much had to start from the beginning and it was incredibly hard to find a job."

A coincidental encounter with construction workers at the Robina (Gold Coast) golf course, led to a job not event Ken had considered for himself — building water fountains.

"Water had always been a fascination of mine and building water features turned out to be a profitable industry," he said.

Unfortunately, Ken soon caught a cocktail of mosquito-borne diseases, which meant a six-month cooling down period for the highly energetic workaholic.

"I decided it was time to explore new challenges," he said.

"While I was sick I started studying financial planning which became my new job and lasted for about 10 years.

"While at a financial conference in Sydney, we were asked to consider our environment and what we would do to sustain it.

"To me that was like being given a challenge, and it's because of that Vital Resource Management exists."

With a vast agricultural community in the North and Ken, having a young family to consider, set up the company in Townsville in 1996.

Since his move North, Ken has become a prominent figure not just within the agricultural industry but also within the local basketball community.

Today, as he did more than 25 years ago, Ken continues to play 'big brother' to many aspiring basketball stars — a relationship not even the 'bugs' can break up.



KEN Bellamy has had enough life experiences to write a book — maybe that will be his next challenge? Photo: DARREN HILDER J178133

TOWNSVILLE Sun SERVICE DIRECTORY

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"Community Clippings" notices are published free of charge, but due to space limitations, there can be no guarantee of publication. The notice must be received at least one week before requested publication date. The event's venue and date must be included, and the name, address and phone number for a contact person must be advised.

Sport News should be forwarded to the editor to arrive by 9am Monday. While publishers will endeavour to publish submitted material, space and other restrictions will sometimes preclude this.

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