

Now it's Gold Coast game on for teens

THE kindness of a school administration thousands of kilometres away has allowed two Far North boys to take part in an opportunity of a lifetime performing at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games.

Mount St Bernard College students Keane Ryan and Matthew Ederer, both 17, are required to attend rehearsal sessions on the Gold Coast over a six-week period in the lead-up to the April 4 event.

The time away from senior school studies would have badly affected the pair's graduating results, but now the boys will be able to attend school at St Edmund's College, Ipswich during the period.

Principal Diarmuid O'Riordan used to be Cairns deputy executive director and understood well the issues many students faced with distance.

Both Mr O'Riordan and Mount St Bernard College principal David Finch described the boys' performance as a "tremendous opportunity to share cultures and open a dialogue between indigenous boarders at Mount St Bernard College and the students at St Edmund's College".

Keane and Matthew are "very excited" to have been selected for a role in the opening ceremony.



ON SONG: Matthew Ederer and Keane Ryan, from Mount St Bernard College, will perform at the opening ceremony of this year's Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Lee gets Myola plan B on table

DANIEL BATEMAN

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A MASSIVE residential subdivision planned for the Myola Valley near Kuranda is a "bet two ways" for the developer of KUR-World if his proposed \$650 million eco-resort is knocked back.

A development application has been lodged with Mareeba Shire Council by Reeve & Ocean Pty Ltd seeking approval to subdivide land at 112 Barnwell Rd into 179 non-urban residential lots.

Hong Kong based property tycoon Ken Lee's company says the application follows the council's decision in July last year to allow the proposed subdivision to be assessed under a superseded planning scheme.

Several residents have written to Queensland's Local Government Minister Stirling Hinchliffe urging him to help protect the rainforest from the large development.

Cathy Retter, from the Kuranda Region Planning Group, said there was deep community concern over the huge subdivision proposals in the exceptionally biodiverse Myola Valley.

"Ken Lee's subdivision application is an additional and

alternative development to his proposed KUR-World mega-development, which is long overdue to release an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement)," Ms Retter said.

"This latest move may represent a bet each way for Mr Lee and his backers."

KUR-World development manager Mark Lawson said that, while the current application applied to part of the KUR-World site, Reeve and Ocean remained committed to delivering the KUR-World project in full.

"At the moment our primary focus is to deliver KUR-World, but in the event that KUR-World doesn't proceed, we want to have as many options available, one of which is the subdivision of the site," he said. "The timing of the new planning scheme and the way the town planning legislation works meant we had to lodge this application to preserve any rights moving forward."

He said the EIS for KUR-World was still being drafted before being submitted to the Queensland Government.

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Business back in optimistic mood

JOHN MCCARTHY

QUEENSLAND business has got its mojo back and registered optimism for the first time in four years, according to the Suncorp CCIQ Pulse survey.

The quarterly survey pinpointed the upcoming Commonwealth Games, political stability from a majority government and strong commodity prices as the reason for the mood swing.

CCIQ general manager of advocacy Kate Whittle said the confidence was "across the board" with regional Queensland showing joining the optimism.

She said at the beginning of

the quarter business was hamstrung by election speculation which created uncertainty.

"Looking forward, the Commonwealth Games is also providing a boost to confidence levels," Ms Whittle said.