

Diocesan Office of Justice, Ecology & Peace

MEDIA RELEASE

Coordinator to move on

The Coordinator of the Catholic Diocesan Office of Justice Ecology & Peace will be leaving his position at the end of 2008. In announcing his departure from this position, Br Shane Wood, said that he was sorry to be leaving the role that he has held since 1998, when he came to Broome from Melbourne.

“I have been given a great deal of experience that I would otherwise not have had. I have been trusted by the Bishop of Broome to work in this area of social justice research, advocacy and action at a time when there have been major issues in the Kimberley to deal with. We had the whole reconciliation issue that came to a head during the time after the tabling of the *Bringing Them Home* report, and the lack of appreciation of the seriousness of this issue by the Howard Government. We were in the midst of Native Title claims and challenges from State and Federal Governments. We were fighting off attempts to allow the building of tourist resorts on fragile land at Gantheaume Point. We are still fighting for decent accommodation for Indigenous visitors to Broome and for reasonable house prices for purchase and rental for our local people in all our Kimberley towns.”

Br Wood said that there was still plenty to be done in the future, “with pressures still on to find ways of extracting resources from pristine wilderness areas and the ever-present and increasing appetite of developers for more land for investment in tourism.”

Br Wood, who is remaining in Broome and continuing to lecture at Notre Dame University, was not sure if another person would be appointed by Bishop Saunders to the role, but said that he would continue his active interest in environmental and social justice issues as a ‘private citizen’.

For immediate release – 12 October 2008

CONTACT: Br Shane Wood

Mob 0417 958 452