

Roderick rocks Aus with film and music

By Ben Cranston

RODERICK Teal is one of those human beings it is impossible to draw boundaries around – he is truly one in a million.

On and off for more than a decade, Teal has travelled Australia and the world living and breathing the harmonica but film has recently taken precedence for this gifted and unique individual.

He speaks highly of his achievements but why wouldn't you if you'd performed alongside Australian actor Jack Thompson at the opening of the 2000 Sydney Paralympics and with international didgeridoo master Mark Atkins at the Womad festival in Adelaide 2004.

Teal has written and recorded a soundtrack to what he calls a "presentation" which he one day hopes will be played at cultural festivals around the world promoting an environmental message.

He soon realised this soundtrack needed vision to tell such a powerful story and turned his hand to camera work.

In the process of filming the visual component of his short film, Teal has arrived in Karratha to get footage of rock art on the Burrup Peninsula – but what is this story, this "presentation" about?

"It's the story of an environment minister who has done some bad deeds and has visions of the future," Teal explained.

"He ends up closing down the mining going on in Kakadu National Park but I can't tell you too much or it will ruin the story."

So how does a one-man show create a film alone and without any financial support?

Friends.

Teal is a likeable character and has endless tales of meeting and befriending people around the world up his sleeve.

"I spent some time with a medicine man in New Mexico and it definitely changed my view on things," he said.

Eventually pals of Teal will edit, produce and send the film overseas and if it succeeds he will be happy and if it doesn't he will still be happy to have finished this lengthy project.

"Sometimes you'll be filming all day long and only get a minute of footage," he said.

"It (the film) just keeps nagging at me and if it's a goer it's a goer," he said.



Harmonica maestro Rod Teal is creating a self-funded film and is now in the Pilbara shooting.