



Back in place: Workers lower the 1933 turbine, which was repaired in Germany, into place at Paronella Park yesterday.

Hydro-electric turbine back to power green park

HYDRO-ELECTRICITY will once again power Paronella Park, more than 75 years after its founder led the way for the Far North.

Crane operators lowered the park's original 1933 turbine and generator back into its cranny yesterday in a cliff below Mena Creek Falls.

Park owner Mark Evans said the hydro

system had been to Germany and back. "We needed expertise in this type of turbine for the reconditioning ... it was rusted and inoperable but it's returned home in great condition," he said.

The park's founder Jose Paronella also shipped in the turbine – from **England** – to create the Far North's first hydro-electricity several months before

Cairns' Barron Falls system was up and running. Mr Paronella's initiative came almost 20 years before Mena Creek, the home of Paronella Park, was connected to Innisfail's electricity grid.

The Evans family has invested almost \$400,000 in the project and hopes to have the whole park once again running on green power by the end of the year.