

THE KURANIA PAPER

POSTAGE
PAID
KURANDA
AUSTRALIA

SEPTEMBER 2016

ISSUE 280

KUR-World Update From the Kuranda Region Planning Group

KUR-World – the huge development proposal for a 624 hectare area site between Myola and the highway – continues to concentrate minds in the Kuranda Region.

If the developer's initial plan is completed in full, it would create a massive new subdivision of small blocks, on a scale comparable with Kuranda village itself. There are numerous other elements to the proposal – an odd combination of ideas from golf course to luxury hotels, medical retreat to student campus. All in all, it would transform forever a site largely covered by rainforest that's zoned 'Rural' in the latest Mareeba Shire Plan, is home to several endangered species and has yet to be adequately surveyed for wildlife, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and other values.

While economic activity in the region is generally welcome, more and more locals are questioning the scale and intensity of this proposal – and the impact it's likely to have on an environmentally sensitive corridor site and the surrounding environment. There are concerns too about its economic, social and heritage impacts – and whether the 'Eco-Resort' name is simply a cover for urban development of rural land.

All of these matters were the subject of a large public meeting in Kuranda on August 11th, called by the Kuranda Region Planning Group, a broad alliance of local resident and environment groups and concerned individuals. It was a lively evening – and if you missed it, you can still see highlights on Youtube (links below). The 150+ attendees were remarkably united in their opposition to the KUR-World proposal in its current form.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was at the beginning, when Bulwai Cultural Custodian and musician Willie Brim (*right*) gave a very inspiring Welcome to Country message. Willie told the meeting that we – as one united community – must work together to preserve Kuranda's unique qualities and fend off inappropriate development.

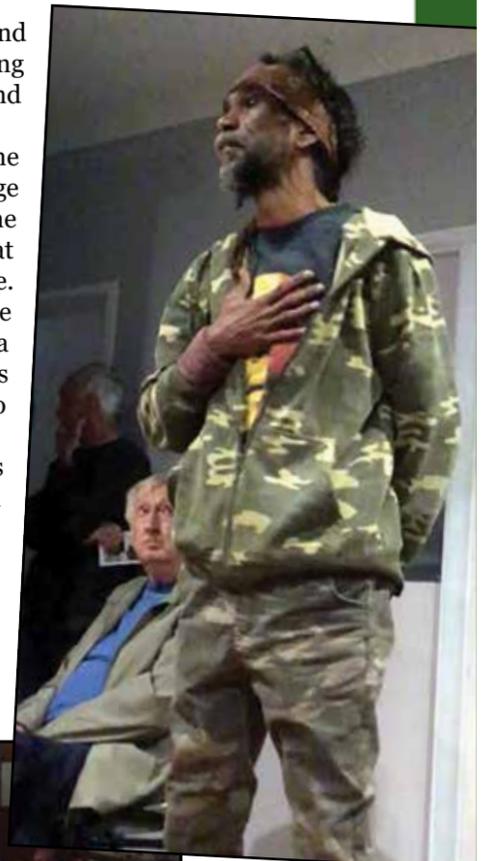
After various presentations and an open discussion with contributions from many residents, the meeting approved a resolution opposing KUR-World on environmental, economic, social and heritage grounds. The meeting expressed deep concern at significant environmental damage already done to the site by developer Ken Lee, whose extensive site-works have made creeks run turbid, direct to our Great Barrier Reef. As well as frog habitat, these creeks supply water to some residents downstream of the site.

It called on all levels of Government to intervene, fine any legal infringements to date – and require immediate remedial works. Damage to the very localised habitat of the critically-endangered Kuranda Tree Frog was a particular focus. If the Wet Season is intense later this year an ecological disaster is likely, jeopardising Kuranda's unique tree frog in two of the half dozen creeks it's currently known to inhabit.

The meeting also expressed dismay that no local politicians saw fit to attend the meeting, or KRPG's previous public meeting about KUR-World in July. Perhaps because KUR-World is marketed as an 'Eco-Resort' they think there's no need to even listen to the voice of locals?

Kuranda Region Planning Group is on Facebook (KUR-Alert) email info@kurandaregion.org and has a website at www.kurandaregion.org. Please fill out a Residents Questionnaire/Survey and send a 'Have your Say' email. Videos about KUR-World as seen from a Kuranda perspective can be viewed via the 'kurandatv' channel on YouTube.

KUR-World has its own website at www.KUR-World.com.





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The Association's stated objectives are to provide means of open communication in order to provide the spirit of community involvement and reflect the ongoing aspirations of the residents of the Kuranda area.

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THE KURANDA PAPER IS ONLINE
www.kurandapaper.com

DEADLINES

Edition 281/2016

All copy by 10.00am

Thursday 22nd September

however, we would appreciate you not waiting until the deadline to send it.

The earlier the better! Thank you.

Paper Published

Thursday 29th September 2016

Management cannot be responsible for any copy missing deadline.

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L 248 x 86	\$127	\$152
M 186 x 258 – ½ page	\$258	\$310
O 186 x 130 – ¼ page	\$140	\$168
P 186 x 86	\$102	\$122
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V 62 x 172	\$ 72	\$ 86
W 62 x 130	\$ 55	\$ 66
X 62 x 86	\$ 40	\$ 48
Y 62 x 43	\$ 22	\$ 27
Z 31 x 86	\$ 22	\$ 27

Artwork preparation by quote. (See note above.)



Please keep your letter to the point and under 250 words. All letters are subject to editing. Anonymous letters or those of doubtful origin may not be published. Correct name, street address and phone contact are to be submitted with your letter. See left for postal and email addresses.

Dirty Work for Dingoes

What has happened to the human race – the article about dingo release on Pelorus Island has left me feeling with a knot in my stomach. If there is a problem with the goat population on the island, why doesn't the council employ qualified shooters to cull animals, instead of releasing dingoes to do the dirty work for them, just to kill or poison them after. Who would even think of such a thing – it shows how low our human race has fallen, and here we are thinking wildlife ecologists are smart, humane and important people that support and educate us to keep wildlife and natural environment healthy and stable?!

If us humans made the mistake by releasing domesticated animals in the first place, then we should also take the responsibility to rectify the situation. Not involve a third party that has nothing to do with the problem whatsoever. Isn't that how we should treat each other as well, why disregard it when it comes to animals...?

Elisabeth Rooks

(See follow-up article on page 17)

More on Roaming Dogs

First of all I would like to thank the paper for the article about dogs in Kuranda. I found it spot on with the problems we have, mainly with irresponsible owners.

I was the person who was confronted by three dogs on my own property and was very much shaken by the experience. I find now that I don't trust any dog that I am confronted with.

The Mareeba council have been very good I feel in the handling of this issue; they were quick to respond and gave me some comfort in what they were doing. However their hands seem to be tied by out of date Legislation. I feel the State Government needs to act before one of our children or elderly residents are seriously hurt. This is an issue that urgently needs to be addressed.

As for the person who responded to the original article, I understand the fact of having a pet dog and cuddly pussycat for companionship and security, but not enough people are responsible!!

Until you get confronted by a pack of dogs you can quite easily shrug it off as over-reacting.

We live on the edge of a World Heritage Area with a diverse range of important species of mammals and birds. Here it is more important than anywhere to protect our wildlife than in some suburban area in the city where there is nothing left. I see so many times cats and dogs roaming at night. Wake up people of Kuranda.

Thank you to the once again to the Editor for the responsible article published on this issue.

Roger Beahan

PS: To the person who found your photo of a dog's snarling teeth offensive, try staring down the face of three of them and see how offensive that is.

Kuranda Eels Sponsorship

Coming up on the 22nd and 23rd October is the Gindaja ATSI Rugby League Cup which will be held in Yarrabah over the two days.

Kuranda would like to nominate a men's team "Kuranda Eels" to participate in the weekend and need to raise funds for the nomination fee of \$1800 and funds to purchase jerseys for the event.

The team would like to know if any businesses could possibly assist us with some sponsorship towards the event. You would be welcome to have your name and logo on the jerseys. [See poster on page 7.]

Paula Wray

Kuranda Eels,
0413 951 750

PROFILES WANTED

Are you, or do you know of, a local resident who has had a life that may be of interest to readers? Examples may be of someone who has contributed to the community in some way, perhaps in a voluntary capacity. If you know of someone that you think the community should know about, first of all, get his/her permission

to be willing to be interviewed and photographed, then send a brief outline of the person, together with contact details to nicholsonmandalay@msn.com



Should Kuranda Go It Alone?

On the day of the last State election in January 2015, *The Cairns Post* ran a news story about voters' requirements of their next MP, in various parts of the Barron River electorate. It told readers "**if they hail from Kuranda, (they want) someone who'll leave the rainforest village just the way it is.**"

I thought at the time this was glib nonsense, and the last 18 months has only confirmed my opinion. The idea that we in Kuranda want "to keep things just the way they are" is a convenient fiction that justifies lazy inattention on the part of our elected representatives and under-investment in things we actually need and want.

One word describes our infrastructure: RETRO.

Kuranda's telecommunications are appalling (and in the short-term ADSL congestion means they're actually getting worse!) – our antiquated electricity grid suffers repeated outages, our town drinking water is of shamefully poor quality, we have little affordable public transport servicing the village and environs, general public housing is inadequate and so is Aboriginal housing, walking and cycle tracks need extending etc etc etc. That's before we build suitable accommodation (in or close to town) for the elderly, develop high quality ecotourism facilities and make a serious start on the transition to sustainable energy that every community on earth must undertake urgently or else we'll all be doomed.

What we lack is serious will – at any level of government – to fix these problems.

Meanwhile, Kuranda's volunteer community effort is continually bogged down fighting off one inappropriate development after another, proposals foisted on us by bogan developers and drooling politicians. Essentially, their message is always the same: agree to having your local environment trashed or put up with inadequate employment opportunities.

Sometimes the nightmarish verities that tarnish our civilisation seem too big and deeply ingrained to change. The basic workings of our unsustainable global economy need reform, for sure – but there's a case for putting real effort into making progress on a local level...the old "Think Global, Act Local" adage.

I fear, however, that as long as our local institutional arrangements remain the same, there's precious little chance of the change we need in the Kuranda region. Yet our community as a whole seems more than ready for change.

How long before Kuranda region residents give serious consideration to a campaign for an independent local Council – so at least ONE level of government can be progressive, dynamic and responsive to our actual needs?

In the last few years there has been one insult after another to the various residents and environment groups of Kuranda:

- A vast area of publicly-owned plantations in the vicinity of Kuranda and close to the World Heritage Wet Tropics – plantations that should have provided secure local employment and some of which indubitably should have been reverted to native forest – were privatised without any local public consultation.
- By a strong majority, residents of the Kuranda region supported remaining inside the united Tablelands Regional Council, but our campaign to remain in the TRC was brushed aside.
- When Mareeba Shire Council was resurrected against our will, we asked for a ward system so we could be assured of at least one Councillor from our region; that wish was rejected by the Mayor and Newman Government
- We asked for an opportunity to make input into the draft Mareeba Shire plan, and were promised input – but the Mayor and fellow Councillors reneged on their promise.
- We then asked for a separate Kuranda region sub-plan to be developed using best practise community consultation; Council rejected that request.
- We asked Councillors to attend public meetings on the latest development proposal of general concern; no Councillor saw fit to attend and we've been informed Councillors must "remain neutral" while the Mayor openly promotes the development in question.

On none of these occasions could we rely on the support of our representatives at any level of government: local, state or federal.

It's true that Mareeba Shire Council runs a fine library in the village, and maintains our local network of roads. It presumably does a lot more...? On the other hand, MSC does rather well out of Kuranda's rates, which help fund its major debacles such as the decades-overdue Mareeba Sewerage upgrade.

A number of other small communities in the far north of Queensland have their own Councils. Could the Kuranda region do better if we had ours?

I think community discussion about this is overdue.

Syd Walker



From Pipe Dreams to Salad Days in Just Two Decades



Vintage postcard "Spraying Tobacco, Mareeba"
(GK Bolton Printers) 1961

By 1919 Mareeba was a very important Tableland town. Surrounding mining centres created a market for locally grown livestock, fruit and vegetables and some farmers added tobacco to their range of crops. In the 1930s, increased federal tariffs on imported tobacco and the Queensland Government's closer-settlement plans for Mareeba brought about the Mareeba Tobacco Growers' Cooperative and a campaign for irrigation. An irrigation weir had been constructed in 1937 and after the war local tobacco interests resumed lobbying for irrigation. Tinaroo Dam was completed in 1958 supplying farms and towns as far afield as Mareeba, Kuranda and Yungaburra.

However by 2001 employment in mining in Mareeba Shire was a mere 1% of total employment, and employment in agriculture was 18.5%, the highest of all the employment sectors. Tobacco was becoming an increasingly minor crop following deregulation of the tobacco industry in 1995 and a diminishing market by overseas buyers. By 2004 most farmers had ceased growing tobacco in an area where once sixty per cent of Australia's tobacco had grown. The agricultural landscape once dominated by tobacco has now been transformed. Tobacco had all but almost vanished from the landscape by 2004 with financial incentives given to farmers to diversify into fruit, vegetables, animal husbandry and timber as well as sugar cane, coffee and tea tree amongst many other crops.

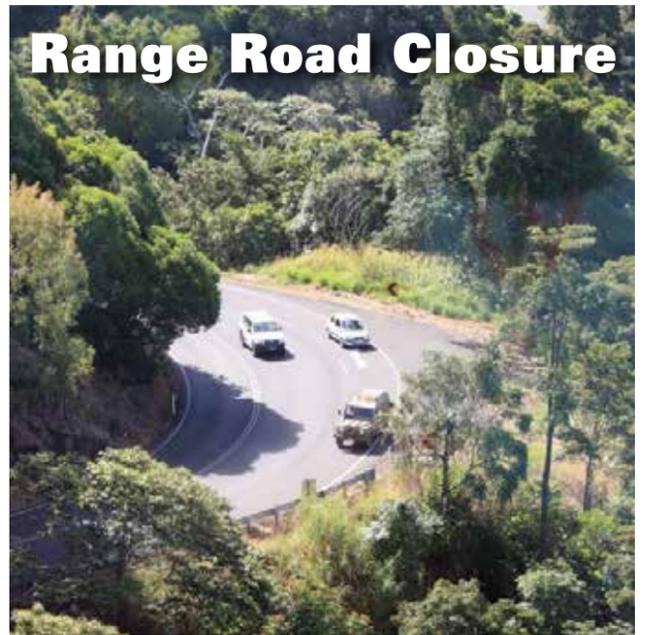
The transition from tobacco to other crops was not all smooth going and for some it was heartbreaking and even devastating. An interesting snapshot of the transition can be found in a Landline interview with farmers and others in 2007 – <http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2006/s2002186.htm>

It has been an amazing turn around from tobacco to a cornucopia of valuable food crops and I for one am so glad to have such bounty on our doorstep.



Gayle Hannah

Range Road Closure



The Kuranda Range will be partially closed for just over two hours on Saturday, 17th September.

The one-lane closure has been granted by police and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, to enable some participants in the Mount Franklin Cardiac Challenge, to ride up the range in safety.

Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation fundraising and marketing manager Glenys Duncombe said this year's closure would entail the up-lane (west-bound lane) of the Range being closed from 6am-8.45am.

"Last year was the first time we had been able to obtain a closure, which worked very effectively – there were very few vehicles inconvenienced due to the advanced notifications of the closure," Ms Duncombe said.

"We've listened to some feedback about closing the down lane, so this year we're going to trial closing the up-lane as we believe the inconvenience should be further reduced," she said. "Of course, in case of any emergencies we will be working closely with the police to ensure immediate access as required."

The Mount Franklin Cardiac Challenge celebrates its 10th successful annual fundraising ride this year, with more than \$2.2 million being raised for cardiac services in the Far North.

"We know that on occasion the Range is closed unexpectedly for accidents so we are advising motorists, transport and tourism operators now so they can make their plans for that small window," Ms Duncombe said.

"We're really grateful for the community's support for this event – it raises a lot of money that all stays local and makes a big difference to many people's lives."

For further information about the closure, phone Ms Duncombe on 4226 6327.

For further information, to donate or volunteer for the Foundation visit www.fnqhf.org.au.

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Kuranda Locals call for urgent remediation on KUR-World site

An alliance of Kuranda-region conservation groups, residents groups and individuals has written to the Minister for State Development, Dr Anthony Lynham, asking the State Government to take immediate action to ensure the proponent of the 'KUR-World' development proposal urgently fixes environmental damage he's already caused to a site of high environmental sensitivity.

"The State Government has primary responsibility to oversee a stop-work – and to ensure Mr Lee carries out remedial work urgently to avoid further damage to the habitat of a critically endangered species: Kuranda's unique tree frog. A lot of the ground surface has been scraped bare and the Wet Season is approaching", said Syd Walker for the Kuranda Region Planning Group.

The Kuranda Region Planning Group held a public meeting earlier this month to provide an opportunity for the local community to consider the proposed 'KUR-World' development.

The public meeting – which attracted some 150 members of this small Far North Queensland community on the edge of the Tablelands – approved the following motion by consensus:

Resolution of the August 2016 Public Meeting called by the Kuranda Region Planning Group re the 'KUR-World' Proposal (Approved on August 11th 2016 by a meeting of approximately 150 local residents)

This meeting has concerns that the proposed KUR-World development would have negative impacts on the Kuranda region's:

- **environment**
- **economy**
- **social values and quality of life**
- **Indigenous heritage and cultural values**

We are appalled at the lack of effective public consultation and the illegal construction of a dam and other earthworks on the site that has led to sedimentation of creeks. These creeks are known to be inhabited by critically endangered Kuranda Tree Frogs. The sedimentation will eventually wash downstream to pollute the Great Barrier Reef.

We believe this area of very high environmental sensitivity is the wrong location for such a huge development. KUR-World would destroy wildlife corridors and impact negatively on many threatened species.

We call for an immediate halt to new site-works – and demand that all the environmental damage already caused by the developer is repaired urgently. This remediation works should be guided by appropriate local expertise.

We ask how a landowner can conduct such extensive and damaging works in a sensitive rainforest area without punitive action by any level of government. Penalties currently apply to local residents for illegal damage to our environment. Yet this proponent has yet to be subject to any penalties or restoration requirements.

We are disappointed that no local Councillors or politicians attended this meeting, despite prior invitations. This is the second large public meeting about KUR-World in two months in Kuranda – yet the Mayor and his fellow Councillors, and local MP Craig Crawford were "unable to attend" on both occasions.

Recent comments by Mayor Gilmore and Craig Crawford appear to be based only on the developer's PR. We are puzzled that our local politicians seem so reticent to listen to the views of local residents – especially when the developer has been in breach of Council regulations and government requirements to avoid polluting sensitive water-courses and protect the habitat of endangered species.

Speewah District Residents Assoc Inc.

The next quarterly meeting of the Association will be held on
Monday 12th September at 6.00pm
In the Fire Brigade building, Roscommon Park, Speewah.
All Speewah residents are invited to attend

Our Guest Speaker will be from National Broadband Network member,
Marcello Massi, Community Affairs Manager – Queensland

The meeting will open with an address from Marcello, followed by a question and answer session. This is an opportunity for you to ask your questions about NBN. {See the notice in this paper about arrangements of how to send your questions in prior to the meeting.} In this four-year term of the Mareeba Council, Councillor Lenore Wyatt will be the regular delegate of Council who will update us on Council matters.

- Lenore will speak on subjects, which will include:
 - Council's Community Meeting being held at Speewah on the 14th September.
 - Douglas Track Update
 - Talk on the issues of speeding around Speewah
- Mayor Tom Gilmore has been invited to attend.
- An update will be given on the Rural Fire Brigade activities
- Completion of the new bridge into Speewah will be discussed

If you have any issues you want included in the agenda, contact either
Margaret Buttering on 4093 0100 or Bob Madden on 4093 0169

Burning Memories



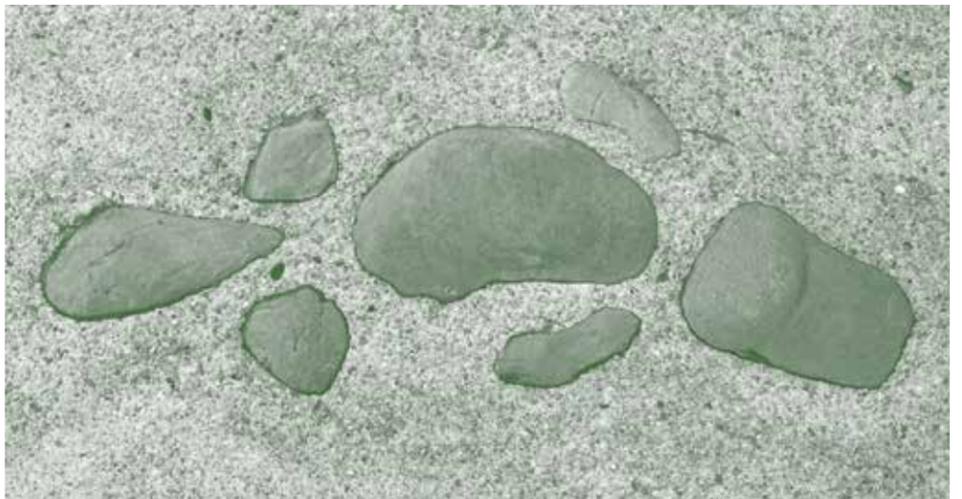
*Vintage postcard "Burning off sugar cane before harvesting, North Queensland"
(Peter Erbe, PEER Productions circa 1985)*

With cane fires all but extinct in North Queensland now many people have never experienced the awesome ferocity and spectacle of a raging cane fire. Now green harvesting with all its environmental benefits has taken over and cane fires are just a memory from days gone by. I feel fortunate to have just such a memory.

I arrived in FNQ in October 1971 as a young hitchhiker with two friends. Cairns was in the grip of a heatwave and our last lift was caught outside of Tully. A young farmer who happily let us hop in the back of his ute for the night-time drive to Cairns. I shall never forget driving through the hot night between walls of flames with the stars sparking above us, the wind from the fires whipping our hair, the sweet molasses smell of the burning cane and the incredible excitement of heading into the dark unknown. It was totally thrilling and, unlike the sweat and ash next morning, never washed off.

I of course, like so many who have found FNQ, never returned south. Years later as a young mum on our property out behind Rosebud Farm at Speewah during the burn off season I could catch big flakes of cane ash in my hands and still remember that night and the "fields of fire".

Gayle Hannah



National Broadband Network (NBN)

Do you have any questions about the NBN?

Most of us have lots of questions!

Here is an opportunity for you to receive an answer. Marcello Massi, Community Affairs Manager NBN – Queensland, will be the guest speaker at the Speewah District Residents meeting on 12th September at 6.00pm in the Rural Fire Brigade building at Speewah.

In order to prepare for Marcello's visit, you are given the opportunity to send your questions in prior to the meeting, this will ensure that Marcello can research your question and have an answer ready for you at the meeting. Send your questions to bobjmadden@gmail.com or contact him on 4093 0169 and he will forward your question onto Marcello. Make the most of this visit by Marcello.

NOTE: The meeting format will be changed so that the first business will be Marcello's presentation. In this way those attending solely to get NBN information may leave the meeting after this event.



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Friends of the Farmers *presents* The Regenerative Agriculture Convergence 2016 at Koah, October 23rd to 26th

Are you a 'friend of the farmers'?

Our local farmers and farmlands are a valuable asset for our resilient thriving community into the future.

Local food, and localising our food system is not just a fun funky trend. Supporting our local food-growers (and growing our own food where possible) ensures our bodies, our families, and our communities, fresh wholesome food and a 'say' in how it is grown.

Part of being a 'friend of the farmers' is assisting local farmers to transition into regenerative agriculture practices, naturally revitalising living soils, and moving away from corporate chemical-controlled farming, to soil, water and nutritious food guardianship.

This can be done as easily as purchasing local food-growers regenerative agriculture produce, usually clearly marked at your local fresh food markets and road-side fruit'n'veg-stalls, or supporting your local 'community supported agriculture' systems. Seeking them out enriches your local eco-nomy and grows your community.

Global food trading and corporate price control means food-growers do not receive the value of the knowledge, skills and energy they have dedicated to growing our food.

Buying local food from local food-growers ensures that much of the price you pay for your food goes to the growers, rather than to the agencies who push the farmers prices down, and push intergenerational farming families to the edge.

Many farmers are walking off their farms due to rising chemical-input debt, and from the effects of soil depletion and extreme weather events, and far too many are experiencing stress-related mental health issues and even suiciding as a result of the dominant corporate paradigm way of 'business'.

We have our 'say' in this by where we buy our food. We can assist our farmers to all-weather abundance.

Being a 'friend of the farmer' is taking back our responsibility of how our food is grown, and who grows it, and where it is grown.

Our region in Far North Queensland has already-cleared farmlands being under-utilised, in a climate that can produce an amazing diversity of food plants with organic, biodynamic, inter-cropped naturally regenerative agricultural practices.



Local organic and biodynamic farmers over the years, have proven that wholesome nutrient-dense nourishing foods can be grown well, while also nourishing the soils, and ensuring no polluting chemical residues run-off into our precious water catchments, and out into our globally significant ocean bio-zone – the Great Barrier Reef.

Globally, corporate agriculture and its chemical additive toxic herbicide, pesticide, fungicide, biocide, ecocide monocultures are poisoning our food, killing our soil and gut micro-biology, and our essential pollinators, and sullyng our water catchments, including the crucial regenerating underground water systems.

This is not the legacy we want to leave to future generations and the interconnected web of life. Being a 'friend of the farmer' is being a friend for a resilient community, a friend for Life.

Friends of the Farmers presents the 'Koah Cleanharvest Foodbowl – Regenerative Agriculture Convergence 2016' in Koah, October 23rd to 26th.

On Sunday 23rd October at Koah Hall: an introductory day featuring the many presenters of the Convergence, giving a ten minute pecha-kucha-style talk introducing the topic of their up-coming workshop. It will be a day of amazing learnings from local growers and producers and practitioners of regenerative agricultural practices. There will be fresh produce from your local food-growers.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (24th, 25th and 26th) the Convergence will offer presentations, workshops and experiential hands-on sessions including permaculture design, organics, biodynamics, soil revitalization.

This will include on-site produced bio-fert, bio-char, compost, and preparations, value-adding local produce, diversifying and inter-cropping, food forests, sustainability, coconut versatility and community supported agriculture.

Additionally, localising our food system, alternatives to chemical weed-control, farm-forestry carbon-sinks, genuine food security, caring for our water catchment, and so much more, at the farm of one of our local intergenerational farming families.

If you are a farmer, a food-grower, and/or interested in our local resilient community food system, and would like more information, please email lisa@realfoodnetwork.com.au or call Jo on 0401 423 573.

We can send you a program of the event, please share with your local farmers and food-growers. There will be a fundraiser leading up to the event, including a 'food-art auction' (go! artists!), and a knees-up barn-dance 2016-style at the Koah Hall, so be ready for that!

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22ND – 23RD OCTOBER 2016

THE GINDAJA ATSI RUGBY LEAGUE CARNIVAL

Gindaja Treatment & Healing Indigenous Corporation is based in the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire. We are a non-for-profit organisation that specialise in addictions rehabilitation and counselling, assisting our people from all over Queensland and interstate.

Any profits from this carnival are channeled directly into other community events that are willing to show initiative around promoting awareness around healthy lifestyles and the effects of Alcohol and Drugs on Indigenous people.

This is a Drug and Alcohol Free Event.

Nominations are open to all teams of all communities.

SKYTRANS AIRLINES ARE OFFERING LOCAL FARES FOR \$99 AND ASSISTANCE WITH FUNDRAISING TO ATTEND THIS EVENT. EMAIL: comercial@skytrans.com.au or call 1300 skytrans.

ENTRY COSTS

ADULTS	\$10
KIDS (4-16)	\$3
AGED PENSION	\$5

Location – Bendigo Bank Stadium, Jones Park (Mann St), Cairns

NOMINATIONS

OPEN MENS – GINDAJA CUP (\$1800) (LIMIT 20 TEAMS)

OPEN WOMENS – SHEVANNE FOURMILE MEMORIAL (\$800) (LIMIT 6 TEAMS)

UNDER 18'S – BISHOP MALCOLM CUP (\$0) (LIMIT 6 TEAMS)

Nomination for Men & Women include 30 passes per day for players and officials.

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School Holiday Fun

Ngoonbi provided two weeks of fun activities through the school holidays. This included a Disco at the Koah Hall, Fun Day at the Koah Hall, Trip to the Tobruk Pool, Amazing Race, Fishing, Bush walk, Laser Tag, Kowrowa Sports and assisting with the Kuranda Family Fun Day.

A big thank you to Youthlink who provided staff for the Koah Disco and also helped to make the fun day at Koah a big hit.

Joanne and James came up from Cairns Headspace to get to know the local youth and helped out at the Koah Fun Day and also came to the Kuranda Family Day and had a stall with lots of information on mental health and well-being.

During the Kuranda Family Day we also celebrated NAIDOC Week with a big thank you to the Mareeba Shire Council and the Prime Minister and Cabinet for funding this event. The day included the Band Zennith rocking the Park, a performance by the Bama Dayal Dancers and hands on weaving activities with the Mantaka ladies.

Ngoonbi Sport and Recreation also had a fantastic time during the school holidays with the local youth, providing activities in Kuranda and trips away.

The Kuranda Family Fun Day was an amazing day with our team providing fresh fruit and cold water for the participants. We also organised a tug of war which even some of the tourists joined in. We also had a colour war with over 80 adults and children throwing balls of coloured chalk at each other.

The team is planning now for the next school holidays which will include a camp as well as the next Family Fun Day.



Louise Baume
0411 559 518
louise@kurandarainforestrealty.com.au



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Focus on Kuranda



Kuranda residents who are on Facebook have been treated to many wonderful photographic images shared by members of the new Facebook page **Focus on Kuranda Photography Group** initiated by local resident Liz Tonkin. The group aims to share images of Kuranda and the immediate region and is open to anyone – resident or visitor. It's also open to photographers from beginners to professional and using any kind of medium from fancy cameras to smart phones.

The Moderator of the page will advise *The Kuranda Paper* of the photograph that has received the most "likes" in the previous month, and it will be published in the paper.

This month's photo is of the often heard but rarely seen Wompoo Fruit-dove, by Fiona Coleman.

"Gorgeous Wompoo Fruit-dove in my yard today collecting twigs for its very minimalistic and precarious nest."



Animal Inspection Following Kangaroo Attacks

Following the recent attacks on kangaroos at the Mareeba Golf Course, Council has approved a 'door knock' to check dog registration and enclosures in the Mareeba area.

Mayor of the Mareeba Shire Council Tom Gilmore said roaming dogs were often a problem around the Shire but the latest attack on the renowned kangaroos was particularly distressing.

"There are serious fines for dogs that are roaming at large and if they're unregistered of course there are even more serious consequences," Cr Gilmore said.

Cr Gilmore stressed that irresponsible dog owners were putting themselves and the lives of native animals at risk.

"It is simply incredible to me that people are inclined to allow large, roaming animals out of their sight to wander around and kill kangaroos."

Council moved a selective Approved Inspection Program to be carried out to ensure that the owners of dogs within the Mareeba area comply with the registration requirements under the Animal Management Act (Dogs and Cats) Act 2008. The purpose of the program is also to ensure that owners comply with their duty to provide a proper enclosure to prevent the animal from wandering as per Council's Local Law (Animal Management) 2011.

The Inspection Program will commence on 5th September 2016 and run for three months. The Program will be conducted between the hours of 6.30am and 7.00pm, seven days a week with majority of inspections being carried out during normal working hours.

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BAR OPEN
TUESDAY 6.30 PM & FRIDAY 5 PM

Boot scootin' fun

In August, we hosted a Community Bush dance. Locals and visitors alike donned their hats, boots and checked flannies and headed out for some toe tappin' Friday night family fun. With delicious 'bushie' food provided by Kuranda Community Kitchen and live music by the Candlenut Bush Band, the night was off to a great start. Young and old joined in to dance all the old favourites.

Prize for best dressed country/western style went to the Rice family. The Kuranda Bull-riding Champion prize was won by Miles Dobbs-Brown. It was great to see some new faces at the centre. The restaurant and bar are open every Friday night so come along to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and find out about other activities on offer. See you there!



DINNER EVERY FRIDAY 6 PM
Kuranda Community Kitchen
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Kuranda Community Kitchen



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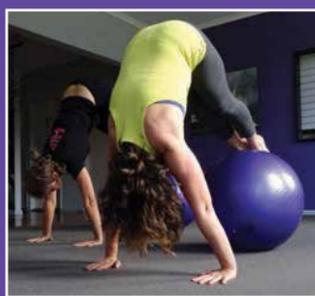


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Gardening in Kuranda

with *Alectura*



SEPTEMBER and prolonged chill and persistent rains have deterred all but the most zealous gardener from doing much outside. Now is a good time to cast a judicious eye over what is ailing or where bare spots have appeared where warmer weather plantings have faded and retired for their winter sleep.

Tasks coming up will be the taking out of spent Costus, Ginger and Heliconia stems and the thinning of these plantings. A common mistake, particularly for the newcomer to tropical gardening, is not realising how tall and the rapid outward spread of some of these species and the work required in their maintenance.

DATE CLAIMER: Sunday 4th September – Carnival on Collins (see ad page 11) is a must for both the novice and fanatical gardener. The whole family can find plenty to see and do so you won't have to feel too bad spending some time looking for that elusive "hard to find" for your plant collection. The Friends of the Flecker Botanical Gardens Plant Stall always carries a great range of interesting plants and expert advice is readily available from the hardworking Friends.

PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Dieffenbachia, also known as Dumb Cane, is a very easy-to-grow and striking garden understory or houseplant. Unfortunately its sap has toxic qualities which can cause tongue and throat swelling when ingested and may be a severe skin irritant to some people as well as a danger to household pets. Avoiding contact with eyes and mouth, hands should be carefully washed after handling.

With near 60 confirmed species, these members of the Araceae family are native to the New World Tropics from Mexico through to Argentina. Widely hybridised, more recent introductions produce short compact multiple canes unlike many of the species and earlier hybrids and, closely planted, rival the Hosta displays of cooler gardens. Depending on the cultivar, the thick, large leaves are usually some mixture of green, white, and yellow. Dieffenbachias come in a number of cultivars with a myriad of different sizes, colours, and variegation patterns. Species and some cultivars can grow quite tall reaching to two metres. The taller varieties should be pruned back occasionally to encourage multiple heading.



Preferring diffused sunlight but tolerating full shade, dieffenbachias should be watered regularly, with soil being allowed to dry between waterings and require only any good quality, well-drained soil or potting media. Light but regular all-purpose house-plant fertiliser diluted to one half strength will increase size and abundance of foliage.

Relatively pest free, mealybugs and spider mites are sometimes present. Propagation is by stem cutting taken during the warmer months with multiple eyed pieces laid horizontally.



Q & A: Dear Martin: The large shrub or, if shaped to a single trunk, a small tree with large purple undersided leaves and in flower now with multiple heads of long-tubed icing pink flowers is *Clerodendron quadriloculare* or the Shooting Stars clerodendron. Like most in this family, it is a reliable flowerer and has the same propensity for abundant suckering. Easily struck from cutting or sucker off-set taken during the warmer months.



For plant sourcing, identification or general gardening questions, contact *Alectura C/- Kuranda Paper* or email alectura2015@bigpond.com



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Kuranda Youth appeared on the Headspace Float in the Cairns Festival Parade and had an awesome time. Photo supplied by Kristyne Love (Y.A.R. Project Officer, Ngoonbi Community Services Indigenous Corporation).

L to R: Patricia Deshung, Semra Deshung, Lottie Lawson, Harley Deshong, Crystal Lawson, Lance Deshong.



Stronger vegetation management laws were enshrined in the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan. The Great Barrier Reef now risks being listed as 'in danger' by the World Heritage Committee. This will be terrible for the State's tourism as the international body reserved the right to revisit the classification if Australia fails to follow its own plans to protect the Reef.

Can the Council Really Claim Our Water Supply is Safe?

There are around 60 different crops grown in the Barron River catchment area. According to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority just one crop such as corn has 1415 possible chemicals registered for use.

The water test suites which are conducted twice a year by Council only include a very small number of the possible active ingredients of those products. Council has refused FoE's request they do an audit, to identify which chemicals are actually used, so tests can be targeted accordingly. Also Council tests are conducted in April and September when most chemical run off after the first big rain events will have long passed through our town water supply, or washed down the Barron. Independent tests of the Clohesy River found heavy metals were clear in the dry season but, in December, after the first rains they showed a presence of arsenic, cadmium and lead.

Other toxins, for example blue-green algae toxins and chlorination by-products are not tested for at all. Widely used herbicides like glyphosate and atrazine are also not tested for. Research by JCU found atrazine in the mouth of the Barron. Glyphosate only narrowly escaped being banned in the European Union this year.

The town water filter system is such that it cannot remove all of the many possible contaminants that drain into the Barron. It is clear that the Council is in no position to guarantee that the water is always safe to drink as they don't really know what is in it.

We think the responsible response would be for Mareeba Shire Council to inform residents that town water may not be safe as there may be blue green algae toxins, Giardia, Cryptosporidium, chlorination by-products, pesticides, heavy metals, pharmaceuticals and more in the water. Without an alternative clean water supply, solutions include introducing a state of the art filter system to remove all possible toxins and providing strong incentives and encouragement for organic farming in the Barron River catchment.

Council to Reduce Its Pesticide Use in Mareeba Shire

Mareeba Shire Council Mayor Tom Gilmore has announced they are taking delivery of a Blue Hand Steam **saturated steam machine**. It will be used to control weeds along streets, river banks, school grounds and sporting fields, greatly minimising use of herbicides. We applaud this decision after years of campaigning by FoE and many others in the community such as Kinan and Hannah. Steam offers a fantastic solution to poisons and we hope that farmers on the Tableland will be inspired to follow the Council's lead.



Worldwide Concern Over Neonicotinoid Pesticides

The EU has recently moved to further restrict the use of neonicotinoids, which are widely used in FNQ agriculture and elsewhere in Australia. Typically persistent and lethal to a wide range of "non-target" species, they are thought responsible for a worldwide decline in bee and frog populations.

Deborah Pergolotti, of the Cairns Frog Safe project, estimates there has been a 95% decline in the Cairns frog population since her frog hospital opened 17 years ago which she attributes to neonicotinoids. Deborah has treated frogs with extra limbs, missing eyes, cancer, stunted growth and skeletal problems, none of which she says occurred before 1996, which is the year neonicotinoids were first introduced into Australia.

Much agriculture depends on natural pollinators, so broad-scale, persistent toxins which attack them is certainly going to be bad for the natural environment and for agriculture itself. FoE is concerned about neonicotinoids and we believe a precautionary ban is merited within Australia. In FNQ, with its proximity to Wet Tropics and Reef World Heritage, the case for a ban is stronger.

LNP Blocks Labor's Bill to Limit Wide-Scale Tree Clearing

A new report from WWF Australia has revealed more than 40 million trees were cut down in Queensland in 2014-2015 since the Campbell Newman Government tore up the tree clearing laws: resulting in 1 million hectares cleared. The failure of this bill means a continuing degradation in water quality, a disaster for wildlife and the Reef. Furthermore, it will dramatically increase greenhouse gas emissions.



Barron River: Kuranda's water source – Photo J. Gleu



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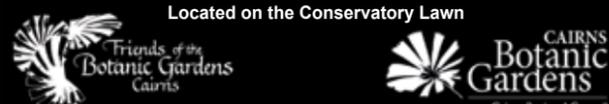
Plant Sale
Carnival on Collins
Sunday 4 September



Raising funds for Cairns Botanic Gardens

Large collection of exotic and native plants for sale
Gingers, Heliconias, shrubs and indoor plants
All plants from \$7 each

Located on the Conservatory Lawn



New Heaters at Kuranda Pool

On Wednesday 17th August, Council awarded the quotation to H2O Warehouse to provide two Accent Air HWP50 heat pumps to service the main pool and one Accent Air HWP10 heat pump for the wading pool at the Kuranda Aquatic Centre.

Due to the deterioration of the existing heat pumps and the excessive cost to undertake further repairs, Council will spend more than \$56,000 to purchase heat pumps to service the pools.

Mareeba Shire Council Mayor, Tom Gilmore said "It has been a long process, but we will ensure the heaters are installed as soon as possible."

did **YOU** know Kuranda has a **RECYCLE DEPOT**



Place your aluminium cans in the KRC bin.
All recycling proceeds are donated to **COUCH** (Committee for Oncology Unit at Cairns Hospital)

Open 24/7

Fallon Road at the...
kuranda recreation centre





Amber Moon Sacred Art

Most Kuranda folk are familiar with Amber Moon's Hair Art studio *Kuranda Dreadlocks*, at the Original Markets. If you've been there you'd have no doubt seen some of her excellent fine art paintings, but it's worth another visit to see her latest creations combining elements of spirit, nature, geometry and cosmology intricately depicted on objects of the natural and



built worlds, skulls, guitars, etc. Enjoy the pictures here, but these objects really have to be held and touched to be properly appreciated.



"Through the amalgamation of aged bones and blooming decorative markings, the metamorphosis of beast and spirit, earth and wind, I have been combining the use of traditional spiritual mandalas with universal sacred geometry and significant crop circle designs to provoke positive thought processes and energies within the viewer on a subconscious level and through animal spirit guide representation. Sacred universal patterns are used in the design of everything in our reality. These geometrical and mathematical ratios, harmonics and proportion are also found in music, light and cosmology. Their value system is widespread through prehistory and is a cultural universal of the human condition." - Amber



Kuranda Amphitheatre News September 2016

Welcome to new KAS members! August was busy at the Amphitheatre with quite a number of smaller hirers using the venue.

Volunteers are always needed for not only the larger events but also these small ones, serving on the bar, setting up and packing away, making sure the venue is ready for these hires, etc, etc. So please if members or friends have some spare time and would like to volunteer, go to the Amphitheatre website and let us know. RSA certs, or ability to obtain one, are required for Bar Service. It would be greatly appreciated and necessary to the sustainability of the Amphitheatre.

Donations of bird & butterfly attracting plants and ground covers would be very welcome (nothing too big).

Plans and drawings are currently underway for a new gatehouse and we hope to see these come to fruition later in the year.

Again a huge thank you to the JOBFIND CREW who have worked tirelessly over the past 18 months to make our community venue a better and ever-changing place.

A BIG WELCOME to the new supervisor AXEL BUTHMAN!

2016 Membership is now half price for last 6 months of year until new membership is due in February 2017.

Membership forms are available from the Honey House. The form and fee can be left there for KAS collection.



"Alice in Wonderland"



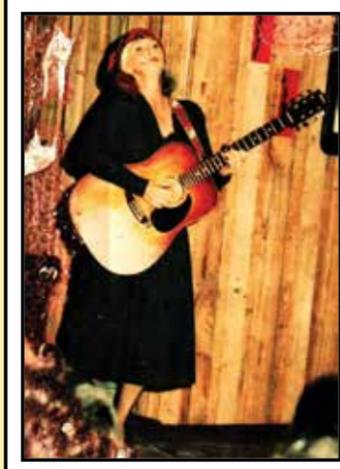
images from past Amphi events

FUNDRAISER - UNDERSTAGE for MAYI WUNBA DANCERS Friday night 2nd Sep



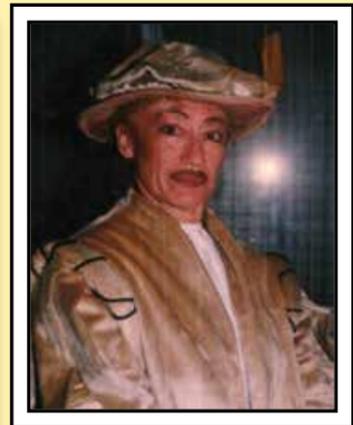
The Amphitheatre is a multipurpose community arts venue voluntarily managed by the people of Kuranda since its inception in the late 1970s and still powering ahead over 35 years later. Volunteering your time ensures its sustainability.

Membership Forms available from:
www.kurandaamphitheatre.org or
"The Honey House", Therwine Street.
For all enquiries please go to
www.kurandaamphitheatre.org
email support@kurandaamphitheatre.zendesk.com
Support enquiries are accessed on a daily basis.



Joon

KAS ADMIN TEAM



Players from "The Taming of the Shrew"

ALL IS ART

If anything be sacred then surely it is Art. Art communicates feelings and impressions directly from heart to heart where words alone are inadequate. We, as humans, have been making art for just about as long as we've been making anything. Decorate it, dress it up, make it "speak", tell the story, entertain, revere - this is what we've used art for since time immemorial. Some would argue that art leads technology when it comes to the advancement of humanity. Technology can only improve on what is, but through art we can create what has never been, only limited by our imaginations. It's not surprising that Albert Einstein, one of the greatest intellects ever, said "Imagination is more important than intellect". We, artists, often don't know exactly why we do it, but do it we must. We will continue to amuse, bemuse, and confuse by transmuting cosmic energy into shape, form, colour, movement, sound, and call it Art - our connections to each other - Art lovers, seren



Diospyros nigra, the Black Sapote, is a species of persimmon. Common names include chocolate pudding fruit, chocolate persimmon and (in Spanish) zapote prieto.

The tropical fruit tree is native to eastern Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and into Colombia. It grows well in Kuranda.

Mature trees can grow to over 25m in height and are evergreen. It is frost sensitive but can tolerate light frosts. The leaves are elliptic-oblong, tapered at both ends, dark green, glossy and 10-30 cm long. Some trees bear only male flowers. Others have both male and female flowers, though some of these are self-incompatible. Fruiting takes about 3-4 years from seed and the trees are heavy bearers.

Black sapote fruit are tomato-like in shape and measure an average 5-10 cm in diameter, with an inedible skin that turns from olive to a deep yellow-green when ripe and a pulp which is white and inedible when unripe but assumes a flavour, colour and texture often likened to chocolate pudding when ripe. Fruits usually contain seeds, up to a maximum of 12. The texture has been likened to that of a papaya. Unripe fruits are astringent, caustic, bitter, and irritating.

Black sapote trees are normally found below 600 meters, but are not particular about soil, and can tolerate light frosts. They are sensitive to drought, requiring irrigation in dry areas, but are quite tolerant of flooding. The tree grows fairly slowly for the first 3-4 years for the first couple of years. Later, however, it grows much more rapidly. Trees should be spaced 10-12m apart.

There are a number of different varieties (some better than others). Australian cultivars include:

BERNICKER – a prolific producer of nearly spherical, medium to large fruit with few seeds and of superior quality.

MOSSMAN – very large, round fruit of medium flavor with high pulp content and few seeds, capable of producing up to 450 kg per tree.

MAHER – large, flattened fruit of good to very good quality with few seeds. It is uniquely known among cultivars for being a small, yet prolific tree (up to 4 metres).

RICKS LATE – originated in NSW Australia and produces heavy, late crops with excellent quality.

SUPERB – a selection from North Queensland that bears large quantities of superb quality, small fruits that may be completely seedless if not cross pollinated.

COCKTAIL – described as having excellent flavour.

black sapote



RECIPES:

Black Sapote Bread

(via Rachele Lucas at thetravelbite.com)

Total time: 1 hour 10 mins – Serves: 6-8

Ingredients

1 ripe black sapote
 ½ stick of butter, melted (equal to ½ cup)
 1 egg, beaten
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 pinch of salt
 1½ cups of all purpose flour
 ¾ cup sugar

Instructions

Cut the black sapote in half. Using a spoon, scoop out the soft fruit into a medium sized bowl and remove the seeds.

Add the melted butter to the black sapote and mash together with a fork.

Next, stir in the sugar, vanilla, and egg.

In a separate bowl, mix together the flour, baking soda, and salt. Then pour it into the bowl with the black sapote and mix together with a fork until it's well blended.

Pour into a greased bread pan and bake at 350F or 175C degrees for one hour. (You can use one regular sized bread pan or two mini bread pans.) Let it cool, then enjoy!

Black Sapote Topping (via Cape Trib Exotic Fruit Farm)

Ingredients

Black Sapote Pulp
 Icing Sugar
 Rum or brandy
 Dash of cocoa (optional)

Instructions

Combine pulp and sugar to form a smooth paste. Add sufficient spirit to give a pouring consistency. Serve with ice-cream and cheesecake. This is really fast. Use this as a sauce on pancakes etc. A dash of cocoa, also gives the chocolate flavour that you expect when you first see the sauce.

Illustration by Eve Stafford and Buck Richardson (Kuranda Kreations) from a series of 12 tropical rare fruit cards produced by them in 1982. Fruit were drawn from real life in the orchards of Rosebud Farm and the former Avondale Nurseries (at the base of the Kuranda Range at Smithfield).

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KURANDA GIG GUIDE

September/October

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THE UNDERSTAGE
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FOOD & BAR
DOORS OPEN 6.30 TILL LATE
ENTRY: \$10

SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

KURANDA HOTEL
LUNAR
LIVE ACOUSTIC
12.00 - 3.00pm

FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

TOP PUB
BARRON FALLS HOTEL
KARAOKE NITE
with Cynthia
6.00 - 10.00pm

FRIDAY 23RD TO SUNDAY
25TH SEPTEMBER

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++ EARTHDANCE ++
ELF TRANZPORTER
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IN THE ELEMENT + DJANSA
SOURONE + RHYTHM NECTAR
And many more!!
All Ages Event
Children under 14
accompanied by a legal
guardian are free

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

TOP PUB
BARRON FALLS HOTEL
KARAOKE NITE
with Cynthia
6.00 - 10.00pm

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

Queen Bee Cafe
OPEN MIC
From 12 Noon
All Welcome
Check at Cafe for Info

SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER

The Billabong
BALCONY TV
From 12 noon

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER

The Billabong
ROCK THIS COUNTRY BLUE
MUSIC FESTIVAL
++ ADAM HALE BAND ++
++ GEORGE DAVIES ++
BLUE TONIC + FOLKCENTRIC
++ THE SILKTONES ++
From 12 noon

MUSIC PAGE

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An eclectic selection of great songs with something for everyone...
Played in a soulful acoustic style... Perfect to reflect the warm hospitality
of Far North Queensland!



Raised in the UK, Lunar Sun has been living for some time in the beautiful rainforest village of Kuranda. Playing music and writing songs for more than twenty years, Lunar now performs acoustic covers that most people know, with a few originals sprinkled in the song list. Using an acoustic-electric guitar rig for warm earthy tones and a small old school kick drum for high quality low end beats.

Lunar has played in several bands over the years, notably the *Lawson Moon Band*, an acoustic duo playing at all the great Port Douglas hotels and around

Cairns, and more recently with local slide guitar/digeridoo master *Dave Cooke*, on drums and singing backing vocals. After a few years playing in duos Lunar has been inspired to take his solo act around North Queensland and beyond!

With a focus on providing laid back entertainment that can get everyone dancing if necessary, Lunar has put together a collection of well-known songs to cater for a variety of occasions.

Catch Lunar at the Kuranda Hotel on Sunday for a live acoustic set. Check the **Gig Guide** for more details.



EARTHDANCE CAIRNS

Give Peace a Dance!

The Billabong, 23-25 September

The organisers for EARTHDANCE Cairns, Plant the Seed Productions are feeling blessed to have the Billabong in Kuranda as this year's venue for the 2016 festival to shine your lights and Give Peace a Dance.

Celebrating their 20th anniversary, EARTHDANCE International has been co-ordinating independently produced Earthdance parties, club nights and festivals, syncing with the **United Nations International Peace Day** on September 21 since 1997.

Events have been held in over 1000 locations in 80 countries, combining music, dance, community-building, with a global **Prayer for Peace**, in support of local charities aligning for peace, social justice and environmental activism. This year has 25 events worldwide, with three; in Nimbin, Brisbane and **The Billabong**, being held in Australia.

The highlight of the **Earthdance Global Peace Party** is a synchronized link-up, when every event around the world plays the **Prayer for Peace** music track at the same time.

The **Prayer for Peace** is a moment of deep reflection and connection, and a powerful affirmation that unifies our intentions for peace, on all levels.

After much thought, the **EARTHDANCE** Cairns organisers, befittingly so, **Plant the Seed Productions**, have decided to donate 50% of any profits made towards Treeforce Cairns, a local tree planting group.

The alignment with Treeforce Cairns is also closely aligned with **EARTHDANCE** Global's overall theme for 2016 of deep peace-making and true environmental stewardship.

Plant the Seed Productions believe that conservation and re-vegetation initiatives are of the utmost importance in tackling the growing problem of climate change, and truly do believe that events such as this can play a part in addressing and achieving these initiatives.

EARTHDANCE Cairns will include live entertainment by **Elf Tranzporter, Erin, Yeshe, Skurge, In The Element, Mark Hillman** and **Djansa** with electronic sets from **Sourone** (Poland), **Rhythm Nectar, Wasabi, Legacy, Funkform, Anacreon, Black Rose, Old Man River, Billy Dread, Ziptie vs Torpedo, moT, Brett2, AudioSpazm, Frakatix, Uzi, Spectrum, Fair Dinkum, Mahavana, Daddy Long Legs, Beat Play, Waltone** and **Unify Will**.

Mouth watering delicious morsels to be served by **Earth Mama's Kitchen** and **Cafe On The Go**. Art & Decor by **Adam Scott Miller, Boni Crystal** and **Jill Manning**, a Fire Performance and Hula Hooping Workshop by **Pyro Gypsies Fire** being only a few of the highlights over the weekend. Head over to serene setting at **The Billabong**, set up your swag, and join in the awareness to **Give Peace a Dance**.

For up to date information check out the Facebook page, and head on over to www.islandtix.com.au for your tix.

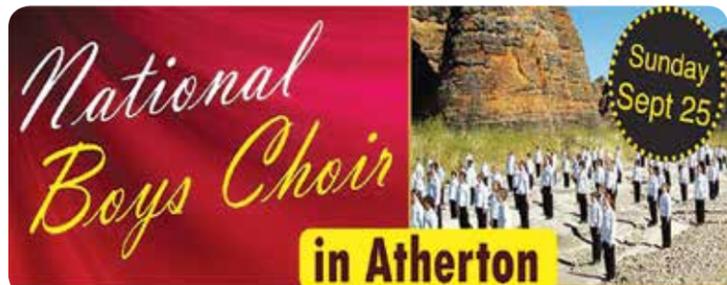
Mayi Wunba Dancers Fundraiser Night

The Understage
Friday 2 September
R'n'B Night



Raising Funds for the Mayi Wunba Dancers to attend the
Dance Rites in Sydney...

Bar & Food Doors Open 6.30pm till late Entry \$10



The **National Boys Choir of Australia**, perhaps recognised by most Australians from the iconic Qantas television commercials, will be coming to Atherton on Sunday, September 25.

The **Choir** is one of the oldest children's choirs in the country, having celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2014. Choristers have been involved in major events such as the Sydney Olympics, the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, The Three Tenors Tour, André Rieu's Australian tour and Carols by Candlelight from the Myer Music Bowl for more than two decades. The **Choir** also regularly performs with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Opera Australia.

Held at **Destiny Hall, Jubilee College**, Loder Street in Atherton from 7pm, the 42 choir boys repertoire includes works by **J.S.Bach, John Rutter, Angels are Everywhere** by American composer **Daniel Pinkham** and choral selections from **Les Misérables**. The **Choir** will also sing 'that' song from the Qantas commercials as well as Australian folk songs.

Tickets are limited, don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to see the **National Boys Choir** on Tableland soil. Bookings are available online at www.trybooking.com/MDLW, in person at Chameleon's Treasure 30 Main Street, Atherton, Phone 4091 1818. Tickets available at the door. Buffet meals available at Destiny Cafe from 5pm. Bookings Essential. Phone 0487 007 608.

Tablelands Friends of the Gallery Artisans' Fair

Mollie Bosworth and Toni Rogers were invited to join Tablelands artists to participate in the inaugural Friends of the Gallery 2016 Artisans' Fair. Tables outside the Regional Gallery featured handcrafted ceramics, jewellery, art, gifts and much more. Musical entertainment was provided by Bella Cappella.

Many of the artists had exhibited in the Tableland Regional Gallery during 2016.



Mollie Bosworth



Co-op members enjoying the Artisans' Fair:
Darrel Ely, Jana Iriyadi, Toni Rogers

New Co-op Member

The Arts Co-op welcomes Kuranda artist Steve Hutchins. Steve uses recycled pallet timber and upcycled mirror glass in his artworks. To see some of his 'storytelling' pieces, visit his facebook page on <https://web.facebook.com/reflectsilhouettes/>

Artists Currently Exhibiting in Local Exhibitions

Buck Richardson, Lisa Edwards, Peter Brown and Mollie Bosworth are participating in the Kick Arts Member's exhibiton 'eight by ten'. This exhibition continues in Gallery 1 at Kick Arts, Abbot Street, Cairns until 1st October.

Buck Richardson has had two entries accepted in the *Flying Arts Queensland Regional Art awards*. The awards will soon be announced including the People's Voting Choice. The chosen exhibition pieces will tour until 2018. The good wishes of the Co-op are behind Buck as he awaits the results.

Beyond the Surface: New Textiles and Ceramics is currently showing at Cairns Regional Gallery. This exhibition explores the diverse ways in which images and designs are applied to contemporary ceramics, textiles and furniture as an aesthetic expression of culture and identity. Mollie Bosworth is represented in this exhibition, showing until 16th October.

Upcoming Mixed Media Workshop

Arts Co-op member Toni Rogers is holding an innovative workshop on Saturday 10th September, 9.30am-4.00pm. Toni will introduce you to manipulate, weave, fuse, layer and stitch with various inspiring mixed media and surface techniques (see advertisement page 27 for details).

Community Workshop with sculptor Kim Prentice (Koah) for Sculpture Botanica 2016

Making 'The Pod' using natural plant materials, Saturday 17th September 9.30am-3.00pm in the Botanical Gardens Visitors Centre. Bookings and enquiries through Sculpture Botanica 2016 Facebook page.

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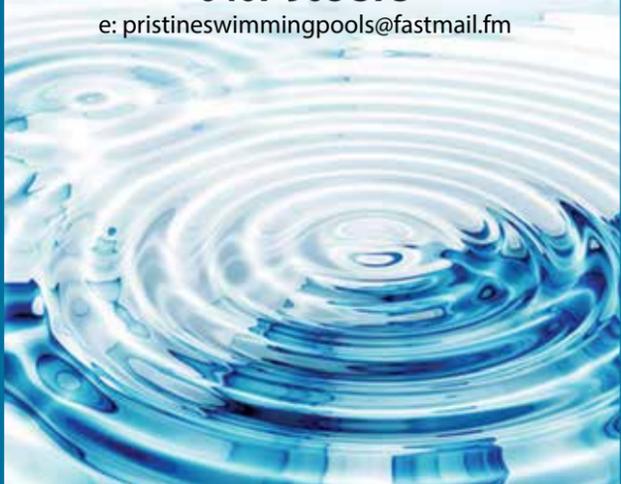
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“How to Keep the Bugs Off”

As the first article of what I hope to be continuing column about growing your own food, I was asked to write about keeping those annoying critters off our yummy food plants.

The main overriding reason is a weak plant. Anything that nature does not approve of it will try to remove. I've learnt a sick plant can be caused by four main contributing factors:

- Genetics and plant varieties
- Climate, time of year, location in the garden
- Soil
- Lack of planting diversity

In this column we'll deal with the first two and next month with the others. They are not listed in order of importance and there are usually more than one, or all of these factors acting together, to cause bug attacks.

The Variety and its Genetics

Don't buy your seeds from Bunnings! They are not heirloom but hybrid. Heirloom being the opposite and meaning an original variety that has not been crossed with another similar variety in favour of, say, production over pest resilience and flavour.

You also need to sow a little more than you would normally. Natural selection is important: plant out your strongest, tallest, biggest seedlings and forget the rest.

You don't want to collect seed from those anyway, you want only the strongest genetics to pass down the years.

Not only make sure the packet states the variety is heirloom but also open pollinated, meaning you can collect the seed and that seed will produce good quality plants again almost identical to its mother – unlike hybrids.

Hybrid seeds are not “true to type” of the parent plant and can be almost sterile and not germinate or produce any seed in the vegetable or fruit itself. There will be more on the importance of seed saving in a future article.

So in the garden you have to experiment, certain types of, say, lettuce, won't be touched and some will be eaten alive.

Though why certain varieties are eaten can largely depend on climate and what time of year they're growing.

Climate, the Time of Year, Location of Plant

We live in the the tropics so don't frown! We get to grow more species of edible plants that all the other climates combined!

So as much as you like growing those European vegetables and try your hardest thinking that you get away with planting them in our “winter” months, sometimes it just isn't cold enough, especially here in Kuranda.

Be open minded and try out tropical versions of southern edibles and you might be surprised and save yourself a whole lot of hassle – they're suited for our climate and are going to grow ten times better than most common varieties.

Also research what the plant actually likes – full sun, part shade or does it hate wind, humidity or the extra rain we've been receiving?

Observing and planting in different spots can tell you this though there will be many other variables if one is suffering and another is fine.

So climate can actually be a larger factor for nibbling bugs than the variety, though the two basically go hand in hand.

The Four Seasons & other works

THE QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA is proud to visit Atherton to perform a program of wonderful music including Vivaldi's best known piece, the popular Four Seasons, and other great works for string orchestra.

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Youth Arts Kuranda providing Kuranda colour and energy in the Cairns Festival Grand Parade.
Photo by Belinda Young

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See you at the Centre soon, Eslyn Wargent

Alpine Dingoes in Kuranda

Meet the newest attraction in Kuranda, these cute alpine dingo puppies, pictured with Marc Sleeman, Tourism Kuranda.

Still wearing their fluffy winter coats after arriving from Sydney, these playful pups will soon shed their extra hair as they acclimatise to life in the tropics at Rainforestation Nature Park.

Tourism Kuranda has launched the new Welcome Ambassador program at Kuranda Station. More than half a million visitors arrive in Kuranda each year on the Kuranda Scenic Railway train and Skyrail Rainforest Cableway and we feel it is important to welcome these people and provide advice.

The Welcome Ambassadors will greet visitors from 10.00am to midday at the Station and will hand out Kuranda Maps from their brochure cart. Make sure you say g'day to them!



Dingo Follow-up

Last month we reported on the intended use of dingoes to control the growing population of feral goats on Pelorus Island (*The Kuranda Paper*, August edition P26) <http://www.kurandapaper.com/Issue279/Page26.htm>

On 18th August a press release was issued by Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, The Honourable Steven Miles.

Rare Bird Blocks Bizarre Death Row Dingoes Plan

Environment Minister Dr Steven Miles has stopped a controversial plan to deploy wild dogs [dingoes] to kill goats on a North Queensland island to protect the threatened Beach Stone-curlew (*right*).

Dr Miles made an Interim Conservation Order under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 requiring Hinchinbrook Shire Council to immediately cease the use of dingoes to eradicate feral goats on Pelorus Island.

"I was shocked to learn of this cruel experiment but even more alarming is the lack of thought for the native animals on the island.

"Pest control should always be carried out in the most humane way possible – not by death row dingoes.

"As of today [18th August 2016] no dogs can be released on to Pelorus Island and any wild dogs already on the island must be removed within the next 14 days," Dr Miles said.

"I do not take this action lightly but on the advice of experts from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection it's clear that this misconceived program needs to stop before irrevocable harm is done to the island's population of Beach Stone-curlews.

"While the control of feral goats and other pests is a responsibility of all landholders, the methods employed should not pose a risk to threatened native wildlife species."

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries Leanne Donaldson said the program was 'inhumane'.

"I fully support the action Minister Miles is taking today," Ms Donaldson said.

RSPCA Queensland CEO Mark Townend said the RSPCA also supported the decision.

"We at the RSPCA had a number of concerns regarding the decision to put dingoes on the island in the first place," Mr Townend said.

"We felt there were significant animal welfare issues not just for the goats but for smaller, native animals on the island and the dingoes themselves."

Dr Miles said there were estimated to be only around 5000 Beach Stone-curlews left across Australia.

"The Beach stone-curlew is listed as Vulnerable in Queensland, Critically Endangered in New South Wales and Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species," Dr Miles said.

"It is believed to be in decline across most of its range due to human disturbance and predation by cats, pigs and dogs.

"I will not stand by while one of the main predators of this vulnerable bird is deliberately released into its habitat."

It is admirable that the Queensland State Government has seen it appropriate to cease this intended action. The amount of negative reaction from the general public in protestation at the intended use of the dingoes must also have played a part in the eventual decision. It is hoped that similar unsavoury misuse of our wildlife is never again raised. [Ed.]



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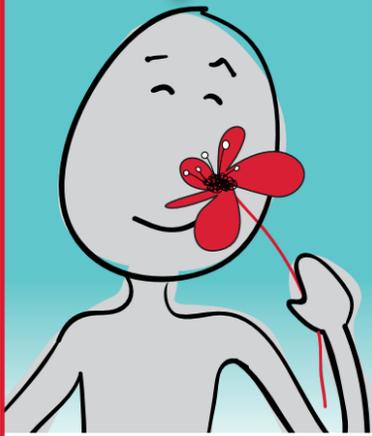
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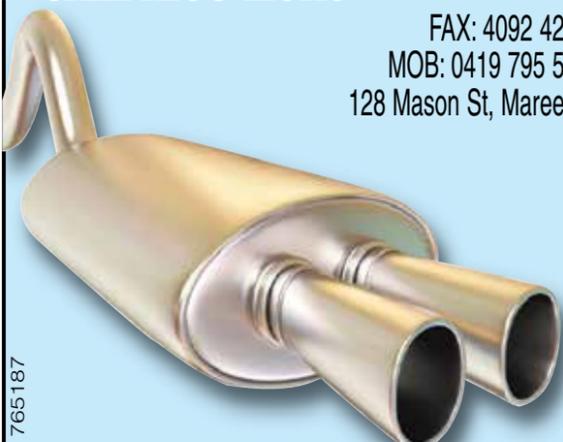
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Punching Above



A young crab spider which has captured a much larger katydid.

FLOWER OR CRAB SPIDERS are much larger than themselves on flowers. The other common name

Unlike web-building spiders, they approach within reach. When they deliver a venomous bite. They are harmless to humans, however, like other spiders, they are deadly. They appear to be very fast acting as they have the ability to subdue animals many times their weight and do so quickly with a minimum of effort. While filming crab spiders in Kosciusko we shot multiple sequences of them capturing beetles. Each time a beetle was captured it would shudder and die within seconds.

In the Wet Tropics we have a variety of flower and crab spiders. We have many here in Kuranda and are regularly at the size of prey these little spiders bring down. One of the most striking which has an uncanny ability to capture prey larger than itself is the Ornate Huntsman (*Poecilothomisus speciosus*). We have seen this spider on many occasions feeding on a Jungle Huntsman (*Heteropoda*). In some cases the huntsman would be the size of the Crab Spider, so the initial attack have been fast and decisive.

The Ghost Crab Spider (*Thomisus*) is a common local species. Adults are white or yellow, and are usually found on similarly coloured flowers. Some hunt upon the bark of trees and use their effective camouflage enabling them to survive in such habitats. The cryptic textures of these spiders make it extremely difficult for prey (and their predators) to detect them.

Alan Henning
Minibeast



A bark-dwelling crab spider with excellent camouflage.



e Their Weight

SPIDERS (Thomisidae) are small spiders that use ambush tactics to capture their prey, often invertebrates. Many species are known as flower spiders as they spend most of their time waiting motionless for prey upon a flower. Their ability to walk sideways like a crab is due to their ability to walk sideways like a crab.

These spiders capture their prey without the use of silk. They simply wait until an unsuspecting invertebrate comes by. When they strike, they grasp their prey with their front two pairs of legs and pull it rapidly toward their fangs before it can escape.

They are completely motionless until they see their prey. Their venom is not dangerous to humans. They have the same appearance as a crab. In 2011, a spider was captured in a net. It would be interesting to see if it could be used in a similar way to a crab.

Many species have been observed. They are particularly amazed by the way they manage to capture their prey. Some species capture spiders. Crab spiders have been observed capturing large insects (e.g. *Jugulans*). In some cases, they can catch their prey 10 times their weight.

Thomis spectabilis can be found on other species. They have evolved to survive in various environments and patterns. It is hard for them to be captured.

Anderson
Wildlife



A Ghost Crab Spider ready to ambush its prey.



This Orate Crab Spider has caught a large Jungle Huntsman.

PHOTOS: ALAN HENDERSON - MINIBEAST WILDLIFE



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Rakali: Australia's Otter

If you have a property with a permanent water feature, be it a creek, dam, pond or wetland, you most likely will have a cute water rat in residence.

Hydromys chrysogaster, or water rat, is slowly becoming more widely known by its indigenous name, Rakali, following a push by conservationists and science from the 1990s, to distinguish it as a true Australian native rodent, in contrast to the infamous introduced rats.

The Australian Department of Environment and Heritage has adopted Rakali as the true name for the water rat; the latest edition of the Macquarie Australian Dictionary lists Rakali for the first time.

Similar to the Platypus, the Rakali makes his home in burrows in creek, lake and dam banks, from which he forages at late afternoon and evening for his favourite dinner items: insects, frogs, crustaceans, snails, small reptiles, fish and some aquatic plants.

Unlike the Platypus, for which they are often mistaken by the casual observer, when sighted swimming, they do not eat underwater. Rakali carry their morsels to one of their nearby 'dining tables', perhaps a rock or log near the bank, where they spread out the fruits of their foraging, and have a sit down meal.

The Rakali does not adapt well to temperature changes, and in particularly cold weather he will stay warm and sheltered in his burrow at night, and hunt during the warmth of the day, sometimes on land if the water temperature is too chilly.

The back feet of the Rakali are partially webbed, distinguishing them from any other rodents. The body is streamlined for swimming, and many observers regard them as Australia's version of the Otter, or the 'other Platypus.' Early biologists referred to them as Beaver Rat.

They were once regarded as a nuisance, due of course to their superficial similarity to the European rat, and were hunted mercilessly for their soft, waterproof fur. They were also seen as pests by farming communities with their burrowing into irrigation banks and causing leaks.

They were granted protection order in the late 1930s and are now regarded as non-endangered in most States.

These days the greatest threat to the Rakali are some humans, who still see 'only a rat' and actively kill them. Pollution of the waterways and urbanisation as well as drought are major threats. In addition, they must be wary of predators such as snakes and large fish, together with foxes and cats. An interesting scientifically verified fact about the Rakali is their ability to dine upon cane toads and not be affected by the poisonous glands. Clever little rodent, you may say.



Females produce four to five offspring per year which suckle for about four weeks. Life span is only about four years.

They are a very bright animal, and even where the Rakali is known to be in large numbers, he seems to consistently avoid the researchers' snares and traps. When trapped they are quite capable of figuring out an escape route or chewing their way out of most enclosures.

The Rakali pictured (Nova) was hand raised from a baby by Pam at Batreach, and proved to be one of the most endearing creatures ever raised. When large enough to be released she was brought to our property in a cat cage.

Similar to the procedure for most native animal releases, the intention was to keep Nova securely in the cage a few metres into the bush for a couple of nights for her to become acquainted with the sounds, and then release her, knowing she would immediately head downhill to the creek.

However to our surprise, the very next morning she had 'self-released' by gnawing through the wire cage (but not before devouring the mussels we had placed in the cage earlier).

We're sure she is now happily living in a burrow somewhere along Warril Creek.



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Inside My Studio

Interview and Photographs by Toni Rogers

Modern professional wood turners are typically either production turners producing large quantities of functional pieces using computerised lathes, or artistic turners producing smaller numbers of pieces, often enhanced after turning by a number of other techniques to produce objects for the art market. The field of wood turning grew from the hobbyist movement in the 1930s to fine artists in the 1970s, experimenting with super object forms and other fine craft concepts. Local Kuranda wood artist **Bob Morrison** is one such fine artist, expressing what comes from within and his love of wood and understanding the history behind the finished piece. Bob applies his art to meet the demand for hand-turned wood products from local rainforest woods.

Where is your current studio?

My studio is at my home in Myola in the rainforest. It is a separate building from the house and it has grown over the years, and is still growing. I am an avid collector of timber and I store it. When I started wood art in 1976 it was hard to get timber – now it is almost impossible. I now source my timbers from my stock, much originally from Tarzali Timber Cutters and I have enough for three lifetimes.

Do you work alone or with others?

Alone, by preference. I was a member of a club for a few years and members came and worked with me but now I prefer to work solo.

What are the essential features your studio has to have?

Good ventilation, good light and bench space.

Describe your work pattern – hours/days/weeks.

I really work on demand. When stock in the gallery in Coondoo Street is running short, I work. When I have a nice piece of wood, I think about it and then start to transform it when it becomes obvious to me what it will be.

Describe the works you do in your studio.

My artwork is predominantly wood turning – bowls, vases, lazy susans, all from salvaged logs and stumps. Many of the pieces came from Wongabel Forest as well as Tarzali Sawmill. I use mainly red cedar, maple silkwood, purple gidgee, and red lancewood with its attractive bark features.

Why is wood art your chosen medium?

Years ago I suffered from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and gave up selling real estate. I had turned wood as a child, as a hobby, and I enjoyed it. As part of my recuperation I attended a workshop with a wood turner in Mareeba and on the first day, covered in sawdust, I started spindle turning. I learnt to drive all the tools. I fell back into the art form and once you are hooked there is no stopping. It has become my business. Wood is a natural material, a renewable resource traditionally used for building and craft works, and is used on a daily basis, for plates, bowls, cutting boards etc. It is a medium for those who like to use natural materials, using rescued timber, salvaged from timber mills and forestry coups and cut to size at my studio. Camphor laurel (an introduced pest species) is crafted into cutting boards and lazy susans because of its wonderful features. I enjoy making something useful and natural, showing the true beauty of the local timbers while educating people to the real value of trees. They are



not just about clearing and burning.

List three things you listen to while working.

I listen to my intuition. I listen to the tools cutting, they tell me what they are doing. And I have my quiet head space. I find the work meditative.

Your favourite tool?

[Bob leaned behind where he was sitting and reached for two long wooden handled, high speed steel American gouges (pictured).] I had

four made of a special space age material that doesn't go blunt quickly. I purchased them specifically for turning Queensland black walnut which is particularly abrasive. The end result of working with these gouges is beautiful.

How do you identify your work?

I write on the underside with an ink pen, the wood species and "Bob's Wood Art, Kuranda".

How do you sell your work?

I have had, for over fifteen years, my gallery/shop "Bob's Wood Art" in the Red House in Coondoo Street. It is open seven days a week. I don't have a website.

Do you have any other paid or unpaid work?

For some time I was the Fire Warden in the local Kuranda/Myola SES but my gallery hours do not allow me the time to continue. I am now unable to meet the required commitment to this voluntary work.

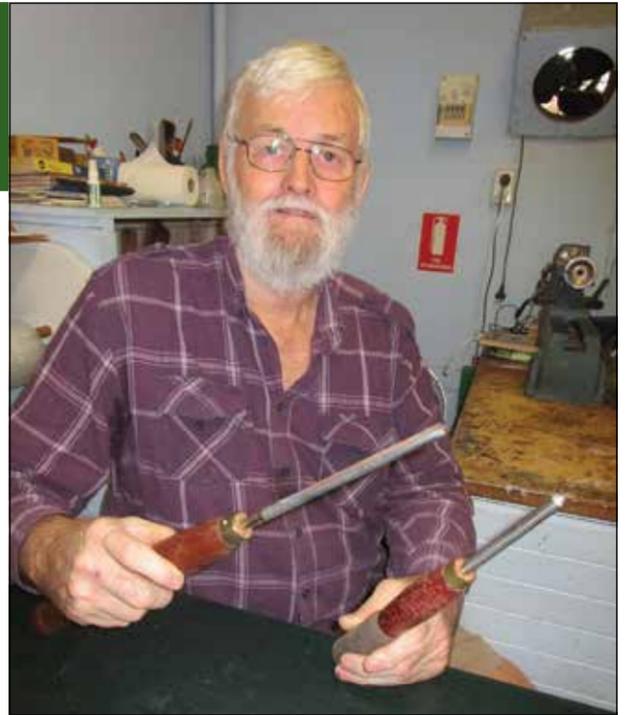
If you could change one thing about your studio what would that be?

I would make my studio even bigger. I would level the floor which is currently stepped and a hazard when handling large pieces of timber. I would like more working space. "A man can never have a big enough shed."

If you were not working with wood turning what would you be doing?

I would go back to gold mining, anywhere in Queensland. I do occasionally, but not often enough. I identify spots when I am driving the highway and promise myself I will go back to them. It is the Aussie bush thing, it gets you excited.

Functional pieces and exceptional wood art by Bob Morrison can be found at **Bob's Wood Art** in The Red House, Coondoo Street, Kuranda.



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Katter Batty on Bats



Hon Bob Katter MP
Federal Leader
Member for Kennedy

Katter thinks ruling on "bat tree" pruning is madness

18 August 2016: KAP member for Kennedy, Bob Katter thinks the verdict and fines handed down to an arborist and Cairns Regional Council by Magistrate on Tuesday for pruning the infamous flying fox trees are wrong.

Mr Katter said, "Cairns Regional Council is not even allowed to carry out normal safety measures from qualified arborists! These greenies are dangerous fanatical extremists and they'd be more at home in Iraq or Syria than here.

"These bat extremists have spiritual belief systems that fly in the face of common humanity. Future generations will look upon them as they'll look upon the abhorrent behavior of other crazy extremists down through history without the slightest scintilla of humanitarian values.

"We can't continue our tourism industry with bat droppings falling out of the sky above you carrying all sorts of diseases and let me go through them:

- The bat-born **Lyssavirus** (A.K.A "Bat Virus"), (rabies like disease). In a Qld government health paper it says that Lyssavirus is almost always fatal. A young boy died a terrible death from Lyssavirus after being bitten or scratched by a flying fox in North Qld in 2013.
- **Leptospirosis** (Which would kill cane cutters. This is transmitted via the urine of infected animals. A main originating factor is flying foxes.)
- **Hendra Virus** (We've had 6 cases of Hendra in Qld and four have been fatal.) Hendra is almost always fatal.
- **Salmonella**
- **SARS**
- **Avian Flu**
- **Nipah Virus**

"We need jobs from the tourism trade and I'm sick and tired of ratbags telling me this is the bat's habitat. The proliferation of pythons have vanished because of the cane toads, they're mostly gone. The owls and other predatory birds have been crowded out of the trees because of the massive bat numbers. Nature is completely out of balance. Humans have a right to defend themselves and protect their families."

EDITORIAL: For one of our elected representatives to publicly claim in a press release that 'greenies' are 'dangerous fanatical extremists' and 'ratbags', who would be 'at home in Iraq or Syria' is an outrageous statement – as are his inaccuracies concerning flying-foxes.

It's not only bat facts that Mr Katter's press release has got so grossly wrong. We would challenge him to offer evidence on his claims that bats have 'crowded out' owls and predatory birds, and that pythons are 'mostly gone'.

Easy and silly to blame greenies, bats and cane toads for nature's woes.

In his press release he claims that 'nature is completely out of balance' – well yes, Bob, we agree. But that's owing to human interference by way of habitat clearing and pollution.

Bob, your 'us and them' and 'humans battling nature' attitude is the mentality of 50 or 100 years ago.

Today's conservationists will be regarded by history in a better light than politicians such as Mr Katter and his uninformed, outmoded and out-of-touch opinions which will be remembered with the disdain and ridicule they deserve.

A little Background by Cafnec.org.au

Due to changes in political direction in Queensland in 2013, numerous laws were amended, which loosened the reins on flying-fox roost tree management in Queensland. In May 2014 the Cairns Regional Council began a tree trimming event on the roost trees surrounding the City Library.

While doing this, witnesses say the council breached a roost management Code of Practice when they trimmed trees in which flying-foxes were still present. Public outcry and protests led to the council facing court proceedings. Since then, the Novotel Oasis Resort applied to completely remove 11 flying-fox roost trees from their property.

The submissions were approved and the tree removal began on 1st May; the Novotel has removed a number of trees from its premises leaving hundreds of returned flying-foxes cramped in remaining roost trees.

A number of trees were removed on 1st and 20th May 2015, for the development of the new aquarium and the Cairns Novotel Oasis Resort. Although the spectacled flying-foxes are a nationally vulnerable species, the developers were still able to gain approval to remove the roost trees surrounding the resort, including a number of Heritage listed Moreton Bay Figs.

Recent Developments by Noel Castley-Wright

Prior to the Queensland State Election, CRC Mayor Bob Manning demanded the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP), under a caretaker government, clear his council of wrongdoing. This rush appeared to be driven by fear of an ALP Government resuming power who would not be supportive of covering up the unlawful acts.

Cairns Regional Council were found guilty and were issued a fine for \$15,000 for two breaches to the Nature Conservation Act and two breaches to the Heritage Act. The CRC then began a long legal battle at a substantial cost to ratepayers knowing there was irrefutable video evidence of them breaching the acts.

As the EHP QC stated, this is unheard of to have a State Government prosecute a local council and the embarrassment to CRC is substantial. Regardless of the level of the fine, the significance of what had been achieved is overwhelming success.

In response to Bob Katter's statements. The CRC were not carrying out 'normal safety measures' and the 'qualified arborist' pleaded guilty to not undertaking works to Australian Standards. You are not allowed to lop Heritage Trees and a qualified arborist should and I believe would know that.

Bob Katter sensationalises and fabricates fear of diseases that are proven scientifically to not be derived from flying foxes in order to maliciously



PHOTOGRAPH OF SPECTACLED FLYING-FOX BY HELEN DOUGLAS

malign a species that is necessary for the diversity of our World Heritage Wet Tropics. e.g. Leptospirosis is from rats, not flying-foxes.

You cannot contract Lyssavirus from urine or faeces.

Barry Hodson

FCPA

Certified Practising Accountant

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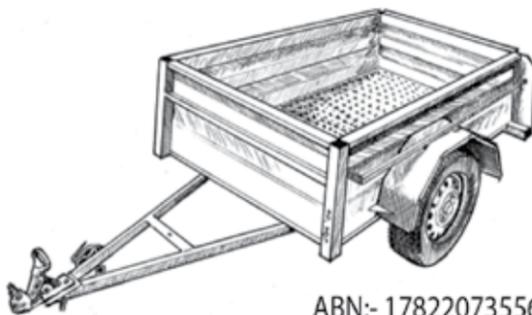
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Kuranda's No. 8 Flying Gang

A History of Kuranda Rail

This article appeared in the 1986 edition of *This Australia Magazine*. It was written by Pamela Tibbs, and appears on her website: www.writerpamelatibbs.com with photographs courtesy of Robyn Single (now Robyn Stieger). *The Kuranda Paper* was approached by one of the subjects of the story ("The Chinaman", Anton Richardson of Koah) and was asked to source and reproduce the article, as a part of Kuranda's history.

The Kuranda to Cairns railway, which winds its way through beautiful mountain scenery, needs constant maintenance to keep it running...

Tracker, Nipper, Lou Blue, Big Buddha, Smithie, The Chinaman, Hogie Dogie, Green Hat, Bull Tosser, Snake Charmer. If you think these names are the menu for a new fast food restaurant, then guess again. No, they are not a list of outback towns either. They are the nicknames of members of the Number 8 Flying Gang, the strong armed, strapping, individualistic hard working men who keep the rails safe and in good working order for the trains and rail motors making their way through the tropical mountains from Cairns to Kuranda in northern Queensland.



Most passengers, whether sitting in the luxury of a wood paneled tourist train or just riding the regular rail motor service, are enthralled by the grandeur of the sights they pass on the journey. And rightly so, for the scenery is green and lush, accented by fresh mountain breezes. Kuranda is 330 metres above sea level. The mountains, capped by hazy lavender marshmallow clouds, stretch upwards and onwards, seemingly forever.

Stony Creek Falls bounds over the rocks as the train slows down to give the tourists a view of the falls on one side and the valley below on the other. During the wet season, the power and beauty of Barron Falls gives one a renewed appreciation of unharnessed nature. With such a multitude of sights, visitors can hardly be expected to give a thought to how the rails are kept safe for their journey.

But behind the scenes, or more literally beside the rails, are the work gangs. The members of these gangs are prime examples of the Aussie battlers who have helped to make this bush country inhabitable for Europeans. There are usually 13 men in a gang, each responsible for different duties in the long day's work. Working conditions can include torrential rains or hot, dry, and dusty days.

The temperature, during the wet season, which lasts from January to March, can climb to 36 degrees Celsius with a similar humidity. When there is a mud slide during the rainy season, the men work long arduous hours to clear the tracks so that the train and rail motors keep running. The Chinaman reckons that, "for every shovelful of dirt you remove, two more takes its place."

Some of the men in these gangs have spent as long as 11 years together, working under adverse, often isolated, bush conditions where they shared confined cooking, sleeping, and living quarters. Does the closeness ever breed contempt? Smithie laughingly replies, "Me and him," pointing to the man using the shovel next to him, "had a knuckle up last week, but we ended up having a friendly wrestle under the mango tree with the rest of the gang watching."

Obviously the brotherhood bond, known as Australian mateship, keeps these men together. When asked about this uniquely Australian quality, they define it as watching out for each other. Mates can always rely on each other; they go out of their way to help each other. If one is broke, the other one has the money and no questions asked. Tracker summed up mateship, "Simple, I'd do anything for him, he'd do anything for me." They are quick to tell you stories of a mate's accomplishments. Everybody in the gang turned out to watch Tracker, named for his bush knowledge, race against a quarter horse in the nearby town of Mareeba. They are all equally proud of the fact that he won too!

This friendship certainly does not exclude appreciation of women. As a matter of fact, admiring women on the train as it passes is a favourite hobby of the gang. All agree that you have got to stop work to let the train pass, you might as well make good use of the time. The Chinaman, known as one of the most talkative yarn spinners of the group, reckons that, "it would definitely be good to work with sheilas." When asked why, he laughingly replies that, "everybody would show up for work every day."

Being of a rather free-spirited cowboy nature, the men often go bush, or walkabout, just to get away from it all. Never look for Bull Tosser when there is a rodeo in a nearby town because he will certainly be taking his well earned holidays. He will most assuredly be taking part in the rodeo, for by definition these men are participators, not observers.

The bond of mateship which sustains these men helps them through dangerous situations. Not only are there flies, ticks, leeches, and venomous snakes lurking in the bush beside the tracks, many of the manual tasks have a high element of risk involved. The men are quick to shrug off the dangers of their work and most

members of the gang have some vicious scars, which they shrug off as 'part of the job.' Big Buddha, whose name comes from his size, was off work for four months after being dragged more than 20 metres under the trailer behind the moving section car. He returned to work with little or not complaint about his injuries.

The work is strenuous and Hogie Dogie laughingly explains, "We need bulldozers, not shovels." One of the immense manual tasks, regularly performed, is shifting the rails. A gang of 13 men drags and lifts 24 metres of rail about six metres. The rail weighs 30 kilograms per metre; simple mathematics makes that more than 720 kilograms. It is definitely a job designed for muscle power matched by will power.

The gang's reasons for doing such hard work vary. The Nipper, whose name comes from the fact that he is the 18 year old self appointed gopher in the gang, and whose duties include getting the tools, looking after the water and making the tea for morning smoko, reckons, "it's a lot better than sitting in a shop, and it keeps ya fit." The others agree that the pay is good and the work is steady.

The requirements for working on the railway are not much different from when the first rails were put down from Cairns to Kuranda in 1884. It took three years of relentless toil to push the railway through this 34 kilometres of virgin jungle, with disease and pestilence striking down men along the way. Fifteen tunnels were cut through the granite hard surface of the mountains.

When labourers were hired in those days, they had to face a hard task master known as Red Lynch whose preference ran to men who 'owned shovel and a pair of strong arms.' History has it that he was a tough man to please but if he were around today, I'm sure that he would hail the Number 8 Flying Gang as hard workers, each man making the best possible use of a pair of strong arms and a good shovel plus the camaraderie of working with a good mate.

Photo top: Nipper, Big Buddha and Smithie; Photo below: the Gang in action



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A Grinter's Tail

Social media has had the beneficial effect of reuniting tens of hundreds of lost pets every year locally, through various Facebook community pages, where every day, dogs and puppies, cats and kittens are posted as missing, or found, often in poor condition, injured, or sadly, deceased on our roads.

Before social media, Cairns residents mainly relied on the Lost and Found column in the newspaper, radio community announcements or posters.

The fact remains that, despite innumerable pets being reunited with owners in this way, escaping impoundment, there are in truth, hundreds of dogs and cats loose in our streets and countryside. Hundreds.

In 2015, YAPS took in 394 dogs and 183 cats. RSPCA took in a total of 1023 animals (which includes birds and poultry, guinea pigs and other small animals), Mareeba Animal Refuge rehomed 200 dogs and 120 cats and North Qld Animal Rescue (NQAR) took over 160 dogs and 51 cats into foster and rehomed all. And that's only a handful of local rescue organisations working tirelessly to sort the chaos caused largely by backyard breeders.

Add all those unwanted, abandoned, sometimes abused, rescued dogs and cats together and give thought to the insanity of indiscriminate breeding that fills our shelters and rescues with more animals than they can possibly keep.

Sadly, some truly loved pets disappear through no fault of their owners, who still maintain hope of locating them. There are several such memorable dogs, and many of us in the community still keep an eye out for them.

Today, as I write this, there is a relatively small number of animals incarcerated in the Cairns pound - just six dogs and cats. And guess what, they are all entire, bar one cat, the state of which is unspecified. It seems a very sad but increasingly true fact that a huge proportion of animals that are found wandering and end up in the pound, or shelters for various reasons, are entire. What does that tell us?

A few months ago, I wrote about the dangers of domestic dogs in rural areas breeding with dingoes, resulting in not so shy feral dogs, which will soon become commonplace. At that time, from memory, around 11 out of perhaps 12 animals in the city pound were entire.

NQAR relies on a growing number of foster carers, such as myself, so it is not restricted to space or manpower, only funding and foster availability. These fosterers home, feed and train the dogs for sometimes months at a time, often taking them to training classes or to the vet for ongoing health problems. Volunteers are just that, volunteers with daytime jobs, children, other pets.

Shelters do not have unlimited capability or resources. When shelters are busting at the seams and euthanasia is the only option, the abuse of those who devote themselves to the animals' welfare is appalling, but you rarely see those people turn up to adopt. It pays to stop and consider that the boundaries of a shelter cannot expand exponentially to match the growing influx of strays and unwanted pets. The tide never ebbs. The backyard breeders keep breeding, and dogs and cats will keep dying.

So for those who think it's kinder to leave a dog entire, or that it's best (for whom?) to allow a bitch to have puppies before desexing, consider where the puppies may end up.

And consider these facts too:

- Neutered dogs attract lower registration fees

For male dogs:

- Neutering reduces leg cocking/spraying/humping of legs and pillows and so on
- Your dog will be far more welcome at dog parks, and more controllable around female dogs
- He will be far less likely to wander away from home when a bitch is in heat in the locality

- Neutering reduces aggression and dominant behaviours and your dog is less likely to be the target of aggression by other entire males.
- Neutering reduces the risk of prostate disorders such as cysts and infections, and enlarged prostate, the latter which is common in unneutered male dogs.

If you are going to keep cats, desex them. If they disappear from home, which is a more frequent occurrence than many would imagine, they're going to breed. Your male cat will roam, mate and fight, the latter could prove fatal if the competitor is the tougher of the two. If he mates with another stray while out, there's a good chance the kittens will either end up feral or in the pound.

The Kuranda Visitor Information Centre

The KVIC is often the first stop for visitors to the Village in the Rainforest and July was the Centre's busiest month in 16 years. Many are surprised that the VIC is an attraction in itself, offering an insight into Kuranda's art, Indigenous culture, rainforest environment and wildlife.

Local artists supply the Centre with postcards, magnets and bookmarks painted specifically for the Kuranda VIC, while original artworks showcasing local work from the likes of David Stacey and Peter Jarver are on display.

CDs by local musicians, local tea, coffee and sugar, plus arts and craft are also available. Look for the 2017 calendars featuring photographs by Steven Nowakowski and paintings by contemporary Indigenous artist Melanie Hava.

There is an interpretive corner for visitors to learn more about the



Wet Tropics rainforest as well as National Parks information to assist in planning walks and other activities in the rainforest.

An Indigenous volunteer shares his culture and knowledge of the area's rainforest people and artefacts highlighting the culture of Kuranda's Djabugay people are on display.

While you are discussing tour options with the friendly volunteers, the kids will be happy at the Touch Table where they can look through a microscope at cassowary feathers and snake skins from Kuranda's three wildlife attractions in the village.

As well as offering reliable local advice, the variety of services available include:

- Free maps – local and regional
- Tour bookings and advice
- Wheelchair and stroller hire for visitors – advisable to book in advance
- Hot and cold water
- Free WIFI and device charging
- Scan to USB service
- Recycle Bin

The Kuranda Visitor Information Centre is a Tourism and Events Queensland accredited centre and a member of the Queensland Information Centres Association. It is located in Centenary Park at the top end of Coondoo Street and is open seven days a week from 10.00am to 4.00pm, except Christmas Day.

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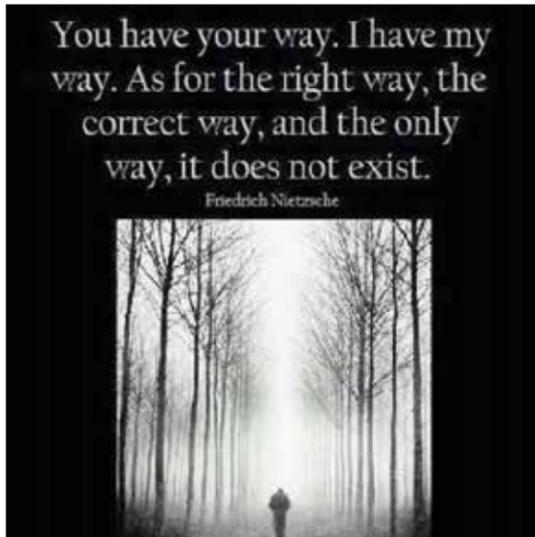
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You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist.

Friedrich Nietzsche

Beware Fundamentalism!

The fundamentalist takes everything way too seriously and way too personally and way too literally. He divides the world into two camps, those who agree with him and those who don't. There is only one right way to interpret the world, and a million wrong ways. Correct belief is the only virtue.

To the fundamentalist, the liberated imagination is a sinful taboo. He not only enslaves his own imagination to his ideology, but wants to enslave our imaginations, too. None of the true believers like to hear that there are at least three sides to every story. They don't want to consider the hypothesis that everyone has a piece of the truth.

Not the usual suspects!

And who are the fundamentalists? Let's not remain under the delusion that they are only the usual suspects -- the religious fanatics of Islam and Christianity and Judaism and Hinduism. There are many other kinds of fundamentalists, and some of them have gotten away with practicing their tragic magic in a stealth mode.

There is the obvious fundamentalism of Islamic terrorists, the Christian Right and Capitalist governments, politicians and multinationals. There is the destructive fundamentalism of the CEOs who worship financial profit as the supreme measure of value, and the scientists who ignore and deny every mystery that can't be measured, and the journalists, filmmakers, novelists, musicians, and pundits who relentlessly generate rotten visions of the human condition.

And there is the hidden fundamentalism in movements and ideologies that profess to know a better way.

Spiritualists, who insist theirs is the only right way to enlightenment. Buddhists, who adamantly decree that the inherent nature of life on Earth is suffering.

Progressive activists, who sincerely believe that every single right-winger is either stupid or evil or both. Environmentalists, who believe their area of concern is more important than others. Scientists, who refuse to share important knowledge or listen to other ways to the same outcomes. Educationists, who withhold the knowledges of the world and the opinions of the dismissed to their pupils. Religious practitioners, who refuse to consider any other version of religion beyond what has been presently offered or worse, fabricated. And even fundamentalist materialism – faith-based dogma that swears physical matter is the only reality and that nothing exists unless it can be detected by our five senses or by technologies that humans have made.

We are all infected, you and I

And here's the really bad news: We all have our own share of the fundamentalist virus. Each of us is fanatical, rigid, and intolerant about products of the imagination that we don't like. We wish that certain people would not imagine the things they do, and we allow ourselves to beam hateful, war-like thoughts in their direction.

We even wage war against our own imaginations, commanding ourselves, sometimes half-consciously, to ignore possibilities that don't fit into our neatly constructed theories. Each of us sets aside certain precious beliefs and symbols that we give ourselves permission to take very seriously and personally and literally.

Strangely this does not seem to include our own survival. Our current dismissal of the climate change crisis that will lead to untold suffering and un-habitation of the planet is a crowning example of this fundamentalism of our thoughts and will.

How to fight Fundamentalism 101

- Take everything less seriously and less personally and less literally.
- Laugh at ourselves at least as much as we laugh at other people.
- Blaspheme our own gods and burn our own flags and mock our own hypocrisy and satirize our own fads and fixations.
- Practice active kindness in daily life.
- Make all work Right Livelihood+ If work does not value add to the planet and survival, DO NOT do it. Do no harm!
- Become an instrument of change! Vote to change unfair world systems. Stop being used. Stop blindly following. You collectively hold the power! They rely on you to consume their goods and vote them back in to keep the destructive system going. They are NOT on your side. So just don't play!

Ref: Thank you to the ever wise and wonderful **Rob Brezany** (www.freewillastrology.com) who very largely contributed to this article.
+www.rightlivelihood.org















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Centacare Mental Health Resource Service Recovery Coaching program: will be back on deck from the 8th September 2016 – referrals after this date can be made directly to susanne.geyer@centacare Cairns.org

Mahjong: A regular group meets on Wednesday afternoons from 12.30 to play a Chinese game called Mahjong. Beginners are very welcome to come along and learn and, of course, seasoned players are welcome to play and provide coaching or mentoring. There is a small afternoon tea – enquiries to Marg.

Kuranda Lions Donation: A very welcome donation of \$500 was given to the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre from the Kuranda Lions who have sadly disbanded. The generous and thoughtful donation will be used in our Emergency Food Program. Thank you!!

Mareeba Housing Support Service: A worker (Heidi) is currently coming to Kuranda two days per week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) as part of the Street to Home program to provide intensive support to people requiring urgent accommodation. Assistance and support is provided to identify affordable and suitable accommodation options and includes applications for housing through the Department of Housing, community housing programs and the private rental market. Please contact Ceri or Marg for a referral.

English as a second language support: A tutor has been available on Mondays to provide assistance and support around literacy and language. There has been a little bit of interest, however, without any ongoing interest the program will suspend until interest is generated. Please contact Marg if you or anyone you know is interested and the classes can re-start.

Confidential Counselling available: There are several qualified, confidential counsellors using spaces at the KNC. If you require a referral please see Ceri, Marg or Mandy. Some options include a GP referred, bulk billing plan that have no out of pocket costs. All referrals are strictly confidential.

Domestic Violence Service in Kuranda: There is a new worker (Mel) from the Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service coming to Kuranda on the second and fourth Tuesdays at KNC. Please make inquiries to Ceri or Marg or directly to the Cairns Domestic Violence Service on 40336100.

Financial Counselling: A worker from the Salvation Army comes to Kuranda every second Wednesday to see people around financial and gambling matters. If you are experiencing some difficulties an appointment can be made through Ceri or Marg or directly with Susan Cook on 0417 251 305.

Family Support Program changes: Ceri Hughes is reducing to Mon-Thu 9-5 for a trial period until October 2016 and Mandy Teis will be working on Friday mornings in the program. Mandy completed her Social Work placement with KNC at the beginning of July and so many people already know Mandy if they have come to the Centre in the past 4 months.

Justices of Peace at KNC: KNC is lucky to have two volunteers who are JPs. Fran is here from 1.00-5.00 on Tuesdays and Jo is here all day Wednesdays. For enquiries call KNC on 4093 8933.

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Come along and meet your local Council team at the following gatherings.

Koah Wednesday, 14 September 2016 at 5.30pm Koah Community hall
Speewah Wednesday, 21 September 2016 at 5.30pm Speewah Rural Fire Brigade
Kuranda Wednesday, 5 October 2016 at 5.30pm Kuranda CWA Hall

For more information phone 1300 308 461 or visit www.msc.qld.gov.au

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Thank You to Lions Club

The Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (KNC) would like to acknowledge and thank the Kuranda Lions Club for a donation of \$500 after they disbanded.

KNC considers it a privilege to work with the diverse community of Kuranda and to be recognised by other agencies in the local service system in our work with disadvantaged families and individuals who require help and support.

The donation will contribute to the emergency Food Program at the Centre. Thanks!

In Honour of Fathers Day...

One day my housework-challenged husband decided to wash his sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, 'What setting do I use on the washing machine?'

'It depends,' I replied. 'What does it say on your shirt?'

He yelled back, 'Brisbane Broncos!' And they say blondes are dumb...

A couple is lying in bed. The man says, 'I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world...' The woman replies, 'I'll miss you.'

'It's just too hot to wear clothes today,' Jack says as he stepped out of the shower. 'Honey, what do you think the neighbours would think if I mowed the lawn like this?' 'Probably that I married you for your money,' she replied.

Q: What do you call an intelligent, good looking, sensitive man?

A: A rumour

Q: Why do little boys whine?

A: They are practising to be men.

Q: What does it mean when a man is in your bed gasping for breath and calling your name?

A: You did not hold the pillow down long enough.

Q: Why do men whistle when they are sitting on the toilet?

A: It helps them remember which end to wipe.

Q: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?

A: Rename the email folder 'Instruction Manuals'

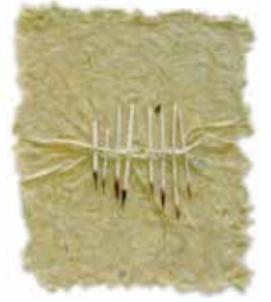
While creating husbands, God promised women that good and ideal husbands would be found in all corners of the world... then He made the earth round, and laughed and laughed and laughed.

"Get off the beaten track"



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This is an innovative workshop to explore and experiment with the overlooked qualities of discarded items with the use of weaving, hand and machine embroidery.

Toni will introduce you to manipulate, weave, fuse, layer and stitch with various inspiring mixed media and surface techniques.

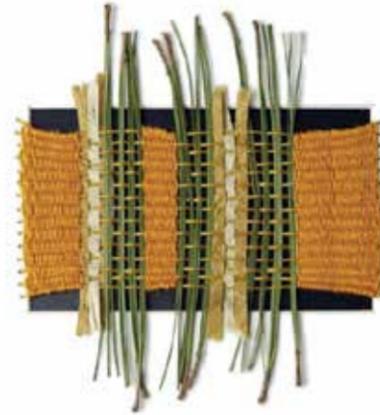
Each surface will offer its own exciting surprises and effects.

You will combine and reconstruct your own individual found material surfaces to create a series of exciting samples and create your own unique artwork developed by your own experiments and creative themes and ideas.

This workshop is suitable for beginners and experienced.

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We've got lots to talk about. Let's get started.



There's no doubt **KUR-World** has got everyone talking. There's a lot to take in and a lot to talk about. So let's start the conversation by making sure you have the right facts and the opportunity to provide real input into the approvals process.

It's a fact that KUR-World will have some environmental, social and economic impacts. For Government to assess the extent of those impacts, its developer, Reever and Ocean, must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). That's where your input will really count. The EIS must respond to the matters set out in the Terms of Reference (ToR), which have just been released for public feedback in draft format. We hope you will take the time to read the draft ToR to make sure it includes everything you think the EIS should cover.

To find out more about **KUR-World**, and provide your feedback, go to **www.KUR-World.com** and click on the 'Approval Process' link.

Feedback deadline is 26 September 2016.

In the meantime, let's keep talking.

info@KUR-World.com

KUR-World
Great Barrier Reef

www.kur-world.com





RANGERS report

Thank you to Kuranda Lions Club

The Kuranda Rangers are very grateful for the kind donation of \$500 from the now disbanded Lions Club of Kuranda. The funds are from the sale of the late Colin Jeanes' joke books to tourists. The Kuranda Rangers were nominated by Col as a worthy recipient. On behalf of the Kuranda Rangers, we would like to thank Col and Carol Jeanes for thinking of our little club and the funds will be put to good use.



U13s with coach Cliff de Silva

Kuranda Rangers Football Club



Crawford's Corner

Craig Crawford
MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER



I would like to dedicate this month's column to clarifying some issues regarding the proposed KUR-World development on the Barnwell Estate which I realise is a very contentious issue for Kuranda residents. I would also like to apologise for not attending the public meeting held on 11th August, however, as I explained to the meeting organisers I had a long-standing commitment to represent the Tourism Minister at the time the meeting was held.

There are many who believe that by having the development called in will lead to it being fast-tracked. Nothing can be further from the truth – it will be a long transparent procedure with many opportunities for public input along the way. I will try to explain how the process works.

The Coordinator-General has declared the KUR-World Integrated Eco-Resort project 'a coordinated project for which an EIS is required' pursuant to section 26(1)(a) of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (SDPWO Act).

Projects are declared coordinated projects when there is a requirement for centralised, whole-of-government coordination of the environmental assessment process.

A coordinated project declaration does not imply government approval, support for or commitment to the project; rather, it means that the project requires rigorous environmental assessment. A declaration does not exempt the project from obtaining all necessary approvals under Queensland legislation, nor from complying with all relevant planning and environmental laws and planning instruments.

The Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy has also determined the project to be a 'controlled action' the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) triggering the following controlling provisions:

- World Heritage properties (section 12 & 15A)
- National Heritage places (sections 15B & 15C)
- Listed threatened species and communities (section 18 & 18A)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B & 24C)

The Bilateral Agreement between the Queensland Government and the Commonwealth related to environmental assessment allows one environmental assessment process to address Commonwealth, State and Local Government requirements. The EIS process under the SDPWO Act provides the single process. However, the Commonwealth will still decide the project under the EPBC Act after considering the Coordinator-General's evaluation of the EIS.

The proponent is required to prepare an EIS to ensure the project's environmental, social and economic impacts are appropriately considered, addressing Commonwealth, State and Local Government requirements. The purpose of an environmental impact statement is to:

- enable potentially adverse impacts to be identified and addressed before approval decisions are made
- design environmental management programs and plans to minimise any environmental harm associated with the construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning of the project
- inform decision-makers of the likely impacts—both adverse and beneficial—of a project.

The assessment process provides the proponent and community with a transparent process to ensure the project's potential impacts are efficiently assessed. It also allows for public involvement throughout the EIS process. The community will be invited to review the proposal and comment on the Terms of Reference and the EIS.

In the coming weeks the draft Terms of Reference for the EIS will be released by the Coordinator-General for public comment. The draft Terms of Reference will specify the issues that the proponent must address in its EIS. National, State and regional newspapers will contain details of how and when public comments can be made; and details will also be available on the Department of State Development website at www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/kur-world. The Coordinator-General will consider all public and agency comments in finalising the Terms of Reference. The final Terms of Reference will be issued to the proponent so they can start preparing the EIS.

The EIS will also be available for public consultation once the Coordinator-General is satisfied that it addresses the Terms of Reference.

As always, if I can be of assistance please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Electorate Office: Stanton Place, Captain Cook Highway, Smithfield Q 4878
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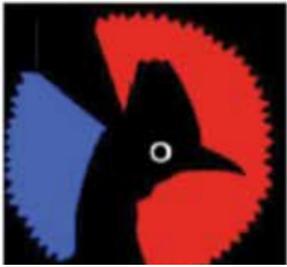


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 Email: kurandaconservation@hotmail.com Website: www.kurandaconservation.org

The KCons community nursery is nearly always open at 1 Pademelon Lane (cnr Fallon Rd and Kennedy Hwy).

Thanks to Pete, Jeb, Berend, Michele and many others for rainforest fruit and seeds that you've brought into the nursery. We are always on the look out for seeds in season to keep rolling our stock over - mature plants into the ground and tiny seedlings coming up in the greenhouses.

It looks like that cold day a week ago was winter! With the warmer weather and possibly not so much rain, keep water up to your plants and mulch.

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WORLD CASSOWARY DAY – 24th SEPTEMBER - DAINTREE

Daintree Rainforest Observatory (JCU, Cape Tribulation)
 10am to 2pm

Thank you Bendigo Bank, Kuranda, for generously supporting us under your BACC scheme (Building Active Connected Communities). People who bank with Bendigo Bank can nominate Kuranda Conservation to benefit from Bendigo Bank's income stream. It doesn't cost you but it certainly benefits us.

IF YOU SEE A CASSOWARY in the Kuranda region and you think it might be in danger from traffic, PLEASE CALL 4093 8834 so we can put up road signs: "Recent Cassowary Crossing"

S~N~A~K~E~S~

Take care: a few red-bellied black snakes have been sighted on the move. Beautiful shiny black upper and bright red under. Verv fast and a venomous bite.

THE PROGRAM

World Cassowary Day 2016 is a celebration of **all things cassowary**; an opportunity to hear from a wide range of speakers about cassowary and conservation issues; a forum for debate, discussion and education in the Wet Tropics and a community fun day with market stalls, music and activities for all the family.

- 35 stalls
- Attendance by Federal Minister for the Environment and Energy - Josh Frydenberg (hopefully)
- Talks on cassowary conservation history – meet the world's three cassowary species
- The Daintree Blockade
- Tracking cassowaries through poo
- How seeds are spread by cassowaries
- Screening of Cassowary Movie - "No rainforest, no food, no cassowary"
- Rainforest Rescue
- Conserving and enhancing cassowary habitat for the future
- Threatened Species Commissioner - Gregory Andrews

- Live music throughout the 4 hours
- Children's entertainment tent with Cassowary Treasure hunts, craft, stories
- midday a presentation by Dr Claire Baker about insects in the Wet Tropics.



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Please donate to us and the money will go directly towards treating and caring for these beautiful animals.

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Scout Venturers Environmental Badge

Young Venturers from Cairns Scouts group joined us for a day of nursery and tree planting activities. The nine young people are undertaking their Environment Badge which seeks to create an awareness of personal responsibility for the environment. The badge encourages Scouts to connect with nature, think about how we interact with the environment and take action to protect it locally. We went from seed collection to planting out, with aspects of nursery activities, just to get a feel of the whole process. After lunch we headed out to Mantaka to plant 100 trees as part of the Federal Government. 5 year Biodiversity Fund Project, into its 5th year. The project aims to revegetate 10ha of riparian zone to connect wildlife corridors, minimise



Venturers collecting native rainforest seeds for propagation

erosion, filter sediments from reaching our GBR, building more resilient environments and a stronger community. A big thanks to Scout Venturer leaders Mark and Blue for their guidance and support.

Discovering New Guinea's hidden biodiversity: Biodiversity exploration for conservation 21st C THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER, STEPHEN RICHARDS 7.00pm at KRC, FALLON ROAD

Stephen Richards is a north Queensland-based biologist who has spent the past 25 years documenting the spectacular biodiversity of New Guinea, one of the last great tropical wildernesses on earth. Stephen has discovered more than 150 new species of frogs, reptiles and insects, seen and photographed many rare and exotic species including birds of paradise and elusive Giant Echidnas. Stephen will describe and illustrate some of the spectacular species and places that he has encountered while documenting biodiversity in the most remote places left anywhere in the Asia-Pacific.



KUR-WORLD Terms of Reference (ToR)

These have been released and we can expect extensive community consultation if the draft ToR is accepted. Please note you can also answer a questionnaire online and Have your Say at kurandaregion.org. Envirocare will also be providing a submission on the ToR so please contact us via info@envirocare.org.au if you need assistance with your submission.

Date Claimers

- Thursday 1 September, Guest speaker – Stephen Richards 7.00pm at KRC, Fallon Road
 - Sunday 4 September, ECOzone stall @ Carnival on Collins, 9.00am- 3.00pm - Cairns Tanks Arts Centre
 - Saturday 24 September. World Cassowary Day stall, 10.00am-1.00pm, Cape Tribulation
 - EVERY Saturday Tree Planting 8.00am. Meet at the nursery.
- Email info@envirocare.org.au for reminder or call Sylvia on 0409 647 714
- Frog Monitoring, 3rd week of every month. Check Kurandas-Frog-Friendly-Neighborhood Facebook page or ring Sylvia 0409 647 714 or email info@envirocare.org.au

If you would like to come in and check out our great selection of native plants don't hesitate to drop in for a chat. See above for opening hours. Our trees are all a \$2 donation.

BOX TRAILER HIRE: Contact Garth 4093 9926

Give a gift that keeps growing, through our local Grow Project.
www.envirocare.org.au www.facebook.com/KurandaEnvirocare/info





Magic



Written by the children of Far North Queensland

M
A
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HUGS

Only Magic Club members shall be given the special 'Birthday Bear Greeting'



Tashawn Levers

Timana Hunter-Wason

DO YOU KNOW?

Birthday Members receive a voucher for a treat from THE EMERALD CREEK ICE-CREAMERY

NUMBER

SEARCH

by Melissa Alford

7	2	4	7	5	4	2	7	8	1
4	9	9	1	4	6	0	3	1	6
6	2	0	3	1	7	1	2	3	8
8	7	3	8	9	1	1	4	7	2
3	4	4	9	2	3	6	6	9	1
7	5	1	4	4	2	1	5	8	6
5	4	7	4	3	0	2	9	9	5
0	0	1	5	5	8	2	6	2	0
1	9	2	7	4	9	1	4	1	2
4	2	7	2	1	1	7	0	9	0

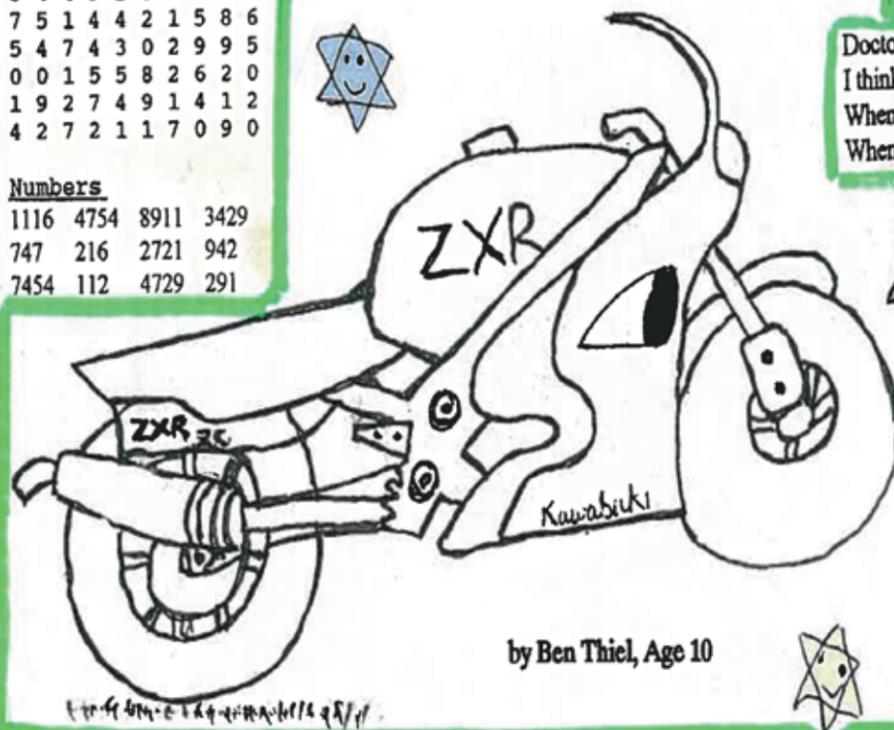
Numbers

1116	4754	8911	3429
747	216	2721	942
7454	112	4729	291

BUSHFIRE ! ... by Jezz Butler. (age 7yrs)

One evening I heard a strange noise, it was slowly coming closer. I could see it, a bushfire. I quickly ran as fast as I could run. I was scared I didn't know what to do. I saw red flame. A red truck stopped in front of me and a big man picked me up. He said you are safe little wombat.

Colour in Competition BOO!



by Ben Thiel, Age 10

DRAW IN THE FACES

Grandma - Girl or Alien - Dad - Brother or Baby ?

Doctor, Doctor, I think I'm a cat. When did all this start? When I was a kitten.



★ WHAT IS THIS PAGE ? A Fun place for kids 4 - 10yrs ★ Small gifts for good effort ★ Send or drop your - Letters - Coloured Drawings - Poems - Recipes - Puzzles - Black and White Drawings - Competition Entries - Stories - Quizzes ★ Into any MAGIC BOX listed below.

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A Thought for September

THIS month we turn to St Luke's Gospel Chapter 12 and read from verse 32 to 40. There is one thing that Jesus does over and over in his ministry, he warns his listeners that following him may involve difficult choices, and he warns his society that a just and humane future calls for deep changes.

All through Jesus' ministry there is a sense of premonition. Our Lord was living out nothing less than an alternate way of being a human being in the world!

It is obvious that he had no illusions about the dangers he was courting.

That alternate way was what he called the kingdom of God and the values of that kingdom were diametrically opposed to those of the society around him, and will be diametrically opposed to the values of any society we have so far devised.

Human empires are not built on giving alms, turning the other cheek, and praying for one's enemies!

Sometimes Jesus makes no effort to hide that sense of premonition, the feeling that certain collisions are inevitable and they might as well be named and faced.

His disciples, on the other hand, seem incapable of accepting the possibilities. "I came to bring fire to the earth... I have a baptism with which to be baptized."

There is intense frustration in these words. Jesus seems deeply troubled at the antagonism to his vision of the kingdom of God, yet, at the same time, to accept the inevitability of its clashing with everything in the life of his time.

Even close personal relationships will be deeply divided by his vision.

Jesus then moves to another issue. People don't seem to be able to see that the kind of society they are in cannot be sustained: it is headed for tragedy. They are like a man who doesn't realize his case is so weak he had better settle out of court!

The society ought to reform itself and not wait for the harsh judgement of the future.

How can all this speak to us? The vision of a kingdom of peace and justice divides us even as Christians.

Some people in church life see any social

NEWS FROM ST SAVIOUR'S

On Sunday August 7th St Saviour's received a visit from members of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC) that held its annual meeting in Cairns.

This coincided with St Saviour's Patronal; Festival of the Transfiguration which was a wonderful time. The year is going very quickly and soon we will be in the last Quarter. Please remember that on Sunday 2nd October we will have our Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday 16th St Saviour's Harvest Festival and on Sunday 23rd of October the One Hundred and First anniversary of the Dedication of St Saviour's.



and political activity in Our Lord's name as invalid. Others see it as the only valid Christian task. In society as a whole some people see the vision of peace and justice as less important than the development of wealth, whatever the human cost.

In ecological issues many, to use Jesus' phrase, refuse to "interpret the present time" in spite of obvious indications of disaster.

As our society moves toward future judgement, as do the two litigants in Jesus' parable, we would do well to settle out of court while we can.

Change and reform now, in case the judgement of the future be exceedingly harsh.

As usual the gospel challenges us to think and to act.

Baha'i Community of Mareeba/Kuranda

- **Morning prayers** each Thursday at 8.00am, in the park in lower Therwine Street Kuranda followed by coffee
- **Meditations/Reflections:** Devotional meeting based on the Scriptures of the World's great Religions, by arrangement
- **Study Circles** now available in Mareeba and Kuranda on spiritual themes. Anyone can join in the study circle, no charge
- **Also** regular events in Cairns, Atherton, Malanda, Tolga, Mareeba and other places
- Telephone 4093 7120/4093 9571 or www.bahai.org; or www.bahai.org.au



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Bowen Therapy: Thursdays in Kuranda. Relief from pain and stiffness in joints and muscles, including head, neck and back ache. Realign your body, release stress. \$40 adults, \$10 kids. 0408 400 049.

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Ji Ching readings: Chinese wisdom 3000 years old, foundational science behind Feng Shui. Worrisome issues personal/business can be dismantled/reassembled enabling greater confidence going forward. \$20 p/hour. 0429 090 476.

'Just DownUnder', a clearance shop located under 'Just Gorgeous', is open every weekend! ALL clothing is 50% -70% off original prices and new stock is available every week! 16 Coondoo Street.

Looking for that perfect gift? How about a cashmere shawl to make someone you care about feel warm and cozy anytime. Happy to gift wrap and post to anywhere! 'Just Gorgeous' Ph 40937508

Marriage Celebrant: Cheryl Tonkin, your weddings designed just for you – and local. 0407 670 954 or email NQCeremonies@gmail.com

Massage with Sheree Scott: relaxation & remedial, 22 Williamson Drive, Ph 4093 9490; 0421 102 722.

Microwave silver sanyo – near new \$80 Ph 4092 7101

Monte's Ride-On Lawn Care, 'LOCAL BLOKE YOU CAN TRUST'. Call Carlo; 0458 309 899

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Pristine Swimming Pools: Local business. Pumps, filters, chlorinators below RRP with free install. 25 years experience. Free quotes. Call Richard 0407 908 375

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Revitive circulation booster (As seen on tv) with accessories – never out of box \$295 Ph 4092 7101

Resume: In Speewah, Cairns longest-running resume writing business - over thirty years' experience. Resumes, Employment Applications, web text, all forms of copy writing, editing and proofreading. Word Factory (Suzy Grinter) Phone: 4093 0449

Richards Garden/Handyman Service offers for all those odd jobs and rubbish removal. Genuine experienced hard worker with the right tools. Phone 4093 0457 Email clewsr@spin.net.au

Step Into Healing: Kuranda – heal your past, find peace in your present, create your future. Egyptian Emotional Clearing, Reiki, Theta, Angel Intuitive.

www.stepintohealing.com.au Heather 0404 463 787

Tatjana, psychic now residing in Kuranda for personal reading ring 0417 837 221.

The Ironbark Gallery: Handcrafted local Australian hardwood creations by Trevor Brodie. A perfect gift or something special for yourself. Shop 5/13 Therwine St opposite the icecream van. Phone 0418 983 402.

Trailer for hire: cheap, as a community service. Discounted for members. Kuranda Envirocare Garth Owen on 4093 9926 or Hans Zehntner on 4093 8393.

Webdesign: webmaster services, friendly local professional can help you with anything website related. Reasonable rates. Info: www.geewhiz.me. 0455 344 911.

Wheel rim genuine ford – good condition \$75 Phone 4092 7101

KOAH MARKETS

First Saturday of every month 9am-1.00pm

NEXT: 3 September 2016

Plants, fruit, vegies, coffee, bric-a-brac, books, music & more.

For stall & market enquiries contact

Tonielle 0422 068 995 or

email koah.hall@gmail.com

KOAH HALL CONTACTS: Phone 0439 080 874 • Email koah.hall@gmail.com • www.facebook.com/koah.hall

Hire fees: 1-2 hrs: \$10; Half day: \$30; Full day: \$60; \$200

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(if space is left as you found it)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Mareeba Shire

Kuranda Transfer Station

Opening Times

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS

8.00am to 5.00pm

Kuranda Branch Library and Council Office

Arara Street • Phone 4093 9185

www.library.muc.qld.gov.au

LIBRARY

Monday to Friday

10.00am-5.00 (5.30 Tuesday)

Saturday 9.00-12.00

COUNCIL SERVICES

Monday to Friday

10.00am- 4.30

Saturday closed

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Please phone for appointment or leave a message, and I will get back to you.

Phone 4093 8780

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The Stars in September

HERE'S a busy month, sky-wise. Four planets, including the Moon three times, are caressing the celestial Equator in their orbits around the Sun. This used to be considered significant in traditional astrology. Today, not so much, but a shift in declination, as it's called, from north to south (or vice-versa) by so many planets **does** signify shifting and changing, if not reversing, attitudes, perceptions and approaches. With Saturn, it's governmental and probably educational; Mercury, just amplifies the shifting changing public opinion; Jupiter – maybe bigger isn't better? And Mercury again! How fickle are opinions and beliefs, and how easily manipulated!?

Then we have both Mercury and Pluto reversing their retrograde motion, becoming stationary and going direct around the same time (22nd to 26th). For Pluto this is a big deal. For Mercury not so much. But put them together it's like pre-shocks being recorded, then plates colliding in subterranean upheavals. Does this mean major earthquakes? Well, they're both exactly centred in Earth signs – Pluto in Capricorn and Mercury in Virgo. Therefore, in a trine angle which amplifies the resonance. At the same time the Sun crosses the Earth's equator for the Libran Equinox: everything hangs in the balance; we've just gone through both solar and lunar eclipses (more of that shortly) Jupiter also on the zero degree Libra point and Venus going down into Scorpio.

Shifting and changing paradigms affecting us all on many levels. Not necessarily geological upheavals, but you wouldn't rule it out. On a subtle level magnetic flows and electromagnetic variations will be extreme and we all feel them: uncertainty, instability and an over-whelming sense of irreversible change sine-waving around planet Earth. Watch for it.

And these eclipses? A solar eclipse in Virgo on the first day of September. Visible over Africa and the Indian Ocean – a beautiful annular "ring around the Moon" eclipse to welcome Spring promising cleansing, purification and a sweeping the bad guys out of temple kind of thing. Then a lunar eclipse on the 17th September in Pisces – more washing away of disharmony and a flood of compassion and selfless service. That's be nice. The eclipses will be in effect for about six months so when we combine their influences with the sine-wave declination variations then the times **are** a'changin'.

One other thing: on 26th September the day that Pluto stops and turns direct, there is an exact conjunction between the Sun and Jupiter at 3 degrees 33 minutes, that's 3:33 Libra. Magic! Rich, deep demolishing and re-generating; magnifying and expanding. Whirlpools of energy flowing out from the Equator, circling the poles engulfing; liberating and opening vortices to who-knows-what. These are very exciting times.

Blessings



Rob Hart

Resident Astrologer & Tarot Card Reader

Kuranda Heritage Markets

Ph. (07) 4093 0218

Rainfall Last Month

27/7/2016 to 30/8/2016 39.8mm

Wettest day: 9/8/16 9.6mm • Rainfall this year: 1199mm • Wet Days: 11 of 33

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JOIN YOUR LOCAL SES

Training held fortnightly Tuesday nights 7.30pm

Call John for details on

0427 037 054





Community Calendar

Every Month:

KNC Management Committee Meeting 5.30pm Rob Veivers Drive Ph 4093 8933 for details

Every Saturday

Texas Holdem' Poker: Mareeba RSL, sign on from 12.00, game starts 1.00pm. Prizes for 1st and 2nd.

Pilates 8.15am at the KRC, Fallon Road. Contact Jaide 0488 229 700

Kuranda Envirocare Tree Planting, Ph 4093 9926 for details or check website www.envirocare.org.au

First Saturday

Garden Group 2.00pm Ph Sharon 0422 213 676

Every Sunday

A.A. CWA Hall 10.30am Ph 4093 7599

Speewah Country Market 8.00am to 2.00pm 4093 0361

Yoga with Aileen 10.30am Kuranda Recreation Centre: Contact Aileen 0419 726 955

Every Monday

Kids Circus Classes (up to age 6) at Koah Hall 3.00 & 4.00. Ph Sophie 0409 333 404.

Kids Circus Classes (age 6-8) at Koah Hall 5.00. Ph Sophie 0409 333 404.

Kids Aerial Circus Louise Kohn. Bookings essential at the Amphi 3.30pm, 0424 928 917

Pilates 9.30am at the KRC, Fallon Road. Contact Davini 0414 994 123

Yoga – Gentle 8.15am for 8.30 start. Energise your life with HALS (Health across the Life Span) QCWA Hall, Phone Aileen 4093 7401 or Sheila 4093 7617

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Al-Anon Family Groups 6.00pm Ph Kate 4093 9668 or 1300ALANON

Karate at CWA Hall Kuranda 6.15pm to 7.15pm for more info call Geoff 4093 7380

Koah Sports & Social Club 7.30pm Barbara La Baysse 4093 7026

Every Tuesday

Pilates 5.45pm at the KRC, Fallon Road. Contact Jaide 0488 229 700

Kids Circus Classes (age 8+) at Koah Hall 5.00. Ph Sophie 0409 333 404.

General Yoga Class at Koah Hall 6.00pm. Ph Tanya 0428 590 203.

Tae Kwon Do & Self Defence 6.30pm CWA Hall Ph 0437 438 196

8 Ball 7.00pm at Kuranda Recreation Centre

First Tuesday: Kuranda Interagency Network Meeting venue rotates.

Details 4093 8933

Second Tuesday: Kuranda SES Training, 7.30pm sharp at Fallon Road.

Ph James Partridge 0402 119 642

Second & Fourth Tuesday

Mareeba Toastmasters meets 7.30-9.30pm, Mareeba RSL. Phone Fran 4093 7288 or Lenore Wyatt 0447 757 336. Guests welcome.

Third Tuesday

Tourism Kuranda meets in the office, Centenary Park 4.30pm

Every Wednesday

Pilates 9.30am at the KRC, Fallon Road. Contact Davini 0414 994 123

Pilates 5.45pm at the Koah Hall. Contact Jaide 0488 229 700

Pilates 7.30pm at the Koah Hall. Contact Jaide 0488 229 700

Yoga 5.30 pm Kuranda Recreation Centre: Contact Aileen 0419 726 955

Craft and Social Morning at QCWA Hall 9.00am. Contact craft teacher 4093 7016

Karate at Koah Hall 6.15pm-7.15pm for more info call Geoff 4093 7380

Mah Jong at Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre 1.00 to 4.00pm. All welcome

Yoga for kids. Limited places. Please phone 4093 8283

Second Wednesday

Financial and Gambling Counselling by Salvation Army. Appts 4093 8933

QCWA meeting 9.30 at QCWA Hall Ph: President 4093 8215, Secretary 4093 8362

Every Thursday

Pilates 9.00am at the KRC, Fallon Road. Contact Davini 0414 994 123

Pilates 5.45pm at the KRC, Fallon Road. Contact Davini 0414 994 123

Kids Trepize Class at Koah Hall 4.00pm. Ph Sophie 0409 333 404

Rotary 6.00pm Kuranda Hotel/Motel Ph 4093 7206

Tae Kwon Do & Self Defence 6.30pm CWA Hall Ph 0437 438 196

Capoeira Training and Roda. 7-8:30pm. Phone Ole 0468 408 963

Kuranda Rangers Soccer: training 4.30-5.30pm Linda 0437 255 229

Yoga at the Kuranda Amphitheatre 9.00-11.00am

Second Thursday

Ambulance 7.30pm Ambulance Centre, Fallon Road

Every Friday

Pre-Natal Yoga at Koah Hall 9.30am. Ph Beth 0476 276 876

Mums & Bubs Yoga at Koah Hall 11.00am. Ph Beth 0476 276 876

CONTRIBUTORS: PLEASE CHECK DETAILS AND ADVISE CHANGES

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FIRE or other emergencies – please phone **000**
SES Flood or Storm emergencies – please phone **132 500**

RURAL FIRE BRIGADE WARDENS

Davies Creek	4093 3181	Lloyd
Koah	4042 5468	Cairns RFO (temp.)
Kuranda	0408 077 746	Nick
Myola	4093 7190 / 0408 151 199	Duncan
Speewah	4093 0211	John

Permits required for ALL fires

JOHN'S KURANDA BUS "The Local Bus"

To:	Monday To Friday	Sat	Sun	P/Hol
Speewah				
Koah	*1530	*1530	1300	
	1750	1750	1750	1645
Ex: Koah	#0705	#0705	#0705	#0705
	#1315	#1315	#1315	
	*1550	*1550	*1550	
Ex: Speewah	#0710	#0710	#0710	#0710
	#1320	#1320	#1320	
	*1540	*1540	*1540	

*SCHOOL DAYS ONLY # BOOKING REQUIRED
NO SERVICE EASTER FRIDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY & LABOUR DAY

Departs Bus Stop: Orchid Plaza, Abbott Street, Cairns

Monday To Friday	Sat	Sun	P/Hol	
Departs Kuranda	#0720	#0720	#0720	0720
	1330	1330	1530	1530
	1530	1530		
*1510 from Smithfield to Koah Mon to Fri SCHOOL DAYS ONLY				
Departs Cairns	**0825	0825	0825	0825
	1645	1645	**1615	1615

All services except 1000 go to Speewah & Koah if required

**Mareeba

Via Caravonica, Redlynch, Raintrees, Westcourt, TAFE, Cairns City
NO SERVICE EASTER FRIDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY & LABOUR DAY

Ph. John 0418 772 953

Trans North Bus & Coach

CAIRNS TO KURANDA SHUTTLE					
Departs From	Shuttle Runs Daily (Except Christmas Day)				
CAIRNS Central Rail Station	6.45am	8.45am	11.30am	1.30pm	*3.00pm
CAIRNS 79 Abbott Street	6.50am	8.50am	11.35am	1.35pm	3.05pm
SMITHFIELD Bus Shelter	7.05am	9.05am	11.50am	1.50pm	3.30pm
KURANDA	7.25am	9.25am	12.10pm	2.10pm	3.55pm

KURANDA TO CAIRNS SHUTTLE					
Departs From	Shuttle Runs Daily (Except Christmas Day)				
KURANDA	*7.30am	9.30am	12.30pm	2.15pm	4.10pm
RAINFORESTATION	7.35am	9.35am	12.35pm	2.20pm	4.15pm
CAIRNS Central Rail Station	8.30am	10.15am	1.15pm	3.00pm	4.55pm

*7.30am Shuttle via TAFE, Trinity Bay High, Cairns High - Excluding Sundays & Public Holidays
 *3.00pm Shuttle via Cairns High, TAFE, Trinity Bay High - Excluding Sundays & Public Holidays

ATHERTON TABLELANDS TO CAIRNS							
Departs From	Monday to Friday			Saturday		Sunday	
	1	2	3	1	2	*1*	**2**
ATHERTON	6.00am	9.00am	3.30pm	6.00am	9.00am	9.00am	3.30pm
MAREEBA	6.30am	9.30am	4.00pm	6.30am	9.30am	9.30am	4.00pm
SPEEWAH	6.55am	9.55am	4.25pm	6.55am	9.55am	9.55am	4.25pm
KURANDA	7.15am	10.05am	4.35pm	7.15am	10.05am	10.05am	4.35pm
CAIRNS Service Terminates	8.30am	11.15am	5.35pm	8.30am	11.15am	11.15am	5.35pm

CAIRNS TO ATHERTON TABLELANDS							
Departs From	Monday to Friday			Saturday		Sunday	
	1	2	3	1	2	*1*	**2**
CAIRNS Central Rail Station	8.45am	3.30pm	5.45pm	8.45am	3.30pm	3.30pm	5.45pm
SMITHFIELD Bus Shelter	9.00am	3.45pm	6.00pm	9.00am	3.45pm	3.45pm	6.00pm
KURANDA	9.20am	4.15pm	6.25pm	9.20am	4.15pm	4.15pm	6.25pm
SPEEWAH	9.25am	4.20pm	6.30pm	9.25am	4.20pm	4.20pm	6.30pm
MAREEBA	9.55am	4.50pm	6.55pm	9.55am	4.50pm	4.50pm	6.55pm
ATHERTON Service Terminates	10.30am	5.25pm	7.30pm	10.30am	5.25pm	5.25pm	7.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS operate on Sunday Service *1* Timetable
 No Sunday 4.35pm or 6.25pm Services departing KURANDA on LONG WEEKENDS
 No Services operating on CHRISTMAS DAY or GOOD FRIDAY

Information on all Trans North Services including fares, timetables & service updates are available on our website.
www.transnorthbus.com.au
 or by phoning (07) 4095 8644 during business hours.



Timetable effective as of 01.01.2016

Words of Wisdom from my Grandmother



Humans are 90% water – basically cucumbers with anxiety!



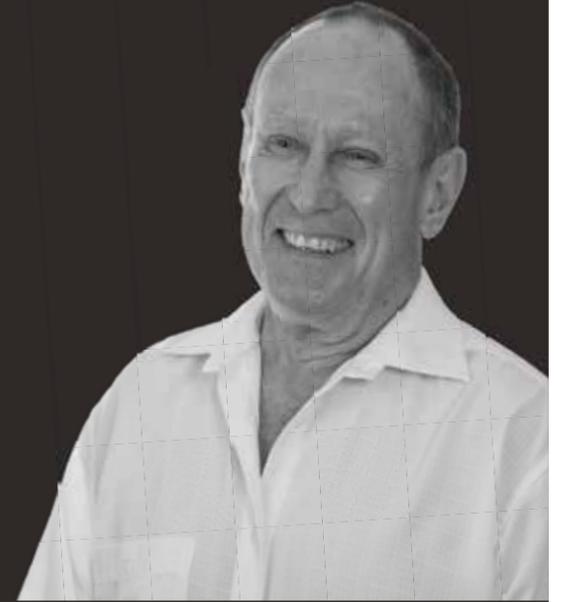
Appraisal Certificate

I am available to provide a complimentary price estimate on your property.

I require only 15 minutes of your time with no obligation.

If you have had thoughts of selling your property or would like a market update, then phone me today,

Gunther 0421 768 522 to book a time that suits you.



What is the Property Market heading towards?

To sell or not to sell, this is the question (pardon the pun). Selling at a 'High', buying at a 'Low' in a volatile market would indeed be an ideal scenario, but is it that easy?

The only opinion that matters - of course, is yours but it won't do harm to know of others.

Opinions:

Cairns, though pausing, is still classified at being at a 'Rising Market' stage of the cycle. (Cairns Watch Report, HTW)

A crash seems elusive. Given the regularity with which crash calls for Australian property have been made over the last decade and their failure to eventuate, it's clear it's not as simple as it looks. The boom in Sydney and Melbourne is slowing largely due to a change in lending policies to property investors. However, overall house price growth is likely to remain positive this year. (Shane Oliver Chief Economist)

Nationwide price falls are unlikely until the RBA starts to raise interest rates and this is unlikely before 2017. And then in the absence of a recession or rapid interest rate hikes price falls are more likely to be 5-10 per cent rather than anything worse. (Adam Creighton Economics Correspondent).

I see housing prices unlikely to plunge in the near future. Potential buyers can hope for a gradual decline at best. Those who focus on selling in the near future may consider to bringing their plans forward as it may pay off to include the property markets volatility in one's mid- or long term strategy. Possibly it's now as good as it may get for quite a while.