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# THE KURANDA PAPER

August 2020

Issue 323

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## DJABUGAY ARTISTS WEAVE THEIR MAGIC FOR CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ART FAIR DURING AUGUST

Local Djabugay weavers will showcase traditional baskets at this year's Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair (CIAF) during August. The beautiful creations of Djabuganydji traditional owners, Andy Duffin and Rhonda Brim are being presented as part of CIAF's "Undercurrents – Cook 2020" exhibition.

Rhonda learnt from her grandmother, Wilma Walker, and now collects and uses lomandra (dalmba in the Djabugay language) to create her dilly bag baskets. Traditionally they were used for carrying things such as fruits, nuts and yams, as well as straining toxins from the plants that made up the Djabugay diet. In 2008, Rhonda founded and continues to lead the KOCA (Keeping Our Culture Alive) weavers based in Kuranda: the group established to keep traditional basket weaving age-old techniques alive to share with future generations.

Andy started his weaving journey studying with Rhonda, and is currently an active member of KOCA. The group also credit Girramay traditional owner, Abe Muriata, for his teaching of bi-cornual baskets, as well as engagement with Elders from neighbouring communities and into the Cape York Peninsula to further their knowledge.

As much of Djabugay's ancient cultural practices (including weaving practices) were forbidden with the settlement of their traditional lands, both artists have had to learn the age-old weaving techniques through elders and neighbouring tribes.

The bi-cornual basket (yimbi) is unique to the rainforest tribes of Far North Queensland. They are made of fish tail lawyer cane (bugul) with the handle made from another lawyer cane

species (yabulum). Traditionally hung by the long handle over the forehead to sit onto the top of the back, some were made with a smaller handle to carry by hand while gathering food.

These master weavers are both very passionate about carrying on their Djabugay traditional heritage and preserving the basket weaving practice for future generations.

Andy currently has three bi-cornual baskets, and Rhonda has one dilly bag basket showing at CIAF. They are joined in the exhibition by fellow KOCA artist, Sandy Scott, who has a painting on canvas displayed.

The Undercurrents exhibition is open to the public from 12 July to 30 August at the Tanks Arts Centre, Cairns. A virtual gallery will present their works to a wider audience from 19 August to 13 September, after CIAF's launch of their Cultural Evolution Digital Program on 14 August 2020. Djabugay Aboriginal Corporations.

"Undercurrents addressed the imbalance of (written) colonial history versus First Peoples' (oral) history, through a collection of paintings, works on paper, sculpture, photography, textile installations and screen. Artists survey the impact of Cook and what he represents to First Peoples of Queensland. Curated by Janina Harding and Hetti Perkins, with works from art centres, local independent artists and gallery represented artists, the exhibition reveals the Blak resilience of sovereign nations. Undercurrents is a platform for truth-telling, from an individual, family, community or First Peoples world view." Cairns Indigenous Art Fair. *The CIAF 2020 program of events can be viewed at [www.ciaf.com.au](http://www.ciaf.com.au)*



Andy Duffin at work. Photo: Djabugay Aboriginal Corporations



The hands of a master weaver, Rhonda Brim. Photo: Dan Campbell-Lloyd

### The power of shared vigilance

This month we are honoured to document a community endeavour which has successfully overcome what appeared to be an almost insurmountable challenge. In late 2013, yellow crazy ants, were first detected in Russett Park, potentially an environmental disaster. Lessons learnt from overseas were that Kuranda, and the Wet Tropics, could have been devastated by this infestation if left unchecked. Yellow crazy ants can also render a property, house and garden, creek, farm and orchard, uninhabitable within a short period of time.

This community quickly came together to form the Yellow Crazy Ants Taskforce through Kuranda Envirocare. Now, for the first time since 2014, no new yellow crazy ants have been detected at Russett Park. As well as having brought this infestation under control, the Kuranda community raised funds for vital research into the ants which will be of benefit to any other community fighting them. While eradication cannot yet be declared, it is within reason to believe it will be. You can read the story of the fight for yellow crazy ant eradication in Kuranda on Pages 22-23.

This great example of how community can come together and tackle even really big challenges should give us hope in this time of coronavirus, another huge challenge. Let us find strength in each other. Let us remain vigilant. Let us stay aware and be smart as we go about our daily lives. It only takes one little ant ...

### KURANDA

Kuranda is so pretty, which is why it is a pity, that with Covid spreading, tourists are so few.  
Yet the good thing is we're healthy, and we don't have to be wealthy, as our self-sustaining skills we can renew.

Kuranda has its hippies; with some handymen and chippies, electricians, and landscapers. We are set.  
There are volunteers and carers; with our Men's Shed and repairers.  
This community looks out for any threat.

Kuranda is a good place, though we know the risk we could face, if we fail to keep our distance when we're out.  
It feels we are protected, way up here there're none affected,  
But we still need to be vigilant, no doubt!

© Kerrie Foster, Kuranda – August 2020

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The Kuranda Media Association Inc. is a not-for-profit voluntary association est.1991. Advertising revenue from *The Kuranda Paper* enables us to provide this community resource, which supports local community groups and projects. Our stated objectives are to provide a means of open communication in order to foster the spirit of community involvement and reflect the aspirations of the residents of the Kuranda area.

Note: Views expressed in *The Kuranda Paper*, including letters, do not necessarily reflect the views held by the KMA Management Committee.

KMA Management Committee 2020  
**President:** Michelle Murray-Beckman  
**Vice President:** Nettie O'Connell  
**Treasurer:** Gayle Hannah  
**Member's Representative:** Toni Rogers

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## DEADLINES

Sept Edition 324/2020

All copy and advertisements due by 10am

**Thursday 20 August 2020**

Paper published

**Thursday 27 August 2020**

Management is not responsible for any copy missing deadline.



Please keep letters to under 250 words. All letters are subject to editing. Anonymous letters or those of doubtful origin may not be published. Correct name, address and phone numbers are to be submitted with your letter.

### PLEASE HELP TO SAVE KURANDA CASSOWARIES

Help us save Elvis and Priscilla from the highway. There are two overtaking lanes and three different speed limits in the short distance that comes off the Top of the Range. The overtaking lanes, which are 80kms and clocked at over 100km when overtaking, not only confuses drivers but has killed three cassowary chicks in three months.

The cassowaries are on the brink of extinction and can't wait. We must address this issue immediately. We must learn to co-habitat with cassowaries before it's too late. Keep voicing your opinions, sign the petition, come to the rally, Saddle Mountain Road on Saturday 1 August, 9am, because Cassowary Lives Matter.

**Josette Braithwaite, Kuranda**

### STILL LIFE IN THE OLD CEMETERY

I urge all Kuranda residents to consider carefully the options which Council is putting forward in planning for a new cemetery. Two I would think are just red herrings. Council's preferred option is Koah, but should Council's preference go before that of the people it will affect? I don't think so. Koah is also a very long way away for mourners to reach, our existing cemetery is close enough for caskets to be carried there, as has been done.

Council has stated – After a detailed analysis for alternatives, the only four potential locations available are:

- Expansion of the Kuranda Cemetery
- Development of New Cemetery – Caroonia Street
- Development of New Cemetery – Gregory Terrace
- Development of New Cemetery – Koah

A detailed report was tabled at the July Council meeting and is available on Council's website –

[www.msc.qld.gov.au/kuranda-cemetery-consultation](http://www.msc.qld.gov.au/kuranda-cemetery-consultation)

NOTE: feedback by written submission needs to be received by 31 August 2020. It should be sent via email to [info@msc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@msc.qld.gov.au) or by mail to PO Box 154 Mareeba Q 4880.

It is to be hoped that Council will make its final decision after truly listening to the community (because that's what real consultation means) and take into account the history, culture, connection and potential the existing cemetery has, and can continue to have, through innovative and collaborative thinking and planning. And not just be decided by bean counting.

As Kuranda enters a new era of re-imagining itself, every bit of uniqueness and authenticity is gold. Our cemetery is not just a resting place, it's a place of stories. It could be a beautiful park, a place to walk and sit and contemplate, for locals and travellers alike.

Twenty years ago, the Council closed the Kuranda Cemetery pronouncing it finished. This community convinced it otherwise. And there is still life in the old cemetery yet.

Please write and vote to keep families and loved ones connected and a KURANDA Cemetery IN Kuranda.

**Gayle Hannah, Kuranda**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE KURANDA PAPER

Dear Kuranda Paper team, I am so very proud of you all. Some seven years ago I had been a volunteer for you all for around seven years and I loved every minute. Deep down I wish I was still living in Kuranda then I could still be your volunteer. I am now living in Mareeba. Please take care everyone. Hugs and love to you all. Xoxoxox

**Sandy Kelly OAM, Mareeba**



*The Kuranda Media Association acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present. The Kuranda Media Association is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.*

### CASSOWARIES OF KURANDA

Following the untimely death of Elvis the Cassowary's fourth chick on the highway recently, I met with some locals and it was decided that an e-petition to the Queensland Parliament requesting some action was the logical first step in improving the situation for the cassowaries that cross the highway a number of times a day. If you would like to support this e-petition, which will be tabled in the Queensland Parliament in August, please go the website and sign it. The e-petition closes for signatures at midnight on 8 August 2020.

[www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3371](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3371)

The e-petition reads as follows:

Immediate alteration of overtaking lanes and speed limit at the Kuranda end of the Kuranda Range Road (KRR), Kennedy Highway:

Queensland residents draws to the attention of the House the multiple negative effects of the 80kph double (4 lanes) overtaking lanes at the location. Cassowary deaths in this wildlife corridor are highly significant, ruinous and damaging to both community mental health and our tourism potential. In less than six months three "Endangered" (EPBC Act 1999 and Nature Conservation Act 1992 Qld) cassowary sibling chicks have been killed by motorists in this location and a breeding pair both continue to cross here multiple times per day.

Although TMR states there is "no technical justification for changing the speed limit at this location", we the undersigned decree that there are moral and duty-of-care obligations that prove that the 'technical' facts are morally and legally unambiguous. It is clear that avoiding cassowaries, whilst navigating overtaking drivers in both directions at 80 kph+ is impossible, distressing and dangerous to motorists and cassowaries.

Your petitioners therefore, request the House to direct TMR to immediately rectify this threatening situation and mitigate the risks by:

- altering the overtaking lanes - making the outside lines 'slow vehicle turnout lanes' whilst directing traffic to the inner lanes for 60 kph thoroughfare
- reduce the speed limit from 80 kph to 60 kph to remain consistent with the rest of the KRR through to the Kuranda/Myola Road traffic lights
- investigate additional 'intelligent' wildlife safety solutions leading up to this location, and
- monitor driver behaviour and cassowary crossing points (Latch, 2007)

until a final decision is made regarding the route.

**Melissa Clinton, Kuranda Riverboat**

### POOL HEATING FOR HEALTH PLEASE

Thanks to Krys Jones for keeping alive the never-ending battle with Mareeba to heat OUR pool. My personal dance of evasion has been going on with them for more than 3 years now. I've met with numerous non-sequiturs like "we've checked, and people don't want to swim in the winter time". Why would they if the water is cold enough to raise bumps on a goose? I have enough of these to fill a small book. The one most frustrating was always hearing from Syd Cotter that he couldn't raise the temperature because it was in the "contract". I'd get the same story from Mareeba. And then, just before the Corona lockdown, I asked for the specific wording of the "contract". I was handed over to Sam Wakeford (Manager Technical Services).

His reply: "Regarding your query "how many months of heating are provided for in the year 2020" – please be advised that no specific time period is included in the lease as this provides both Council and Lessee with the flexibility to deal with seasonal fluctuations."

We don't need to keep a heater on all year. Usually 5 or 6 months would do. Right now they dole out about 3, so another 3 or 4 at the \$1500 per month that MSC has told me is what it costs would be a drop in the bucket of the \$3.1 million shown in their Pools Budget.

Meanwhile, if and when to heat OUR pool is an arbitrary decision made by a few people in Mareeba. I hope the new power keeps us in her mind when the new solar panels are installed on public buildings, and have a little compassion for those who need the pool for medical reasons as well as recreational and team activities. The Red Cross has a motto: Every person a swimmer - every swimmer a lifesaver.

**Michael "Gonzo" Gompert, Kuranda**

### Stockists of The Kuranda Paper

PLEASE NOTE: THIS EDITION WE ARE ONLY SERVICING KURANDA AND DISTRICT and Collins Booksellers at Smithfield. Our usual print run is 5,100. A free copy is delivered to every postal box and street mail delivery in the Kuranda district (postcode 4881). If you don't receive a copy please contact the Kuranda Post Office.

The current edition of *The Kuranda Paper* can be viewed online at [kurandapaper.com](http://kurandapaper.com), along with some back issues. In addition you can pick up a hard copy of THIS EDITION *The Kuranda Paper* at the following outlets:

**KURANDA:** Kuranda Post Office (Thoree St), Sprout Café (Coondoo St), Kuranda Visitor Information Centre (Centenary Park), Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (Rob Veivers Dr), Kuranda Discount Drugstore (Coondoo St), Kuranda Arts Co-op (Coondoo St), Kuranda Foodworks (Thongon St), BP Service Station (Rob Veivers Dr).

**SPEEWAH:** Speewah Service Station & Convenience Store

**KOAH:** Koah Service Station

**SMITHFIELD:** Collins Booksellers (Smithfield Shopping Centre)

### Advertisement sizes and rates

[width x height in mm]

A – 262x380 (full page)	\$633
B – 174x380 (dominant)	\$435
C – 129x380 (1/2 page vertical)	\$341
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J – 85x188	\$134
K – 85x124	\$94
L – 85x60 (business card)	\$52

### Advertisers

All artwork, images and logos to be supplied in high resolution (300dpi), CMYK colour mode, and in the correct size (see left for advertisement sizes).

Acceptable formats: PDF, EPS, JPG or TIFF.

In-house design services are available for an additional fee.

Advertisements booked for 3 months and paid for in advance are eligible for a 10% discount.

## Cairns Hinterland Steiner School

Come and visit our school at these events in August and September...

### Early Childhood Open Day – enrol now for 2021

Nestled in the rainforest, children at Cairns Hinterland Steiner School make a gentle transition from home into beautiful spaces where the focus is on building their sense of self, their resilience, and their capacity to manage themselves.

We offer self-directed play interwoven with story, song, craft and cooking that lays the foundations for academics.

Bring your child and join us at our Early Childhood Open Day on Saturday 1 August 2020, from 10am – 11am. Immerse yourself in the innovative programs, meet the teachers and experience the physical learning environments. Located near Kuranda. Places are strictly limited to this event, please send us an email or call us to secure your spot.

To register, contact Eileen on 4093 8809 or email [admin@chss.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@chss.qld.edu.au).

### Spring Fair – all welcome!

Our annual Spring Fair will be held on Saturday 12 September 2020, from 10am – 2pm. The day will include musical performances from our students' featuring our string soloists and ensembles and choral performances, delicious food stalls, and games and activities for the children.

At the Spring Fair, the School showcases our student's schoolwork from throughout the year. Displays from early childhood, primary and high school will demonstrate how the Steiner principles of 'head, heart and hands' manifests in students' academic and holistic development. The creative, artistic and aesthetic approach to all schoolwork will become immediately apparent as you enter our School Hall and see the displays from across the class years.

The Spring Fair is a wonderful time to visit Cairns Hinterland Steiner School and see the school community that you and your family can be a part of. Visit our Facebook page: Cairns Hinterland Steiner School to keep up to date about this event.

46 Boyles Rd, Kuranda, QLD 4881 | [www.chss.qld.edu.au](http://www.chss.qld.edu.au)

## STREET TREES OF KURANDA



Our masthead this month features a real Aussie show-stopper. The Golden Penda tree (*Xanthostemon chrysanthus*) a member of the myrtle family (*Myrtaceae*), endemic to north eastern Queensland though increasingly a popular street tree elsewhere. The species name is derived from the Ancient Greek words chryso "golden", and anthos "flower".

The upper Therwine Street plantings are only just over a year in the ground, having been planted as part of final touches to the Therwine Street upgrade in March 2019.

The spectacular flowers were also proving an irresistible attraction for bees, both honey and native stingless as well as beetles and butterflies.

Photo: Gayle Hannah



## Join us at our Spring Fair!

Saturday 12 September 2020, 10am – 2pm  
Food - Stalls - Entertainment

Nestled in the rainforest, experience a family friendly fun-filled day at our beautiful school to welcome the new season.



All welcome!

46 Boyles Rd, Kuranda, QLD 4881  
4093 8809 | [reception@chss.qld.edu.au](mailto:reception@chss.qld.edu.au)

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## Kuranda Cemetery Consultation

Council is calling for community feedback regarding a new resting place for residents.

The Kuranda Cemetery will soon reach capacity and Council has been investigating options as a way forward.

Mareeba Shire Mayor Angela Toppin said Council has been investigating alternative options. "Council has identified four possible locations for a new cemetery, and we will be seeking feedback from the community on the proposed alternatives," she said.

After a detailed analysis for alternatives, the only four potential locations available are:

- Expansion of the Kuranda Cemetery
- Development of New Cemetery – Caroon Street
- Development of New Cemetery – Gregory Terrace
- Development of New Cemetery – Koah
- A report was tabled at the July Council meeting and is available on Council's website.

"While the Koah site is the recommended option as the most cost-effective and provides the best long-term solution, the councillors wish to hear from the community before making a final decision," Cr Toppin said.

Members of the community are invited to make written submissions with regards to the Kuranda Cemetery options. Feedback needs to be received preferably sent via email to [info@msc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@msc.qld.gov.au) or by mail to PO Box 154 Mareeba Q 4880 by 31 August 2020.

## The Barron Falls Walking Trail

The establishment of an environmental walk connecting the Kuranda township with the Barron Falls lookout will offer visitors to Kuranda a linking trail between Jum Rum Creek Conservation Park and the Barron Gorge National Park; alleviating foot traffic on Barron Falls Road.

The project was identified as part of the Kuranda Township Infrastructure Master Plan 2010 -2020 (KTIMP10-20) and is funded through the Kuranda Infrastructure Program (KIP). This program has afforded Mareeba Shire Council (MSC) the opportunity to undertake numerous improvements and enhancements that maintain the character of Kuranda and conserve the natural environment while providing the necessary infrastructure to cater for the needs of increased visitor numbers.

The Barron Falls Walking Trail comprises of two parts:

**Stage 1:** A link trail from the Kuranda Jungle Walk to the end of Weir Road

**Stage 2:** A link through Barron Gorge National Park from the end of Weir Road to the Barron Falls car park area.

## New Tourism Kuranda Campaign

On 15 July, Council awarded a contract to Bang Media to promote Kuranda as a destination, leveraging Tourism Tropical North Queensland's (TTNQ) and Tourism and Event Queensland's destination marketing reach and digital assets.

The 12-month digital campaign offers the best market reach with the available budget, aiming to attract local, regional, intrastate and interstate visitors as COVID-19 restrictions ease.

Mayor Angela Toppin was excited about the new marketing strategy. "This campaign will support businesses and tourist operators as Kuranda starts to re-boot and welcome back visitors to the region," she said.

"The tourism space in Kuranda has suffered as a result of COVID-19 however, I have noticed visitor numbers increase particularly over the school holidays which was very pleasing to see.

"I am confident that this marketing campaign will lure visitors back to the unique tourist village to explore many of the wonderful attractions and sites Kuranda has to offer," Cr Toppin said.

The marketing campaign will include geo-fencing, search engine optimisation, search engine marketing, social media promotion through Facebook and Instagram, production of new Kuranda content for promotion via digital distribution channels and TTNQ.

The remaining funds from the Tourism Kuranda Levy, which ceased at the end of the previous financial year, will be used to fund the campaign.

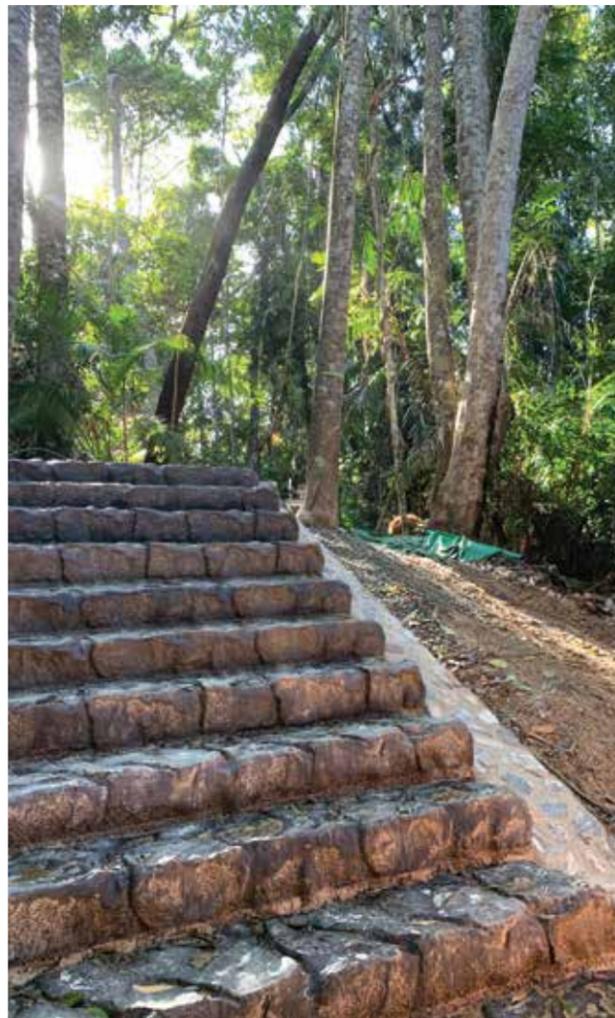
## Dog Registration Renewals

Dog registration renewal notices were delayed due to COVID-19 but have now been issued and are due on 10 August 2020.

Mareeba Shire Mayor Angela Toppin is reminding residents that under Queensland law all dogs must be registered and if born after 2009, must also be microchipped. "Not only is it a legal requirement to ensure your dog is registered, it makes it easier for our officers to identify and return the dog to its owner if found wandering at large," Cr Toppin said.

"Council has not increased the registration fee for dogs to encourage pet owners to be responsible, do the right thing and register their dog."

The registration fee for de-sexed dogs is \$20 and \$120 for entire dogs.



## Your Council

**Cr Angela Toppin**  
**Mayor**  
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E: [mayor@msc.qld.gov.au](mailto:mayor@msc.qld.gov.au)

**Cr Kevin Davies**  
**Deputy Mayor**  
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[www.msc.qld.gov.au](http://www.msc.qld.gov.au)

### Important Council Dates for August/September

**Rates notices** will be issued in early August and will be due on 11 September 2020.

**Dog registration notices** have now been issued and are due 10 August 2020

**Ordinary Council meetings:** third Wednesday of each month. Members of public and media are welcome to attend, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meetings are limited to 15 people, including councillors and staff.

Next meeting Wednesday 19 August @ 9am.

## MSC Library Hours

All Library branches have re-opened with social distancing measures in place. Current opening times for the Kuranda Library are Monday to Friday from 10am–5pm (no Saturday trading).

Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, there will be a limit to the number of customers allowed in the library at any given time. Council thanks the community for its continued understanding and cooperation.

## Disposal of Hazardous Waste

Council is reminding residents and business owners to ensure hazardous chemicals are disposed of correctly. The illegal discharge of chemicals into the Mareeba and Kuranda sewerage system has recently on more than one occasion, compromised the efficiency of two Council wastewater treatment plants.

Cooking oils, paints, solvents, fuel oils, pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers poured down the drain can cause major contamination of sewers and has the potential to cause damage to the filtration systems that separate the contaminants from the ocean.

Mayor Angela Toppin said all wastewater treatment plants in Mareeba Shire rely on biological processes to remove harmful nutrients. "If there is something in the sewage that the bugs do not like, they can die easily and this can affect the quality of treated water that is then discharged to the environment," Cr Toppin said.

"We are aware of two occasions over the last month where discharges to the sewer have caused the bugs to die at our wastewater treatment plants.

"If you are starting your business back up and discharging wastewater to the sewer, please check that you have a trade waste approval. People who do the wrong thing will face large fines so if you're unsure of how to correctly and safely dispose of hazardous substances, please get in contact with Council," Cr Toppin said.

Council has a process of trade waste approvals for a range of activities, such as laundries, hairdressers and restaurants, that discharge to the sewer. If discharges occur in compliance with approvals, no harm should come to the biological process occurring at the wastewater treatment plants.

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# Be informed by facts, not influenced by opinions!

There are many reasons for the current buyer demand. The most significant of these reasons relate to finance. With interest rates at an all time low and banks being supportive of purchasers, we are seeing many buyers wanting to take advantage of these factors.

In any market environment, there remains a significant number of owners who are looking at buying and selling within the same market. When you consider this, market conditions **NOW** are healthy!

## Here's the proof!



54 Williamson Drive, Kuranda



31 Masons Road, Kuranda



26 Butler Drive, Kuranda



79 Scenic Drive, Speewah



2204 Kennedy Highway, Koah

Supply and Demand is very much out of balance, so if you have been thinking of making the move forward, the time is **NOW!**



If you are **curious** and would like to discuss **real time** insights into **your market** or would like an **obligation free** current market assessment of your property please feel free to call Sonia on **0407 028 388**.

I have been placing an emphasis on visiting at least one school each week to discuss COVID-19 and the transition back to having students in the classroom. Principal Steven Moore gave me a tour of Kuranda District State College while we spoke about the school's achievements as well as how the State government could help students excel. I knew that it was a bit unfair of me to show up on a Friday afternoon during a school week empty-handed - so I brought along some cupcakes for the much-needed sugar rush.

In the last week of June, I stopped by the Kuranda Men's shed to see the improvements they have made to the shed. It has come a long way since I first met the group and I have committed my ongoing support to help with further upgrades to shed. If you live in Kuranda and need something around the house fixed - I would definitely recommend reaching out to the Men's Shed. During my visit, we were fortunate enough to have Mareeba Shire Mayor Angela Toppin join us for morning tea. Always a pleasure to catch up with Angela.

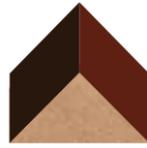
During the same visit to Kuranda, I headed to the Kuranda Amphitheatre as it had been a while since I had been there. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with members of the Management Committee who shared the possibility of a live event in September, which I am looking forward to attending.

Finally, a number of Kuranda business received the State Government's Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant. Round Two of the grants are still open for small businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19.



Photos: Barron River Electorate Office

# TALES FROM THE CRYPT Shed



**Australian Men's Shed Association**  
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

## Not only Open again, we're Certified (and some of us should be)!

Just got news from our President that our building certification has come through, so now we are officially ready to 'Rock and Roll'. Summit Solar has been in and reconnected all the power and lights and we are looking into fitting a high level security system. Minister Crawford and Mayor Toppin dropped in for a cuppa the other day and from all reports were quite impressed with our efforts to date.

I would also like to thank the Kuranda RSL Sub Branch for their generous donation. It will be used to help us secure the shed with video surveillance.

Noel and company have started building the tool racks on the backs of the trolleys and we are going to trial a technique called 'French Cleats' (look it up, I had to) to mount the various tools. Looks good in theory. Geoff has been getting stuck into putting the walls on the welding bay and keeping the weeds down and Don has been hard at it finishing the welding bench and building a better bottle sorting bench. Eddy's vegies are going gang busters and the thickener is getting a pretty good workout as well. Dougie is assembling extra storage racks in the old shed, John is building bird nesting boxes, Frank has a mountain of planter boxes made and Daryl has started 'saddling' off all the conduit. As you can see, it is a hive of activity

Bob is recovering well after his second knee replacement and Richard should be back up to speed soon, after his second carpal tunnel surgery. We wish them both safe and speedy recoveries.

If you would like to be a part of all this, make some new friends (or catch up with old ones) come and join us for a cuppa sometime.

For those people interested in the Men's shed organisation you can find lots of information and news at [www.podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/the-shed-wireless/id1510493380](http://www.podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/the-shed-wireless/id1510493380) or visit the website at [www.mensshed.org/theshedonline](http://www.mensshed.org/theshedonline)

Sheddy Eddy

### Trading Hours

Wednesday 8.30am - 11.30am • Saturday 2pm - 5pm

Located at end of Kuranda Heights Road, past the caravan park in the old council depot

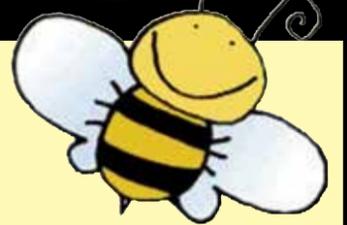
### Contact

Daryl Douglass (Secretary) 4093 9421

Richard Clews (President) 4093 0457

 Kuranda Men's Shed

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**Craig Crawford - Member for Barron River**  
Phone - (07) 4229 0100  
Email - [barron.river@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:barron.river@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
Social Media - @CraigCrawfordMP

# LOCAL BUSINESS PROFILE

## Emu Ridge Gallery

As part of our series profiling our local advertisers, *The Kuranda Paper* visited Chris Maaten and Shane Hebbard at Emu Ridge Gallery and asked them how their local business began and how they have found the past few months.



Photo: Gayle Hannah

### How long have you been in business in Kuranda?

We have been in business for 19 years, we opened the shop in July 2001 with one shop front and after expanding every three or four years we now have four shop fronts and the museum downstairs.

### How did you come to be in Kuranda? How did you come to name your business and what was your vision?

After visiting Kuranda in the early 1990s from Victoria we then travelled Australia exploring gemstone fossicking areas. This led to our return in 1993 and found Kuranda the best place to live. With an eclectic group of people, the reef, rainforest and outback, all so close and accessible to enjoy. Our vision is to share our love, passion and knowledge of natural gemstones from around Australia and the world with our customers.

Naming our business was a collaboration between two businesses. Friends who leased the front of our shop sold Emu oil products and we, a collection of Australian gemstones, including beautiful black opals from Lightning Ridge. Hence we have "Emu Ridge Gallery".

### What do you enjoy about running your Kuranda business?

The thing we enjoy about running our Kuranda business is still the same as our original vision.

### What community endeavours are you involved in?

Three years ago we became business partners in the Kuranda Original Rainforest Market to help with maintenance and provide spaces for locals to share their arts, crafts and wares that they have created themselves or sourced from around the world.

### How have you found the challenge of COVID-19 and what are you doing differently?

After closing for a month, we reopened weekends and have now progressed to trading five days – Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday 9am to 3pm. This will allow us the time to enjoy fossicking and exploring the local region. We would like to thank all our regular and new customers from Queensland and now interstate.

## KURANDA TRADERS ASSOCIATION

They say many hands make light work, and this has proven to be the case with the steering committee for the newly founded Kuranda Traders Association Inc.

Approximately 23 expressions of interest were emailed through, with a small meeting being held in June with 20 business owners. A steering committee was formed, which has been meeting weekly.

The Incorporated Association has been finalised with the Office of Fair Trading and is now a legal entity along with a bank account, Facebook page and new email address (pending).

With these first steps now complete, a general meeting has been planned for:

**THURSDAY 13 AUGUST @ 4.30PM**

**KURANDA RECREATION CENTRE, FALLON ROAD**

The meeting is open to all business owners trading in Kuranda, short-term accommodation owners e.g. AirBnB or B&B, certified health and well-being practitioners, artists, stall holders and street performers.

This meeting will have a number of speakers, membership information, forms and discussion on a Kuranda Marketing Plan for the future.

**EMU RIDGE GALLERY**  
KURANDA

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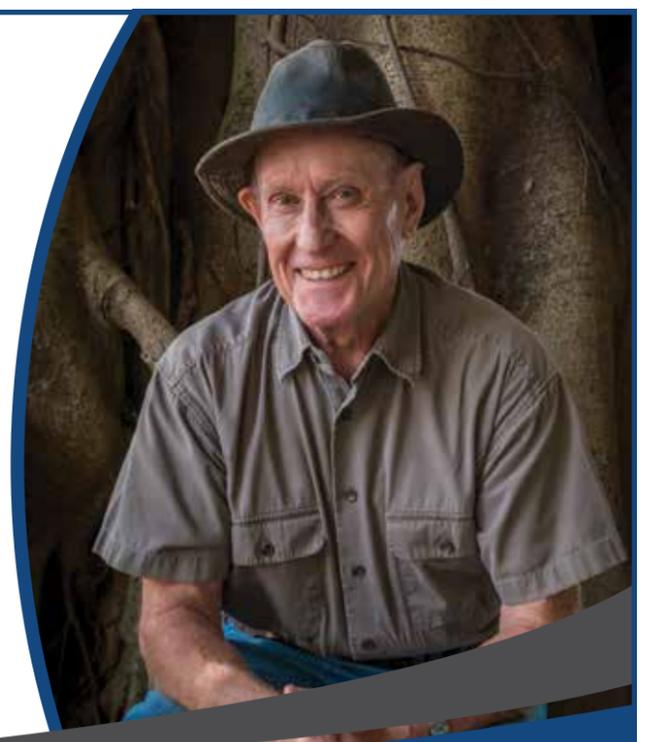


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# The story of Black Mountain Road

by Steven Nowakowski

Black Mountain Road and I go back along way. Over the last 25 years I have visited friends, attended parties, spotted cassowaries, canoed on the adjacent Barron River and ventured on great bushwalks. In later years I was lucky to live on Black Mountain Road. The road is a convenient access point for mountain-bikers, trail-bikers, horse-riders and bushwalkers, but it's also used for industry, namely haulage of timber from the vast pine plantations. It also provides a link from Kuranda to Julatten, albeit a very rough road.

Long-time Kuranda resident, Dugg Stratford and his family, have a long history and association with the road including Duggan Creek that the road crosses over. Dugg is a third generation local and I recently met with him to learn more about the origins of Black Mountain Road.

"They called it a P.E.I. road or Public Estate Improvements Scheme and they would pick an area where a road could be put to some use and Black Mountain was one of those roads that was picked as a road that goes to nowhere. It was 1938 when World War II started and it was before then that they were building these P.E.I. roads" explains Dugg.



Morning mist over Black Mountain Road.  
Photo: Steven Nowakowski



Above: Twin Bridges still standing mid-1990s Photos: Paul Curtis



Top: The original Twin Bridges mid-1990s.  
Above: Deterioration of Twin Bridges 2013. Photos: Paul Curtis

Dugg continues to share the origins of these P.E.I. roads "It was the Great Depression and the swaggies (transient workers) at the time were only subsistent for up to 10 days. When they moved to a town, swaggies would have to visit the police and then were given enough wages for 10 days, before having to move on to the next town. The Cairns Showground was opened up for all these people to have some sort of shelter. The whole Cairns Showground was apparently full of swaggies with their blueys (cattle dogs) and they would find work here and there. The government then initiated and started construction of the P.E.I. roads."

"These swaggies pushed the road right through to what is known today as Twin Bridges on the original East Black Mountain Road alignment. Construction started on the two enormous bridge structures over Allen and Spring Creeks. They had all the framework up, poles etc, then war broke out. All of a sudden there was money everywhere and all those P.E.I. roads just stopped! You can go out there even now probably and find all the timbers that were drilled ready to be bolted into place—they never got bolted into place and that was the end of the road! The road was really designed to go right through to Julatten, which it does now, but the road now goes around the west. That is how Black Mountain Road was actually built and why it was built."

Following my discussions with Dugg, I did further research and discovered many roads in North Queensland were formed this way in an effort to reduce post-depression unemployment. They were also built to open up access to Timber Reserves and State Forests (1936-1943) such as the construction of Black Mountain Road (Kuranda to Julatten), B Road (Danbulla) and the Kennedy-Kirrama Road. Works

also included building a road between Amity Point and Point Lookout on Stradbroke Island.

Dugg continued, "Going out to Black Mountain Road you used to pass where 'Fairylands' was. You'd go up a rise and along the coast where there used to be a few places with bridle tracks where you could ride horses down over the Macalister Range, and one was called Percy Pease Lookout. There was even a small bridge going over the creek there and it was quite a good track in and you could see all the coast and ride down to it. The next bridle track along was Forgan Smith Lookout which is at McKenzie's Pocket."

Dugg concluded by saying, "Well, the road eventually did go through to Julatten and now the forestry—back in the 1970s I suppose—opened up all Black Mountain. (Railway) sleeper cutters originally used to cut all the hardwood sleepers there and they were still doing that right up until World Heritage came in really. Then the forestry decided to bulldoze all the hardwood timber out and plant pine, and there was just millions and millions of pines planted! There was an airstrip there too. Ted Little, one of the cattle barons around here who also owned Wha Hae Station, had a lease all through the pine forests to run cattle on and he built an airstrip there in McKenzie's Pocket. It was a good solid airstrip and he used it mainly for his mustering and a few private planes would use it too. That was left there for years and years and years even after they planted most of the pines, and then eventually they planted pines over it so it doesn't exist anymore!"

So, next time you travel down Black Mountain Road remember that it was the swaggies who built this original 'road to nowhere'.

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## Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (KNC)

Operated by Kuranda Information & Support Centre Assoc. Inc.

6 Rob Veivers Drive, Kuranda  
PO Box 170, Kuranda Qld 4881

P. 4093 8933 | F. 4093 8607

E. [coordinator@kurandanc.org.au](mailto:coordinator@kurandanc.org.au)

## Neighbourhood Centre News August 2020

### Disaster Recovery and Community Resilience

This project is made possible by the FNQ & NQ Monsoon Trough Category C Grants from QLD and Federal Governments. The project will run for 12 months until June 2021 and is being facilitated by Jessica Dalton. An initial community consultation meeting was held in Centenary Park on 16 July under Queen Maggie Donahue's tree. Jess will be touching base with stakeholders and community members over the next weeks to make connections and develop the plan for community ownership and input. Please contact her at the Neighbourhood Centre if you would like to know more or to get involved. This project will also be looking at preparing for future impacts of the COVID-19 illness that may still develop in FNQ.

### Kuranda Community Essentials Project

The Kuranda Community Essentials project continues to be available for those in the District who have been affected by the Coronavirus in any way. Please contact the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre on 4093 8933 Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-1pm or email [coordinator@kurandanc.org.au](mailto:coordinator@kurandanc.org.au) or [familysupport@kurandanc.org.au](mailto:familysupport@kurandanc.org.au) to discuss your needs. There are still community donations available to access which may be necessary as the coronavirus supplement is reduced in the next months. This is confidential and private.

### Service Continuity and Opening Hours

The Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre has returned to pre-COVID-19 opening hours – Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-1pm. Please be patient with our volunteers and staff with the COVID-19 protocols and there may be sometimes the Centre is closed due to reduced volunteers. This means we have less computers available and the kitchen remains closed. If the Centre is closed, please call on 4093 8933 or email [coordinator@kurandanc.org.au](mailto:coordinator@kurandanc.org.au) or [familysupport@kurandanc.org.au](mailto:familysupport@kurandanc.org.au) for assistance or in an emergency please call 000 or Lifeline on 131 114. We are still working flexibly through this transition to provide as many services as we can. Please do not attend the Centre if you have any symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath or have come into contact with someone who has COVID-19 or if you have returned from an interstate hotspot or overseas within the past 14 days.

### Group Activities

Groups are yet to restart properly, and we are hoping that further easing will allow groups to begin including Mahjong, Grandparents' Cuppa and EPIC (Empowered Parenting in Community). We are still very conscious of the current restrictions which have eased somewhat but still recommend that people in risk groups including First Nations people over 50 try to stay home as much as possible.

### Kuranda Family Support Program

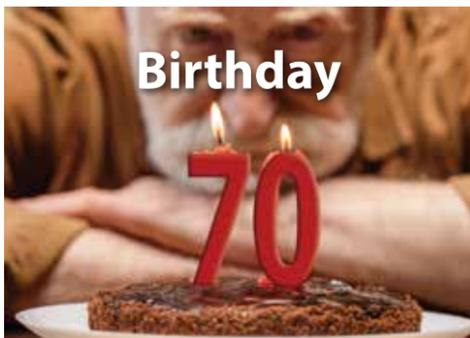
Heidi Avolio is the Family Support worker for KNC. The program is funded by the QLD Department of Child Safety Youth and Women as a Secondary Family Support program. If you want to know more about how the program works, for a referral to more specific program/services/supports or to assess your situation, please call or drop by.

### NILS

The No Interest Loan Scheme is operating with phone and face to face interviews available on Wednesdays. For information, assistance or to book an interview please call 4093 8933. Documents can be emailed to [admin@kurandanc.org.au](mailto:admin@kurandanc.org.au).

### Printing/Computer/Copying etc

These services have incurred small charges in the past to cover the costs to the Centre. During the coronavirus pandemic, KNC has not been receiving cash due to hygiene protocols. Therefore, these services have been free. The use of the computer/internet will remain free;



## Birthday

by David Jones

There's not a lot of levity,  
when you reach seventy  
Life doesn't give much to laugh at  
Aches and pains, blue veins  
And it's become obvious,  
That I'm no sports force.

Another year is over and a new one begins,  
This one has a few new chins  
The thief of joy has exposed its vendetta,  
As I've lost my wrinkle-free splendour  
Now the skins so thin,  
it looks like the tides been in  
And it keeps on peeling.

My hair's gone grey but that's OK  
Even though it seems to keep drifting away.  
There used to be a mane on top of my head,  
Now it grows out of my nose and ears instead.

I can't believe the damage time has done  
I'd like to go back, when square-jawed  
And self-assured  
I'd run up the stairs, taking all the steps in pairs.

Still I suppose, I'm not alone  
In time's war zone.  
Yet I have to say  
I'm not sure whether it's meditation, chocolate  
Or my wine medication  
Or just common sense put on defence  
Because all I have to do to rearrange my mind  
And get some cheer, and possibly a beer  
Is forget my waistline, open my eyes  
And look at the sunrise

And feel the warmth of the sunshine  
And know that I'm blessed  
To be in life's caress.  
I still have a happy palace  
I can smile because I still have teeth,  
Which is a wonder due to my chocolate treats  
My only fear is oh dear,  
It's probably all downhill from here  
But it's all part of the thrill of living  
Life can be harsh, but you got to laugh  
When you remember how tortuous  
It was being gorgeous

Now we need to be courageous  
And fend off life's chaos  
Arthritis and its surprises, an irritable Liver  
A cantankerous Bladder, irrational Kidneys  
And a Stomach that's become an ascitic critic

To the mirror's reflection I say  
that I am doing OK  
Life is good and I'm not going to miss it  
I'm going to have a HAPPY, FLABBY BIRTHDAY

*Not every surgery receives poetry from clients. Thank you to the Kuranda Medical Centre and David Jones for sharing this milestone marked by verse with us.*



Coming together in Centenary Park on 16 July. Photo: Gayle Hannah

however, you may be asked to adhere to some timeframes to provide fair access to others. Printing/copying etc will remain free up to five pages black and white for the time being. Each case will be negotiated individually, however for regular or larger printing needs/costs we ask that a transfer into the KNC bank account be made to help cover costs of paper, ink and maintenance.

### Wifi Hotspot

The KNC Hotspot for Wifi remains available for people to access on and around the veranda while maintaining social distancing. There is no voucher or password required.



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## KURANDA MEDICAL CENTRE

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**Dr Dave Cuming:** *dermatology, paediatrics, minor surgery* – Monday, Wednesday (am), Friday (am)

**Dr Hal Hancock:** Fridays 9.00am-4.00pm

**Dr Veerendra Sinha:** *specialises in skin cancers and excisions* – Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am-5.00pm

**Dr Agufana Pepela:** all day Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (am), outreach every second Monday

**Dr Yvonne Doreen:** *Outreach & Indigenous Health only* – every Thursday fortnight

**Dr Steve Salleras:** Monday and Wednesday 8.30am-5.00pm

**Dr Jimmy Stewart:** every Friday 8.30am-5.00pm

**Extra Services:** *Podiatrist, Dietician, Psychologist, Diabetic Educator, Nurse, Asthma Care, Indigenous Health and more...*

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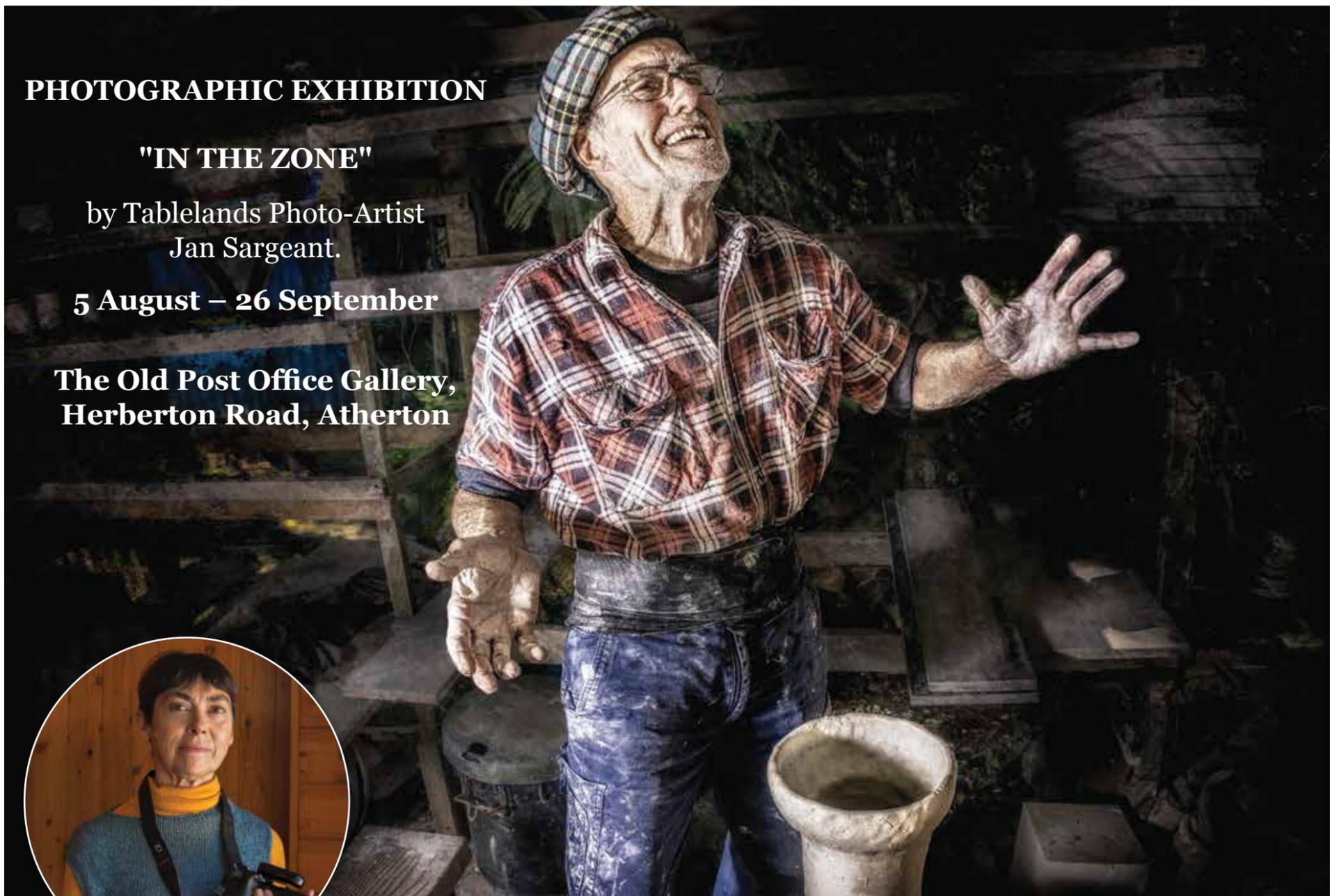
# PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

## "IN THE ZONE"

by Tablelands Photo-Artist  
Jan Sargeant.

5 August – 26 September

The Old Post Office Gallery,  
Herberton Road, Atherton



# IN THE ZONE

'In the Zone' refers to that mind-space in which one is totally absorbed, oblivious to surroundings. The exhibition comprises a collection of forty-one photographic portraits of local artists and artisans candidly captured in the act of the creative process. This exhibition is a celebration of that drive.

Five Kuranda artists are featured – Peter Thompson, Toni Rogers, Mollie Bosworth, Kate Prynne and David Stacey. The portraits feature subjects from all artistic disciplines who range from the dedicated amateur to the internationally recognised accomplished professional. The portraits are processed with a bias towards an atmospheric drama, intending to reinforce the inherent simple dignity of the subject and to convey their passion for their art.

Jan Sargeant will be present as Artist-in-Residence every Saturday during this period, from 10am to 2pm.

*Clockwise: Peter Thompson, Mollie Bosworth, David Stacey, Kate Prynne, Toni Rogers.*



## Gallery Opening Hours

The gallery opening hours for the Arts Co-op Gallery will continue as:  
Monday to Friday 11am–2pm  
Saturday and Sunday 10am–2pm

## When we could travel...

Arts Co-op member, Pam Schultz, has completed and hung a much admired painting in the gallery. It brings back many memories for this well travelled artist and researcher. This new artwork is drawn from her many travels to India. "Ajanta Dreams" was chosen for its rustic oranges and ochres and is a step away from Pam's regular themes. It draws out modern housing facades from Indian cities and superimposes them over a domestic scene painted during the second phase of the Buddhist and Hindu monastic cave's history of the 5th Century CE. The background is particularly interesting, as the subject matter is domestic and out of keeping with the ascetic life of the monks.

Pam says, "I love the modern houses of India as well as the ancient. In Australia, we have a different cultural heritage of ancient Aboriginal rock art and these also need to be under the protection of UNESCO at a greater level, just like the Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad district, Maharashtra state of India."



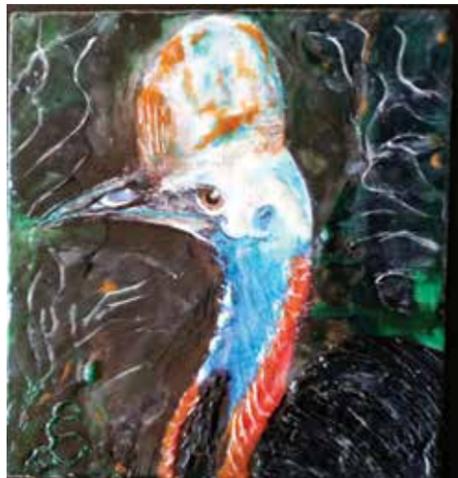
## Cassowaries and more cassowaries

Lieselotte Edwards cannot produce enough of her small encaustic cassowary paintings.

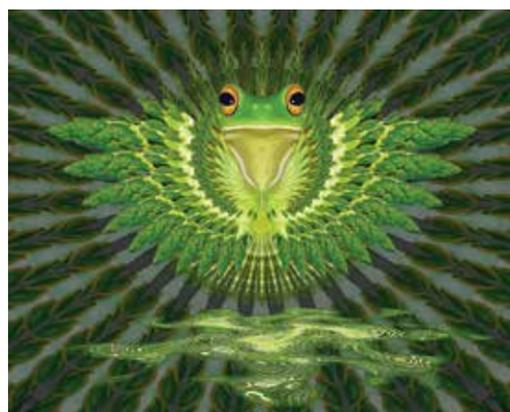
At this time when the village is suffering from the devastating loss of all the chicks in one family due to road toll, there is a heightened interest in this ancient bird with both the media and the travelling public.

As fast as Lieselotte is producing these artworks, they are selling and requiring her to make more. They are especially welcomed by our visiting customers who express their fear of the loss of our cassowaries.

A reduction in speed, in the first instance, at the recognised cassowary crossing, could be a useful first step to protecting our magnificent cassowary families and an e-petition is available for signatures. Please take a minute to sign this petition before it is presented to the State Parliament. The cut-off for signatures is midnight 8 August 2020.



The petition will be tabled in the Queensland Parliament during the August sitting dates. Please swell the numbers.  
[www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3371](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3371)



## A worthy entry from the village

Buck Richardson has made great use of his time in isolation and has produced, we hope, an award winning 10x8 inches image of "If Frogs Could Fly". It will be submitted for inclusion in the Linden Postcard show in Melbourne. We wish Buck well.

*Where I haven't any blue, I use red.*

Pablo Picasso

20 Coondoo Street, Kuranda • 4093 9026  
[www.kurandaartscoop.com](http://www.kurandaartscoop.com)



## FOCUS ON KURANDA

The Focus on Kuranda Photography Group is a Facebook group for photographers of all levels. Photos featured here have received the most 'likes' for the previous month (at the time of going to print).



JULY "Beauties!" by Michelle MacLean (25 June 2020)



THE Kuranda Paper  
est. 1991

The Kuranda Paper is a not-for-profit publication. Profits generated by advertising support local community groups.

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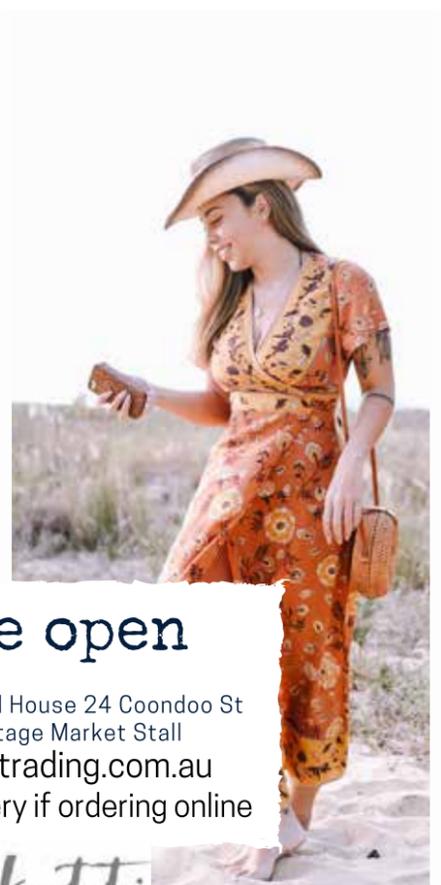
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# SPEEWAH TO THE "HAT" CHARITY WALK IS ON AGAIN!



The Annual "Speewah to the Hat" Charity Walk is on again. Sunday 16 August is the day.

Ok, so whats the go for those who have not participated over the years you say??? Well, listen up then... we walk from the Speewah camp ground through our beautiful rainforest and down the mountain all the way to the Red Beret Hotel for lunch and some refreshing and well-deserved ales.

We meet up at Speewah Farmall at 9am sharp, sign in and then get picked up by John and his crew at John's Kuranda Bus Service, and taken to the camp ground to kick the day off by 10am. Everyone walks at their own pace and I encourage people to take the time to head up to Glacier Rock to hang out and admire the views. It's definitely worth the few hundred extra metres.

We continue down the Douglas Track to Stoney Creek and make our way to the Red Beret Hotel to enjoy lunch and drinks. John's Kuranda Bus Service picks us up around 3.30-4pm and brings us all back up the mountain to Speewah Farmall to close the day.

We also offer a bus service from the Red Beret Hotel at 8.30am in the morning, bringing people from Cairns up the hill to so they don't miss out either. So what does it cost and what do I get you say?

It costs \$30 per head (man, woman or child) and for that you get bus transfers to or from your destination (Red Beret Hotel or Speewah Farmall) and a free beer, wine or soft drink upon your arrival at the Red Beret Hotel, thanks to Tom Hedley who has always been a great supporter.

In the past we have raised money for drought stricken farmers in south-west Queensland (directly to their door, not through other charities), North Queensland Animal Rescue, Kuranda Horse and Pony Club etc. but this year we have decided to do it a little differently. Are you still with me?

Speewah Farmall is looking for submissions from you! We want to help organisations, businesses or families in our 4881 district who are in need. Speewah Farmall will be donating a \$100 in-store voucher which will be drawn as a door prize strictly between all the walkers on the day. Marsh Butcheries have donated 2 x \$50 meat trays to be raffled on the day. Red Beret Hotel will also organise some cool raffles on the day, thanks to Rose who always offers us five star service.

We are open to other local 4881 businesses who wish to donate prizes we can either raffle or auction on the day. Contact Mick via [mick@farmall.net.au](mailto:mick@farmall.net.au) Numbers are limited so when it's booked, it's booked—so get in quickly or miss out again on an awesome day out!



## BOOK CLUB CELEBRATES LOCAL AUTHOR MILESTONE

At our last bookclub meeting, we (Gill, Sabina, Riette, Irene, Leanne, Ros and Ann) celebrated the most recently published book from fellow local Speewah resident, bookclub member and author, Ann Harth 'Bernice takes a Plunge'. See Ann's website for more stories and information [www.annharth.com](http://www.annharth.com)

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12 August 2020 | The Kuranda Paper

# A Grinter's Tale

They're under starters' orders, all set, and they're off and racing, with toilet rolls first off at the gates.

Yes, the supermarket shelves are almost bare of double length Quilton again. We're so very lucky here in the Kuranda region as far as outbreaks of COVID-19 are concerned, touch wood, but you wouldn't know it in the supermarket. Ho hum.

There's no room for complacency though; we are all conscious of the fact that the second wave could hit here at any time. A friend mentioned this morning that his wife had just flown interstate and had not undergone a temperature check at either end (of the journey, that is). I do keep hearing similar stories, and wondering how things have managed to stay glued together here in North Queensland to date.

It must be this COVID-19 event, but I find myself craving basics, and a return to normality, and I don't mean a return to February, I mean return to the days when letters arrived in the mail, milk arrived on the doorstep and vegetables came once weekly in a rickety old van driven by a toothless but endearing Irishman named Pat (he didn't double as a postman though).

I'm so glad I grew up when I did, well, that's if I ever grew up. I just sealed a deal today that probably required a lot more consideration and mature thinking than I put into it. But what the hell, I never was one for caution, not in any aspect of my life and I have survived so far, and had so much more fun by throwing caution to the wind. I recommend it wholeheartedly.

When my parents were my age, as kids we considered them old. But, saying that, they were in fact very active and healthy, things only changing when the insidious cancer put its claws into my father. How different things are now. I recall in the sixties that once a woman succumbed to a perm (anyone under 50 may have to Google that but I gather they may be coming back into fashion), and a man took to his garden, they were instantly considered 'grandparents', whether they had grandchildren or not. It seemed to be a term bestowed upon anyone with grey hair. Fifty was sobering. Sixty was slowing down. Seventy and you were on the way out. Eighty was a miracle and reaching ninety meant you were supernatural. How times have changed, although it's more likely because I am somewhere in that scale now and don't feel my age, that is until I see my reflection.

One of our lecturers at uni many years ago, a very charismatic (I'm being kind here, after all, Donald Trump has given new meaning to that word) fifty something year old who fancied himself as a ladies' man, addressed the mature students in his class. "You know, everyone thinks they look ten years younger than they actually are". It's true of course.

A long time ago, I was writing an article for the *Gulf News* in the UAE about what keeps



us young, and I talked to people from Sri Lanka, India, Egypt and Abu Dhabi locals. The Sri Lankan told me curry keeps the cogs moving in your cognitive functions. The Egyptian told me to go bathe in milk or Dead Sea salts and the Abu Dhabi local told me to go and have many more children. Mmmm.

While I was researching for this article, I came across an article in *The Independent* about Emma Murano, who was 117 in 2016. She stated that "being single" was the reason she stayed alive so long. Well, what can I say?

A Scottish teacher friend in Abu Dhabi once proffered two gems of wisdom. One was that as mothers, it was our duty to feel guilty every single day, and the other was that it was proved that regular walking would stave off dementia.

As I took this seriously after my return in 1997, I have walked just about every single day, except after two severe injuries, at least 3km a day, come rain or shine. That's over 25,000 kilometres at quick calculation. If I am wrong, then it didn't work, my brain is deteriorating and I won't say I can't remember where the calculator is, but that's about the same as walking to Moscow and back. The moral of the story is – exercise your dog/s.

But it was good being young in the sixties. We really were so very lucky growing up in the aftermath of two World Wars in a time when everyone appreciated the simple pleasures of life.

So, I do miss envelopes in the mailbox containing long awaited handwritten letters from good friends all over the world, but I admit I don't miss handwriting replies. I miss being able to walk through a shopping centre without the need for armour as I weave my way past zombies texting with no thought of the frail or disabled people they may barge into.

I miss the simple life of my childhood and the slower pace, and feel very concerned for the coming cashless society (no point hiding your savings under the bed, as it will be worthless), and the many challenges we're going to face in the coming months or even years, but whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger, and at the end of the day, life is so much easier in so many ways than it was in my parents' lifetime and in my growing up years.

I don't know what brought this nostalgia on (that sounds like something that a good dose of bicarb would have cured when I was a kid). I think it was one of those Facebook posts that says "Say yes if you know what this is". You know your age when you can identify every weird looking, now antique implement posted in such a fashion and it's very tempting to say no, even though you still have one of those items in your cutlery drawer. I find denial is the best way of staying young.

If you are unwell with the following symptoms – cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or a fever (or a history of fever) Queensland Health encourages you to get tested immediately for COVID-19.

Contact your doctor, go to the nearest hospital emergency department or book an appointment at a drive-through fever clinic by calling 4226 4781.

The new COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary. Downloading the app is something you can do to protect you, your family and friends and save the lives of other Australians. The more Australians connect to the COVIDSafe app, the quicker we can find the virus.

For detailed questions and answers about this app go to [www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app)



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**BBQ PACK 3 – \$30** [sausages, pork spare ribs, chicken kebabs]

**BBQ PACK 4 – \$35** [sausages, lamb koftas, BBQ rib fillets]

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## Ambulance Update July 2020

by Leon Cartledge, Officer in Charge

Greetings and salutations from your Kuranda Local Ambulance Service. I hope this communique finds everyone well and looking forward to emerging from hibernation.

Recent events and changes in the Kuranda Local Ambulance Committee have prompted me to write to the Kuranda Paper in an effort to keep our community informed of developments.

Due to the natural passing of time and some very unfortunate tragic events, we find ourselves in need of new members for our Local Ambulance Committee or (LAC). The LAC is an advisory body, which is attached to the Kuranda Local Ambulance Service and, over many years, has been instrumental in ensuring the local ambulance service is well resourced and up to date in every aspect of our service.

The official functions of LACs are defined in the Ambulance Service Act 1991 as being:

- To liaise between the community it represents and QAS.
- To promote community participation in and awareness of ambulance services.
- To provide advice to the Commissioner in respect of ambulance services in the community it represents.
- To undertake fundraising activities for the benefit of ambulance services in the community it represents.
- To manage money held in trust for the benefit of ambulance services in the community it represents.
- Such other functions, as the Minister agrees to.

If you are a community minded person and would like to become involved with our LAC please come along to our AGM to be held at the Kuranda Ambulance station, Fallon Road, on Saturday 8 August 2020 at 7.30 pm.



## FIRE DANGER LURKING IN KITCHENS

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) statistics show fire fighters attended 140 house fires last year, and Northern Region fire fighters had responded to eighteen structure fires since the beginning of May, including more than a dozen house fires.

Householders are urged to check their range hood filters as grease and fat materials collected in the extraction filter of the range hood over time are highly flammable. A small fire in a frypan can become a major fire as a clogged extraction filter provides active accelerant for the fire to rapidly spread.

Small stove top fires fuelled by waste material in the extraction filter can spread quickly up the vent and into walls and ceilings.

Stove-top fires are not able to spread where a range hood unit has been newly installed with a clean extraction filter or where a householder has recently cleaned the filter. Cleaning is not difficult – filters are designed to be easily removed from the unit and the best method of cleaning is to soak and clean the filter in a detergent solution. The majority of filters are dishwasher safe and replacement filters are available from brand suppliers.

It is also important that householders never leave a hot stove unattended and become complacent about fire safety, especially during the high-risk winter months. The kitchen is the most common place for household fires to start, with the majority of all household insurance claims originating from cooking or electrical fires in the kitchen," said Managing Director of Sure Insurance, Bradley Heath .

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) provides the following kitchen fire safety advice:

**Watch the Pot:** Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen then turn off the hot plates or take something to remind you of cooking food eg. Wooden spoon or tea towel.

**Clear the Cooking Area:** Curtains, tea towels, oven mitts and any flammable items should be kept well away from the cooking area. Keep the stove clean and clear of grease.

**Control the Splatter:** Be careful when cooking with oil. Heat oil slowly. When cooking, use the right type and size saucepan for the job and keep the heat low enough to avoid fat splatters or boiling over. Every saucepan should have a lid. When using a saucepan, especially when oil is involved, keep the lid handy as it can be used to smother a fire.

**No water Needed:** Water does not put out fat or oil fires. It can spread the fire and cause serious injury.

**Smothering the Flame:** If a fire does start on the stove – Turn off the heat source either on the stove or at the fuse box. If cooking oil catches fire, slide a lid over the pan or use a fire blanket. Fire extinguishers and fire blankets are essential items in every home.

To read the full-list of QFES kitchen safety tips visit: [www.qfes.qld.gov.au/community-safety/home/Pages/kitchen.aspx](http://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/community-safety/home/Pages/kitchen.aspx)



## Energy Support Available for Customers

As households and businesses continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, energy retailers say a broader government and energy sector consideration is needed.

The Australian Energy Council's Chief Executive, Sarah McNamara, said: "Energy retailers stand ready and willing to help customers experiencing financial difficulties, but there is a critical need for government, regulators and all participants in the energy supply chain to consider what further steps may be needed in coming months.

"Retailers can help when households and businesses are having trouble paying their bills. Our members have committed to supporting their customers with tailored assistance if they are unable to afford their energy bills.

"Customers should be reminded that their retailer can provide different kinds of support – from short term payment plans to longer term hardship assistance.

"Customers should contact their retailer as soon as they become concerned about their ability to pay their bill. Engagement will ensure customers are not disconnected for not being able to afford their energy bills.

"There is also a wide range of concessions and emergency relief available for customers receiving JobSeeker and other Government payments. Retailers will help customers to access these rebates, and they are providing a range of other measures for customers doing it tough.



## Annual General Meeting for The Kuranda Local Ambulance Committee

**Saturday 7.30pm • 8 August 2020**

Kuranda Ambulance Station  
3-9 Fallon Road, Kuranda

*All welcome • New members needed*



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### Stage 3 Restrictions

KAS is now accepting those regular hirers such as classes, workshops and exercise programs who have routinely used the venue.

We are still closed to the general public and do need to prepare the venue with a COVID Safe Plan to be available for community hire for those groups. We welcome you back!

The COVID Safe Plan will need to be adhered to by hirers to maintain the safety of participants and our volunteers who maintain and clean the space. We thank you for this and your understanding as to changes.

We are lucky in one respect that we have an outdoor venue which will allow us to hold a community event in the near future, pending funding. The Committee has been busy applying for COVID funding to help the venue get through until more prosperous times. If the Amphitheatre is successful we do hope to celebrate in October.

Thank you to those who have supported us in our efforts to keep moving forward and thanks to our Barron River MP Craig Crawford, who met with Committee to offer his support and advice. It is appreciated!

We would also like to thank TRACQS supervisors who continue to help with the venue.

**National NAIDOC Week** in 2020 will be 8–15 November. The NAIDOC Team will keep the community posted with what style of event it will be. It may be something a little different this year! The Amphitheatre is excited to support NAIDOC once again and look forward to working together for the community.

### Membership fees for 2020

Membership fees are now pro rata @ \$12.50 per family for the remainder of 2020 and can still be paid at the Honey House. If you would like to email us, we can send you a membership form and pay online.

It is still very important that memberships stay current for the status of the Amphitheatre to remain. The KAS Management Committee hopes you can help with this. These membership monies do help to keep up with bills that still keep coming in regardless of whether the Amphitheatre is open or not.

As we are unable to have General Meetings at this stage, the Committee will continue to make any decisions necessary to maintain ongoing business.



www.kurandaamphitheatre.org  
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Kuranda Amphitheatre



Above: Tim (Site Manager) keeping up with maintenance



Right: Amaru helping get COVID signs up to prepare for Community Hirers

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**R U OK? DAY**  
10 September 2020  
Learn what to say at [ruok.org.au](http://ruok.org.au)  
A conversation could change a life

### THERE'S MORE TO SAY AFTER R U OK?

R U OK? is asking all Australians to learn what to say if someone in their life says they are not OK. "There's more to say after R U OK?", is the message for R U OK? Day 2020 (Thursday 10 September) and will focus on building confidence and increased skills for people so they know how to navigate a conversation with someone in their life who might be struggling.

R U OK? Day was launched in 2009 by founder and adman Gavin Larkin who tragically lost his father to suicide in 1995. Larkin (who died of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2011) wanted to spare other families the grief his family endured.

R U OK? is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to inspire and empower everyone to meaningfully connect with friends, family and colleagues who might be struggling with life. As a health promotion organisation, R U OK? speaks to the help-giver by providing resources and tips so that when they notice changes or just feel that something's not quite right with a friend, colleague, loved one, team mate or neighbour, they have the knowledge and confidence to start a conversation that could change a life. Conversation tips and crisis support contacts can be found at [www.ruok.org.au](http://www.ruok.org.au)

Katherine Newton, CEO, R U OK?, says 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone and circumstances have made it even more important for us all to stay connected and, for those who are able, be willing to support those around us.

"Time is one of the most valuable things we can share with the people that we care about," said Ms Newton. "When someone in your life is struggling it's natural to ask them if they're OK but it can sometimes be difficult to know what to say next.

"Our free resources include a conversation guide to help people learn what to say after "Are you OK?" and help

break down any fears or concerns someone might be feeling when approaching a meaningful conversation with a family member, friend or colleague who might be doing it tough.

"You don't have to be an expert to keep the conversation going and if you familiarise yourself with what to say after hearing 'No, I'm not OK' you can show genuine intent and genuinely help someone access appropriate support long before they're in crisis." said Ms Newton.

"Our latest evaluation measures show that most people feel they can have a conversation with someone who might be struggling but 31% of Australians lack confidence or are unsure of what to say if someone is not OK," says Ms Newton. "We want to help them learn what to say after R U OK? because a conversation could change someone's life."

This year R U OK? Day coincides with World Suicide Prevention Day which will further raise awareness of the scale of suicide globally and the role that each of us can play in prevention efforts.

Resources including a Guide to Supporting R U OK? Day are free to download from the R U OK? website and are designed to help individuals, workplaces, schools and community groups plan for R U OK? Day which this year may look different for some given the impact of COVID-19. The guide has tips, ideas and resources to help share the R U OK? message virtually and in person.

"If you feel something's not quite the same with someone you know - perhaps you're aware of a significant life event they are experiencing right now or you notice a change in what they're saying or doing - take the time to genuinely ask them "Are you OK? We want Australians to be confident in having a meaningful conversation and if someone says they're not OK, make time to listen with an open mind, encourage action and regularly check in."

Learn what to say next at [www.ruok.org.au](http://www.ruok.org.au)

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## Release of Interim Report for the Independent Review of the EPBC Act, and Call for Public Responses

On 20 July, the Interim Report of the Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) was released.

The Interim Report sets out preliminary views on the EPBC Act and how it operates. It focuses on the fundamental problems of the legislation and proposes reform directions that are needed to address these.

The Independent Reviewer, Professor Graeme Samuel AC, said “the Interim Report has been released part way through the Review as an opportunity to share and test thinking.

“The EPBC Act is ineffective. It does not enable the Commonwealth to protect and conserve environmental matters that are important for the nation. It is not fit to address current or future environmental challenges.

“The EPBC Act results in duplication with state and territory environment laws. The Commonwealth process for assessing and approving developments is slow, complex to navigate and costly for business. Slow and cumbersome regulation results in significant additional costs for business, with little appreciable benefit for the environment.”

Professor Samuel said “New, legally enforceable National Environmental Standards should be the centrepiece of reform—setting clear and concise rules that deliver outcomes for the environment and enable development to continue in a sustainable way. The development of National Environmental Standards should be a priority reform measure. Interim Standards could be developed immediately, followed by an iterative development process as more sophisticated data becomes accessible. Standards should focus on detailed prescription of outcomes, not process.”

“National Environmental Standards will mean that the community and business can know what to expect. Standards support clear and consistent decisions, regardless of who makes them. Where states and territories can demonstrate their systems can deliver environmental outcomes consistent with the Standards, responsibilities should be devolved, providing faster and lower cost development assessments and approvals.”

“Community trust in the EPBC Act and its administration is low. To build confidence, the Interim Report proposes that an independent cop on the beat is required to deliver rigorous, transparent compliance and enforcement.”

Professor Samuel emphasised that “the EPBC Act had failed to fulfil its objectives as they relate to Indigenous Australians. Sustained engagement with Indigenous Australians is needed to properly co-design reforms that are important to them. Much more needs to be done to respectfully incorporate valuable Traditional Knowledge of Country in how the environment is managed. Indigenous Australians seek, and are entitled to expect, greater protection of their heritage,” Professor Samuel said.

“Extra effort is needed to invest in improving the condition of the environment. This means the EPBC Act needs a firmer focus on avoiding impacts where possible and increasing the area of nationally important habitats. This will allow future development to be sustainable. Given contested views of how Australia can best achieve ecologically sustainable development, Professor Samuel said it is “unlikely that everyone will agree on all the issues identified in the Interim Report or support all the proposed reform directions.

“The Review encourages consideration of the overall

reform direction proposed, rather than its component parts,” Professor Samuel said.

“The proposed reforms seek to build community trust that Australia’s national environmental laws are delivering effective environment and heritage protection, while regulating businesses efficiently. The proposed reforms enable the Commonwealth to show national leadership, while working more closely with the states and territories to deliver a joined-up approach to environmental management. Reform of the EPBC Act is well overdue and necessary to ensure current and future generations can enjoy Australia’s unique environment and iconic places.” Professor Samuel said.

### Next steps in the Review

All Australians are invited to have a say about the reform directions in the Interim Report. To read the Interim Report and have your say visit

[www.epbcactreview.environment.gov.au](http://www.epbcactreview.environment.gov.au)

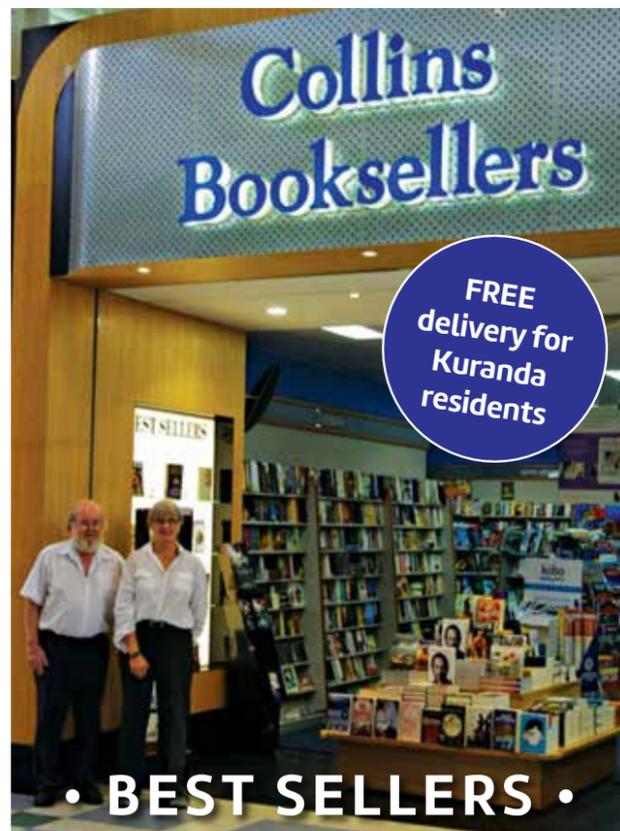
Professor Samuel now intends to engage in targeted consultations with stakeholders throughout July, August and September. These consultations will focus on progressing the key reform directions proposed in the Interim Report, including refining the National Environmental Standards.

Professor Samuel intends to convene collaborative discussions with environment, indigenous, agriculture and business groups, and leading academics. These discussions will involve stakeholders who had provided substantive contributions to the Review and have indicated a willingness to collaborate to shape a reform pathway. Consultation with state and territory governments will also be undertaken.

Professor Samuel’s Final Report, including recommendations to government, is due to be delivered to the Minister for the Environment by 31 October 2020.

### Proposed key reform directions:

- The Commonwealth should continue to focus on existing areas of responsibility with no expansion to regulate new environmental matters.
- New, legally enforceable National Environmental Standards should be established to deliver ecologically sustainable development. Focused on outcomes rather than process.
- Streamlining and greater efficiency through devolution in a way that provides community confidence, with National Environmental Standards as the foundation to set the outcomes needed regardless of who the decision maker is.
- Strong and transparent assurance to ensure devolved decisions deliver the intended outcomes.
- Australia’s Indigenous cultural heritage laws need to be reviewed and more work is needed to support better engagement with Indigenous Australians and to respectfully incorporate Traditional Knowledge of Country in how the environment is managed.
- Build trust in the system through increased transparency of information and decision-making to reduce the need to resort to court processes to discover information. Legal challenges should be limited to matters of outcome, not process.
- A quantum shift in the quality of information is needed, so that the right information is available at the right time for the community, proponents and decision-makers. This will deliver better decisions, and faster



• **BEST SELLERS** •

### Collins Booksellers Smithfield BEST SELLERS FOR JULY 2020

- 1 **Tropical Food Gardening** by Yvonne Cunningham
- 2 **The Insider** by Christopher Pyne
- 3 **The Room Where it Happened** by John Bolton
- 4 **The World’s Worst Parents** by David Walliams
- 5 **Hidden Hand** by Clive Hamilton
- 6 **Plants of Tropical North Qld** by John Beasley
- 7 **Best Walks Around Cairns and the Tablelands** by Sally McPhee etc
- 8 **The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse** by Charlie Mackesy
- 9 **Bluey: Fruit Bat** by Bluey
- 10 **Phosphorescence** by Julia Baird

and lower cost assessments and approvals.

- A coherent framework to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the EPBC Act is needed, including revamped State of the Environment reporting.
- Restoration of the environment must be a focus. Available habitat needs to grow to be able to support both development and a healthy environment. Explore ways to accelerate environmental restoration such as markets and co-investing with the philanthropic and private sectors.
- An independent compliance and enforcement regulator that is not subject to actual or implied political direction. It should be properly resourced and have a full toolkit of powers.

Source: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment



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### National Tree Day – 2nd August

As COVID-19 continues to disrupt our lives through another cancelled set of events, this month's was for National Tree Day on 2nd August. Don't be deterred, you can still do your bit to increase habitat for birds and butterflies and other wildlife. Plant a cassowary, bird or butterfly food tree on the rainforest edge of your block. We have some very suitable plants in our nursery at present.

Or join in our latest project plantings to start the restoration of Cain Creek with our first community planting on Saturday 22nd August 3–4.30pm followed by speaker and BBQ—thanks to Qld government CSA grant funding. What better way to celebrate the marvellous environment than to be part of a local creek restoration as a corridor for our critically endangered Kuranda tree frogs and threatened Southern cassowaries? More in the next Kuranda Paper.

#### • Date Claimers •

**6th August Speaker** – Cape York Herps. Kuranda Recreation Centre 7-9pm. All welcome. Contact Denise on 0457 583 311

**8th and 15th August.** Saturday mornings 8am. Join our Weed Warrior team for removal of Turbina, now flowering white in the tree tops around Kuranda, a vine that smothers and kills trees. Meet at nursery, 284 Myola Road at 8am. Call Cathy on 0419 624 940

**22nd August** – 3-5pm Community planting, BBQ and speaker at Cain Creek, Monaro Close. Holes are already dug and fertilised. Bring a hat and closed in shoes. Bring the kids to join in.

### Our Plant of the month – Bush tucker *Glycosmis trifoliata* (Pink Fruited Lime Berry)

As mentioned on Gardening Australia earlier this year.

- Use for screening, accent and filler – attractive small hardy and evergreen ornamental shrub. Height 2-4m.
- Bird and butterfly attracting – host tree for the Canopus Swallowtail butterfly.
- Fragrant flowers – tiny white, most of the year.
- Edible fruit – most of year, fruit in 4-5 years, pink, juicy, sweet honey flavoured translucent fruits. Make delicious jam, can be dried like sultanas.
- Drought hardy, 80% sun, neutral PH.

Nursery has a few left at \$3 each.



Above: Canopus Swallowtail butterfly.  
Below: *Glycosmis trifoliata* –Mareeba, Jack Bethel Park



### International Connection to Australian Ocean Plastic Crisis Uncovered

The need for better recycling systems has been highlighted following the discovery of a strong connection between Australia and Indonesia's ocean plastic problems by researchers at The University of Western Australia, Australian Institute of Marine Science and The Ocean Cleanup Foundation.

The findings, published today in international journal *Frontiers*, reveal Indonesia is the main source of overseas ocean plastic waste washing up on Australia's shores while also being a major destination for Australian plastic waste exports. Senior author Dr Julia Reisser, from UWA's Oceans Institute, said predictive modelling estimated more than 70 per cent of overseas ocean plastics reaching Australia originated from Indonesia.

"In 2018 Australia exported more than 127,000 tonnes of plastic waste to lower-income nations including Malaysia (35 per cent), Indonesia (22 per cent) and Thailand (18 per cent)," Dr Reisser said. "The international plastic recycling trade is commonly associated with export of contaminated waste, and illegal practices for processing imported materials including labour exploitation, plastic burning and illegal dumping into rivers and oceans."

"In addition to impacting oceans, plastics also contribute to our ongoing climate crisis as well as human exposure to synthetic particles and additives linked to cancer, obesity, diabetes and endocrine system disorders."

Following a review of existing national and global initiatives that deal with plastic issues, the study concluded additional global action to rectify plastic pollution is urgently required.

"We need more worldwide action both downstream, by improving waste management systems, and upstream, by decreasing production of fossil fuel-based plastics," Dr Reisser said.

"I'd like to see a new global 'plastics convention' focused on ridding our water, food, air, land and oceans of plastic."

The study also recommended stronger bilateral approaches between Australia and Indonesia for reducing plastic pollution in Australian waters and surrounding seas.

"Investing in better waste collection, segregation and recycling systems in both Australia and Indonesia would not only benefit our own national interests but also induce a knock-on effect by encouraging other high-income countries to show greater global responsibility," Dr Reisser said.

"I think there is a big opportunity here for Australia and Indonesia to lead by example when it comes to co-creating a bilateral recycling system with significant social and economic returns to both nations."

### Mareeba Shire Council joins Reef Guardians

Mareeba Shire Council will join local governments across Queensland banding together to turn around the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

This week Mareeba became the first far northern Council to sign up for another term as a Reef Guardian Council.

Mayor Angela Toppin said the Council was committed to taking practical, on-ground action to help the Reef. "While we do not live right beside the Reef, this global icon still plays a very important role in the lives of our residents," Mayor Toppin said.

"Many of our residents live in the Barron River catchment, and what we do on land can have a direct impact on the Reef.

"It is important that we build Reef health so it is in the best possible condition to cope with impacts like the mass coral bleaching events we have witnessed in recent years."

Reef Guardian activities achieved by the Council in the past year include a Waste Management Services Strategy which addresses littering and illegal dumping. The Council also adopted a masterplan to revitalise the Bicentennial Lakes, and upgraded a sewer pump station in Kuranda to reduce the risk of pollution entering the Great Barrier Reef.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Assistant Director for Regional Engagement Doon McColl was delighted the Council had signed up to the stewardship program for another four years. "Over the previous term we built a strong relationship and delivered some great initiatives that help both the Reef and our catchment communities," Ms McColl said.

"By working together we harness the power of collective action. We expect at least 18 local governments in the Reef catchment will sign up to be Reef Guardians for the next four years.

"These councils are keen to empower their communities to make a difference. It's a very important and powerful message to send to the rest of the Australia and to world."

More information on the Reef Guardian Council program can be found on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority website [www.gbrmpa.gov.au/our-work/our-programs-and-projects/reef-guardians/reef-guardian-councils](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/our-work/our-programs-and-projects/reef-guardians/reef-guardian-councils).



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## STEADY PROGRESS IN ERADICATING RAINFOREST THREAT

Miconia calvescens is fast growing small rainforest tree that is native to tropical parts of America and reaches 12 to 15 metres in height. In 1996, Miconia was found to be naturally reproducing and dispersing at Kuranda.

Miconia is a serious weed outside of its natural range. It can quickly colonise disturbed areas and gaps within tropical rainforests forming dense thickets that displace native plants and animals. It has the potential to cause substantial damage to biodiversity in the World Heritage Wet Tropics areas.

Miconia has very large spectacular leaves with a distinctive vein pattern and striking purple undersides. These unusual leaves made Miconia a highly prized ornamental plant. Miconia was introduced to Australia in the 1960s by botanic gardens and was sold locally by nurseries and at markets between the late 1970s and mid-1990s. Miconia would have been brought to Kuranda by gardeners or plant collectors.

Miconia flowers between February and October producing thousands of tiny white flowers that develop into tiny purple berries. Birds feast on the berries and disperse the seeds through their droppings into nearby rainforests, gardens, and gullies. Overseas research indicates that Miconia seeds can remain viable in the soil for at least 20 years.

Miconia is targeted for eradication from Australia in the National Tropical Weed Eradication Program, which is managed by Biosecurity Queensland. Biosecurity Queensland coordinates surveillance and control measures for Miconia at Kuranda in collaboration with Mareeba Shire Council and QPWS.

Areas are surveyed every one to two years to find and destroy all seedlings before they get to the stage of producing a new generation of seed. Last year the field teams surveyed 1,490 hectares, on foot, in the Kuranda district.

Biosecurity Queensland is on track to eradicate this invasive weed from Kuranda. The field teams have not found any mature Miconia trees at Kuranda in the last three years. Last year nearly two-thirds of all known sites had no Miconia seedlings at all.

The field teams appreciate the ongoing support of Kuranda locals in the survey work. If you think you have found Miconia or have further questions about the surveys please call Biosecurity Queensland 132523.

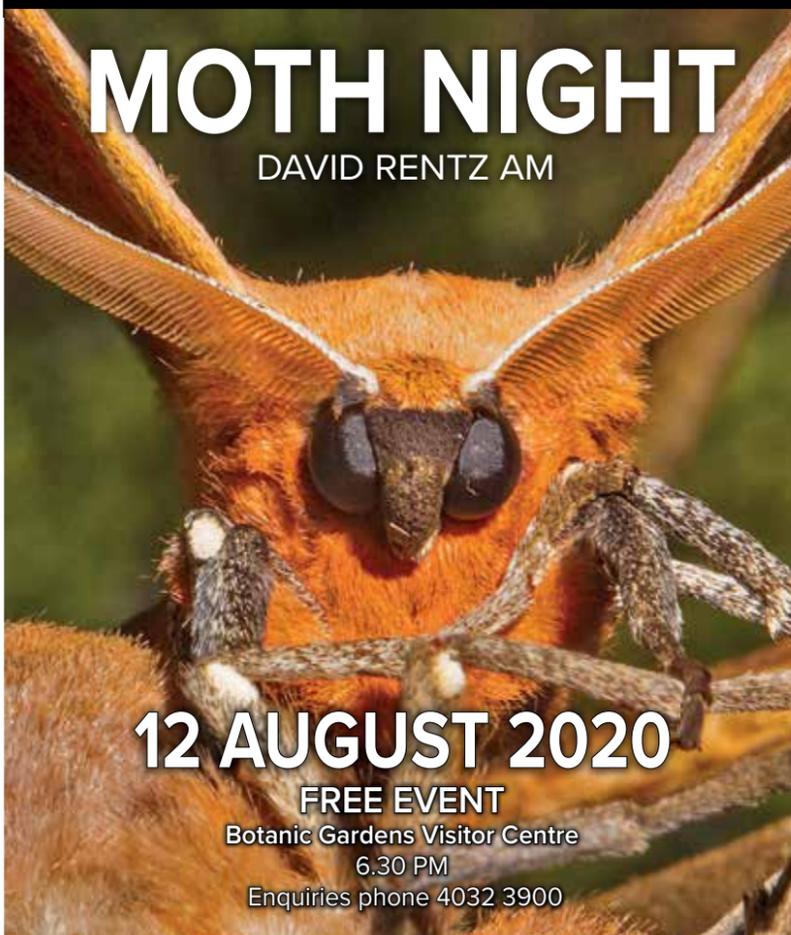
For more information, visit [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au) and search for Miconia.



### FRIENDS' WEDNESDAY NIGHT TALK

# MOTH NIGHT

DAVID RENTZ AM



12 AUGUST 2020

FREE EVENT

Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre

6.30 PM

Enquiries phone 4032 3900

## Friends of Botanic Gardens event "Moth Night"

After a break of several months due to COVID-19, the Friends of the Botanic Gardens returns on Wednesday 12 August with Moth Night. For those unfamiliar with this annual event, which particularly fascinates children, a large white sheet is erected on a tree in the Gardens and floodlit to attract insects. These will then be identified by entomologist and FOBG patron Dr David Rentz AM. Meet at the Gardens Visitor Centre at 6.30pm. This is a free event, open to everyone. No refreshments will be provided, so bring your own drinks and snacks.



# THE COLOUR CHANGERS

Animals use colour in nature for a variety of reasons. Some of the most obvious are camouflage and communication. Others use colour to assist them in maintaining body temperature, and some use it to warn away predators. In nature, colours are often perceived differently than we perceive them, and are there for distinct purposes, and seldom for mere decoration. For many species colours are fixed, but for some, the ability to change colour gives them a chance to adapt to situations as they arise.

In Australia, some of our lizards, (particularly the dragons) have the ability to change their colour based on their moods. Bearded Dragons can dramatically darken their colours in response to a predator, and males will do so to communicate with their rivals. They will also darken in colour when cool to absorb more heat, and brighten in colour when hot. Of course they are no comparison to the master of lizard colour changers, the chameleons. The specialised skin cells they possess allow them to change through a myriad of colours. Contrary to popular belief this is not specifically for camouflage. Chameleons use their abilities mainly for the purpose of communication with other chameleons, which draws out their absolute best chromatic brilliance.

Not all colour changes occur instantly. Some animals change their colours over time to adapt to their surroundings as a form of camouflage. Locally two groups of insects commonly do this within our gardens during their juvenile stages while they are most vulnerable. Praying mantids and green katydids are often not green while growing up. If they happen to be growing up on a pink rose bush, they will gradually become pink. One interesting thing about these insects though is that they always revert back to green as adults. Other insects such as phasmids (stick and leaf insects) will assume colouration based on a combination of their surroundings and diet. Spiny Leaf Insects (*Extatosoma tiaratum*) living within lichen encrusted trees will adopt amazing lichen-like colouration, but change back when taken out of that environment.

Many frogs have relatively good colour changing abilities. Some frogs are darker colours when cooler, and some sun loving species such as Growling Grass Frogs (*Litoria raniformis*) obtain their brightest greens and golds when they are exposed to UV light. A brightly coloured Growling Grass Frog however can go from its brightest hues to a dark muddy brown extremely quickly if danger threatens. In this case it will attempt to dive to the bottom of a pond and wait in the dark until the danger passes.

The masters of colour changing abilities though do not live on land. They are marine invertebrates called cephalopods such as octopuses and cuttlefish. These animals have the ability to instantly change the colours of their bodies for perfect camouflage, to communicate to others of their own species, and to warn off predators. Cuttlefish have the ability to pulse lines of colours along their bodies almost like a TV with electrical interference. This strategy is a master stroke to confuse a predator just long enough to allow escape. To top this off, many cephalopods have the ability to change the shape of their skin to compliment the colour changes, contorting into rock-like ridges or smooth sand forms.

Whether it be to signal the boundary of a territory, to confuse a predator, or to simply disappear into the background, the ability to change colour is a very important process for some animals. It is simply their way of surviving, but for us humans, animals' colour changing abilities are often inspire admiration and awe.

**Alan Henderson, Minibeast Wildlife**

*Below: A chameleon, a reptile with unrivalled colour changing abilities predominantly for communication.*



*Above: A young 'green' praying mantis has changed its colour over time to match its red surroundings.*

*Below: A lichen-coloured Spiny Leaf Insect that has modified its colour in response to its diet and local environment.*

Photos: Alan Henderson



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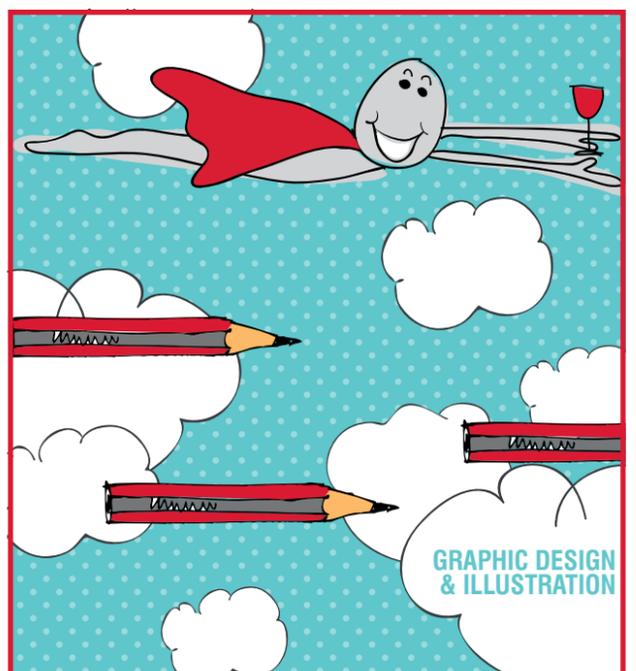


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# Friends of the Earth

## Far North Queensland

### Silver lining to the economic downturn?

The global economic downturn triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has produced a marked decline in greenhouse gas emissions, which by May was estimated at around 4.6%. All of the lockdowns, industry closures, and reduced travel, particularly by air, saw a contraction in energy consumption from fossil fuels. But alarmingly emissions started to climb again in June when governments removed the restrictions and economies reopened. So what does this portend for the unfolding climate crisis?

Governments are well aware that deep and lasting cuts to global emissions are mandatory over the coming decade, and these cuts need to happen consecutively every year. In order to meet the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions need to drop by 7.6% per year between 2020 and 2030. This requires fundamental and lasting change to the economic structures that drive growth and energy consumption. The finance sector now widely accepts and endorses a rapid shift, pointing to the economic impact of climate inaction and current patterns of energy consumption.

The main culprit is fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas. Since the 1970s consumption of energy has more than doubled, and fossil fuels comprise over 80% of the current global energy market. Governments, banks and investors continue to fund new coal mines and gas infrastructure projects in Australia and elsewhere. They remain profitable investments, particularly when governments offer billions in subsidies and tax breaks. Interestingly many of the major fossil fuel companies have seen profits cascade as consumption fell this year.

Delivering the deep emissions cuts over the next decade requires nothing short of unhooking our reliance on fossil fuels and closing down these industries for good. It is increasingly accepted that economies need to be restructured, shifting from unlimited growth and incessant demand to stable production and reduced consumption. The current pandemic offers perhaps the last real opportunity to remodel the global economic and social system – otherwise the fate that awaits humanity will be nothing short of catastrophic.

**NEXT Meeting: Wednesday 5 August 2020 at 7pm via Zoom – all welcome!**

**For details contact Margaret on 0403 214 422**

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# SUSTAINABLE STIMULUS PROPOSED

The Tropical North Queensland (TNQ) Green and Blue Economic Stimulus Package was launched 22 July. Over 20 organisations have contributed to the development of the TNQ Green and Blue Economic Stimulus Package, designed to create jobs and new business opportunities by expanding shovel-ready projects to better protect the region's reefs and rainforests.

Tourism is the economic engine of Tropical North Queensland (TNQ) and it has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic as well as a downturn in domestic tourism from the recent bushfires, severe flooding in 2019 and coral bleaching events. Modelling by Ernst & Young and .ID shows that TNQ will face a higher and more prolonged unemployment rate and economic downturn than other regions across Queensland and nationally

### Our Region Needs

- Immediate economic stimulus
- A simple way to create new jobs rapidly
- A stronger and more resilient economy
- An eye to the future

This is an opportunity to burst out of the 'boom and bust' cycles that hamper Tropical North Queensland, and rebuild our economy so that it is more resilient to future economic shocks.

### Worth Protecting

The value of our natural assets to our economy each year:

- World Heritage Areas – \$11 billion
- Tourism – \$3.5 billion
- Agriculture – \$1.62 billion

The TNQ Green and Blue Economic Stimulus Package will provide immediate stimulus to address our short-term economic challenges and deliver jobs, and an innovative recovery from the downturn that will increase the diversity and future resilience of our economy.

### The Program

The TNQ Green and Blue Stimulus Package consists of three key programs.

#### Boots on the Ground

- Pest and weed management
- Soil improvement
- Tree planting and restoration in priority wildlife corridors
- Targeted landscape and riverbank repairs to reduce sediment and fertiliser runoff and increase land productivity
- Traditional fire management working with Rainforest Aboriginal People
- Scientific research, monitoring and evaluation of restoration and management activities.

#### Fins in the Water

- Coral regeneration (including high-value tourism sites)
- Mangrove planting
- Scientific research, monitoring and evaluation of restoration and management activities.

#### Smart Green Capital

- Rapid feasibility studies to identify key opportunities to ignite new industries and jobs for the future
- Innovation in research and technology to create new industries using circular and blue economy solutions
- Zero emissions and waste pilot programs
- Increase affordable renewable energy and electric transport

### Benefits

- Rapid stimulus and immediate jobs
- Career pathways for young people
- Opportunities for First Nations people
- Development of new industries
- Stronger, more diversified economy

### Funding Requested

- \$180 million over three years
- NCEconomics has indicated that this will provide 510 jobs per year (1,531 jobs over 3 years)

DOWNLOAD the full TNQ Green and Blue Economic Stimulus Package (PDF) at [www.terrain.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Tropical-North-Qld-Green-and-Blue-Economic-Stimulus-Package-2020.pdf](http://www.terrain.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Tropical-North-Qld-Green-and-Blue-Economic-Stimulus-Package-2020.pdf)

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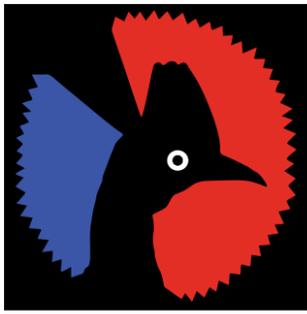
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*The KCons Community Nursery is nearly always open!*

The nursery is **NEARLY ALWAYS OPEN**. The gentle warm winter weather continues and the plants are responding to the lengthening days with new growth. You can see new leaves appearing on many trees and flower buds are under production.

Aren't the golden pendas in the new Therwine Street landscaping, opposite the park in Kuranda, looking magnificent? It won't be long before the trees are big enough to offer shade and it'll be a beautiful place.

**It's all because they are native.**

**\*\* Two sturdy box trailers available for you to borrow 4093 8834 \*\***

## WHAT ARE NATURE REFUGES?

Nature Refuges are good sized properties that have intact ecological systems, are privately owned, and the owners wish to preserve these rarer and rarer values in perpetuity. The network of Terrain NRM, Dept of Environment & Science, Queensland Trust for Nature, Kuranda Conservation and eager property owners has pulled together all the strings that have allowed four properties in the Kuranda region to be assessed for their natural habitat values and given the status of a legal Nature Refuge. This preserves these properties from destruction by inappropriate development and activities. This is driven by the landholders.

Phil and Dianne Daniels are the owners of a glorious property near Oakforest who have asked for and received Nature Refuge status for their land. To start the process to protect your land as a Nature Refuge, talk to Jax at Kuranda Conservation.

Left: Felicity Shapland (QTFN), Jax (Kuranda Conservation), Di and Phil Daniels (proud landholders) and Tony O'Malley (Terrain NRM)



Photo: Steven Nowakowski

## HAPPY SPACE



Cassowary by Rose

The Belson family live in Speewah where they have been enjoying watching Lucas grow into the beautiful bird he now is. Rose has captured nicely Lucas raiding their mango tree.

These pictures will go on to our Facebook page and our website [kurandaconservation.org](http://kurandaconservation.org) for the world to see. We look forward to receiving your picture soon.

Children of any age from 3 to 80 are invited to submit a drawing or painting about cassowaries. You can send your picture in an email to us to [kurandaconservation@hotmail.com](mailto:kurandaconservation@hotmail.com). Write your name and age (if you're under about 15) on your picture. It's going to be fun to see what you draw/paint for us.

## SEASONAL FRUIT

You may have seen these red fruit on the roadside or under a tree. They are *Syzygium alliiignum*, common name Onionwood. What's so good about them? They fruit at a time when very little else is fruiting providing much



needed food to cassowaries and many other wildlife. If the seeds within the fruit are viable (often they aren't), they germinate and grow easily. They are a medium sized attractive tree. Worth planting.

## FIXING THE SPEED ZONES ON THE KURANDA RANGE ROAD

Before you read this, we will have presented a proposal to the Department of Transport & Main Roads. In brief, the diagram below describes the essence of what we hope to achieve, that is, reduce the speed limit before and after the existing 80kph overtaking lanes stretch to 60kph, direct all through traffic to the inside lanes and convert the outside lanes to 'slow vehicle pull over' lanes. This will result in slower traffic and eliminate the crazy 100kph overtaking that is currently in place and killing the cassowaries.

Trying to influence TMR to make this change has so far been unsuccessful but we are receiving guidance as to how to change its mind. Watch this space!

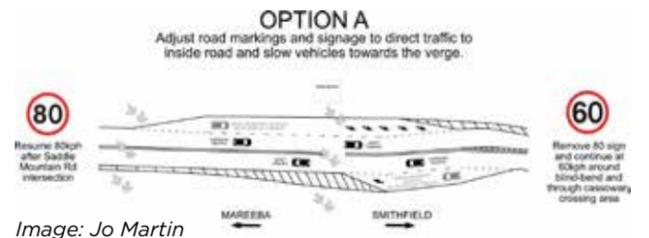


Image: Jo Martin

## Landholders sign up for nature refuges to extend cassowary corridors

A groundswell of support for cassowaries has Kuranda landowners signing up for nature refuges to expand a 100km rainforest corridor.

Residents are banding together to help the endangered southern cassowary by forging voluntary conservation agreements to protect land into the future.

More than 115 hectares of rainforest could become four nature refuges after property assessments by the Queensland Trust for Nature this week, and dozens more landowners are poised to forge agreements.

The news comes in a year with 16 recorded cassowary deaths on roads across the Wet Tropics region, two of them in the Kuranda area.

Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery's Jax Bergersen said a partnership with Terrain NRM and Queensland Trust for Nature was streamlining the conservation agreement process. Kuranda Conservation

Jax Bergersen, Di and Phil Daniels, Tony O'Malley  
Photo: Steven Nowakowski



received funding from Terrain NRM earlier this year to cover the cost of nature refuge assessments for landholders wanting to place greater protections over their land.

"Through this project, we are aiming for 120 hectares of habitat protection on rural freehold properties with extensive cassowary habitat," Ms Bergersen said. "The long-term goal is for nature refuges all along the existing World Heritage cassowary corridor."

She said the World Heritage rainforest was at its narrowest – just two to three kilometres - in the Kuranda region. And it was intersected by roads including the busy Kuranda Range Rd.

"Linking World Heritage rainforest areas with prime ecological blocks of land is a way forward, along with the revegetation work that's been happening for decades in this region," she said.

Property owner Di Daniels described this week's nature refuge assessment on her 97-acre rainforest block as "a dream come true".

"We live in beautiful rainforest with cassowaries and many other native animals and birds," she said. "We're really privileged to be living in this environment. We want to make sure the rainforest is conserved after we're gone."

The Daniels' land adjoins World Heritage areas. It is considered prime cassowary habitat and ideal for the beginnings of a wider wildlife corridor.

Terrain NRM's Tony O'Malley said the grant for Kuranda Conservation was part of larger 'Rebuilding Rainforest Resilience' project including revegetation work, a landholder incentives program, community grants and ways to reduce cassowary deaths and injuries on roads. This project is supported by Terrain NRM through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Mr O'Malley said nature refuges were a voluntary conservation agreement between landholders and the Queensland Government which conserved the land's significant cultural and natural resources while allowing compatible and sustainable land uses. They also covered future landowners.

"A lot of important Wet Tropics habitat is actually on private land," he said. "These are voluntary agreements for people who want to ensure habitat or corridors for threatened species are protected for future generations, so we are more than happy to help out."

For more information about voluntary conservation agreements, download an information pack at [www.terrain.org.au/new-factsheets-for-landholders](http://www.terrain.org.au/new-factsheets-for-landholders) Landholders can also contact Jax Bergersen on 4093 8834 or Tony O'Malley on 0437 728 190.

**About Terrain NRM**  
Terrain NRM is one of 56 regional natural resource management bodies around Australia. Terrain is a community-based not-for-profit organisation that works with local partners in the Wet Tropics region so that our soil, water, landscapes, plants and animals remain healthy and continue to support great communities.



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We are the invasive resist-ants



Photo: Peter Yeeles

## A major milestone reached

Kuranda is nestled within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and connects the distinctive southern and northern blocks of the Wet Tropics bioregion. Kuranda's significant and endemic species include the southern cassowary, the green ringtail possum and the critically endangered Kuranda treefrog. Kuranda also provides a peaceful and idyllic rainforest refuge for residents, the natural environment is much valued in the community.

Alarmingly, both natural values and idyllic lifestyle came under threat when a yellow crazy ant infestation was discovered at Russett Park in late 2013. Russett Park resident Rob Richardson reported unusual ant behaviour on his property and notified his neighbour Mikhaila Jacoby who reported the ants to the Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority). Mikhaila was an intern with the Authority at the time. The ants were subsequently identified as yellow crazy ants by Biosecurity Queensland. Mikhaila Jacoby described the invasion as follows:

"I have watched yellow crazy ants completely displace seemingly all invertebrates in the ecosystem. You can walk into some rainforest areas and not find one native ant, frog, lizard or insect going about its day—only yellow crazy ants. I have found yellow crazy ants blinding animals, eating the eyes out of dead birds, irritating the skin of pets and establishing nests at least every metre through many areas within the Russett Park infestation. Yellow crazy ants spread quickly, and I've witnessed them make their way into the balanced ecosystem of the creek behind my house, which flows into the Barron River, and is home to the critically endangered Kuranda treefrog (*Litoria myola*). Neighbours reported yellow crazy ants in their garden beds and their actual beds, covering their kitchen benches and establishing nests in their roof cavities. Yellow crazy ants quickly became the problematic hot topic in the reclusive neighbourhood of Russett Park."



Kuranda Tree frog with ant on its right eye. Photo: Mikhaila Jacoby

### Background

Yellow crazy ants are thought to have originated from southeast Asia and were first detected in the Wet Tropics region in Portsmith, Cairns in 2001. Their arrival was traced to the Cairns Port in what was thought to be a shipment of timber. The original infestation was eradicated, but another infestation became established south of Cairns in over 600ha in the Bentley Park,

Edmonton and Mount Peter areas. Yellow crazy ants were detected in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and Little Mulgrave National Park in 2012. In 2013, an infestation of yellow crazy ants was found in the Russett Park area. This area, covering about 27ha, grew to more than 30ha. It is thought the ants were brought from Edmonton with earth moving machinery.

### Kuranda responds to yellow crazy ant invasion

The infestation at Russett Park is close to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area boundary. At the time when the Authority was alerted to the infestation, it had limited resources and staff—much of the field work was carried out through Work for the Dole and Green Army teams. Community champions Mikhaila Jacoby, Cathy Retter, Neil Boland, and Russett Park residents rose to the challenge, working with the Authority to develop a field plan that would ultimately prevent the spread of the infestation. *The Kuranda Paper* took on the urgent job of alerting readers to the threat and raising a call to action from the community in the face of a looming environmental disaster.



Community champions Cathy Retter and Mikhaila Jacoby

The Kuranda Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce (the Taskforce) officially began with Mikhaila recognising an opportunity to improve the outcome of field work being done by involving the local community as volunteers. The Authority supported the idea, and Kuranda Envirocare successfully applied for a grant from Terrain Natural Resource Management to fund and manage the coordinator position, provided additional volunteers and insured them to survey, monitor and treat infested areas. The Authority supplied permits for treatment use, directed operational activities and managed workplace health and safety. The Taskforce soon had over 100 volunteers registered to work alongside the existing field teams. This considerable increase in capacity significantly improved the long-term outcomes of the Russett Park infestation.

When funds to eradicate yellow crazy ants from the Wet Tropics became uncertain, the Kuranda community mobilised, and raised funds to kickstart important research: establishing ant colonies (gathered from nests in the infestation area) under laboratory conditions as a first step to further research into the phenology and



From alarm to acclamation yellow crazy ants front page news

ecology of the ants. This research was essential to ensure successful eradication. The timing of this funding was critical because a more effective bait was about to be used, which would dramatically reduce ant numbers and make the collection of ant colonies more difficult and time consuming. Kuranda Envirocare donated \$5,000 to research. *The Kuranda Paper* also donated \$5,000 and ran a heavily publicised campaign promising to match community donations to a further \$5,000. The successful campaign attracted the attention of local donors and local politicians. It also encouraged the Queensland and Federal governments to commit to ongoing funding of the Authority's program to eradicate yellow crazy ants from the Wet Tropics.

The fundraising campaign raised the requested \$20,000 and these funds kick-started the laboratory setup and collection of ant nests while ants were still in high numbers. Public media interest ramped up thanks to *The Kuranda Paper*, engaged stakeholders, local politicians and Kuranda residents. Resident Gayle Hannah's letter to *The Kuranda Paper* (April 2016) called State politicians as "Not Crazy Enough" in their response to the threat of yellow crazy ants in Kuranda and southern Cairns. Neil Boland's letter to *The Kuranda Paper* (May 2016) highlighted the success of past eradication programs on invasive species, urging the community to donate to initiate research on yellow crazy ants and attract government funding. In June, the front page of *The Kuranda Paper* congratulated twenty-four community

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Kuranda taskforce

members who raised \$5,187.27 for the campaign.

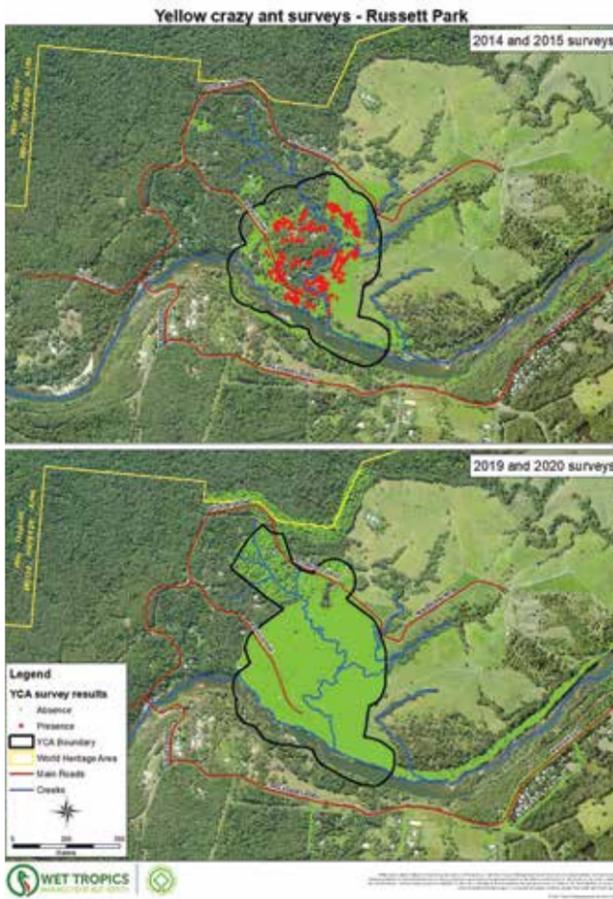
On Friday 20 May 2016, the Hon. Warren Entsch MP announced further funding for the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program. He said that "unquestionably, the Kuranda community is a model for community engagement in dealing with issues like this and need to be recognised for their outstanding efforts." Mr Entsch made the announcement in Kuranda so he "could acknowledge the fantastic advocacy of the Kuranda Media Association and *The Kuranda Paper* for matching the funds raised by the community". The efforts of the Taskforce greatly influential in persuading the Federal Government to not only provide additional funding (\$7.5million over 3 years) to the Wet Tropics Management Authority, but to include an additional \$1.3 million to the package for tramp ant preparedness." Mr Entsch also wrote a letter in *The Kuranda Paper* congratulating the Kuranda community for their proactive initiatives.

Steven Miles, Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, visited the Wet Tropics Management Authority to hear about the great work the community were doing to eradicate yellow crazy ants. Sylvia Conway and Frank Teodo (prominent local landholders in Cairns, badly effected by yellow crazy ant infestation) met with the Minister. The Queensland Government committed \$3 million over three years to the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.

The community-led approach of the Kuranda Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce, the lobbying by landholders of their local politicians, and the support of natural resource management groups, the Invasive Species Council, local government and local Indigenous ranger groups all assisted the Authority in securing further funding for its Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program from the Queensland and Australian governments in 2017. Additionally, Kuranda Envirocare received a Sustainable Communities Action grant from the Queensland Government. This allowed Kuranda EnviroCare to partner with the Djabugay Bulmba Rangers to keep surveillance tracks open in riparian areas, reducing the risk of yellow crazy ants rafting downstream on the Barron River. This involved site preparation and assistance in planting native trees by the Djabugay Bulmba Rangers, and provided riparian connectivity for the Kuranda treefrog populations.

By tackling the infestation on multiple fronts, Taskforce volunteers were successful from 2015 to 2017 in containing and reducing the infestation at Russett Park. This included fortnightly monitoring and data collection, along with regular treatments and surveys under the guidance of the Authority. Property management plans were provided for each residence within the infestation to prevent ants from spreading. Taskforce partners Mareeba Shire Council contributed in-kind support through yard clean-ups for residents, and the Djabugay Bulmba Rangers cleared access pathways.

As time went on, yellow crazy ant numbers decreased, and residents noticed the increase of other native ants, lizards and geckos at Russett Park. The frequency of treatments and the steep and rugged terrain of the Russett Park treatment area meant, at times, the conditions were difficult and required a high level of fitness to be effective. Monitoring requirements became



Before and after survey results – green shows absence of ants



Taskforce volunteers Neil Boland and Rudi Husek monitoring yellow crazy ant behaviour and collecting data

more rigorous and more transects were required to understand differences between Russett Park ant numbers and other infestations.

When the Authority received sufficient funding to employ field staff, who became highly specialised in bait treatments and monitoring and were tasked to efficiently mop up remaining and persistent ants, Taskforce volunteers changed their focus to community awareness and education events. Another significant project was the prototyping and manufacturing of an ant trap (Detto traps, where ants are lured and caught on a sticky paper) as a new method of detecting low numbers of ants.

#### The tide has turned on yellow crazy ants at Russett Park but vigilance is still required

Today, there are over 260 registered Taskforce volunteers. This year's survey at Russett Park detected no ants for the first time since they were first discovered in late 2013. This is a real success story from an act of altruism, of what a community can do when we all rise to a challenge and work together to overcome an invasion. As a result, Kuranda's natural values and idyllic lifestyle are now protected now from yellow crazy ants and should be into the future. But it's not over yet.

Further surveys at Russett Park must continue to demonstrate the area is free of yellow crazy ants before the site can be declared eradicated. The Authority will need to complete at least four surveys, at a minimum

of six months apart over two years without treatment, without any yellow crazy ants being detected, before eradication can be declared.

Kuranda can truly be proud of what a small community led by a few local champions can achieve. Kuranda's community-led approach is an example of what other communities can achieve elsewhere. Let's continue to keep a look out for yellow crazy ants (and other invasive species such as electric ants) until eradication can be officially declared.

## KEY MILESTONES AT A GLANCE

**2013:** Strange ant behaviour detected by local resident at Russett Park and reported to Wet Tropics Management Authority, identified as yellow crazy ants.

**2014:** First delimitation (survey of infestation boundary) conducted by Conservation Volunteers. First and second treatments carried out in June and October.

**2015:** Kuranda Envirocare successfully seeks funding from Terrain Natural Resource Management to establish a taskforce of volunteers with part-time paid co-ordinator. In late 2015, Mikhaila Jacoby handed over the Taskforce coordinator role to Sylvia Conway.

**2016:** In April, Kuranda Envirocare launched a crowdfunding campaign. A total of just over \$20,000 was raised.

In May, Member for Leichhardt, Hon. Warren Entsch MP, announced further funding saying "The efforts of the Taskforce was greatly influential in persuading the Federal Government to not only provide additional funding of \$7.5 million over three years, but to include an additional \$1.3 million to the package for tramp ant preparedness."

The Queensland Government committed \$3 million over three years to the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.

**2017:** In February, Kuranda Yellow Crazy Ant Taskforce was "Highly Commended" in Premier's Sustainability Awards. In April, local Djabugay Bulmba Rangers joined the Taskforce to assist with three-weekly monitoring in Russett Park.

**2018:** By December, surveys were showing ant numbers at an all-time low.

Late 2018, the Taskforce contributed to the prototyping and manufacturing of ant traps (Detto traps—where ants are lured and caught on a sticky paper) trialled by the Authority as a new method of detecting low numbers of yellow crazy ants.

**2019:** Early in the year, Ciara Bridgland becomes the new Taskforce co-ordinator.

In March, the Federal Government announced a renewed funding commitment of \$9 million over three years. In June, the Queensland Government announced that it would fund the Authority \$9 million over three years, matching the Federal Government's commitment.

**2020:** In April 2020, the Authority completed a lure survey in Russett Park that detected no yellow crazy ants for the first time since 2014.

**Join the invasive resist-ants** *Ciara*

**Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce**  
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Back in June 2018, *The Kuranda Paper* featured Banana Bender recipes (Chilli Banana Chutney, Indian Style Banana and Cucumber Salad and Bombay Banana Smoothie), along with a potted history of banana growing in Australia (view online at [www.kurandapaper.com](http://www.kurandapaper.com) under Past Editions >> June 2018 >> page 25).

There would be very few days in my life where I don't eat a banana; I become nervous when I'm down to just one or two. Fortunately, up here, they do actually grow on trees (or rather big herbaceous plants) and it's easy to always have a healthy, yummy snack to hand, wrapped beautifully and conveniently in its own cheery packaging.

Which brings me to a media release that popped into my inbox recently. The subject line was "Don't Throw Away Your Banana Strings". It turns out that banana 'strings', inside banana peels—scientifically called phloem bundles—are just as nutritious as the rest of the fruit. They are packed full of potassium, fibre, vitamin A, and vitamin B6. Phloem is the vascular tissue responsible for the transport of sugars from source tissues (ex. photosynthetic leaf cells) to sink tissues (ex. non-photosynthetic root cells or developing flowers). Other molecules such as proteins and mRNAs (an RNA version of the gene that leaves the cell nucleus and moves to the cytoplasm where proteins are made) are also transported throughout the plant via phloem. So, your banana strings are good for you, as is the white pith inside the banana peel. And boy, are there some interesting uses for banana peels (aside from composting, feeding staghorns or sidewalk skating). There are also some wonderful Brazilian banana peel cooking videos on YouTube, fabuloso!

Recent events in Venezuela, where food is now scarce, have led to an explosion in banana peel recipes. This recent trend though has ancient roots (forgive the pun) with many cultures having used them in cooking for centuries. In Asia, this extends to rice dishes and on the Indian subcontinent in curry dishes.

Possibly the most famous banana peel recipe at the moment is 'pulled' banana peel as a substitute for pulled meats in burgers, tacos, burritos etc. Pulling, of meats, fruits, vegetables, fungi or indeed peels, consists of shredding and cooking (or cooking then shredding) the item of food until tender but still holding together. Shredding can be done with fingers, knives, tongs or forks. Pulled meats are favourite components of BBQ dishes, and pulled banana peels are too. You may have also heard of jackfruit used this way and indeed you can buy it already processed, FoodWorks stocks it locally.

**Tips for using banana peels** – Obviously the use of organic or spray-free peels is recommended and give them a wash and gentle scrub before peeling. It is best to use yellow but not quite ripe bananas to achieve a good texture, and be careful not to overcook. I will give you the basic recipe, plus one for using the banana itself to make a delish, healthy dessert. Goodness inside and out: the whole package. Enjoy! *Queenobeans*

**BANANA PEEL "PULL" SANDWICH** (vegan, gluten free) *via thestingyvegan*  
Serves one

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 medium organic bananas, yellow, firm but not quite ripe,
- 1½ tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon hot smoked paprika
- ¾ teaspoon EACH of chilli powder, dry mustard, garlic powder, onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon cumin
- A few splashes of water
- 2 tablespoons vegan barbecue sauce

Pinch of salt  
Your favourite sandwich fillings and a bun or wrap

**METHOD:** Wash the bananas well. Slice off top and bottom of the bananas and remove the peels. Scrape the white part off the inside of the peels with a spoon. Shred the peels lengthwise with a fork and cut them into 5-8cm long pieces. Transfer to a bowl and add the olive oil, paprika, chilli powder, mustard, garlic powder, onion powder and cumin. (It's important NOT to add salt yet). Mix well and set aside to marinate.

Heat a pan over medium heat and add the shredded banana peels. Add a small splash of water to help them steam and tenderise. The cooking time will depend on how ripe your bananas are (the riper they are the faster they cook) so start tasting after a couple of minutes. It's important that they are tender enough to bite through but not so overcooked that they turn to mush. They should be done in around 5-10 minutes more or less. Add another splash of water and keep cooking if the pan goes dry before they are tender. Add the barbecue sauce and give them another 30 seconds to a minute more to incorporate the flavour. Add a pinch of salt to taste. Remove from the heat and let rest for a minute. Pile the banana peels on your bun with favourite filling. Serve immediately. You could even serve with Chilli Banana Chutney!

**Raw Vegan Banana Cream Pie** (vegan, gluten free) *via minimalistbaker*  
Serves 8 slices. Should keep in the freezer, covered, for at least one week.

**INGREDIENTS:**

**Crust:**

- 125g walnuts
- 210g pitted dates (if dry soak for 10 minutes in warm water and drain well, fresh sticky dates do not require soaking)

**Filling:** 150g cashews (soaked for at least 4 hours or overnight, then drained)

- 52ml coconut oil (melted)
- 60ml agave nectar or maple syrup
- 1 medium just ripe banana
- ½ tsp pure vanilla extract
- ¼ tsp sea salt
- 30-45ml lemon juice

**Crust:** Place pitted dates in food processor and process until it starts to form a ball. Remove and set aside. Process walnuts until a meal consistency is achieved. Add dates back in and a pinch of salt and mix to combine. When squeezed between two fingers, the crust should stick together and feel moldable. If too dry, add another date or two. If too wet, add a little almond or walnut meal. Press into a springform pan, or a baking dish or round cake pan lined with plastic wrap or parchment. Press until flat, going up the sides about ½ inch. Place in freezer to set.

**Filling:** Blend all filling ingredients until smooth and creamy, add a little more agave or water if necessary to achieve a silky smooth mix. Taste and adjust seasonings as needed. Then pour into crust and smooth with a spoon. Tap to release any air bubbles. Then cover and freeze until set, about 4-6 hours. To serve, let thaw for 5 minutes. Top slices with your favourite toppings e.g. fruit slices, cream or yoghurt (dairy or otherwise), chopped nuts and syrups.

# Sundowners to share

Sunset celebrations are proving popular with locals, who can take their pick of riverboat reflections or music and mojitos while supporting local businesses. Kuranda Riverboat tours are offering, in addition to their daily cruises, special Sunset cruises, and Sunset and Dinner cruises (partnering with Mandala Café) as a special way to celebrate ... anything!

Frogs Restaurant is also hosting live events, including a recent Poets' Breakfast, and music and cocktail hours every Sunday, with local musicians and an inventive drinks list. These have been booking out early so best to get in quick. Remember COVID-19 restrictions apply so numbers are limited.

Locals are urged to support businesses offering events such as these – the more support, the more incentive there will be for them to provide these much needed opportunities to relax and enjoy the company of friends and family. And in beautiful settings.

## Details:

**Kuranda Riverboat Tours** offers five cruises a day, 7 days a week [www.kurandariverboat.com.au](http://www.kurandariverboat.com.au) or call 0418 930 511.

**Kuranda Riverboat Sunset Cruise 1 August 2020** @ \$30/adult for a 90 minute cruise. Any day of the week can be booked with a minimum of eight adults. Perfect for special occasions. Call 0418 930 511.

**Sunset Cruise & Dinner 8 August 2020.** Kuranda Riverboat sunset cruise followed by a delicious dinner at Café Mandala for \$80/person. See Kuranda Riverboat Facebook for menu. Call 0418 930 511.

## Frogs Restaurant:

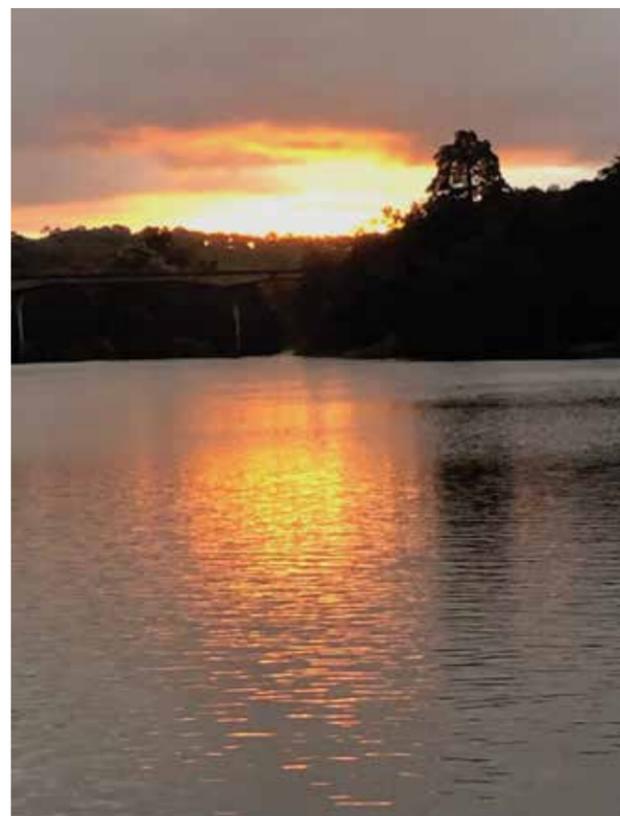
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Musicians performing for August:

- 2 August Blue Reed
- 9 August Jeanette Wormald Trio
- 16 August Frank Brasilio
- 23 August Dave Cooke
- 30 August Davey Simony



Musicians and guests at Frogs. Photos: Caitlin Meades



Above: Sunset on the Barron River. Photo: Kuranda Riverboat





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Some of the competencies in Construction include tiling, carpentry, painting and plastering. In the Engineering Course students learn about assembling machines, using welders and grinders.

The class is very enthusiastic and maintain all workplace compliances for safety.

Students who successfully complete the course will have them recognised on their QCE. This is then useful to gain RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) to count as points toward TAFE.

These courses provide viable pathway opportunities for those Year 11 and Year 12 students seeking fulltime employment, apprenticeships or other training.



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## Kids Helpline steps up child protection support

Kids Helpline, a service of yourtown, has announced extra counsellors have been engaged to respond to increased demand from children and young people.

“As COVID-19 started to grip Australia early this year it spurred increased anxiety as well as increases in contacts to the counselling services from children and young people battling the effects of mental health issues, child abuse, self-harm and suicidality particularly during periods of lockdown.

“The additional funding from Federal and State governments to boost mental health services, has enabled Kids Helpline to increase counsellor capacity over the past few months. During the months of April, May and June 2020 the service has responded to an additional 4,502 more counselling contacts compared to the same period in 2019,

according to yourtown CEO Tracy Adams.

New data has revealed that children and young people are contacting Kids Helpline in increasing numbers relating to significant issues around Child abuse, Mental Health, Self-harm and Suicidality. Statistics identified 11,256 contacts (49% of all counselling contacts) during April to June 2020 contacted Kids Helpline for support about these specific issues versus 8,438 contacts (45% of all counselling contacts) during the same three month period in 2019.

“Our website traffic shows searches for mental health topics during the pandemic grew at a rate four times greater than average versus the same period in the previous year. This also demonstrates more interest in mental health topics than at any time in the past five years. As the community continues to battle the personal and economic impacts of COVID-19, we are seeing firsthand the repercussions that the pandemic is having on both the mental health and safety of the nation’s youngest generations.

“We knew an increase in child vulnerability was going to occur, but this is deeper than we had expected. We are seeing some very distressed children and young people who have to deal with existing parental abuse and conflict during isolation. The intensity of support required by young people contacting Kids Helpline for counselling is definitely increasing,” Ms Adams continued.

As Australia’s only national 24/7 counselling and support service specifically for children and young people aged 5 to 25 years – free call 1800 55 1800, Facebook @kidshelpline, Insta @kidshelplineau, Twitter @KidsHelplineAU or online at [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)



# RANGERS report

And just like that another season begins and we've played three rounds already! Whilst it's certainly been a 'different' start to our season, we are all excited to be back. Our Rangers have had a great start and are certainly finding their feet, but the best part is seeing lots of smiling, happy kids back on the pitch.

This year we have welcomed lots of new players and families which is great to see. We are fielding five teams—U7, U8, U9, U10 and U11. We've also secured a couple of new coaches and managers for whom we are very grateful.

Our coaches this year are Olly Joubert, David Lyons, James Daley, Leona Hall-Matthews and Adric Rusch. Our managers are Simone Titmarsh, Rebecca Fryer, Kristy Madden, Rebecca Hicks and Nettie O'Connell. We wish all of our Rangers and families a healthy and active 2020 season.

Some of our Rangers playing a friendly against the John Moriarty Foundation team. Photo: Nettie O'Connell



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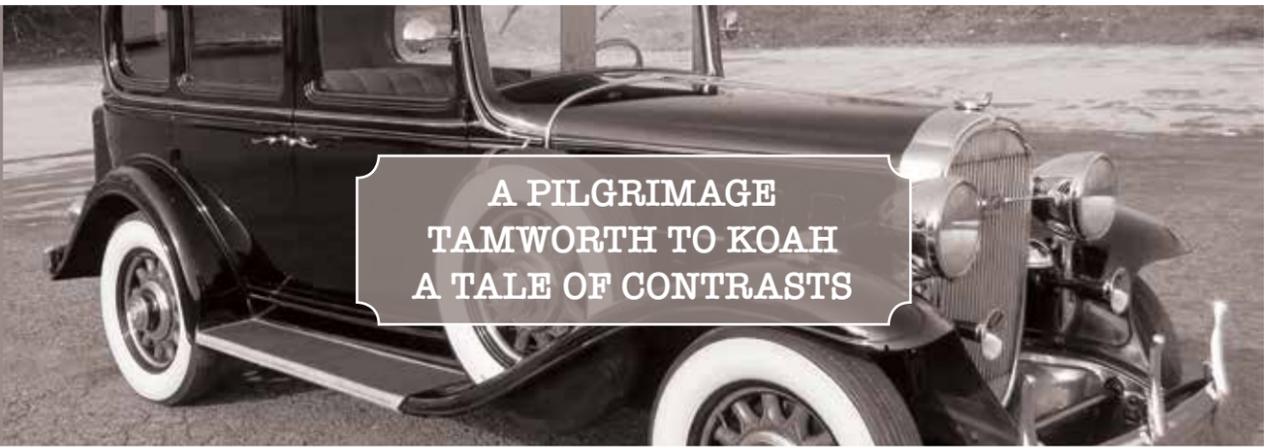
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It is interesting to note the level of frustration and aggravation when people have to wait for a few hours to cross the state border in a time of medical catastrophe. Even with this annoying hold-up on the border, a driver can reasonably expect to travel from Sydney to Cairns in two or three days.

Contrast this with the experience of Mr W.T. Williams and his family, who drove from Tamworth to Koah in 1932. An article appeared in The Cairns Post of 3 January 1933 about their epic trip, which would put our present 'border whingers' to shame:

by Peter Ryle, Kuranda



**A PILGRIMAGE  
TAMWORTH TO KOAH  
A TALE OF CONTRASTS**

“Mr W.T. Williams, one of Koah’s newest residents, who recently came from Tamworth in New South Wales, to take up tobacco pursuits, tells an interesting story of his trip north. The journey took just three weeks, and, according to Mr Williams, it was attended by many incidents quite as astonishing as some of those which befell Jerome K. Jerome’s three men in a boat.” (Three Men in a Boat was a humorous story written about a boat journey on the Thames River. It was published in 1889.)

“Not the least strange feature of Mr Williams’s story is that when he left Tamworth, that fine agricultural district was sadly in need of rain. From there to the Queensland border was a magnificent run – glorious roads, bitumen and macadam, every inch of the way, but as soon as the Northern State was entered, it became a story entirely different, the roads being in a shockingly bad condition compared with those down under, and travelling became more a burden than a pleasure. Then, when the Darling Downs country was reached there was evidence, much evidence, of the heaviness of rains which had fallen just previously. The Downs is a place to be avoided when it has been rain-soaked, but for Mr Williams there was no option but to proceed, and he carried on in the face of a great deal of difficulty.”

“Mr Williams was accompanied by Mrs. Williams and their two daughters. They set out in excellent weather conditions on the New South Wales side, and it was bad luck to have run into the troubles that are the inevitable appanage of almost liquid black soil. More than one night was spent in the car while rains poured down relentlessly, and more than one hour was spent in physically persuading a mud-held Buick to lift her flukes and get on with the job in hand. From the Down to Barcardine nearly six hundred miles were literally of wet black soil. Much time was lost on this portion of the journey.”

“North of the Central line, however, improved time was made. The roads were in much better order, though the country is in a fearfully bad state, dead and dying sheep being noticeable in hundreds. Some of them, yet alive, and actually walking skeletons, were minus their eyes – evidence of the depredations of the crows. North of Hughenden, conditions were somewhat better, and the country looked a little more inviting. The improvement continued until the Northern Tableland country was reached, and this, with its heavily timbered slopes and its wealth of grasses, was a veritable oasis.”

“From Tamworth to Koah Mr Williams and his family covered 1693 miles (2,725 kilometres), and nowhere was there anything to compare with the glories of the Cairns hinterland. It was, indeed, a trip of remarkable contrasts. In New South Wales, Mr Williams said, sheep were in splendid condition, and feed was abundant, whereas in central Queensland it was possible to run hundreds of miles and not set eyes on a blade of grass, green or dry. It was something of a paradox, too, that having travelled so many miles of almost waterlogged country further south, he should reach Koah, his eventual destination, to find it literally crying out for rain.”

“Mr Williams drew one of the blocks at Koah recently balloted for (Portion 195), and given the necessary amount of good fortune in the shape of helpful rains, he hopes to be numbered among those successful in taking off a crop next harvest time. Tamworth, from which Mr Williams and his family have come, is one of the best known tobacco growing districts in Australia, the tobacco belt stretching from that town in the south, northwards through Manilla, Ashford, and on to Texas on the Queensland border, another noted leaf producer.”



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**GREAT NEWS FOR HISTORY LOVERS**

“Trove brings together voices and stories from every corner of the country and provides free access to those resources – to everyone, wherever they are. With a new design and improved search options the updated Trove provides easier access to knowledge for everyone,” said Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, Director-General of the National Library of Australia.

Trove is Australia’s online culture and research portal. Bringing together content from the National Library of Australia, State and Territory libraries, and hundreds of other libraries, cultural and research institutions around Australia, it provides a single point of entry to a treasure trove of national voices and stories.

“The global COVID-19 pandemic has brought the way we access information into sharp focus. Trove has proven to be invaluable to its visitors now more than ever, providing trusted information and welcome diversion during a moment in history when it’s never been more important to have insights and discovery at your fingertips,” said Dr Ayres.

“We are delighted with the announcement by the Federal Government that it will provide an additional \$8 million in funding over the next two years to support the ongoing development of Trove,” said Dr Ayres.

This new stage of Trove is the culmination of a four-year modernisation and digitisation project led by the National Library of Australia and supported with \$16 million over four years by the Australian Government. Millions of pages of content have also been added to Trove as part of this project.

“The National Library and its partner network are to be commended on maintaining, building and contributing to an accessible and free online resource of such cultural and historical significance for all Australians,” said Minister for

Communications, Hon Paul Fletcher MP.

Created in consultation with over 3,000 Australians, the new-look Trove is accessible and user-friendly, featuring a modern and intuitive design that makes it easier to explore, find and share stories about Australia. New measures have been taken to improve the cultural safety of Trove for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Whether people have a cultural curiosity, a passion for history or a special research project to delve into, the billions of treasures in Trove can be accessed for free, by anyone, anytime, anywhere.

Offering free access to approximately 6.5 billion records from Australia’s recent and distant past, Trove welcomes over 68,000 users from across the nation and around the world each day. For example, Trove includes 1,514 digitised newspaper titles, digital copies of Banjo Paterson’s original manuscript of *Waltzing Matilda*, an architect’s model of the Sydney Opera House, the voice of Lionel Rose, radio stories from the ABC chronicling the first mentions of that marvellous new invention wi-fi, and former Prime Minister John Howard’s wood-panelled 1998 website.

Trove is a useful resource for anyone with a hobby, passion, or research project; and is also a valuable source of information for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

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# DON'T

by Ann Harth

Accidents happen. They happen around me a lot. When someone says 'Don't,' I do. 'Don't touch the new lamp,' Aunt Gerta says. I freeze. What lamp? My eyes scan the room. My shoulders twitch and my fingers tremble. My skin quivers like a horse with flies. Aunt Gerta doesn't notice. She pats the glass lampshade and leaves the room. I creep toward the lamp. It's the colour of the sea on a sunny day. My eyes are squinty. I grab my wrists behind my back. Aunt Gerta said, 'Don't ...' so I won't. I take a step closer. Dust dances in the glow. Aunt Gerta said, 'Don't ...' so I won't. My finger touches the shimmering shade. Aunt Gerta said, 'Don't ...' so I ... The glass is warm. It makes swirling patterns on my hand.

I place my palm on the base to feel the heat.

Crash

'Jackson!'

Aunt Gerta said, 'Don't ...' and I did.

'Don't get your new pants muddy,' Mum says.

I freeze. Mud?

My eyes search the yard. I see a brown puddle on the edge of the grass. My shoulders twitch and my fingers tremble. My skin quivers like a horse with flies. Mum doesn't notice. She pats my head and goes inside.

I creep toward the mud puddle. It's the colour of Janie Sander's puppy. My eyes are slits. I twist my fingers behind my back.

Mum said, 'Don't ...' so I won't.

I take a step closer. A beetle skates across the surface.

Mum said, 'Don't ...' so I won't.

I squat next to the mud and stretch out a finger.

Mum said, 'Don't ...' so I ...

The mud feels oozy and smooth. One hand disappears under the slippery slime. The other one follows. I sit on my knees.

'Jackson!'

Mum said, 'Don't ...' and I did.

'Don't play with the glue,' Dad says.

I freeze. Glue?

My eyes search the workshop. I see a white bottle on the bench. My shoulders twitch and my fingers tremble. My skin quivers like a horse with flies. Dad doesn't notice. He puts down his hammer and walks to his truck.

I creep toward the glue. A white bubble slides down the bottle. My eyes are almost closed. I squeeze my thumb behind my back.

Dad said, 'Don't...' so I won't.

I take a step closer. Another drip slips from the tip.

Dad said, 'Don't ...' so I won't.

My finger smoothes the goo over the words on the label.

Dad said, 'Don't ...' so I ...

It's sleek and glossy. My fingers squish the bottle. Globes of glue run down my arm. They dribble to the floor.

'Jackson!'

Dad said, 'Don't ...' and I did.

It's the first day of school. My stomach is jumping as I walk to my desk. When my teacher says 'Don't', I hope I won't.

'My name is Miss Connor,' my new teacher says.

I am biting my lip as I wait for her rules.

Miss Connor is looking at me. What have I done?

'Do keep your feet still, please.' She looks at my legs and smiles.

My feet are tapping. It sounds very loud. I push on my knees and they stop.

Miss Connor said, 'Do ...' and I did.

It's painting time. Miss Connor wants a volunteer.

'Jackson,' she says, 'you may pass out the paints.'

I jump to my feet and race toward the cupboard.

'Jackson!'

I freeze.

'Do walk when you're inside, please.'

I nod my head and I walk.

Miss Connor said, 'Do ...' and I did.

I open the cupboard and stare at the paints. Rows of rainbow colours reach the ceiling. I want them all.

'Put three colours on each desk, please.'

I reach for the pots. I want to work fast. I will be the best helper in the class.

Uh oh.

The paints are tumbling. Colours are flying. Splatters cover the floor and speckles cover me. I stand very still. A green drop falls from my cheek and splashes onto my shoe. My stomach hurts and my face is hot.

I wait.

'Jackson?' Miss Connor puts an arm around my shoulder.

I look into her smile.

'Don't worry,' she says. 'We will help.'

I pick up a gooey green pot and Janie Sander wipes the floor. My stomach feels better and my face feels cool.

Miss Connor said, 'Don't ...' and I didn't.

Speewah-based writer Ann Harth has children stories to read on her website [www.annharth.com](http://www.annharth.com). Ann's latest young adult novel *Bernice Takes a Plunge* is available through Ann's website or Collins Booksellers, Smithfield.



What a great time for food-growing in the tropics! We are so very lucky to have access to many excellent perennial food-plants.

This month, after a little wander around some of the food-growing world, we'll talk about saving corn/maize seeds.

Local Tablelands biodynamic farmer, Adam Collins has been working with his maize for more than twenty seasons, carefully selecting cobs for seeds with the most desired qualities of the harvest. He has been working to naturally eliminate 'blossom-end-rot', prevalent in much tropical corn-growing, which attracts insect infestation and crop damage and which many/most farmers use chemicals to eradicate, often also wiping out beneficial pollinators and other creatures in their food-web.

Adam has each season chosen the seed-cobs that have slightly 'dropped their head', before rain/moisture has become trapped through the corn-silk, creating an environment for insects. These cobs that drop slightly do not allow the moisture in and remain snug in their natural husk cover. They grow to fullness, to be harvested for the farm and for seeds for next year's slightly more nodding, rain-protected crop...these changes take time, and cannot be rushed, nature works 'in her own time', though conscious observers can assist their plants' natural diversity and choose the superior qualities they wish to cultivate.

Corporations who desire to rush changes for financial gain, have laboratories are full of 'genetic scientists' who may have never stepped one foot on a farm, or even a garden, may not have had any nutritional training, often working to genetically alter and patent seeds and plants for investors. In Australia, at this point, genetically altered/modified organisms (GMO's) do not have to be labelled at all to be grown or sold, so there is no way for you to make informed choices on your food unless the people growing or producing it have taken the steps to voluntarily let you know ('GMO-free' etc).

The True-Food Network and GM-Free Australia are currently crowd-funding an updated version of the True-Food (no GMO) Guide providing a handy little book which can assist you to make informed choices. Most large commercial grain crops that use genetically modified seeds, spray-drench the whole crop in carcinogens like glyphosate, and other chemicals. Documentaries examining the food industry, such as 'Seeds of Freedom' will assist all of us to be more aware of what is happening to our food, health, farmlands and surrounds. More farmers now are making great strides into organic, biodynamic, syntropic and other regenerative agriculture methods and with our support things can change faster in all our flavour-favours. Thanks to all our local farmers making a difference into the future.

Corn is possibly humanity's greatest agricultural achievement, coming from the ancient meso-farmers in the areas of Mexico and Peru. It is now the most widely produced crop in the world, though sadly, most of this is now industrialised, genetically modified, hybridised and heavily-chemically produced and treated.

Original corn varieties were grown and selected by ancient hands for thousands of generations for specific purposes, including colour, texture, flavour, and ceremonial uses, resulting in a plant with tremendous variety and deep human-life-connection. These living traditional varieties are steeped in cultural significance and local food resilience. Commercial pressures have reduced the recognition of corn to a few varieties of mostly yellow, mostly 'sweet', and 'popping' corn, though this plant has a much richer story to tell. We have a few different varieties in our local seed-banks, and others are available through organic community seed networks.

To save corn seed, choose the juiciest most amazing cobs, and leave them on the stalks to naturally dry. Corn is a 'dry seed' rather than 'fleshy' and is easier to clean, dry and store. If almost dry you can bring them in and hang in your warmest, driest spot, until fully dry. To check and if you've got a good strong set of teeth, bite down on a kernel and if you can still make a dent you need to dry some more, test again, and when ready save in air-tight jars, or paper bags in air-tight containers, and store in an even-temperated area. Mark with variety, source and planting/harvest dates. If you can get some of your spare organically-grown seeds to your local seedbank then they can be made available to the wider community.

Email [seedsavers@kurandaregion.org](mailto:seedsavers@kurandaregion.org) or to join our mailing-list, or to ask any questions.

Kuranda-Sprouts Seedsavers meets next on 2 August in Koah, 10 am-4pm. Check Facebook - Seed Saving FNQ for more details.



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## Fowl Times Part 4 – It’s a numbers game!

There is a certain beauty in numbers. I know many of us in Kuranda have seen it, even if we didn’t particularly enjoy mathematics at school.

Most of us know that the Fibonacci Sequence can be seen repeated in nature. We see it in the swirl of galaxies, the base of a pinecone, an unfurled fern leaf and, less famously, the layout of Anglerfish ovaries, and time-lapsed cancer cell divisions. But did you know it is also seen in the curve along the length of a chicken’s egg?

Sometimes when I am wandering around with chickens on the mind, I get to pondering the numbers of it all. Sometimes that just means counting chickens, potential chickens, yet-to-be hatched chickens, chickens I’ve known. Chickens of the past and present. Sometimes it means calculating the number of chickens that can happily live in a certain area (this problem has an almost infinite number of variables, which sometimes gets too much, and makes me stop thinking about chickens for a while). But often I wander down the path of the symmetry of the numbers. How the numbers that are present in chickens, are often reflected in other things. How all and everything is connected, and effected, and affected.

### Some chicken facts:

Chickens like to be kept in flocks. Two is the very minimum, but three is better. No more than 30 or so, or they begin to forget the pecking order, and have to start again each time they have an interaction.

In Australia the maximum stocking density for ‘meat chickens’ is 40kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The heaviest recorded chicken is about 7.5kgs. There’s some maths for you.

The oldest chicken lived to be about 16 (although I once bought a duckling at a pet shop that I kept until she died at 18, so I think perhaps those folk at Guinness weren’t looking hard enough?)

The tallest chooks can be up to 90cm tall! We really can’t call them chooks anymore, eh? They are really just modern dinosaurs.

Now here is the one that always gets my brain ticking. There are seven days in a week. My understanding is that there were seven celestial bodies – the Sun, the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn – visible to the ancient Babylonians. The seven day week imperfectly lines up with the Moon’s cycle and the movement of the Earth around the Sun, however it may have perfectly lined up with ancient rituals performed every seven days (for a particular celestial body). There is another possible origin of the seven day week; one in which a god created everything in six days, and on the seventh, there was rest. Different cultures have different reasons, but most celebrate a seven day weekly rhythm.

A chicken lays an egg. Then another. If she is allowed to continue then she will lay between four and twenty, and then choose to go ‘broody’ and sit on the eggs. She will keep them at a constant temperature of 37.5 degrees and once she begins to sit, they will begin to develop. The blastodisc; a small, circular white spot on the surface of the yolk grows and becomes an embryo which feeds on the yolk and gradually fills the egg. The newly formed chick’s ‘egg tooth’ breaks through the shell on day twenty one. It takes its first look at the world outside exactly three weeks after it began to grow.

This could be a fairly loose coincidence, except a duck egg that began to develop on the same day, will hatch on day twenty eight. Exactly four weeks of growth. Exactly one week longer than a chicken. The symmetry of this seven day cycle, repeated in the growth of a chick, a duckling, a bible and a calendar week, is a nice reminder of the simple interconnectedness of everything. It makes me wonder about the spirit of the world, and our place in it. And sometimes, it is just another coincidence on a day in which you meet your new neighbour on your 41st birthday, with a brain full of memories. The neighbours surname turns out to be Bridgemont, and you grew up at house number 41 Bridgemont Street. Just another coincidence in a complicated world, right?

Co-incidentally, there are also seven continents, oceans, layers of skin (two outer and five inner), colours in a rainbow, notes on an octave, candles on a Jewish Menorah, holes in your head. Count them!

And chickens (and ducks) also have their connection to the sacred divine. What better way to prove it than in the rhythm of the growth of each embryo. At least this is what I tell myself sometimes while I am up to the elbows in chicken poo, wet straw and mud after a day cleaning out pens in the wet season.

## NEW LEGISLATION FOR EXPORT OF AUSTRALIAN HEMP SEED

This first successful export of hemp seed to New Zealand has taken place under new legislation that facilitates exports for the emerging hemp and medicinal cannabis industries. Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, David Littleproud, said the new legislation ensures legitimate exporters of hemp products are supported to access emerging export markets. “The Australian Government wants our agricultural industries to be able to capitalise on the opportunities that flow from growth in our regions and globally,” Minister Littleproud said. The new legislation removes unnecessary regulatory barriers and will support better access to international markets for the emerging hemp and medicinal cannabis industries, and ensures legitimate exporters of narcotic goods are supported to access emerging export markets. “It will also support the initiatives of the Australian Government to reduce red tape, bust congestion in regulation and enable agricultural industries to remain resilient after the threat of COVID-19 has passed. “Hemp product exports, which may be better supported under the new legislation, include seeds, raw hemp and hemp food products, such as dehulled hemp seeds and health powders containing hemp.

“For Australian farmers, reliable access to overseas markets means increased profitability and certainty for further investment in their properties and people. For the Australian economy, it means more jobs, more exports, and higher incomes in a competitive and profitable agricultural sector. For Australians, it means stronger regional communities and a more prosperous and productive Australia.”

“The legislation is just one of the initiatives that the Government is progressing to modernise the systems that underpin our very valuable agricultural exports.”

### FAST FACTS

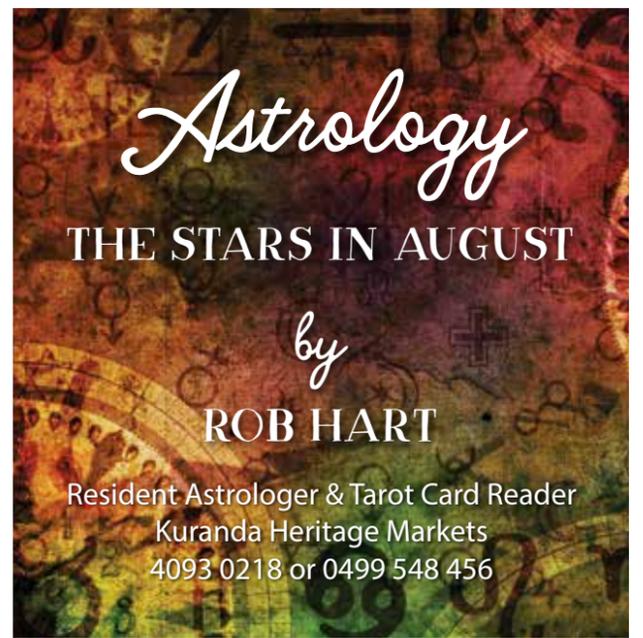
The global medicinal cannabis market size was estimated to be more than US\$11 billion in 2017. This is expected to reach an estimated US\$44 billion by 2024.

In November 2017, the Australia and New Zealand Food Standards Code permitted the sale and consumption of low-THC hemp seed foods, allowing producers the opportunity to access a growing global industry worth more than \$500 million.

The export of medicinal cannabis products was legalised in February 2018 through the Narcotic Drugs Amendment (Cannabis) Regulations 2018

From 2015 to 2018, phytosanitary assurance was provided for 18,320kg of exported cannabis seed to markets in Korea, the United States, Uruguay and Malawi.

Source: Australian Department of Agriculture, Drought and Emergency



The first three days in August should be very interesting: full of drama and surprising announcements, as fuses which were lit last month burn down to release some very explosive energy. Full-scale: global, national, political social and yes, dear reader, on a personal level for all of us.

We’re talking links between Mercury and Pluto, between Jupiter and Neptune, the Sun and Uranus and final whammy: the Full Moon in Aquarius on the night of 3-4 August.

And the wind-down? Do things settle down? Not so much: Uranus makes a station on 15 August and joins the retrograde mob: Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Pluto. Yes, all the outer planets pushing you back to face and deal with the consequences of past actions. Esoteric Astrology calls it the balancing of Karma: payback time.

This, of course, galvanises some pretty wild reactions: Mars conjoins the Sun in Leo over 15-16 August and Mercury joins in the next day. That’s a hell of a lot of firepower, and squaring a calculating implacability with Pluto in Capricorn. We’re on a such a ride here: similar in potential to the Challenger rocket launch. Walking through the minefield we are.

When the Sun aligns with the Alpha Leo star, Regulus, over 21-22 August, the star which is most associated with obsessive desire for revenge, and which ultimately carries its own Karma, then there may be a warning here to temper our reactions at this time. Incidentally this is the most powerful degree in the birth chart of Donald Trump. Just saying...

As the Virgo influence takes hold after 23 August, and Venus makes an alignment with Jupiter on 26 August, the focus shifts onto the importance of beautiful, creative works of art and love and the last few days of August are conducive to redirecting our priorities. But there is still a nasty Mars square to retro-Saturn hovering, so anything combative or aggressive that does flare up will probably take no prisoners. Channelling THAT into the creative work could bring some spectacular results. It’s like recognising the raw power and its destructive potential and sending it on a path where it is guided and used for the highest good.

May we live in interesting times? Well, we certainly do. Blessings and light to us all.

Blessings



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## St Saviour's Thought for August

This month we read a short passage from St Matthew's Gospel Chapter 15 verses 21 to 28

Perhaps at some time someone forced us to do some painful growing. Probably at the time we didn't appreciate it, but afterwards we realised they were pushing us precisely because they knew we were capable of being more than we ourselves realised. There are many things we do now that we just would not contemplate six months ago

That happens to Jesus in this passage. He is travelling outside his own country outside his comfort zone. A woman comes to him with a request. An approach like hers is perfectly familiar to him but this particular encounter is to be different.

Jesus has withdrawn because he wishes to detach himself for a while from the unrelenting demands of the public role he had chosen. When the woman turns up, the fact that she deliberately calls him—Son of David—signals to him that she has heard of him and of his healing gifts. Her request is that Jesus heal her child.

Notice how very humanly Jesus reacts. In his tiredness and wish to escape he simply does not respond at all [v 23]. That should come to us as assurance that Jesus understands and forgives our own times of failing to respond to this or that demand because we are simply worn out.

The disciples try once again to get rid of her, but the

woman asks again. This time Jesus actually refuses her. He seems to feel that his public role is possible only within his own country and people. He is limiting himself. What we are seeing very clearly is the humanity of Jesus. Far from disappointing us it should assure us of the genuineness of his humanity.

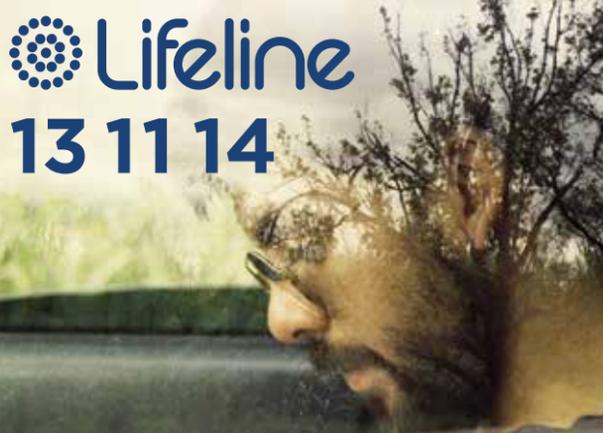
But the woman does not give up. Once again she asks. Once again she is refused by Jesus, this time hurtfully [v 26]. The reply she gets draws a very definite circle and shuts her out. But once again this courageous woman approaches. She takes Jesus' hurtful image of throwing crumbs to dogs and shows him that for the love of her child and because of her trust in him she is prepared to beg if that is necessary [v 27]. It is this that breaks through Jesus' resistance. Amazed by the sheer magnificence of this woman, he grants her request.

What we have seen is a person forcing the humanity of Jesus to realise that he is called to be what he really is, a spiritual resource for the world. What the episode says to us is that we may need to do a great deal of growing to become what God intends us to be. We need to be open to those with whom we come in contact who may force us, even if we do not want to, to grow.

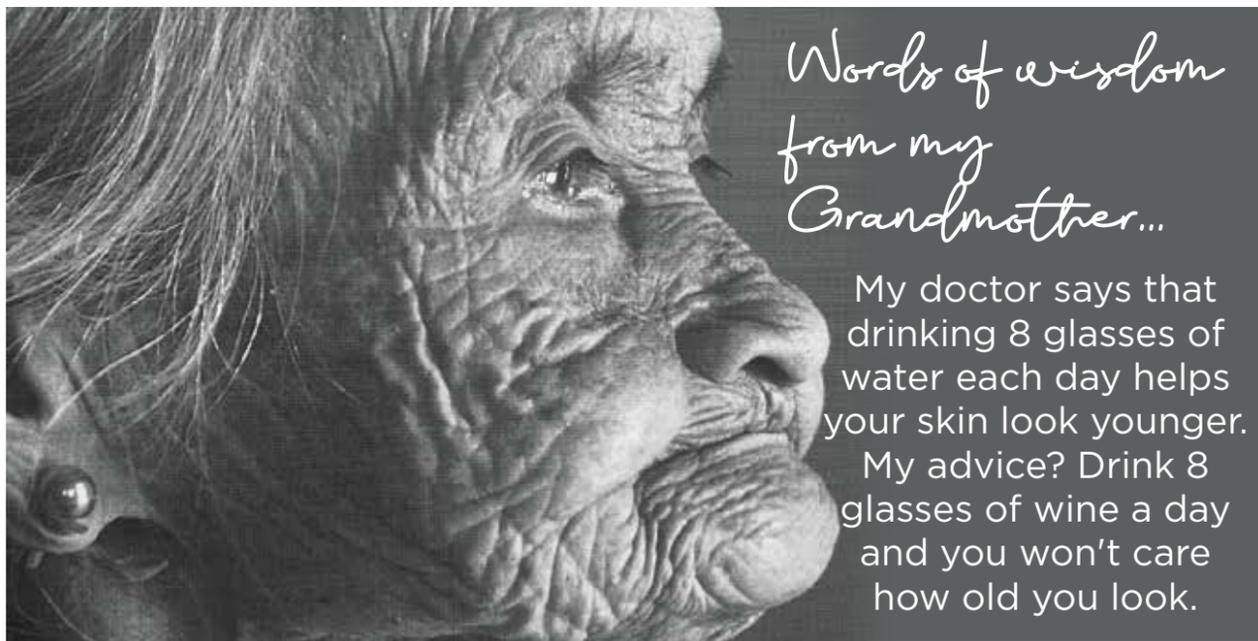
Enquiries to Chris Wright

Phone: 4093 8735

Email: [wrightc@iig.com.au](mailto:wrightc@iig.com.au)



The Kuranda Paper is a  
not-for-profit publication.  
Profits generated by advertising  
support local community  
groups and projects.



Words of wisdom  
from my  
Grandmother...

My doctor says that  
drinking 8 glasses of  
water each day helps  
your skin look younger.  
My advice? Drink 8  
glasses of wine a day  
and you won't care  
how old you look.

## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH FROM THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH

### Centenary of first Baha'is in Australia

"Father Dunn died at Sydney, February 17, 1941. The Sydney Bahá'ís have supplied an account of his last days and funeral, which we quote in part: Father was at the Healing Meeting at the Centre on Tuesday afternoon, February 11th, and was his usual bright, informative self. After arriving home, he had an unconscious spell but recovered and was fairly well until

Friday when he became unconscious and remained so until he passed on, Monday morning.

"The funeral service was conducted by Bahá'ís. It consisted of readings of Bahá'í prayers and selections from the 'Hidden Words' and of words from Mother Dunn, smiling and wonderfully composed, who gave those assembled a message such as she knew Father would have wished to express."

Meditations/Reflections, Morning Prayers and Study Circles and other face to face Baha'i meetings are gradually being reinstated in accordance with the Queensland meeting restrictions.

Our weekly prayers 8am every Thursday morning in lower Therwine Street Kuranda have begun again as well as other functions, to which all are welcome.

Study circles are now available. Spiritual Meditations are soon to begin. Functions in Mareeba have recommenced as well as elsewhere on the Tablelands.

All enquiries welcome.

0419 632 286 | 4093 9571 | [bahai.org.au](http://bahai.org.au)

The Bahá'í Community of Mareeba/Kuranda

# WAYGAL-A-GALING BUWAL-WU

## Going looking for words



The Bama (people) of this area (bulmba) shared a common ngirrma, language.

The Djabuganydji, Bulwanydji, Nyagali, Yirrganydji and Gulunydji have lived here for millennia. The Djabuganydji called it Djabugay. The Bulwanydji called it Bulway. The Yirrganydji on the coast called it Yirrgay. The 'ay' sound at the end of these words sounds like the archaic English word 'aye' for yes.

Some of their stories go way back in time. The Djabuganydji

believe that once their hunting grounds stretched to the Barrier Reef. At the end of the last ice age there was a rise in sea-level that pushed the people back inland and created the present shoreline. Nowhere else in the world have people been able to reside continuously in one place for so long, passing on their stories to the present day.

The actual word 'bulmba' has many meanings: home, camping ground, territory, the weather and the authority of

the elders, upholders of the Law. This bulmba is constantly changing, depending on the time of the year, the season and the weather.

Thanks to the Bulmba Rangers for help with selection of wordsearch words and to the Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporations for their work in preserving the area's linguistic inheritance.

Michael Quinn



G L L U L U L U M B A L B U L M B A J  
 U B U R A Y I Y M A G I B I R R W A Y  
 N G U R R I L B U G A A G A G A L P Z  
 Y L B Z D J U N G G U U G A Y G A Y G  
 D J U R R A D J U R R A N A L A N B J  
 J G N B A M A G A L G A L A Y A B A L  
 I I D Y B D J I W A R R I G U G A L T  
 L R A U U D J I L N G G U D J A L A P  
 B R A L D K T D J A N G G A R R A L Z  
 A A R M A N U N G G U L B U L U R R U  
 Y N R A A M A L I Y A R R D J A M B U  
 A Y A Y D B U N A N D A G A L G A R R  
 L D Y I J G I R R D J A G U R U L A T  
 M J I N I B U G A N M A Y B U M A A L  
 B I Y G U U G A N A A J M Z G A G A Y  
 A W T K V N J P P D B Z R B D Y T M B



- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| BAMAGALGALAY | GALGARR    |
| BIRRAWA      | GANAA      |
| BUDAADJI     | GAYGAY     |
| BUGAN        | GIRRDJA    |
| BULMBA       | GIRRANYDJI |
| BULURRU      | GUGAL      |
| BUNANDA      | GUU        |
| BUNDAARRA    | GURRIL     |
| BUGAA        | GURULA     |
| BURAYIY      | LULULUMBAL |
| DJALA        | MAGI       |
| DJAMBU       | MALIYARR   |
| DJANGGARRA   | NALAN      |
| DJILNGGU     | MAAL       |
| DJIWARRI     | MANUNGGUL  |
| DJUNGGUU     | MAYBU      |
| DJURRADJURRA | YALMBA     |
| GAGAL        | YIY        |
| GAGAY        | YULMAYING  |

### WORD MEANINGS

**BAMAGALGALAY:** Tall Man. *Gari galin gundii! Ngawu Bama Galgalay ngundal gundii djanaya!* Don't go there! I see Tall Man standing there!

**BIRRAWA:** Conception place/after-birth, the place a baby's spirit comes from and goes back to after death. *Wangal burrang gagay garru birri didang.* Boomerang flying far and later coming back again.

**BUDAADJI:** Carpet Snake. The form taken by Gudjugudju the Rainbow.

**BUGAN:** charcoal. *Ngawu gidjarr gunil bugan-da.* I draw/paint/write with charcoal.

**BULMBA:** home, camp, the world, seasons, time itself and the weather. On another level it is the authority of the elders and the ancestors. *Nyurra Bulmba bina ngunda!* Listen to the Bulmba!

**BULURRU:** Storywaters/the Story/the Law/the Rainbow/Ancestral Totems/ the Life Force that sustains life and is the *djumburru nyiwul*, the one track to follow.

**BUNANDA:** water fairy. *Bunanda yunga-yungadang*

*banaa ganaa Gindanda.* Bunanda swimming together in the waters beneath the Moon.

**BUNDAARRA:** Cassowary, Ancestor Spirit. In one story all the world comes from a cassowary egg. Bundaarra does create the bagarra, the rainforest by spreading bawu seeds.

**BUGAA:** night, dark. *Bulmba bugaa-maying.* The world's getting dark.

**BURAYIY:** the repentance ritual, standing by the fire and telling what you've done wrong.

**DJALA:** side. *Galin djala bagirr!* Go to the other side!

**DJAMBU:** Hang on, wait! *Djambu ngawu garrang.* Hold on I'm coming.

**DJANGGARRA:** half full. *Giladji djanggarra djanang.* Glass stands half full.

**DJILNGGU:** east/down *Nyurra djilnggu galing.* You going down.

**DJIWARRI:** south. *Bama djiwarri galling.* Aboriginal person going south.

**DJUNGGUU:** behind, back. *Nyurra djungguu galin!*

*You go back!*

**DJURRADJURRA:** wrong, bad behaviour. *Gulu djumburru djurra-djurra.* This is the wrong track.

**GAGAL:** empty. *Gulu baay gagal.* This bag is empty.

**GAGAY:** far away, distant. *Ngawu gagay galina.* I shall go far away.

**GALGARR:** long ago. *Damarri garrany galgarr.* Damarri came long ago.

**GANAA:** under, below. *Ganaa Gindanda.* Under the Moon.

**GAYGAY:** a whisper or light sound. *Nyii gudji gaygay?* What's that sound?

**GIRRDJA:** bad, rotten, stale. *Gari gudji burrin bugan!* *Girrdja!* Don't eat that bread! Stale!

**GIRRANYDJI:** ashamed, shy. *Ngawu bada girranydji.* I'm ashamed. (my head is with shame)

**GUGAL:** upright fire-stick, the drill part of the gimala firesticks.

**GUU:** nose, hook on a spear-thrower. *Nyurran guu birrmbirri.* Your nose is snotty.

**GURRIL:** Stormbird, Channel-billed cuckoo. Rainbow eel with big head, skinny body is said to turn into a gurril.

**GURULA:** Milky pine. *Gurula djanang bagarra-la.* Milky pine standing in the forest.

**LULULUMBAL:** A lullaby to sing a baby to sleep by singing lu lu lu lu.

**MAGI:** all, everything. *Nyurra magi bugan maa minya-djada!* Eat everything bush foods and meat!

**MALIYARR:** a grass fire. *Maliyarr garrang guludjirra.* A grassfire coming this way. *Djunggan!* Run!

**NALAN:** the horizontal firestick. *Gugal wamba nalan-da garru bulba!* Put the gugal in the nalan and then rub!

**MAAL:** to make. *Ngawu galga maal.* I'm making a spear.

**MANUNGGUL:** dome-shaped ant-bed in forest, edible ants.

**MAYBU:** quoll. *Bugaadjala ngawu maybu ngundany djulbin-da magayiya.* Last night I saw a quoll climbing in the tree.

**YALMBA:** flat, level. *Bulmba yalmba.* Flat country.

**YIY:** yes. *Nyurra garrang?* You coming? *Yiy.*

**YULMAYING:** kissing. *Gulumbarray yulma-yulmaying.* They are kissing and kissing.

### DJABUGAY

#### A guide to the pronunciation of Djabugay words

#### Vowel Sounds

- /a/ is pronounced as the vowel in the (English) words "some", "come" e.g. **bama** (person)
- /a:/ is pronounced like the /a/ sound in "father" but longer e.g. **buda:dji** (carpet snake)
- /i/ is pronounced like the /i/ in the word "bin" e.g. **bina** (ear)
- /i:/ the vowel sound is lengthened and pronounced like the vowel sound in "heat", "beat", "feet" e.g. **biri:** (again)
- /u/ is pronounced as the vowel sound in the English word "book" e.g. **mu**du (back)
- /u:/ the vowel is lengthened and pronounced as the vowel sound in the words "good", "tool", "rule" e.g. **djungguu:** (behind)

#### Consonants

- /dj/ The sound is like a /d/ and a /j/ pronounced simultaneously e.g. **djulbin** (tree)
- /g/ is pronounced as in the word "gun" e.g. **gindan** (moon)
- /rr/ a trilled, or rolled /r/ as in Scottish pronunciation of the word "sporrán" e.g. **burra-y** (to fly)
- /r/ as in the American pronunciation of /r/ in car e.g. **biri** (fire)

- /ny/ is like the initial /n/ in onion, like an /n/ and a /y/ pronounced simultaneously e.g. **nyurra** (you)
- /ng/ as in the word "singer" e.g. **bungan** (sun)
- /n.g/ when you see the n.g broken by a stop do not run the two sounds together e.g. **djin.gal** (sky)
- /ngg/ is pronounced as the ng sound in the word "finger" e.g. **nyinggarra** (eel)
- /ay/ is generally pronounced as in the English word "eye" e.g. **Djabugay**

#### Stress

*When saying Djabugay words which syllables should we stress?*

- In words of two syllables, the first syllable is stressed e.g. **bina** (ear).
- In words of three syllables, the first syllable is stressed e.g. **gan**yurra (crocodile). However, if a long vowel occurs in the second syllable of a word of three syllables, it is stressed e.g. **buda:**dji (carpet snake).
- In words with more than three syllables, stress falls on the first syllable and on the syllable before the last one e.g. **gan**yurra – **nggu** (crocodile).



## KURANDA BRANCH

20 Thongon Street

Email: qcwakurandabranh1@gmail.com

Booking Agent: Sandra McCorry 0447 737 415

### BACK IN BUSINESS

Kuranda QCWA is back in business. We held our Annual General Meeting on 8 July, with Carol Jeanes welcomed back as President.

Craft Morning was a lot of fun with Tristan Henderson (Art Teacher) guiding the group of seven crafty persons in the artistic use of colours. Some of us also took our weaving and knitting along. There is plenty of room for more next month. Monthly Craft Mornings are held every third Wednesday, 9am-12noon. Just turn up, cost is a donation towards craft materials. Bring your own cup!

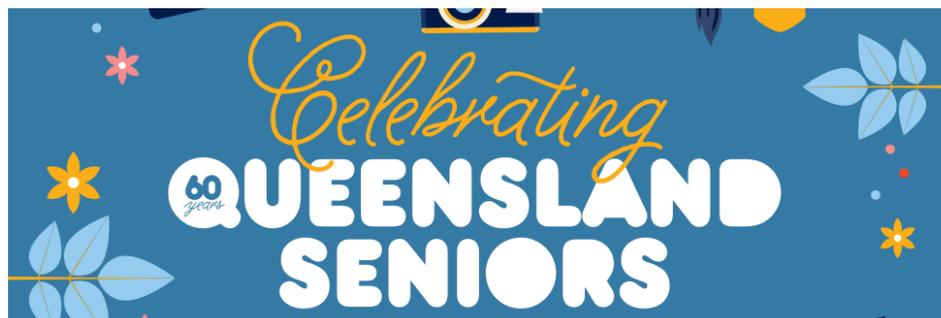
Taekwon-Do, Yoga, Dance, Ukulele, Mindfulness classes, amongst others, are also back in the hall. While mindful of the need to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines QCWA is conscious of its capacity in the Kuranda community to provide space and opportunities for a variety of activities whose outcomes include health and well-being. The QCWA Hall can comfortably accommodate up to 40 under present regulations with ample tables and chairs set out.

The Hall is available most afternoons and some mornings through the week, also throughout most of the weekend. COST \$20/hour (negotiable for whole day hire).

**RAFFLE:** Yes, we are raising some funds with a lovely raffle. Throw rug crocheted by Gayle Hannah, two nice bottles of wine, a 'Mother's Day' box donated by Kuranda Pharmacy, Mosaic plant pot by Colleen Blunt and more! Tickets will be available from us at the Kuranda Pharmacy on Wednesday morning 5 August and winner will be drawn on Wednesday 12 August. Be in it to win it!



Photo: Krishna Buhler



### Queensland Seniors Week goes Virtual

More than ever people need something to celebrate, albeit in the safest way possible, so Queensland Seniors Week 2020 (15-23 August) will move from physical gatherings into an online affair. If restrictions allow, there may also be some physical events held as well.

Because COVID-19 regulations has seen many older people in self-isolation, it is important to ensure people remain connected and don't become segregated. "Seniors Week has always been a great opportunity for Queenslanders to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds and we want to make sure that continues this year, even if many of them are having to do it from their own home," said Mark Tucker-Evans, Chief Executive, Council on the Ageing Queensland, which coordinates the government-funded Queensland Seniors Week.

Queensland Seniors Week is coordinated by COTA Queensland on behalf of the Queensland Government, to support the building of age-friendly communities in Queensland.

"While it may be a time for physical distancing, we want Virtual Seniors Week to be a time of great social interaction, bringing people together in unique ways they may not have tried before. From virtual hugs and connecting through stories, people of all ages will be

coming together, however we can, to celebrate 60 years of celebrating Queensland Seniors" said Seniors Week Coordinator, Lisa Hodgkinson.

Not everyone can access the internet. Does this sound like someone you know? Consider hosting a small COVID Safe BYOT (bring your own tea) party, getting together with family and friends who can assist others to enjoy the virtual calendar of events, through a computer, Smart TV, streaming device or by using a projector.

"Whilst it is not our usual way of celebrating, it gives us the opportunity to access a range of events and activities held throughout Queensland." Some of the 2020 virtual events include:

#### Drawn Together

QPAC's *Drawn Together* invites people all over Queensland to share morning tea with friends and family young and old, celebrating the powerful relationships that exist across generations. From the comfort of your own home join our morning tea as our guests, including Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO and QPAC Elder in Residence Aunty Colleen Wall, and their own young people discuss the big, complicated and fun issues of our times. Accompanied by performances from some of Queensland's most outstanding artists, the conversation will include ideas of happiness, heritage, the value of the arts in a community and for individuals, and those things that can make all of us a little bit wicked.

**Streamed online Saturday 15 August at 10.30-11.15am at [www.qpac.com.au](http://www.qpac.com.au)**

#### Virtual Hugs

Not all of us can share one at the moment but that doesn't we can't share the sentiment of a hug. We won't be without hugs forever, but during this time we can let someone know we are thinking of them by giving them a virtual hug. Send a virtual hug today at [qldseniorsweek.org.au/virtual-hug/](http://qldseniorsweek.org.au/virtual-hug/)

#### Together: The Stories of Us

A people powered project aimed at showcasing the diversity of Queenslanders through stories, photos, videos, and recipes. We all have stories and that is what brings us together.

Share your story today at [qldseniorsweek.org.au/together-the-stories-of-us](http://qldseniorsweek.org.au/together-the-stories-of-us)

## GRATIS CLASSIFIEDS\*

**Afterpay** is now available at Just Gorgeous, 16 Coondoo St, Kuranda. Open every day. 0412 762 342.

**Aileen's Rainforest Yoga** Contact Aileen 0419 726 955

**Bowen Therapy & Homeopathy** Sarah at Simply Healing 0402 804 591, [www.simplyhealing.net.au](http://www.simplyhealing.net.au) Phone for an appointment to start on the path of healing today.

**Civil Celebrant** - Cheryl Tonkin. 0407 670 954

**Expert clothing alterations**, new garments and upholstery. No job too big or small. Over 30 years' experience. Call Vicki 0400 791 345 or 4093 8976.

**Food for Health** consult or free 15-minute health chat with Sarah Isaacs, online naturopath. Find out what food is best for you. Call 4085 0054 or book online [naturalhealthfocus.com.au](http://naturalhealthfocus.com.au)

**For lease** Colourbond Shed at

Speewah, 12m x 7m, suitable for storing caravans or other recreational items.

Call 0409 484 643.

**For sale** iPhone X fully cleared of all data. All it needs is your SIM card inserted. \$500 Saddhen 4093 0291 or [saddhen@gmail.com](mailto:saddhen@gmail.com)

**Fresh Reef Fish** delivered to your door, Kuranda-Cairns-Mareeba. Whole or fresh filleted. Kuranda-based Pristine Reef Fish. Like us on Facebook to keep updated. Commercial fishing licence 4546. Call Richard 0407 908 375.

**Honda Civic** 4 door sedan 2005 model for sale with Roadworthy Certificate. Runs well, 126,300km, regular servicing, mechanically sound and good appearance. \$5200 ono. Call 0457 343 172.

**Just Gorgeous** open every weekend, other days by appointment. Phone Jill 0412 862 342 to book a date

with friends on a weekday if weekends don't work for you.

**Kuranda Arts Co-operative** Open 11am-2pm weekdays and 10am-2pm weekends. 20 Coondoo Street, 4093 9026.

**Kuranda Riverboat Sunset Cruises** 1 August 2020 @ \$30/adult for 90 minute cruise. Any day can be booked, minimum of eight adults. Perfect for special occasions. Phone 0418 930 511.

**Local Art:** Save time travelling down the range and buy your art locally at the Kuranda Arts Co-operative, 20 Coondoo Street, 4093 9026.

**Lochy's Lawns, Landscaping and Property Maintenance** lawn mowing, snipping, experienced Handyman and Landscaper, Household and Property Maintenance, Pressure Cleaning. No job too small. Free quote 0401 513 617.

**NBN Fibre, Fixed Wireless and Satellite Internet.**

Call local, Speewah based, NBN experts for fast reliable NBN with local Aussie based Support! 07 4222 1111. Cairns Computer Support / ANT Communications

**Online Pilates** Prefer to exercise from the comfort of your own home? Kuranda Pilates Thursday 10.45am online through Zoom. Includes free intro lesson for new clients. Davini 0414 994 123.

**Professional knife sharpening.** Mobile service call 4093 8382 or 0409 558 027

**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.

**Sunset Cruise & Dinner** 8 August 2020. Kuranda Riverboat sunset cruise &

a delicious dinner at Café Mandala \$80/person. See Kuranda Riverboat Facebook page for menu. 0418 930 511.

**Tropical Zen Village Kitchen** for Sri Lankan Curries & Delicious Treats & Sweets. Shop 9 Kuranda Market Arcade, Kuranda Original Rainforest Markets.

**Yak wool** handwoven Nepali shawls and ponchos still available at Just Gorgeous. Shawls \$28 or 2 for \$50, Ponchos \$29.95. 0412 762 342.

#### \* 30 WORDS MAXIMUM

For sale, lost/found and outdated entries will be deleted after one month. Repeat advertisements will be deleted at the discretion of the paper. Existing Kuranda Paper advertisers and community groups will be prioritised for repeats depending on available space. Submit classifieds via email [mail@kurandapaper.com](mailto:mail@kurandapaper.com)

# YOUR COMMUNITY PAGES



## WILDLIFE

**Wildlife Rescue** 4053 4467 (24 hours) – recommended first to contact.

**Batreach** 4093 8858

**Cassowary sightings** Jax Bergersen 4093 8834

**Kuranda Vets** 4093 7283

### SNAKE REMOVAL

Jax Bergersen (non-venomous only) 4093 8834

Miss Hiss Reptiles (all reptiles) 0447 888 872

## DEFIBRILLATORS



Defibrillator locations in Kuranda region.

**Kuranda Men's Shed** end of Kuranda Heights Road

**Kuranda Pharmacy** cnr Coondoo and Thongon Sts

**Kuranda Medical Centre** cnr Thongon and Barang Sts

**Kuranda Ambulance Station**, Fallon Road

**Kuranda Swimming Pool**, Myola Road

**Steiner School**, Boyles Road

**Kuranda SES** on board vehicle

**Envirocare Nursery** 284 Myola Road

## WATER AND SEPTIC

### Water Delivery:

**Grego's Raw Materials** 0419 705 005

**Kuranda Fish Farm** 4093 0147

### Septic Tank Emptying:

**Paul Jennings** 0417 632 688

## LAUNDROMAT

**BP Service Station complex**

Open 24/7

## FNQ Wildlife Rescue Assoc. Inc.

(Established 1994)



**Caring for the region's native wildlife.**

**Wildlife carers are all volunteers.**

**Tax deductible donations appreciated.**

**New members welcome.**

**Tel: 07 4053 4467 (24 hrs)**

**Email: fnqwr@bigpond.com**



## Tree Roo Rescue and Conservation Centre Ltd

We are a non-profit organisation that rescues and rehabilitates, orphaned, injured or displaced tree kangaroos.

Unfortunately an increasing number of Lumbholtz tree kangaroos are being killed by dogs and hit by cars each year.

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

If you find an injured tree kangaroo please ring us on 0427 790 694



Donate now and help us care for tree roos today

[www.treeroorecue.org.au](http://www.treeroorecue.org.au)

Visit us on



## RECYCLE

**Kuranda Transfer Station** 2186 Kennedy Hwy, Koah  
**MSC Recycle Station** – Arara Street

**RECYCLE** Donate your aluminium cans to **COUCH** (Committee for Oncology Unit at Cairns Hospital).  
Recycle bin located at the Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Road.



## ROAD REPORTS

**Council EMERGENCY number for local roads**  
1300 308 461

**Kuranda Range/ Kennedy Highway Report an Incident**  
13 19 40 (24/7)



## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Queensland Justices of the Peace (JPs) volunteer to serve the public by signing documents that need a qualified witness.

**Robin Anscorb**  
0409 046 932

**Karen McLaren**  
4093 8780

Please phone for an appointment or leave a message.

## HELPFUL FACEBOOK GROUPS

### KURANDA RANGE UPDATES (21,000 + members)

On the spot traffic reports, in real time, for the Kuranda Range Road.

### KURANDA NOTICE BOARD GROUP (6,000 + members)

Information sharing, discussion, advertising. Open group.

### ALL THINGS KURANDA (1,000 + members)

Discussion group for Kuranda district residents only. Some restrictions on sale of items.

### SPEEWAH AND SURROUNDS RESIDENTS GROUP (1,000 + members)

Information sharing and support. Helpful for real time info on weather, power outages, community events etc. Some restrictions on listing items for sale (check group rules)

### SPEEWAH RESIDENTS (500 + members)

As above but no restrictions on listing items for sale.

### KOAH COMMUNITY (1,000 + members)

A group for Koah Community to advise, ask questions, barter, lost/found animals, hazards etc in Koah area.

## HELP GROUPS



**Kids Helpline**  
1800 55 1800

[kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au)

Kids Helpline is Australia's only free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.



**Need help with a drinking problem?**

**1300 322 322**

[www.aa.org.au](http://www.aa.org.au)

**Al-Anon Family Groups**  
Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

If someone in your family has a drinking problem, you can see what it is doing to them, but can you see what it is doing to you?

**Al-Anon can help you!**

Meetings in Kuranda, Smithfield and Cairns.  
Contact **Kate 4093 9668** or **1300 ALANON**



## RAINFALL

July 2020 (to 23 July)  
72mm

Annual total to 23 July:  
1349.5mm

Courtesy of Kuranda Railway Station

## Community Services

**SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY**

### KURANDA LIBRARY and COUNCIL OFFICE

#### OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday: 10am–5pm

Saturday: not open

(No Council business on Saturday or after 4.30pm weekdays)

Kuranda Community Precinct

18-22 Arara Street, Kuranda

4093 9185

kurandal@msc.qld.gov.au

msc.qld.gov.au/libraries

### KURANDA TRANSFER STATION

#### OPERATING HOURS

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays & Sundays: 8am–5pm

2186 Kennedy Highway, Koah

0418 282 542

msc.qld.gov.au/water-and-waste

65 Rankin Street, Mareeba

PO Box 154, Mareeba Qld 4880

1300 308 461 • info@msc.qld.gov.au

msc.qld.gov.au

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DASHBOARD

Mareeba Shire Council's online Emergency Management Dashboard provides real time emergency information. The Dashboard provides live emergency news, information about road closures, power outages and river heights, weather warnings and fire feeds, emergency contact phone numbers and social media links. Notifications can also be viewed via an interactive map. Mareeba Shire residents can register for the Early Warning Network to receive email and SMS alerts for potential emergencies and severe natural disasters and weather events.

The Dashboard is accessible on Council's website [www.emergency.msc.qld.gov.au](http://www.emergency.msc.qld.gov.au)



**FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED**

**Kuranda Station**

Your local Queensland Emergency Services Fire station is looking for Auxiliary Firefighters

If you are interested contact your local station:

**Kuranda Fire & Rescue Station**

Please visit: <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/employment/jobs/auxiliary-firefighter.html>

**Are you driven to lend a hand in times of crisis?**

### Trans North Bus & Coach

ATHERTON TABLELANDS TO CAIRNS		
Departs From	Monday to Saturday	
	1	2
ATHERTON	6.15am	1.00pm
MAREEBA	6.45am	1.30pm
SPEEWAH	7.05am	1.55pm
KURANDA	7.30am	2.00pm
CAIRNS Service Terminates	8.45am	3.00pm
CAIRNS TO ATHERTON TABLELANDS		
Departs From	Monday to Saturday	
	1	2
CAIRNS Central Rail Station	9.15am	3.30pm
SMITHFIELD Bus Shelter	9.30am	3.45pm
KURANDA	9.50am	4.15pm
SPEEWAH	9.55am	4.20pm
MAREEBA	10.25am	4.50pm
ATHERTON Service Terminates	11.00am	5.25pm

### Emergency Contacts



Emergency – Police, Fire, Ambulance	<b>000</b>
Flood and Storm Emergency Assistance (SES)	<b>132 500</b>
Ergon Energy – Report Dangerous Electrical Emergencies	<b>131 670</b>
Mareeba Shire Council	<b>1300 308 461</b>
Poisons Information	<b>131 126</b>
13HEALTH – Health and Hospital Information	<b>134 325</b>

### RURAL FIRE BRIGADE WARDENS



First Officer Kuranda	Baz Child 0437 746 601
First Officer Speewah	Mick Dub 0428 820 631
Warden Kuranda	Duncan Blakey 0408 151 199
Warden Speewah	John Thompson 0488 988 481
Davies Creek	4093 3181
Koah	4232 5468
Myola	4093 7190
Speewah	4093 0211

**Permits required for ALL fires**

## Join your local SES

Training every fortnight

Tuesdays 7.30pm

Contact John for more details

**0427 037 054**



### TRANSPORT

**Kuranda Taxi** 4093 7119

**Rideshare** 1300 743 374

**John's Kuranda Bus** 0418 772 953

**Trans North** 3036 2070

## JOHN'S KURANDA BUS *The local bus!*

Please note due to COVID-19 this service is currently not operating.

**For more information or other routes contact John 0418 772 953**

### Trans North Cairns to Kuranda Shuttle

Please note due to COVID-19 this service is currently not operating. Please refer to Atherton to Cairns timetable on left or Trans North website for current services to and from Kuranda.

**Any queries please call 3036 2070 during office hours.**

Trans North services are "Hail & Ride". **Please hail the driver** anywhere enroute where it is safe for the bus to pull over. For a small surcharge passengers travelling to Cairns may also be set down at:

- Cairns Airport (\$5),
- Cairns Hospital (\$3),
- Greyhound Terminal (\$3),
- Pease Street Eye Surgery (\$5)

Please advise the driver of required destination when boarding the bus and also note that Trans North services do not pick up from any of the above.

#### Bus stops are located at:

- Cairns – Platform 1, Cairns Central Railway Station, Cairns
- Cairns T.A.F.E – Newton Street (7.30am & 3pm Services)
- Smithfield – Bus shelter near the traffic lights on Kennedy Highway at bottom of the Kuranda Range
- Kuranda – 15 Therwine Street – opposite Information Centre
- Speewah – Speewah Road bus shelter in front of tavern
- Mareeba – Arnold Park, 171-179 Walsh Street (next door to Police Station)
- Atherton – 54 Main Street (near Crazy Cats Coffee)

#### Ticket Sales:

**Purchase tickets from the driver as you board the bus** or from Piagnos News at 142 Byrnes Street Mareeba or Trans North in Atherton

Ph: 3036 2070 during office hours

Email: [atherton@transnorthbus.com.au](mailto:atherton@transnorthbus.com.au)

Web: [www.transnorthbus.com.au](http://www.transnorthbus.com.au)

**CONTACT US**

 Kuranda Recreation Centre  
 krc4881@gmail.com

**WHAT'S ON**

**EIGHT BALL** – Tuesday Team Comp  
kuranda8ball@gmail.com

**KURANDA RANGERS** – Training  
Thursday 4.30-5.30pm (Mar-Oct)  
Adric 0408 096 694

**PILATES** – Monday 9.30am, Tuesday 5.45pm, Wednesday 9.30am, Thursday 9am & 5.45pm, Saturday 8.15am  
Jaide 0488 229 700 and Davini 0414 994 123

**TAI CHI** – Monday 6pm Les 4093 8276

**WING CHUN KUNG FU** –  
Wednesday 7.30pm Grant 0414 966 823

**YOGA IN THE RAINFOREST** –  
Wednesday & Sunday  
Aileen 0419 726 955

*Check Facebook for more details.*

**JUMRUM BAR OPEN  
TUESDAY 6.30 PM**

**Venue for Hire**

Licensed venue and commercial kitchen available for functions, seminars and activities. Janet 0405 092 957

Proud to be the home of:



**What's On at Koah Hall**

**EVERY MONDAY**  
PILATES with Jaide 6-7pm 0488 229 700.

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
YOGA evening classes with Tanya 5.30-7pm

**THURSDAY 20 August**  
Mankind Project MEN'S GROUP 7pm.  
Open to all men. Contact Simon 0459 755 553

**EVERY FRIDAY**  
IRISH DANCING from beginners to advanced.  
Contact Emma 0400 977 177

**EVERY SATURDAY**  
KOA H FARMERS MARKET – Every week local produce 9-10.30am  
Contact Sal 0421 710 474

**SATURDAY 1 August**  
CIRCUS FLOW JUGGLE JAM 12 noon-3pm after markets.

**DREAM STATE CIRCUS CLASSES**  
Dream BIG! and Circus Love! Various classes, workshops and trainers, weekdays during the school term. Bookings essential.  
Contact Sophie 0409 333 404  
Info on [www.dreamstatecircus.com](http://www.dreamstatecircus.com) workshops page.

**Mondays** – Adult Circus LOVE! 10.30am-12.30pm

**Mondays** – Little Cyclone Circus Class 3.45pm for 6 months to 6 years.

**Tuesdays** – Dream BIG! Circus 3.45-5pm Age 7 to 9  
Show Class 5-6.30pm by invite only. Prepare to turn your skills into a show ready piece.

**Wednesdays** – Dream BIG! Circus 3.45-5pm All ages.  
Junior Aerial Trapeze and Silks 5-6.30pm Age 8 and up.

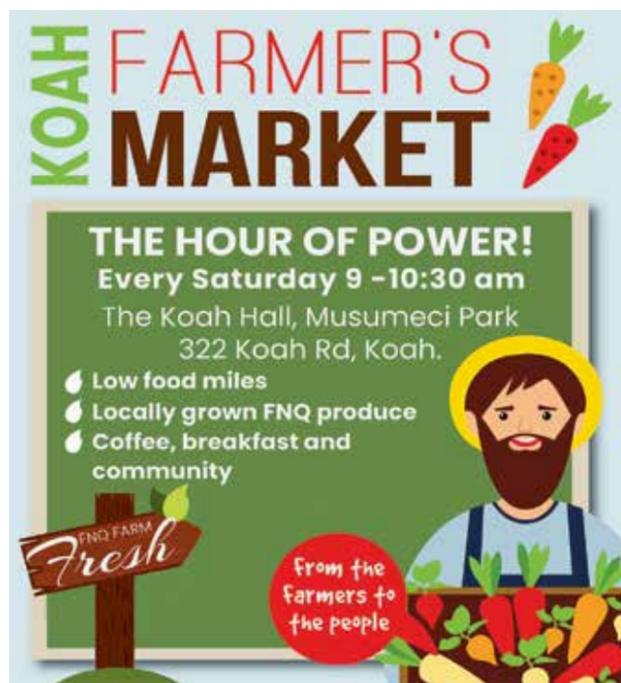
**Thursdays** – Aerial Trapeze and Silks 3.45-5.15pm  
Age 12 and up.

**HIRE FEES**

- 1-2hrs \$10 • Half day \$30 • Full day \$60
- Full day and evening (24 hour block) \$110
- \$200 refundable bond for one-off events (if space is left as you found it)

[www.koahhall.com](http://www.koahhall.com)

 [koah.hall@gmail.com](mailto:koah.hall@gmail.com)  Koah Hall



**BREAKING NEWS**  
Honey Tree is playing at the  
1 August Koah Monthly Markets

**JULY KOAH MARKETS**  
1st Saturday of the month

**8am till noon**  
**Saturday 1 August 2020**

Come along and help make it a cracker!

- Live Music by Honey Tree
- Delicious Koah Hall fundraiser  
Breakkie BBQ

••• Stall spaces available •••

Contact Nicky 0488 961 660 or via  
Koah Monthly Markets Facebook page.



**COMMUNITY  
CALENDAR**

For events at the Kuranda Recreation Centre or the Koah Hall please see details in their columns above.

**EVERY MONDAY**

**Al-Anon** Family Groups 11am-12pm hall under St Saviour's Church. Kate 4093 9668 or 1300ALANON

**Kids Muay Thai** 4.15-5.15pm **All Ages** 5.30-7pm  
Kuranda Community Precinct

**Yoga in the Rainforest** with Aileen 8.15am (for 8.30 start) Kuranda QCWA Hall. Aileen 4093 7401

**EVERY SECOND MONDAY**

**Financial Counselling** (from UCC) Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre by appointment 4093 8933

**EVERY TUESDAY**

**Group Fitness Class** 5.30-6.30pm Kuranda Community Precinct

**Tae Kwon Do & Self Defence** 6.30-8pm Kuranda QCWA Hall. Jeff 0437 438 196

**KMVactive/Bootcamp** 6-6.45pm Bartley Park.  
Kirstin 0497 479 606

**SECOND TUESDAY**

**Kuranda SES Training** 7.30pm sharp at Fallon Road.  
John Baskerville 4093 7246/0427 037 054

**Emergency Relief Help** from Mareeba Community Support Centre at Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre by appointment 4093 8933

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**Kids Muay Thai** 4.15-5.15pm **All Ages** 5.30-7pm  
Kuranda Community Precinct

**Social Tennis** 5pm Wednesdays and Sundays at the Kuranda Recreation Centre. Friendly group – just come and play or call Gidi 0448 480 200

**Men's Shed** Kuranda 8.30am-11.30am. Daryl 4093 9421 or Richard 4093 0457

**KMVactive/Bootcamp** 6-6.45am Bartley Park.  
Kirstin 0497 479 606

**THIRD WEDNESDAY**

**Craft and Social** Morning 9am Kuranda QCWA Hall.  
Carol 4093 7187 or Sandra 0447 737 415

**EVERY THURSDAY**

**Tae Kwon Do & Self Defence** 6.30-8pm Kuranda QCWA

Hall. Jeff 0437 438 196

**Group Fitness Class** 5.30-6.30pm Kuranda Community Precinct

**Kuranda Dance: Tribal Bellydance with Lisa.** 6-7pm  
Kuranda Amphitheatre. 0409 367 967

**Domestic Violence Help** Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre by appointment 4093 8933

**Kuranda Rangers soccer training** 4.30-5.30pm.  
Adric 0408 096 694

**EVERY FRIDAY**

**Kids Muay Thai** 4.15-5.15pm **All Ages** 5.30-7pm  
Kuranda Community Precinct.

**KMVactive/Metafit** 6-6.30pm Bartley Park.  
Kirstin 0497 479 606

**EVERY SATURDAY**

**Tree Planting** Kuranda Envirocare 0419 624 940 for details or check website [www.envirocare.org.au](http://www.envirocare.org.au)

**Men's Shed** Kuranda 2-5pm. Call Daryl 4093 9421 or Richard 4093 0457

**THIRD SATURDAY**

**Meditation with Horses** 10am Koah. Kaya 0429 756 701

**EVERY SUNDAY**

**Social Tennis** 5pm Wednesdays and Sundays at the Kuranda Recreation Centre. Friendly group – just come and play or call Gidi 0448 480 200

**AA Group** Kuranda QCWA Hall 9.30am 1300 322 322

Contributors please advise of any changes via email  
[mail@kurandapaper.com](mailto:mail@kurandapaper.com)