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# THE KURANDA PAPER

March 2025

Issue 373

FREE INDEPENDENT MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1991

WWW.KURANDAPAPER.COM

## BY-ELECTION PROPOSAL – A CONTROVERSIAL DECISION?

The Mareeba Shire Council held a Special Council meeting on 10 February to discuss how filling the vacant Councillor position, created by the passing of Councillor Kevin Davies in January, would be decided.

As the vacancy occurred in the first 12 months after the last local government election (held on 16 March 2024) the *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)* requires that Council decide whether a by-election be held, or the vacancy be offered to the runner-up.

The runner-up in that election was Mladen Bosnic (5,319 votes) with the next highest vote being 5,283 votes. It would be fair to say that most voters would have expected that the vacancy would automatically be offered to the runner-up given the election was held less than a year ago and Mr Bosnic was willing and able to take on the position.



Mladen Bosnic

However, Council has decided to ask the Honorable Ann Leahy, Minister for Local Government, for permission to hold a (postal) election instead to fill the position. The decision has received a largely unfavourable response on social media from residents, both for the perceived departure from the norm and the cost and inconvenience of imposing a

by-election on voters. Councillor Nipper Brown was the only dissenting vote for the decision to hold a by-election.

*The Express Newspaper* reported, on 18 February, that Mr Bosnic was disappointed with the decision by Council, but that he would run in the by-election if Council is granted permission.

In a media release from 10 February, Mareeba Shire Mayor Angela Toppin said "Today, Mareeba Shire Council has decided that a by-election should be held to fill the vacant Councillor position."

"We believe that the community should decide who sits on Council, not the councillors. Our decision looked at several factors, namely the time since the last election, the results of that election and the cost of holding a by-election. After serious consideration, the holding of a by-election was seen as being in the best interests of the community."

"The role of a councillor is very important. They are a strong voice for the community and make decisions that have a direct impact on residents. Given that nearly a year has passed since the last election, we want the community to have their say in who represents them. Whoever the people choose will be welcomed to the team," said Mayor Toppin.

At the time of going to print, we are unable to confirm if the Minister has granted Council permission to hold the by-election, so no date or further details are available.

Residents are advised to visit the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) website to check and update their details on the electoral roll. Anyone considering running for the position should also visit the website for all relevant information including details of the mandatory "So you want to be a Councillor" training.

As we go to print our understanding is that should the Minister agree to the by-election, the ECQ will then set a date and start the election process, including deciding when nominations will open. Council has advised that once the nominations are finalised, there will be a dedicated page on its website with profiles supplied by each of the candidates.

We hope to bring readers more information next edition.



### International Women's Day

### #AccelerateAction

### 8 March 2025

International Women's Day Afternoon Tea  
@ Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre

1-3pm

Thursday 6 March

## CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY IN KURANDA

9am Sunday 2 March 2025  
Centenary Park, Kuranda



Right: Fairy Jenny at the 2024 Clean Up Australia Day.  
Far right: Clean Up volunteers under Queen Maggie's tree, Centenary Park, Kuranda.  
Photos: Jenny Lane.

07 4093 8942

mail@kurandapaper.com

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24 Cooodoo Street, Kuranda

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kurandapaper.com

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mail@kurandapaper.com

Conditions apply. All articles submitted will be printed at the discretion of the Management Committee and Production Team and may be subject to editorial changes.

The Management Committee of The Kuranda Media Association Inc. (KMA) does not accept responsibility for financial, health or other claims published in *The Kuranda Paper*. Factual errors in material submitted are the responsibility of the contributor. All submissions received, including photographs, are deemed to be authorised for publication by the contributor.

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 2025

**President:** Nettie O'Connell

**Vice President:** Kerstin Brown

**Secretary:** Anna Raye

**Treasurer:** Gayle Hannah

**Members Representative:** Toni Rogers

**Paper Production this edition:**

Nettie O Design (layout and design).

Gayle Hannah (production), Toni

Rogers, Susie Grace and Anna Raye

(proofreading). Thanks to all our volunteers, contributors, advertisers and distributors.

## DEADLINES

April

Edition 374/2025

All copy and advertisements  
due by 10am

**Thursday 20 March**

Paper published

**Thursday 27 March 2025**

Management is not responsible for  
any copy missing deadline.

### Advertisement sizes and rates

[width x height in mm]

A – 262x380 (full page)	\$635
B – 174x380 (dominant)	\$435
C – 129x380 (1/2 page vertical)	\$345
D – 262x188 (1/2 page horiz)	\$345
E – 85x380 (1/3 page vertical)	\$245
F – 129x188 (1/4 page)	\$185
G – 262x124 (large strip)	\$245
H – 262x60 (small strip)	\$140
I – 129x124	\$140
J – 85x188	\$140
K – 85x124	\$100
L – 85x60 (business card)	\$65

### 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.

## LETTERS



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. Submissions by group email will be treated as spam.

We welcome your letters via email or post

### CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – SUNDAY 2 MARCH

Sunday 2 March is Clean Up Australia Day. Join us for our annual community clean up under Queen Maggie's tree at 9am in Centenary Park in the heart of Kuranda.

The more people who join us, the bigger area we can cover!

The fairies will show their appreciation for cleaning up their garden beds by hiding magic rocks to find. Present these to Fairy Jenny to claim mystery prizes.

Dress up to win a prize for best clean up get up!

Gloves, rubbish bags and hand sanitiser provided. Bring hat, water and covered footwear.

See you there!

*Fairy Jenny, The Magical Lane Kuranda*

### JUMRUM ESTATE

I am writing to you in regards to the Jumrum Estate development on Discovery Road, Kuranda.

The sediment controls for stormwater runoff are woefully inadequate and have completely failed allowing muddy water to run directly into Jumrum Creek. Despite community opposition to this project it was able to proceed and it is now clear that the developers are not meeting their environmental responsibilities. This negligence is a direct threat to the endangered Kuranda Tree frog (*Litoria myola*) among other species.

There has been a significant lack of planning, compliance and control over this development.

I don't understand how the developers have been allowed to open up this much land and then leave it sit over the wet season.

I have written to MP Bree James, Member for Barron River, requesting she follow up on this issue with the relevant authorities so that this situation can be rectified as soon as possible and the responsible parties held to account.

*Matt Aistrope, Kuranda*

Right: Kuranda Tree frog.

Photo: Steven Nowakowski

Below: Erosion at Jumrum Estate

(nettie to get correct name).

Photo: Matt Aistrope.



### KUR-ALERT COMMUNITY GROUP WINDS UP, BUT THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE REMAINS

In 2015, an unprecedented development of scale and magnitude was proposed for Myola. The development was called Kur-World and would have consisted of 336 units, 373 small residential blocks, commercial precinct, golf course and retail town centre. This was proposed by businessman Ken Lee who had bought 620ha of mostly forested land to develop.

The Kuranda community was shell-shocked by this proposal that would urbanise Myola and duplicate town centres amongst many things. The huge project was also in breach of local planning scheme and state planning instruments.

Disappointingly, the Mareeba Shire Council's response was inadequate, irresponsible and inept, and demonstrated their lack of knowledge of the many issues involved – and demonstrated little will to adequately research the project. It also called into question whether Council bureaucracy allowed for sufficient community consultation and engagement. Councillors were even prohibited from meeting residents and attending community town hall meetings. There appeared to be only concern—mostly by the then Mayor and the CEO— for a potential \$600 million dollar development coming to the Shire, regardless of whether it was sustainable or even feasible (which as it turns out, it was not).

As a response to the gross mismanagement of the Kur-World development by Council, and then by state government (as a State Coordinated Project), Kur-Alert Inc. was formed. The aim was to secure unity within the community and gather resources to mount a strong case against the development.

Eventually, after four years of intense stress on the community, the State government finally rejected the application citing transport issues on state-controlled roads, but we know it was more than just that. The community expected our elected members to throw the project in the bin at the very start and this would have saved countless hours of dedicated work by teams of volunteers who put their lives on hold for years to do the work the Council should have done in the first place.

Kur-Alert Inc. has remained active since this time making sure that all Tablelands' councils enforce and abide by their own planning laws. Many good outcomes have been achieved such as the TLPI (Temporary Local Planning Instrument) to restrict the subdivision of blocks over 50ha to retain agricultural viability of the sector.

At the recent Kur-Alert Inc. AGM, the committee consisting of Steven Nowakowski (President), Cheryl Tonkin (Secretary) and Julie Cohen (Treasurer), voted to deregister the organisation as an incorporated body—for ease of paperwork and workload. However, the group of dedicated individuals will still exist and remain vigilant.

It was also voted that the remaining funds in the Kur-Alert bank account be disbursed evenly between three local conservation organisations. An amount of \$5,742 each has been given to Kuranda Conservation, Kuranda Envirocare and Rainforest Reserves Australia.

*Steven Nowakowski, Kuranda*

### NEED FOR MORE COMMUNICATION

I was wondering if in the interests of the Kuranda Police and the Kuranda community, if it would be a good idea to have the police put in a regular page in the paper showing all the great work they are doing and proposals for projects they are undertaking to help Kuranda. It seems there is a communication breakdown and this may help.

*Sue van-Cuylenburg, Kuranda*

KP: The Kuranda Paper provides space for local police updates. Unfortunately, this requires someone from the local station to write a column for us. This has been difficult to obtain, but we will continue to pursue this objective.

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.

**Stockists** – 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, along with back issues. In addition you can pick up a hard copy of *The Kuranda Paper* at the following outlets:

**KURANDA:** Kuranda Post Office (Thoree St), Sprout Café (Cooodoo St), Kuranda Visitor Information Centre (Centenary Park), Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (Rob Veivers Dr), Kuranda Pharmacy & Newsagency (Cooodoo St), Kuranda Arts Co-op (Cooodoo St), Cornetts IGA

(Thongon St), BP Service Station, Annabel's Pies (Therwine St), Honey House Kuranda (Therwine St).

**KURANDA DISTRICT:** Speewah Service Station, Koah Service Station.

**MAREEBA:** Piagno's News (Byrnes St), Mareeba Heritage Museum & Visitor Information Centre (Byrnes St), Mareeba News (Byrnes St)

**TOLGA:** The Humpty

**ATHERTON:** Atherton IGA (Silo Shopping Centre), Atherton Visitor Information Centre

**SMITHFIELD:** Totem Clothing (Smithfield Shopping Centre), Smithfield Library

**CAIRNS:** Cairns Library

# RAIL BRIDGE REPAIRS UNDERWAY BETWEEN KURANDA AND MAREEBA

The past couple of years have been tough on the Savannahlander. We've been impacted by record floods, intense wet seasons, bushfires, vandalism and an ageing railway. We were really hoping that 2025 was going to be when things started getting better for us but it doesn't seem to be over yet.

We have been informed by Queensland Rail that there is damage to several of the railway bridges between Kuranda and Mareeba making it currently unsafe for us to travel over.

It is expected to take around six months to repair the line. I know, not good news at all, but please bear with me.

We are trying our best to work around this and currently working on a plan that is yet to be finalised, but this is what we're thinking.

We want to pack up all three Railmotors, throw them on the back of a truck (good thing I've got HUGE muscles) and relocate them to Mareeba so that we can start the trip from there.

This will mean that if you're travelling with us during this period, you will be transported by coach between Cairns and Mareeba.

Now moving a train by truck is no easy feat so will take a few weeks to prepare and accomplish, meaning that we have had to cancel the first five trips of the year (those passengers impacted have been notified).

At this stage we are hoping to start our season on 9 April, but like I said, our plan is yet to be finalised and given approval by the relevant government departments, which may take a week or two.

So this is where we are at this point in time. Things may change that are out of our control. Especially as our wet season isn't over yet, but we will update you all with more information when we get it.

We ask for your patience and not to call the office asking for more information because firstly, we just don't have it and secondly, the admin team is working hard trying to sort everything out as quickly as possible.

And the only other favour I'd ask of you, is that if you're booked to travel with us this season, please do, despite the changes in the service. The Savannahlander needs your support now more than ever and we're looking forward to seeing you on board and giving you one hell of a good time on the best damn outback rail experience in Australia.

You can also follow us on Facebook for updates.

*Wil Kemp  
Senior Driver/Senior Savannah Guide  
The Savannahlander*



*Right and Below: Mantaka railway bridge is one of several bridges between Kuranda and Mareeba requiring repairs which will be carried out over the next six months.  
Photos: Wil Kemp.*



## Cover Masthead

Our masthead this month features a painting by Kirty Bell *A Moment's Quiet Contemplation*.

"Our society may prioritise wealth and assets, but this artwork reminds us that the essence of true beauty lies in being unapologetically ourselves. In embracing our true selves, we discover a beauty that transcends appearances and enriches the world and those around us. In this moment of contemplation celebrate the depth and resilience of every woman and the timeless beauty that emanates from within her." Follow Kirty on Facebook at Kirty Bell Art and Instagram @kirtybellart

Recently Kirty has spread her wings to embark on a new artistic street art venture - her fond farewell to Kuranda is published on Page 10.

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original painting by Melanie Hava

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# KURANDA BRANCH

20 Thongon Street

Email: kurandabbranch@qcwa.org.au

Booking Agent: Krishna Buhler 0427 937 348

President: Carol Jeanes

*Kuranda CWA Branch works within the QCWA Strategic Plan framework – Focusing beyond: overcoming isolation, healthy QLD women and our local community needs.*

## CELEBRATING ALL WOMEN

**International Women's Day Afternoon Tea @ Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre – Thursday 6 March 1–3pm** – Kuranda CWA is proud to sponsor the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre's International Women's Day afternoon tea. Join us to celebrate all women and listen to the guest speakers (see poster on right for details).

**Queensland Women's Week** – Every year we celebrate the achievements and contributions of women and girls across the state as part of Queensland Women's Week. The week is also a time to reflect on the work we all still need to do to achieve gender equality, raise awareness of issues impacting women, and inspire action.

Queensland Women's Week is held during the week 2–9 March and the theme for the this year is "March Forward".

This theme aligns with the UN Women International Women's Day theme and celebrates the progress made by women who came before us, while recognising the work yet to come to achieve gender equality.

All of us have a role to play in working together as a community to achieve gender equality. Join us as we March Forward together for a gender equal future.

Source : Qld Government Office for Women.

"It is through the membership of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) that the Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA) contributes more broadly to the United Nation's goals. QCWA Branch members demonstrate their support for UN objectives by observing and celebrating designated UN days, years, or decades."

**New Crafts Group and Book Group** – Kuranda CWA is pleased to announce that two community engaging group activities will now be active in the CWA Hall.

You are welcome to join in with the Crafts Group meeting on alternate Fridays – starting 7 March and 21 March at 10.30am–12.30pm.

The Book Group is monthly and begins on Saturday 5 April. Contact us by email for more information.

**CWA monthly Members' meeting** – Wednesday 12 March 9–10.30am.

**CWA Crafts Group** – Friday 7 and 21 March 10.30am–12.30pm at the CWA Hall.

**CWA Book Group** – Saturday 5 April 11am–1pm.

**Country Kitchens** – Contact Vicki Donovan 0400 791 345 for more information.

**Kuranda CWA Membership** – Check out QCWA website and see the benefits of becoming a CWA member, or enquire locally via email kurandabbranch.qcwa.org.au.

### WHAT'S ON AT THE CWA?

Contact the following hirers for any enquiries regarding their activities:

Feldenkrais with Justine – 0408 735 309

Taekwon-Do – Jeff 0437 438 196

CWA Dance Group – Sandra 0447 737 415

**Hall Hire Available** – The Kuranda CWA Hall is a venue close to the village with a large safe space, air conditioning, kitchen, toilets, furniture, disability access, professionally cleaned, disability parking, and flexible hire times.

We currently have hire availability on Tuesdays 1pm–5pm, Wednesdays (except 2nd week for CWA meetings 8am–12pm) otherwise all day. Thursdays free until 4pm. Some Fridays and Saturdays free. All Sundays free.

Please enquire as bookings can change.

# Sonia Poole

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## Councillor Column



### MAREEBA SHIRE COUNCILLOR NIPPER BROWN

I would like to take this opportunity to invite residents to join us for the **Councillors Connecting with Community** session that will be happening at 5.30pm Monday 24 March 2025 at the Speewah Rural Fire Brigade on William Smith Drive, Speewah.

This session will be a chance for the local community to connect with me and fellow Councillors to talk to us about what matters most to you. We will be sharing updates on works happening in the area and look forward to seeing everyone.

### Kuranda Improvements

Works have recently begun on the Kuranda Village Streetscape Improvement Project. The first stage of the project will be to improve the footpaths around the Kuranda Visitor Information Centre, before moving on to the footpaths in Coondoo Street.

The streetlights will be upgraded as part of this project, as well as improvements to the garden beds and the addition of fairy lights to the fig trees. This project was developed with the support of the Queensland Government's Building Bush Tourism Fund in association with the Kuranda Infrastructure Fund.

### Great Wheelbarrow Race

Preparations are well underway for the annual Great Wheelbarrow Race. This event is a highlight for our Shire, where teams travel from all around Queensland to participate in the 140km journey – starting on Friday 9 May in Mareeba and finishing on Sunday 11 May 2025 in Chillagoe.

Why not put a team together for 2025? The race is all about endurance, teamwork and having fun – all while raising money for charity. Since the race began in 2007, teams have raised an incredible \$2.6 million for charities. Registrations close on 30 April 2025, please visit the Great Wheelbarrow Race website to register.

Please remember that you can reach out to me if you have any concerns, and I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming **Councillors Connecting with Community** session in Speewah this month.

Cr Nipper Brown  
0429 931 061  
NipperB@msc.qld.gov.au  
PO Box 154, Mareeba QLD 4880

## RATE NOTICES ISSUED

**DUE DATE – 28 March 2025**



The half-yearly rate notices for the six-month period ending 30 June 2025 have been issued. If you have not received your rate notice, please contact the Rates Department via email [info@msc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@msc.qld.gov.au) or call 1300 308 461.

### RECEIVE YOUR RATE NOTICE ELECTRONICALLY (eNotices)

Go electronic and receive your next rates notice via email. **eNotices** allows you to view your notice at any time and sends notices to multiple email addresses. Find your **eNotices** Reference Number on the back of your rates notice to register.

### PAYMENT PORTAL - FLEXIPAY

Our payment portal allows you to pay your rates or easily set up a direct debit payment arrangement. You can choose to make payments weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Scan the QR code on your rate notice or visit [mareeba-pay.enotices.com.au](http://mareeba-pay.enotices.com.au) to pay or set up a direct debit arrangement. You can pay via Visa, Mastercard, Bank Account, Google Pay or Apple Pay.

### INTEREST FREE ARRANGEMENTS

No interest will be charged on approved arrangements for current outstanding rates and charges, provided the payment plan is adhered to.

### 10% DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT

To receive the 10% discount on your general rates, all rates and charges must be paid and received by Council by 28 March 2025. Council does not take responsibility for the late processing of electronic payments by third parties.

### PENSIONER REBATE

A pensioner rebate may also apply to those holding a State Government Pensioner Concession Card or Repatriation Gold Card.

For more information, refer to your rates notice, our website or contact Council.

Peter Franks  
Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 154 MAREEBA QLD 4880



Scan the QR Code to visit the MSC website to learn about Rates.

# MAREEBA SHIRE COUNCIL - COMMUNITY UPDATE



## Join Us for the Councillors Connecting with Community in Speewah!

5.30pm Monday, 24 March 2025

Speewah Rural Fire Brigade, 8 William Smith Dr

Council is inviting the community to meet the Councillors in an informal setting. This is a great opportunity for residents to discuss what matters most in their community.

We'll be sharing important updates and seeking community views, we look forward to welcoming you for a chat over a cuppa!

**Mareeba Shire**  
**ARTS AND CULTURE**  
**COMMUNITY SURVEY**



**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
Help shape the direction of arts, culture and heritage activities in Mareeba Shire!

**SURVEY OPEN until 16 March**  
Artist: Violet Shaban



### Disaster Recovery Works Update

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) is a jointly funded program between the Australian Government and State Government, providing financial assistance to help communities recover from eligible disasters.

Multiple landslips occurred around Kuranda as a result of over two metres of rain falling in the Cyclone Jasper rain event in December 2023.

The DRFA supported repairs at the Barron Falls Road site, with the safety guardrail being completed last month.

Works are still underway at Jarawee Close, and are expected to be completed by March 2025, weather permitting.



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Sign up to receive your next rates notice via email. To register, find your eNotices Reference Number on the back of your rates notice.

### Illegal dumping

Illegal dumping is against the law and there are penalties in place for those found to be doing the wrong thing.

You can help to keep our Shire clean by reporting illegal dumping to Council on 1300 308 461 or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Reports can also be lodged online on the Department of Environment and Science's website or sent to [illegaldumping@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:illegaldumping@des.qld.gov.au).

This project is proudly supported by the Queensland Government.



**Fines over \$2000 apply for illegal dumping**

Report illegal dumping to Council on 1300 308 461





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# Bree's Barron River BULLETIN

Ms Bree James MP  
State Member for Barron River

Assistant Minister for Tourism, Early Learning, Creative Industries and Far North Queensland

07 4229 0100 Barron.River@parliament.qld.gov.au  
Tenancy 2.2, 2 Chelsea Lane, Redlynch QLD 4870

One of the biggest concerns in our community right now is the crime in Kuranda. The re-occurring incidents of breaks-ins, assaults, vandalism and anti-social behaviour is not something I take lightly, and it is something I refuse to ignore.

I have received updates from both the Cairns Police and the Hon. Dan Purdie, Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Last week Cairns Police confirmed an action plan has been established. This action plan utilises extra police on overtime, traffic patrols, Tactical Crime Squad, Mareeba Crime Prevention and Tablelands detectives.

Five key Kuranda offenders were arrested on 15 February 2025 and this is anticipated to have a significant impact on reported crime. Police will also focus on anti-social behaviour within the Kuranda CBD and engage with government and industry stakeholders.

Engagement is ongoing with government partners to identify and implement intervention strategies to address the drivers of anti-social behaviour and youth offending.

I want to acknowledge the involvement of the police, community groups, local leaders and especially the Elders who worked together, and will continue to do so, to reduce the crime and anti-social behaviour in Kuranda. Thank you.

All Kuranda residents now have access to a survey to assist in actionable outcomes. This two-minute survey is available online at bree4barronriver.com.au as well as through our social media and QR code. I encourage all residents to fill this survey out.

It will take the whole community's support to improve this problem.

I will also have a mobile office set up in Kuranda on 6 March 2025. I would love to meet as many people as possible.

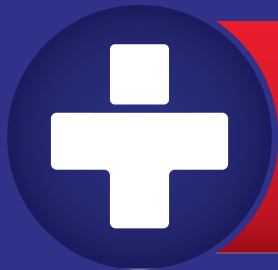
Last week I returned to Brisbane for our first Parliamentary sitting of the year to discuss the ongoing concerns of poor infrastructure, crime and recent floods affecting the Far North Queensland community. You can view my speeches through my social media pages and on my website – bree4barronriver.com.au

I thank the Kuranda community for your support and please continue to reach out. Until next month,

Bree James, Member for Barron River



## Kuranda Pharmacy



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Windmill Shopping Complex  
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### Prep in the Rainforest at Steiner School

The name 'Prep' suggests 'preparing' for something, but what exactly is the Prep year meant to prepare children for?

In most schools, the focus is on early literacy and numeracy, developing the social rhythm and routine of attending school, and learning about the social environment of the classroom. The Cairns Hinterland Steiner School also focuses on these activities, but perhaps in a different way.

Jenny Edney, Head of Teaching and Learning talks about Prep at Cairns Hinterland Steiner School, "The Prep year at our school is a place where deep connections to the sensory environment are built through verse, song, rhymes and stories, and the natural imagination and creativity of the child is enlivened through the experience of wonder.

"According to Rudolf Steiner, the 'work of childhood' is play, where each child is free to give their whole living being to the world around them.

"When we look to the future and what the prep-age child is developing within themselves and preparing for, we can see that the foundation of play supports the future development of the child's freedom of thought, imagination, creativity, innovation, and exploration." said Jenny.

Educators at Cairns Hinterland Steiner School deliver literacy through story and song, and numeracy through the exploration of natural phenomena. The sensory immersion afforded each child is a rich tapestry of discovery and joyful sharing.

"In our Rose Apple (Prep) class, a typical day involves Circle Time for music, speech, and movement; indoor creative play; cooking; morning tea; baking, painting, beeswax modelling or craft; outdoor play in nature; lunch; story time; and a bushwalk or games." said Jenny.

"Importantly, we follow the Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework and we ensure the curriculum is interwoven into these activities in a natural way." Jenny said.



If your child is turning six this year and you are interested in finding out more about Prep at this beautiful little school in the rainforest, please call 07 4093 8809 or visit the Cairns Hinterland Steiner School website [chss.qld.edu.au](http://chss.qld.edu.au).

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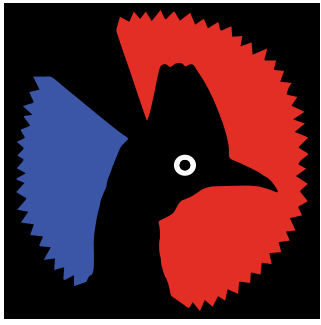
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# KURANDA conservation COMMUNITY NURSERY Inc

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- **SNAKES:** We're happy to relocate an unwanted snake. They're out and about now.
- We can refer you to **WILDLIFE CARERS** for injured wildlife.
- Want advice on what to plant at your place? Give us a call.
- Let us know if you see a cassowary on the road or in the bush.
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## THE AIR IS THICK WITH BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

It happens every year. The blue-black shiny Metallic Starlings are back. They move in flocks looking for the ripe berries on top of the tall, skinny *Polycias australiana*. They eat the fruit at our place and poop out the seeds at your place! The noisy Orange-footed Scrub Fowl is around the garden every night. They are always seen in pairs and they call to each other when they get separated. If that's not enough to keep you awake, the curlews have a screaming concert every few hours. They have a brown-blotchy egg that is laid in a conspicuous place in the open. The sitting hen cops the sun and the rain for about 30 days until the fluffy chick is hatched. The chick is up against it right from the start with snakes on the ground and hawks from above, all trying to make a meal out of it.

Once the rain let up, out came the butterflies. The Cairns Birdwing female is as big as a man's hand while the male is a bit smaller but has brilliant green wings. They lay their eggs on the *Aristolochia acuminata* vine. That's OK until the resultant grubs start eating the vine leaves. You don't notice them till they are a huge finger length and you can actually hear them munching. They then pupate, rarely settling on their food vine. They usually crawl away to somewhere solid, miraculously turn into a chrysalis and about 50 days later emerge into a huge, stunning butterfly.

You'll be lucky to get a brief glimpse of the brilliant



Cairns Birdwing butterfly and Ulysses butterfly  
Photo: Sharon McGrigor.

blue of the Ulysses butterfly. The more intense blue wings denote the male with the paler blue wings the female. These butterflies dance with sharp changes of direction making it hard to get a good look at them. When they do settle, the underside of their wings is a patterned brown and when they fold them, it's very hard to see them.

There are so many birds, butterflies, katydids and 30cm long stick insects around just now that it's hard to get bored in a plant nursery where it's all happening.

### DIRECT SEEDING

An easy way to plant is by putting seeds directly in the ground. This is called direct seeding. It can

allow you to easily plant an embankment to stop it from eroding. This is how you do it. If you've never harvested Lomandra seed, it's very easy to do. Simply wait for the berries to dry on the grassy bush and begin to split open. Next, cut the entire flower spike off and put it head down into a tough bag. Then shake the bag around to loosen the grains from the flower spike. You'll now have a bag full of seeds ready to be scattered into their new home. It's that simple! For Lomandra plants already potted up, stop by our Nursery at 1 Pademelon Lane, Kuranda - nearly always open.

### CASSOWARIES - CREATING A FAMILY TREE

Not only are we gathering information from the sightings you report to us, but we're also trying to set up a family tree for each of our regular birds. This is not easy or accurate when we can't be sure who has mated with whom to produce the eggs that the male sits on and subsequently raises as his own. Are they his or is the egg the female deposits in his nest the result of her mating with another? Could this be Nature's way of ensuring genetic diversity? More questions than answers.

Please continue to message us on our Facebook page or phone in or message us on our mobile number 0439 899 731. A photo is always most helpful.

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### What's Happening at the Amphitheatre

Thanks to all the members who came to our 2025 AGM, and congratulations to the new 2025 Committee!

The new Committee is made up of talented, community focused individuals who each have a passion for the Amphitheatre and a long history of active volunteering. President – Brioni McGrath (who many members will know as Buggy Bumblebee), Secretary – Jude Thomas, Treasurer – Tanya Van Putten, Committee members – Pix Vane Mason, Zami Coleman, Gaby Schierenback and Janet Bowron.

We are very grateful for their commitment to serving KAS and the community in their roles as board members.



The AGM gave the outgoing Committee an opportunity to report their considerable list of activities and achievements for 2024 – **bookings, events and activities in 2024:**

- Ongoing–present (since March 2023): KAST Theatre Understage, including recent additions of kids (7-12) and youth (13-20) classes
- January: KAS Future Planning Community Consultation Sessions – Understage
- March: KAST event *The Crimson Coconut*
- March: KAS event *Love Bomb* funded showcase (no alcohol) – Top Pavilion. This event saw the sign-up of 278 memberships, and raised \$4,500 for KAS operations for the year
- April: External Hire – *The Great Travelling Medicine Show*, Centre for Australasian Theatre – Mainstage
- May: External Hire – *Polymantra* – Understage
- June: External Hire – *Gig for Gaza* – Top Pavilion
- July: *Street Gang Theatre* on the terraces - KAST
- July: External Hire – Hakko Japanese Cultural Festival – Top Pavilion
- July: External Hire – NAIDOC Talent Quest – Understage
- August: KAS NAIDOC event – funded event partnered with Ngoonbi – Mainstage
- September: Spring Fair – KAS event – Mainstage
- October: Reggaetown Cancellation
- December: KAST *Bush Christmas* Family event

- January: Deputation to MSC with Final Master Plan

### Operational

- January 2024–January 2025: Development of Master Planning Community Consultations, Report and Maintenance Schedule
- March–Sept 2024: TRACQS trial casual employment program – funded positions to assist with operations
- Top Pavilion power restoration: Flooding from TC Jasper and Kirrily got into the Top Pavilion roof and completely destroyed power cable connecting the top half of the site to the main switchboard in April. With funding from QRIDA, we were able to restore the power in early July.
- Lease renewal: KAS secured our 10-year lease in May, however we are still corresponding with MSC regarding the details and conditions of the lease instrument.
- General meetings in February, June and October
- Zero Waste Carbon strategy: an ongoing project led by volunteers Alison Kempe and Sarah Rizvi. This is an ongoing project, and includes an energy audit for the Amphitheatre provided by industry expert Kim Forde.

### Successful Grants 2024

- QRIDA: power restoration – \$12,000
- Families and Communities Program 2023-24: Volunteer Grants – \$2,000
- FRRR Master Planning Community Consultation, Report, Building Designs and Drawings & Maintenance Schedule – \$10,000
- Koala Gardens Sponsorship: September Spring Fair Event – \$5,000
- Mareeba Shire RADF: September Spring Fair Event – \$3,000
- NAIDOC 2024 *Keep the Fire Burning: Blak, Loud and Proud*: Mainstage Music event – \$7,000
- Gambling Communities Benefit Fund Qld – Top Pavilion and Mainstage Roof repairs following flooding and cyclone damage in January 2024 and solar install (ongoing, to be completed May 2025) – \$73,000

### Total grants – \$112,000

The outgoing 2024 Committee extends our gratitude to, and support for, the new 2025 Committee, as well as a commitment to a responsible handover and ongoing active volunteer energy. A million thanks to all those volunteers and members who have been supportive and willing to be part of a joyous team to make fun stuff happen at the Amphitheatre.

Long may the Amphitheatre thrive and prosper!  
One Love Kuranda

*Trish Molloy on behalf of the outgoing KAS 2024 Committee*



### A Fond Farewell

After 15 years of life in the rainforest, local artist Kirty Bell is about to embark on an exciting new journey, leaving Kuranda to pursue her dreams of entering the street art scene full-time with her business venture, Murals'n Motion. This poem serves as a reflection of Kirty's time in Kuranda, a heartfelt farewell she wishes to share with the community.

"I appreciate all the work *The Kuranda Paper* crew have done through all the years I have been in Kuranda, it was an honour to be featured in the Paper multiple times over the years, but the most memorable was being interviewed by Toni Rogers for her October 2017 *Inside My Studio* column. She is an inspiration and one of the most beautiful people I was fortunate enough to meet during my time here.

I wish you all the best for the future. *Kirty Bell*

In the mist of forest whispers, where the ancient Barron flows,  
Kuranda's cradle nurtured dreams, allowing them to grow  
With every hue of colour, each painting done with flair,  
You brought life into my creations, infused with forest air.

Your markets hum with memories, a bittersweet embrace,  
In shadows cast by challenges, I found my truest place.  
The emerald's gentle mossy kiss, upon the forest floor,  
The opals mystic wisdom, the melaleucas ancient lore.

Imprints of forest fruit and seed, candlenut gems that gleamed,  
Each stone and creek a memory, an echo of a dream.  
Beckoned by walls of wanderlust, where strangers' stories blend,  
Maybe one day you will join me, when you're ready to transcend.

Though I move towards horizons, where the unknown greets my soul,  
Your spirit will remain, a part of me now whole.  
So farewell to you, Ngoonbi Kuranda, with your canopies that sigh,  
I'll carry forth your vibrant hues beneath the endless sky.

Your sacred places and tranquil skies, your spirit will linger still,  
With every mural, every tag, I'll create with heart and will.  
The colours of your stormy days, the whispers of your trees,  
Will guide my hand in far-off lands, on city streets with ease.

So here's my heartfelt tribute, as I bid you fond garru,  
Kuranda, you're my compass, I'll forever cherish you.  
In foreign vibrant skylines, and every alley I embrace,  
Your essence, dear Kuranda, will forever find its place.

With paint and passion, I take flight, beneath the global dome,  
But in each brick and cobblestone, I'll carry you back home.  
Good bye, beloved sanctuary, may your colours ever shine,  
As I step into the world, your spirit intertwined with mine.

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Mollie Bosworth has had her metallic salts porcelain bowl *Palimsest* selected as a finalist in the Siliceous Award for Ceramic Excellence. The Award winner will be announced on the opening night of the exhibition on 8 March at 6pm. The exhibition will be held at the Metcalf Gallery, Brisbane Institute of Art and the exhibition continues until 25 March 2025.

"Palimsest" by Mollie Bosworth



Klaus Brucksch recently completed a stained glass window commission that has been installed in a Kuranda home.

Left: "Dragonfly" by Klaus Brucksch

Below: Encaustic group of birds inspired artworks by Lieselotte Edwards



**Interview with Lieselotte Edwards (Palette Design)**

Lieselotte is continually inspired by the colours, shapes and movement found in her environment. Her spontaneous style is forever evolving whilst experimenting and exploring and incorporating found objects in her creations.

*Can you describe your artistic style. What is your preferred medium, and why?*

My preferred medium is called oil-encaustic, being so amazingly versatile.

*What motivates you as an artist?*

I am motivated by nature and my surroundings

*Describe the best piece of art you have created?*

My favourite piece of art is called *Ambiguous*.



Left: "Ambiguous" by Lieselotte Edwards. Above: Detail from "Ambiguous"

*What artists inspire you and where do you find inspiration?*

I am inspired by Patricia Baldwin Seggebruch – [www.pbsartist.com](http://www.pbsartist.com)

*What has been the most challenging and rewarding part of being an artist?*

The most rewarding part of being an artist is being involved in exhibitions and meeting up with other artists.

*What do you like to do when you're not creating art?*

I go for a walk and visit my artist neighbours.

*Can you describe your studio/workspace and your favourite time of day to create?*

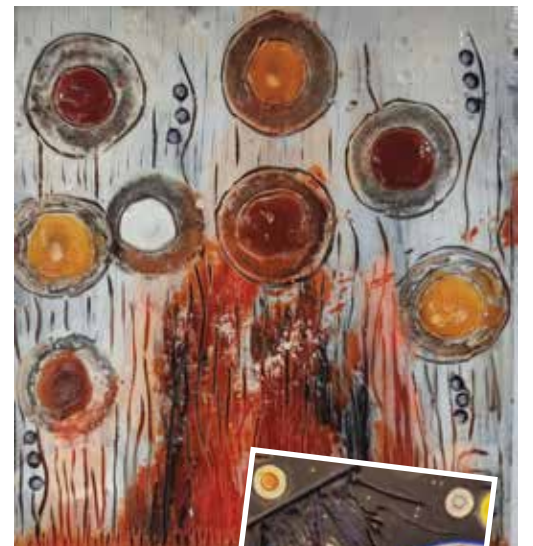
My studio is an open air space and I mostly create my work in the mornings.

*What is your favourite tool that you can't do without?*

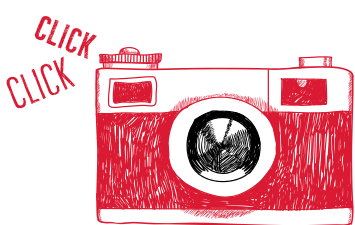
My favourite tool is the blowtorch! It can make different images using the heat on the oil paint and wax.

*Do you think art is important in society?*

Absolutely! It enriches our lives. Art makes the world go round.



Above: "Flowers with Power" Right: Detail



## 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).

### FEBRUARY

"Ants hanging out on bromeliads isn't just a random gathering — it actually makes perfect sense. The plant's rosette-shaped leaves collect water and organic matter, creating a cozy little hangout for ants to nest and find food. In return, the ants play bodyguards, keeping pesky herbivores away and even fertilising the plant with their waste. It's a clever, mutually beneficial setup that shows just how intertwined life in tropical ecosystems can be."

Holly Rochelle Reade  
 (30 January 2025)



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## The Speewah District Residents Association

### Upcoming Meeting – 24 March 2025

We are pleased to announce that the next meeting of the Speewah Residents Association (SDRA) will be held on 24 March from 6.30–7.30pm at the Training Room for the Speewah Fire Brigade at Roscommon Park.

If you would like to add an item to the meeting agenda, please contact us on [speewahdistrictresidentassocia@gmail.com](mailto:speewahdistrictresidentassocia@gmail.com).

Prior to the SDRA meeting, there will be a public forum with the Mareeba Shire Councillors from 5.30–6.30pm. Residents are encouraged to attend this forum to voice their concerns, share ideas, and engage with the Councillors.

For those who may not be able to attend the forum within the scheduled time, don't worry! The Councillors will be available for informal chats after the forum, up until the close of the SDRA meeting at 7.30pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## MAREEBA SHIRE ARTS AND CULTURE SURVEY SEEKS INPUT

*Help shape the direction of arts, culture and heritage activities in the Mareeba Shire!*

All Mareeba Shire residents are invited to complete the Arts and Culture Community Survey aimed at identifying what arts, culture and heritage activities people like to participate in. Identifying what is important to the community is essential in providing direction for Council's Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Program and in building a strong and sustainable arts, culture and heritage sector.

The survey is available online here [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CYC7B86](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CYC7B86). Hard copy surveys are also available from Council customer service centres and libraries or by email [communitywellbeing@msc.qld.gov.au](mailto:communitywellbeing@msc.qld.gov.au).

The survey closes 16 March 2025. Please encourage your members and contacts to participate in the survey.

Source: Mareeba Shire Council



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Tips for Fiction Writers by Ann Harth

PART 2

**“Plot is no more than footprints left in the snow after your characters have run by on their way to incredible destinations.”**

Ray Bradbury

### Creating characters

Characters drive your story. Well-developed characters make us care.

Spectacular fight scenes or exciting car chases may be interesting, but if the reader doesn't really care about who these will affect, it will lower the tension, and suspense will be temporary at best.

Alternatively, let's say we have a guitarist in his 60s. Justin writes all the music for his band of 15 years. His granddaughter adores him. She's obsessed with learning his style.

But Justin's band is moving toward a more contemporary sound, looking to break into a new lucrative market. He either embraces the move or his band will kindly but firmly turn away. His confidence is shot, and he's lost the ability to create the music he loves.

Looking for inspiration to revive his mojo, Justin embarks on a road trip in his 69 Land Rover. He wants to write songs again – for himself, but also for his granddaughter. He's torn between trudging toward fame and fortune with the new sound or embracing the integrity of the music he loves.

While Justin is driving through an unfamiliar city, he cuts off the wrong person in traffic. The guy takes off after him. There's a car chase scene, (which probably isn't very fast as we are talking about a 69 Land Rover), and our musician is in trouble. We know him. We know he idolises Dicky Betts and has a strange affinity with stray dogs. We know he can be a bit gruff and slightly obnoxious when he drinks, but we like him. We understand him. When his life (and the land Rover) is at stake, we care.

Because we care, the car chase scene takes on a new importance, and we'll be holding our breath, whipping through the pages.

### Creating a character

Sometimes your protagonist will pop into your mind fully formed. If not, one way to trigger the birth of your character is to fill in a character profile sheet. It's grounding to see a character's skin tone, hair and eye colours, stature – all those things that we notice first when we first meet someone. It's even more compelling to dig a bit deeper.

A profile sheet covers physical traits but also dives into the less superficial aspects of your characters. There are hundreds of various templates for these online. They can cover background of course, but also preferences in music, reading, fashion, hobbies, dreams, fears, loves, hates – the list is endless. Some detailed templates can be a bit overwhelming, so try to choose aspects of your character that are important to your story. You won't use all of this information in your writing, but the more you know about your protagonist, the more authentic they will seem to the reader.

Getting to know your character this way can become quite time-consuming, but the deeper you delve, the more detail you can find. With this information at your fingertips, all of your characters become richer and more convincing. You will know instinctively how they would act in critical situations.

Character profiles can be used for protagonists, secondary characters and antagonists as well. They're also a quick reference. If Justin has green eyes in Chapter 1, they probably shouldn't turn brown in Chapter 3.

### Well-developed, active characters can drive your story.

Your main characters' goals (internal and external) are the driving force of your plot. You can often define your story by asking these four questions:

- What is my character's goal?
- What motivates him to achieve this goal?
- What flaws/conflicts might keep him from achieving his goals?
- What's at stake if he fails?

Let's take our musician:

- **Goal:** He wants to write music again.
- **Motivation:** He's lost without his music, and he's a role model for his granddaughter.
- **Flaws/conflict:** Lack of confidence. Fear of failure. Struggle between sellout and moving on.
- **Stakes:** If he can't write music anymore, his career is over. He fears his granddaughter will see him as a has-been and lose faith in herself and the music she loves.

This exercise can help clarify your story in your own mind. If you're looking to publish traditionally, the answers to these questions are a clear path towards writing a compelling pitch to an editor or agent.

### Characters in your first draft

As I mentioned in the last article, a first draft is where you are free to unleash your ideas and ignore your inner critic. This is where you will fall in love with your characters. If you know them well enough, they may even take the lead and help you build a compelling and unique foundation for your story.

Enjoy!  
[www.annharth.com](http://www.annharth.com)

Ann Harth is Speewah-based and is a member of the Kuranda Writers Group.

# A Grinter's Tale

Another 2am wake up, and all because Harry the Ancient shook his head violently, sending his kelpie ears flapping very audibly.

That was it. There was no going back to sleep for me. There is so much white noise in the depths of the night, I sometimes pray for a power cut.

I wear silicone ear plugs occasionally, but I can still hear the puppy fidgeting, the ticking of the clock, the clicking of the overhead fan, and the changing tones of the refrigerator in the laundry adjacent to the bedroom, which range from a steady hum to a threatening roar. Funnily enough, a herd of curlews can go off in unison and I don't hear a thing. We won't talk about f-r-o-g-s in drainpipes though.

Sometimes, with the ear plugs in, I hear my heart beat, and although that should be comforting, I don't like it, because I will know if it stops. Then I start thinking about how it would be if I died in my sleep, and vow to feed the dogs more in the evenings, just in case. Unfortunately there is nothing on Google to instruct me on how much to give them to ensure they won't eat me before someone realises I have disappeared.

I bought the earplugs in bulk from Temu, four boxes in fact, because they don't seem to like going back in the cute little flowery box I bought for them to sleep in during the daytime, when they are not working. I probably still have them in my ears sometimes when I walk the dogs thinking how peaceful the world is at that time of the morning, but mostly I tread on them later in the bathroom, or they work their way down the bed.

But one day a few months ago, I read about the toxic chemicals used in the manufacture of a lot of products distributed by Temu, especially those with bright colours. I stopped using my bright orange Temu ear plugs and threw away my colourful Chinese polyester t-shirts. My memory is bad enough already without lead and cadmium being jammed up against my brain every night. It has enough challenges to cope with as it is. Thank heavens toilet rolls are white and made in Australia, but then again, they are mostly bleached so there's food for thought.

The trouble is, not buying non food items from China because of the use of toxic dye ingredients does somewhat narrow choice down to near zero. I feel dreadful buying from Temu, but it's pretty hard finding cheap dog walking type t-shirts that aren't Chinese. It's pretty hard finding anything at all that is not made in China, of course. I find myself looking askance at brightly coloured food storage containers and dog toys with suspicion, and as far as I know neither are recyclable except to the op shop.

So many things to think about once one is awake at 2am, aside from the fact that I really must swap the clock, seeing as it is months since it earned mention in an earlier article. I seem to write about sleep more than I actually do it. It's always hard to sleep



Photo: Kinga Howard via Unsplash

when this column is due because I spend hours trying to think what I can write about, after nine years. I should pretend *The Kuranda Paper* is a gardening magazine and write the same thing a year later when no-one will remember what they read a year ago.

I do remember that I wrote about sleep many moons ago, and I think, quite recently, which just goes to show that concern about lack of sleep takes up a lot of my waking hours. I recall I quoted Napoleon:

"Let her sleep, for when she wakes, she will move mountains".

He was in fact talking about China and one would hope that is not too prophetic, although perhaps the Chinese could help with the Range Road. China, after all, built the Sanyuan Bridge in just 43 hours. And the Tianlongshan highway across the mountains in Shanxi Province – 30km long with four viaducts and a tunnel – took only 15 months to complete. If you get a chance, have a look at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivkI5eSGpnE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivkI5eSGpnE). The engineering feats are quite amazing.

A lot of us have suggested that on social media, but we jest of course. It would, after all, make their invasion of Kuranda easier. If they land in Cairns, we can always take one or two bolts out of the bridge and maybe a couple of blocks...there's a job for an abseiler there. I don't think explosives would be necessary.

I think they might have saved a bit more money than Australia though, with a trade surplus of \$990 billion, and the country now producing a third of the world's manufactured goods. I'm surprised that's all, to be honest, but we have to trust what the media tells us. Excuse me while I choke on my own words.

They do have a few more people than us up their sleeves though...

I'm sure we could do a deal. Free McDonalds and KFC to all the workers, of which there would be many, and we could hand back all our faulty goods for them to resell to Kmart and Target. They could make a killing just on the recycled e-goods spilling out of the shipping container at the Cardinia tip. This is a sore point, as my crockpot has died after only two weeks and the dishwasher and oven are on life support until I pull the plug, and the washing machine lid is broken. Oh, and my laptop keyboard has died, along with my will to shop.

I long for the days when I went to the shops to buy things, instead of taking them back. There was a time you could pull one wipe out of its wrapper instead of pulling out half the contents, when lids came off without tools. Those days when instructions were readable and the English version of instructions was in English, and that you didn't need a magnifying glass AND your glasses to read them. Or perhaps I am just getting older?



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Kuranda Historical Society

✉ kurandahistory@gmail.com  
 ✉ PO Box 896, Kuranda  
 🌐 Kuranda Historical Society

*Working with the Kuranda community to preserve our history and tell our stories*

The year is 1970. The sun beats down on Holloways Beach, turning the sand to shimmering gold. A motley crew of souls, artists and ex-professionals among them, called this place home. They were the pioneers, the first wave, seeking refuge from the concrete jungles down south. They fished, hunted crocs, and lived off savings, their days filled with the rhythm of the ocean and the haze of sweet smoke. They called themselves 'hairies', a distinction they held dear.

But paradise, as it often does, attracted a crowd. Younger faces, fresh from the cities, arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs and a thirst for freedom. They were the 'hippies', drawn by tales of a carefree existence and the whispers of magic mushrooms growing wild in the rainforest. The beach became crowded, the vibe shifted, and the local council, spurred by complaints, declared war on the campers.

The 'hairies', weary of the influx and the unwanted attention, looked inland. Kuranda, a village nestled in the rainforest, beckoned. Land was cheap, the forest dense and mysterious, and the mushrooms, they said, were plentiful. A small exodus began, a pilgrimage to a new promised land.

Among them was 'Elara', a painter with eyes the colour of the rainforest canopy. She pooled her resources with two other 'hairies', a musician named 'Jasper' and a former architect called 'Silas'. Together, they bought a plot of land, a small clearing where the sun dappled through the leaves. They built a simple cabin, its walls of mud and timber, its roof thatched with palm fronds.

Word spread like wildfire. Kuranda became a beacon, a haven for those seeking an escape. The 'hippies' followed, their numbers swelling, their energy both vibrant and chaotic. They camped on the outskirts of the village, their music echoing through the trees, their laughter mingling with the calls of exotic birds.

The locals, at first, were wary. These newcomers, with their long hair, their strange clothes, and their even stranger habits, were an enigma. Whispers of drug use and wild parties fueled their apprehension. The 'hairies', sensing the growing unease, tried to distance themselves from the more boisterous element. They attended village meetings, participated in local initiatives, and tried to show that they were not just passing through.

One sweltering afternoon, a bulldozer rumbled into a clearing, its metal teeth tearing into the earth. A development company, oblivious to the delicate ecosystem, planned to carve a subdivision into the heart of the rainforest. The "hairies," their connection to the land deepening, were the first to raise their voices. They joined forces with concerned locals, forming a coalition to protect their shared home. The 'hippies', caught up in the fervour, added their voices to the

chorus of dissent.

The battle was long and hard-fought. The developers, backed by money and influence, pushed back. But the community, united in its purpose, held firm. The 'hairies', with their practical skills and their quiet determination, played a crucial role. 'Elara', with her art, captured the beauty of the rainforest, reminding everyone what was at stake. 'Jasper', with his music, brought people together, creating a sense of shared purpose. 'Silas', with his architectural knowledge, helped design sustainable alternatives.

In the end, the developers retreated. The rainforest was saved. The 'hairies', once viewed with suspicion, were now seen as valuable members of the community. The 'hippies', though still a source of some concern, were tolerated, their youthful energy adding a splash of colour to the village life. Kuranda, once a quiet village, had become a melting pot, a place where different ways of life, though sometimes clashing, ultimately coexisted. The rainforest, the silent witness to it all, continued to thrive, its green canopy a symbol of resilience and the enduring power of community.

Kuranda, with its rainforest setting and artistic community, has long attracted alternative lifestyles and counter-culture groups. It's plausible that the hippie movement, with its emphasis on peace, nature, and communal living, found Kuranda appealing. The influx of hippies to similar locations around the world often coincided with the broader movement's timeline, peaking in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Find out more on 5 April at 6pm at the Kuranda Historical Society's Trivia Night – their annual fundraising event. There will be auctions, raffles and lucky door prizes. Food and drinks can be purchased on the night from Birdwing Café. Join us for our...

**Annual FUN-Raising Trivia Night – Here Come the Hippies.**

**Saturday 5 April @ 6pm at Birdwing Café  
 23 Coondoo Street, Kuranda**

Tickets are \$20 (\$18 concession) or \$100 for a table of 6.

Tickets available at Kuranda Visitor Information Centre or online [www.historicalsociety.org.au](http://www.historicalsociety.org.au).  
 See poster on page 16 for more information.

The Kuranda Historical Society is currently hunting for photos or images of the land that became the old Rainforest Resort. If anyone has any images please contact Jan by emailing [kurandahistoricalsocietycollec@gmail.com](mailto:kurandahistoricalsocietycollec@gmail.com).

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At the Kuranda Community Kindergarten, we are lucky to offer the PaL program. So, what is PaL and what does it look like at our Kindy?

Parents and Learning or PaL is a home-based parent engagement program. It was designed by Indigenous people to support parents to participate in their young child's literacy learning. At our Kindy, PaL is taught by Ms Tracy.

Every morning parents and children have the chance to read PaL books and use PaL resources together.

During the day Ms Tracy will take a small group of children to explore a story. The chosen story is then explored in a variety of ways including games, songs, puzzles and small world play. This will happen over two or three weeks, sometimes longer if the children show that they are still interested in that particular story.

Each week the PaL bag, with book and resources, is sent home with a child so the family can continue the learning experience at home. PaL is always taught by Indigenous teachers, and this creates a culturally safe space for Indigenous children and families to explore literacy together.

While the PaL program is designed by Indigenous people for Indigenous people it is a very inclusive program that benefits all Kindy families, and all families are invited to participate in.



Above: Ms Tracy reading "Big Rain Coming"

Left: Playing a game using the "Big Rain Coming" story then expanding on it

# A little bit of Disney magic comes to Kuranda



We live in a magical part of the world, so no wonder Disney wants to get in on the action! The Wet Tropics is one of the most biodiverse regions of Australia and has a wealth of plant and animal species that have attracted the producers of natural history programs for decades.

The production of natural history TV programs is quite big business these days, with crews travelling the world to film interesting and engaging sequences with wildlife behaviours not seen before or filmed in new and exciting ways. Gone are the days where a wildlife show just shows a quick fleeting glimpse of the action or one single angle of the animal doing its thing. Today stories are told with Hollywood influenced camera angles and gliding camera moves, super slow motion and specialist lighting which provide unique and fascinating insights into the lives of animals using the latest technologies. Viewers are also demanding higher level of production to keep them engaged, so there's an ever-increasing push for higher production values.

While much of natural history programs are obviously shot in the wild within the habitats of the various species, certain aspects cannot be done that way and some species are very difficult to film in the wild so other options must be explored.

Macro (or close up photography) is something we specialise in at Minibeast Wildlife and through our articles you will have seen many examples of super-close stills photography. While shooting perfectly sharp macro stills at the perfect moment can be extremely challenging, shooting video of these tiny animals is even more complex in some ways. Waiting for the wind to stop blowing to get one frame in focus for a still image can be very difficult and time consuming, while shooting video of a tiny bug perched on a blade of grass blowing around in the wind would result in the audience barely seeing the animal and getting motion-sickness for their trouble!

Sometimes this type of work is best done in a studio, where things like wind and rain can be taken out of the equation. Importantly it can only be done in situations (and with species) where the animal's natural behaviour won't be affected, and they are completely at ease. Fortunately, many invertebrates are like this and when they are allowed to live in specially built habitat sets, carefully created to suit them, it not only enables these tiny creatures to exhibit their natural behaviours, but also to be filmed clearly and from a variety of angles to reveal previously hidden aspects of their incredible lives.

Enter Minibeast Wildlife (and our macro studios). For over 25 years we have assisted natural history film crews to capture some incredible footage of these critically important animals both in the wild and within specialised studio sets. The term usually used in the credits for what we do is often 'animal wranglers' or 'invertebrate specialists', but it varies production to production.

Our key role in the studio is to ensure the environments we create for filming enable the bugs to behave normally, and we work closely and carefully with the insects, spiders and other invertebrates throughout the entire process. Our knowledge

of these animals' behaviours and how to work with them, our set building techniques and location now attracts crews from all over the world every year. Our understanding of these often-minute creatures comes from years of passionately observing them in the wild and working very closely with them. We never stop learning and are constantly amazed by their behaviours and abilities.

Kuranda has been an awesome place to base our work as we can quickly jump between filming out in the rainforest, the nearby savannah woodlands, the coastal regions and of course within the myriad of special sets we create in our studios.

The productions filmed here in Kuranda include *Micro Monsters with David Attenborough*, *Life in Colour*, *Planet Insect*, *Earthsounds*, *Tiny World* and many others. Last year we hosted the BBC for a month working on a new invertebrate series called *Hidden Planet* which is still in production. Meeting our inspiration and idol Sir David Attenborough has been one of the highlights of our careers.

Disney is now producing natural history series and over the last few years, we have worked on two big Disney/Nat Geo Productions; *A Real Bug's Life* and we are currently working on the *Underdog* series. Both these have involved multiple shoots and many weeks of filming to capture all the behaviour and stories that these tiny animals have to offer.

The Australian episode of *A Real Bug's Life* is called *Tiny Heroes Down Under* and is currently streaming on Disney +. It follows the life of a tiny Peacock spider growing up in a bushland setting near a rusty tin shed – the actual location was in NSW. While you won't recognise it, most of that episode was shot here in Kuranda, both in the studio and in the local bushland. The adult Peacock spiders featured are half the size of a match head. The babies were the size of grains of sand, so it was essential to film them in a studio to get usable shots. Close-ups of the babies' faces required remote controlled cameras to reduce vibrations and for no one to even walk or move in the studio! Such shots would have been impossible outside with even the tiniest of breeze.

Whether it be allowing cameras to capture normally secretive nocturnal activities, life underground in burrows or just glimpses into the lives of animals we'd normally not be able to see, we feel that the role we play fosters an appreciation of these critically important animals and enables people to value them more. We hope that this goes some way to helping conserve them and their precious wild habitats.

## Alan and Deanna Henderson, Minibeast Wildlife

Top: One of the stars of 'A Real Bug's Life' – Marvin the Peacock spider showing his courtship dance moves to a female.

Above left: Filming Giant Burrowing Cockroaches on a set for 'Planet Insect'

Above middle: A mother Giant Burrowing Cockroach in an underground burrow set caring for her babies.

Above right: Meeting Sir David Attenborough after filming *Micro Monsters*. (Filmed in what was Café Mandala on Coondoo Street)

Photos: Alan Henderson



[www.minibeastwildlife.com.au](http://www.minibeastwildlife.com.au)

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## NEW RELEASE BY LOCAL MUSICIAN

Award-winning, local singer-songwriter Nicole Nighthawk has released her second single *Going Under*, a heavy-hitting alternative rock track that encapsulates the feeling of despair as you navigate grief and the long and often lonely road to healing.

Nicole is known for her engaging live performances around Cairns and the greater region. A soulful and emotive artist, her relatable and heart-felt original songs take listeners on a powerful journey with her captivating vocals and lyrics.

Nicole says, "*Going Under* was written back in 2018 after ending my marriage, my


band, and leaving everything I knew myself to be, to start over again. This song was my grieving, an outpouring of all the emotions that hit me, pulling me under."

Described by *Australian Musician Magazine* as, "a thoughtful songwriter who understands the dynamics of a tune and the intricacies of modern-day composition", Nicole's candour in her songwriting resonates with anyone who has loved and lost.

*Going Under* is available on all major streaming platforms or visit [nicolenighthawk.com](http://nicolenighthawk.com) to listen.



Nicole Nighthawk



KURANDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL "FUN RAISING" EVENT

# KURANDA TRIVIA NIGHT

A fun night of crazy trivia questions about the hippy era.

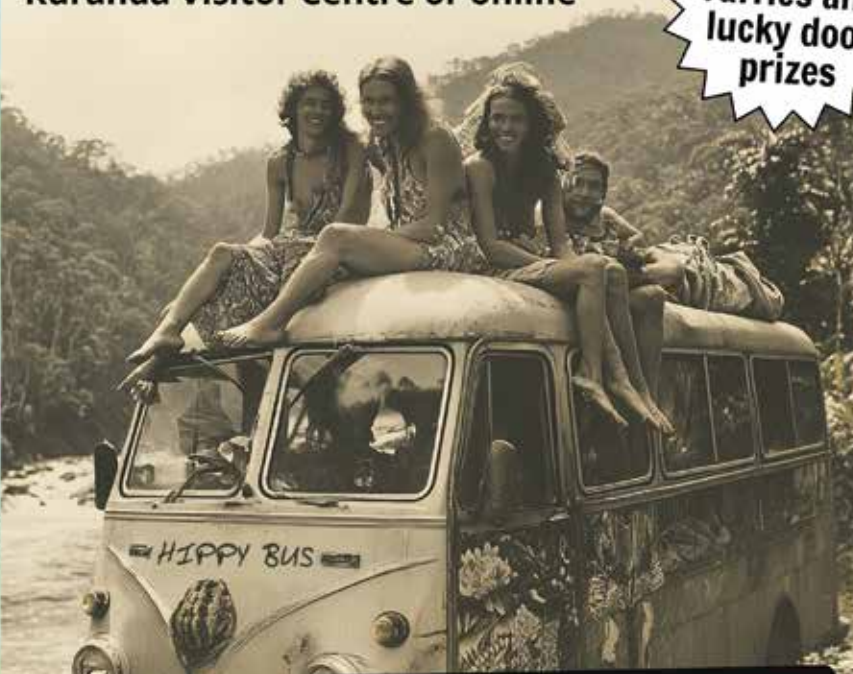
**APRIL 5  
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Tickets Available at the  
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Best Hippy outfit wins a prize

Food and drinks can be purchased on the night





**HERE COME THE HIPPIES**

In the 1960s and 70s, the laid-back atmosphere, natural beauty, and agreeable climate of Kuranda attracted hippies seeking an alternative lifestyle. These individuals, drawn to the rainforest setting, aimed to live simply and self-sufficiently, establishing communes.

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cnr Barang and Thongon Streets  
Monday – Friday 8.30 to 5pm

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

**Dr Veerendra Sinha:** *specialises in skin cancers and excisions* – Tuesday and Thursday

**Dr Steve Salleras:** Thursday

**Dr Miranda Hamilton:** *specialises in women's health and family medicine* – Monday and Tuesday, and every second Thursday

---

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### Melioidosis cases continuing to rise in Far North

Far North Queenslanders are being reminded to stay alert to symptoms of a dangerous seasonal disease, with cases of melioidosis taking a fatal toll.

The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service has recorded 30 cases of melioidosis since 1 January, including, sadly, seven patient deaths across North Queensland. Tropical Public Health Services director Dr Jacqui Murdoch said this was a higher-than-average number of cases for this time of the year.

"Melioidosis is a serious disease found in ground water and soil, and it can cause death in up to 20 per cent of treated cases. Early recognition and treatment are vital" Dr Murdoch said. The disease occurs when skin abrasions or wounds come into contact with wet soil or water contaminated by the bacteria *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. Dr Murdoch urged those at risk of serious illness, such as people with diabetes, kidney problems, lung problems and people on medication that lowers their immune system, to take precautions to avoid infection.

You can learn more about melioidosis by calling 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or visiting [www.qld.gov.au/health/condition/infections-and-parasites/bacterial-infections/melioidosis](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/condition/infections-and-parasites/bacterial-infections/melioidosis)



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## Community Nursery and Landcare

Caring for Kuranda's environment

"by standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before"

### The Wonder of Seeds

Have you ever had such a surprise that it made your day? At our nursery recently, several plump green pods from a local garden arrived on the work bench for identification. After placing slight pressure on one of the pods, it released a white cascade – thousands and thousands of tiny seeds that flowed over our fingertips and the bench. They were orchid seeds of the species *Geodorum densiflorus* or Pink Nodding orchid! The seeds were carefully collected and planted...and now we wait. Watch this space.

And what about plants that develop their seeds on the outside of the fruit? Well, strawberries do, and so do some rainforest species. The Weeping Brown pine (*Podocarpus grayae*) has a luscious red fruit with the seed, as big as the fruit, attached to one end. Cashew nuts result from an arrangement like this also.

And what about the fruit of the Burdekin Plum (*Pteleogynium timorese*) that hides a seed capsule that looks like a miniature flying saucer? The seeds are secreted in the 'portholes' until they germinate and burst up through the soil to form a magic fairy-ring of tiny seedlings. Wonderful!

We welcome any contributions of rainforest seeds to our nursery. When you collect fruit or seeds, please make sure that the fruit is ripe and fresh. Leaving the seeds in the fruit or pods and including a small branch of leaves will help to identify the species. A label showing date and place of collection will be of great assistance. (See photo) We will do the rest to start the journey of rainforest giants. Thank you.

Right top: Weeping brown pine (*Podocarpus grayae*) seeds.

Right: Boonjee Tamarind (*Diploglottis bracteata*) seeds.



### Plant of the Month Weeping brown pine/Northern brown pine – *Podocarpus grayae*

A stunning tree with shiny pencil-shaped dark green leaves and with bright lime green new growth. The leaves hang attractively from somewhat drooping branches. It produces a hard bluish nut on the end of a swollen red stem (see photo on left) that resembles a fruit and which is eaten by cassowaries.



Right: Weeping brown pine or Northern brown pine

### • Date Claimers •

Monthly Frog monitoring – is scheduled for the third week each month. Check Facebook or text Sylvia 0409 647 714 to join the group texts and emails.



#### What is that weird critter?

We are surrounded by amazing insects, spiders, snails and invertebrates here in the Kuranda area. At some stage we have all wondered "What is that weird critter?!?"

Here's your chance to learn more about some of our 'weird and wonderful' insects and invertebrates!

Join us at the Kuranda Recreation Centre on Sunday 9 March for a relaxed afternoon exploring our amazing insects. Highlights include:

- Live insect & invertebrate displays
- Fun activities for children
- Short talks by experts

You can come for all or part of the afternoon. This is a free event!

**2-3pm:** Come & go as you please. Live insect displays & hands-on activities for all ages.

**3-4pm:** Short presentations by experts, with separate 'Critter Hunt' activity for kids.

**4-5pm:** Come & go as you please. Make fun insect snacks, view live insect displays & chat with experts.

Coordinator: Rachel Reese  
0474 560 700  
coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au  
Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce  
ycacommunitytaskforce  
communitytaskforce.org.au





## WEIRD & WONDERFUL WET TROPICS

A free event!  
Learn about the amazing insects & invertebrates of the Wet Tropics

**SUNDAY 9 MARCH 2025**

**2:00PM - 5:00PM**

KURANDA RECREATION CENTRE, FALLON ROAD

Coordinator: Rachel Reese  
Phone: 0474 560 700  
Email: coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au

**Live insect displays**

Native & invasive ants  
Weird & wonderful native invertebrates

**Separate children's activities**

Games, arts & crafts and a 'Critter Hunt'  
\*Children must be with a guardian\*

**Come for part or all**

**2-3pm:** Come & go as you please. Live insect displays & hands-on activities.  
**3-4pm:** Short presentations by experts, with separate 'Critter Hunt' activity for kids.  
**4-5pm:** Come & go as you please. Make fun insect snacks, view live insect displays & chat with experts.

Facebook: ycacommunitytaskforce  
Instagram: ycacommunitytaskforce  
Web: communitytaskforce.org.au



### Impacts of yellow crazy ants



spray acid



harm pets



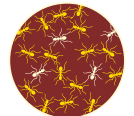
harm wildlife



harm crops



impact lifestyle



spread rapidly



live in trees



be active 24/7



Sprouting Guinea chestnuts.  
Below: The yellowish/greenish pods of the Pink Euodia.  
Photos: Ulla Melchiorson

## Protecting our inter-generational food-plant seeds

### Food security and diversity

Heirloom seeds have a rich history and importance that span hundreds of years. It is estimated that over 94% of all vegetable varieties from before the 20th century have become extinct! This is why preserving heirloom seeds is so important to food security and diversity in recent decades.

Seed saving is part of the human culture. It is the practices and culture of selecting, harvesting, cleaning and storing seeds for planting in future seasons. It is an old partnership between people and plants which is an essential part of agriculture.

The seed pods of Guinea chestnut, also called Malabar chestnut or Saba nut, are ripe. The seed pods are dropping to the ground. Pods split open, nuts are exposed and you have to be quick picking up the nuts before they sprout if you want to eat the nuts. We don't seedsave the nuts, but put the sprouted nuts in a pot to grow a new tree.

Seed pods of Pink Euodia (*Melicope elleryana*) often referred to as the Pink Flowered Doughwood are opening. Pick the pods and save the seeds. I thought it was easy to cut the pod in half to remove the seeds. It turned out to be much easier to put pods in a paper bag and give it a good shake. The seeds then release themselves. Several species of butterflies are attracted to both flowers and leaves amongst others, Ulysses butterfly. The tree/scrub is a host for the Atlas butterfly. It is also attractive to birds.

Several seed saver groups in our local area have a seed bank. The seed bank is a bank on the move with seeds flowing in and seeds flowing out. It is important to have a seed bank where we can access seeds, take seeds home, grow them out and return the following seed generation. The seed bank is also a backup in case we lose our seeds in the garden for some reason like a locust plague, floods or bushfire. Each variety of seeds has a plant passport which shows an identification

number, name of grower and plant, time of seed harvest, when to grow, edible or not, how to use the plant and other useful details.

Most of our seeds kept in our seed bank are varieties no longer available commercially. These varieties have been dropped by seed companies but maintained by home gardeners and farmers.

Some of our seed varieties have arrived in Australia with early migrants. These form part of an immigrant cultural and culinary heritage. Some example of such seeds in our local area are the Open Italian lettuce, Madagascar bean and Marjorie Spear's bean.

Marjorie Spear, for whom the beans are named, was born in South Africa, moved to New Zealand in 1945, then in 1968 Marjorie and family arrived in Australia. They settled in Kuranda on a property on Black Mountain Road that they named "Harmony Farm" – a depleted property which Marjorie turned into a healthy organic farm over the years.

Marjorie was one of the first organic growers in Kuranda and she shared her seeds with a passion. Part of the property was bequeathed by Marjorie to Kuranda Envirocare, "This property to pass to Kuranda Envirocare on trust for the benefit of the public of Australia, through the promotion of the study and conservation of flora and fauna with the land to be known as The Spear Animal Reserve," was written in her will.

Marjorie Spear's bean made its way into our seed savers network and was registered in our seed bank on 17 March 2008 with the then called Seed Savers Up North group based in Tarzali. We have successfully kept this bean alive for 17 years and the seeds are available from all our local groups. Just awesome!

If you would like to learn more about seed saving and gardening please join a local seed savers group. Ko-Wah seed savers meet at Koah Hall every second month on the second Sunday.

For more information please contact Helen 0402 803 144 or email ko-wah.seedsavers@outlook.com

Happy gardening! Ulla Melchiorson

Left: Marjorie Spear photographed for the front page of *The Kuranda Paper* – September 1999 edition. The edition celebrated the completion of the International Year of Older Person Kuranda High School video project. Marjorie was one of 12 Kuranda residents interviewed.



**THAI KAI CAFE**  
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until  
Monday 31 March 2025  
**OPEN Tuesday 1 April**  
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*Astrology*  
**THE STARS IN MARCH**  
by  
**ROB HART**  
Resident Astrologer & Tarot Card Reader  
Kuranda Heritage Markets  
4093 0218 or 0499 548 456

### Astrology Apology

#### Message from Rob...

So sorry, no astrology article this month – autumn equinox, solar and lunar eclipses, and transiting planets in patterns never seen before. The shifts and changes will be huge on a personal and global level, quite beautiful, awe inspiring and rapid-paced, free falling is the way to go, not much to hang onto, so don't try.

This is a 7th wave moment ... get ready. Sun, Venus, Pluto performing a cosmic ritual as the dark Moon goddess Lillith, reveals her sacred power in the temple of the High Priestess. This is all about Pluto, now established in Aquarius.

Cryptic, I know. Hope to get back into the groove next month.

Many blessings Rob.

**Lenore Wyatt**  
**0447 757 336**  
**MAREEBA SHIRE COUNCILLOR**



## Kuranda Writers Group

Next meet:  
**Monday 10 March – 10am-12 noon**  
 at Kuranda Library, Arara Street

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1253010558786902>

**All welcome!**

### Important Literary Dates in March

**2-8 March:** Read an eBook Week—unsure of how to get started with eBooks? Drop into the library, and we can show you how to access BorrowBox and Libby by Overdrive.

**20 March:** World Storytelling Day—a global celebration of the art of oral storytelling.

**21 March:** World Poetry Day.

**24-30 March:** Shakespeare Week—did you know that William Shakespeare is credited with the invention or introduction of over 1,700 words that are still used in English today?

**25 March:** Tolkien Reading Day—we have copies of the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings to borrow, if you want to join in on the fun!

### A world of possibility at your fingertips...

Did you know you can do a lot more than just borrow books with your library card? Your library card can help you learn a new language, let you participate in online book clubs and author interviews, trace your family history, or even help you upskill in your career! How? Through the collection of FREE eResources available to all library members on our website. Here's a quick look at some of our most popular resources available:

#### **Ancestry: Library Edition**

Ancestry combines billions of rich historical records, millions of family trees and samples from millions of people in the AncestryDNA network to help you discover your unique place in history.

#### **Be Connected**

An Australian government initiative, committed to increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians. There are a huge range of topics to learn and explore from, from learning computer basics right through to beginner guides about AI (Artificial Intelligence).

#### **BorrowBox**

It's a library that's always open – BorrowBox is a free app you can download and connect your library card to, to borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks. They also present author interviews throughout the year, as well as offering unlimited access to selected book titles each month.

#### **Good Reading Magazine**

If you like to keep up to date on new book releases, read up on interviews with beloved Australian and international authors, or simply peruse book reviews to help pick your next read, Good Reading Magazine has you covered.

#### **Libby by Overdrive**

The other 24hr digital library, that you can borrow digital eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines through. They also host the incredibly popular 'Ben's Book Club' - a digital book club available exclusively to Australian and New Zealand libraries, hosted by best-selling author Ben Hobson. Library members can borrow the book chosen for Ben's Book Club each month with no waiting or holds, through the Libby app.

#### **LinkedIn Learning**

The ultimate resource for online learning, LinkedIn Learning has over 16,000 courses, in 7 languages, about relevant and in-demand topics, presented by expert instructors. Ever wanted to master Microsoft Excel? Learn how to get started as Project Manager? Maybe try your hand at coding? There are 60+ new courses added each week, so there are lots of opportunities to either upskill, or to learn something new.

#### **LOTE4Kids**

LOTE4Kids is a collection of eBooks and audiobooks, created for children to enjoy and learn language through storytelling. The platform provides over 4000 books in over 65 different world languages, including sign language, together with English translations.

#### **Parent TV**

A First 5 Forever resource, Parent TV provides you with bite sized video content that is quick and easy to watch (especially important when you don't have much time on your hands!), about a wide variety of parenting topics, presented by leading parenting and educational experts.

You can find all these eResources and more by navigating to our website through the Mareeba Shire Council website: [www.msc.qld.gov.au](http://www.msc.qld.gov.au), or by scanning the QR Code featured here. Simply scroll down to Featured Collections, to find the eResources link. And remember, all you need to access any of the FREE eResources is your Library Membership card number, and your PIN.



If you would like any help learning how to navigate our website, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Visit us at 18-22 Arara Street or call on 4093 9185.

**Book Review – *The House of Doors* by Tan Twan Eng**  
 Trade Paperback, published by Canongate Books, released 4 May 2023.

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5 stars

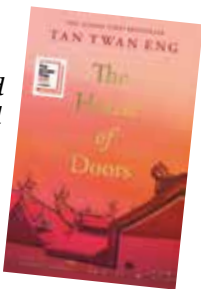
**Publisher's Blurbs:** *The anticipated novel from the Booker-shortlisted author exploring love, betrayal and morality in 1920s Penang. Longlisted for the Booker Prize 2023.*

I have always enjoyed historical fiction novels and books inspired by true events. What also interests me are novels set in different times, as they allow the reader to experience the lives that the characters live. *The House of Doors* by Tan Twan Eng is the perfect example.

*The House of Doors* is set during the colonial era of 1920s Malaya. The story revolves around Lesley Hamlyn, a society hostess, who lives with her husband, Robert Hamlyn, a well-to-do lawyer, at Cassowary House in the Straits Settlement of Penang. Their strained marriage is revitalized by the visit of Robert's good friend, Willie Somerset Maugham, a famed writer. Written in third person, Maugham is a passive character who has long hidden his homosexuality, his unhappy marriage, and his affair with Gerald, his traveling companion and secretary.

The story becomes more scandalous when Maugham suspects an old affair between Lesley and Dr Sun Yat-Sen, a revolutionary fighting to overthrow China's imperial dynasty. Maugham continues to uncover more secrets, including the trial of an Englishwoman charged with murder, who just happens to be Lesley's very good friend.

At its core, *The House of Doors* is a novel about memory and loss—one based on real events, and unexpectedly humorous! Have fun reading! *Prin*



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**YOUTH 13+**  
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 4:30pm

**ADULTS**  
 UNDERSTAGE  
 6:00pm

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# WAYGAL-A-GALING BUWAL-WU

## Going looking for words



Djabugay Ngirrma language classes led by Bada Djaygul/Dennis Hunter, Djaanda/Taha Hunter and Bina/Michael Quinn are held every week. See below for details. All welcome.



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



Photo: David Clode

BADA  
 BADIL  
 BADJABADJA  
 BADJIGAL  
 BALA  
 BALABIRA  
 BALGU  
 BANA  
 BIDA  
 BINA  
 BINANDJAL  
 BINDA  
 BUDAADJI  
 BULWA  
 BUNDA  
 BUNDAARRA  
 BUNGAN  
 DJAANDA  
 DJILI  
 DJINAA

DJULU  
 DJUNDAN  
 DJUNGGAN  
 DULBIL  
 GALBU  
 GALGA  
 GALIN  
 GANYARRA  
 GARRAN  
 GINDAN  
 GURRINA  
 GURRUNGGA  
 MUNUMBA  
 NGUDAA  
 NGUNAL  
 NGUNDA  
 NYINAN  
 WUNAN  
 YIWURRA  
 YUNGAN

### WORD MEANINGS

**BADA:** head

**BADIL:** cycad. Nuts need baking, grinding, soaking in water to leach out toxins before edible.

**BADJABADJA:** blue-tongue lizard

**BADJIGAL:** freshwater turtle

**BALA:** calf/shin

**BALABIRA:** curlew

**BALGU:** belly, stomach

**BANA:** fresh water

**BIDA:** bark tray/bark canoe

**BINA:** ear(s)

**BINANDJAL:** frill-necked lizard

**BINDA:** shoulder

**BUDAADJI:** carpet snake

**BULWA:** Jump! (command)

**BUNDA:** mountain

**BUNDAARRA:** cassowary

**BUNGAN:** the sun

**DJAANDA:** yellow walnut. Toxic nut needs baking and leaching to get the toxins out.

**DJILI:** eye (eyes)

**DJINAA:** foot/feet

**DJULU:** cheek

**DJUNDAN:** Walk! (command)

**DJUNGGAN:** Run! (command)

**DULBIL:** wallaby

**GALBU:** butcher bird

**GALGA:** spear

**GALIN:** Go! (command)

**GANYARRA:** crocodile

**GARRAN:** Come! (command)

**GINDAN:** moon/month

**GURRINA:** echidna

**GURRUNGGA:** kookaburra

**MUNUMBA:** sour plum, Davisonia

**NGUDAA:** cloud(s)

**NGUNAL:** lace monitor

**NGUNDA:** Look! (command)

**NYINAN:** Sit! (command)

**WUNAN:** Lie down! (command)

**YIWURRA:** black bean, Needs baking, slicing, soaking to leach out toxins

**YUNGAN:** Swim! (command)



**Djabugay**  
 Tribal Aboriginal Corporation

*Buwal bugar Ngirrma bulmba-barra.  
 Speak the language belonging to this place.  
 Djabugay ngirrma Windjirri bugaa.*

### LANGUAGE CLASSES

**Wednesday evenings 6-8pm**

**Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation**

Nyuwarri Estate (old Ngoonbi farm),  
 1496 Kennedy Highway, Kuranda  
 07 4093 8116 (business hours only)

**ALL WELCOME**

With Michael Quinn and Bada Djaygul, Dennis Hunter.

### 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. **mudu** (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 "sporran" 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. **djungal** (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. **ganyarra** (crocodile).

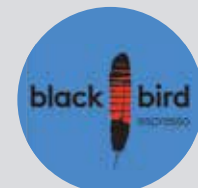
However, if a long vowel occurs in the second syllable of a word of three syllables, it is stressed e.g. **buda:dji** (carpet snake).

In words with more than three syllables, stress falls on the first syllable and on the syllable before the last one e.g. **ganyarra - nggu** (crocodile).

**Language classes every Wednesday 6-8pm at Nyuwarri Estate (old Ngoonbi farm).**

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# RANGERS report

Photos: Rolly Antilef



For more details and regular updates, keep an eye on the Kuranda Rangers Football Club Facebook page.

A huge thank you to all our sponsors for making this season possible: AusInternet, TLC Treeloppers, Lethal Welding, Waterbores, and Djabugay Aboriginal Tribal Corporations.

If you're interested in coaching, volunteering, or signing up, get in touch. Please contact the Club via email [kurandarangersfootball@gmail.com](mailto:kurandarangersfootball@gmail.com) or call Adric 0429 488 214 or Keira 0437 778 849 or visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/KurandaRangersFootballClub](http://www.facebook.com/KurandaRangersFootballClub)

**KRFC – Growing the Game in Kuranda!**

## KRFC Exciting Updates for the Season!

The 2025 season is off to a fantastic start at Kuranda Rangers Football Club (KRFC), with great attendance at training sessions and plenty of enthusiasm from our players! It's been wonderful to see so many kids getting involved, improving their skills, and having fun on the field.

As our Club continues to grow, we are looking for a dedicated coach for our Under 6s. With a mix of Under 5s, 6s, and 7s attending training, we've noticed that our youngest players are struggling against the older, stronger ones. To ensure they develop their skills and enjoy the game safely, we need a separate coach to focus on this age group. If you're passionate about helping kids get started in football, we'd love to hear from you!

## Coaches & Volunteers Needed

KRFC is also on the lookout for more volunteers and coaches across all age groups. Whether you're experienced or just keen to help out, your support will make a big difference.

## Games Start in March – Come and Support KRFC!

The season kicks off in March with games at Endeavour Park, Manunda every Saturday. We encourage the Kuranda community to come along, cheer on the players, and show your support for our teams as they take to the field!



## ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL 2025



Friday 25 April 2025 will be the 110th anniversary of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Anzac Day now commemorates all Australian and New Zealanders who fought and died in all wars,

conflicts and peacekeeping operations and the contribution and suffering of all those who have served. The Kuranda RSL Sub Branch will host a Dawn Service at the Kuranda Railway Station on 25 April at 5.30am and the Anzac March through the village at 10.15am, culminating

with a service and wreath laying in Centenary Park at 10.30am. If you would like to participate in commemorative wreath laying or ceremony, please let us know by mid-March. The Dawn Service at the Railway Station is followed by a "Gun Fire Breakfast" which has become a great

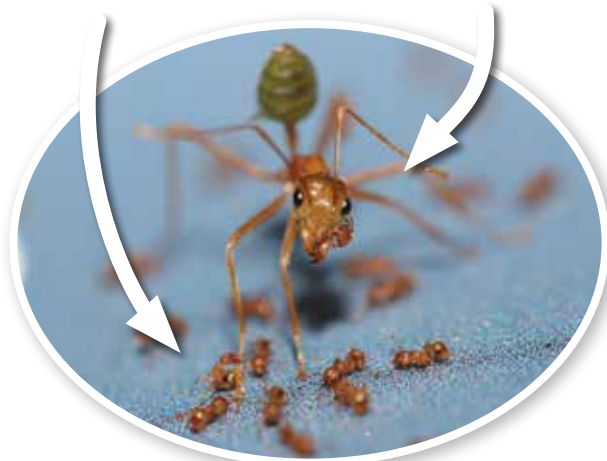
community event provided by our Sub Branch ladies. If there are any individuals or groups who would like to contribute light refreshments, such as cakes etc, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact President, Craig 0421 588 714 or Secretary, Mike 0447 919 393.

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

ITF Taekwon-Do North Queensland

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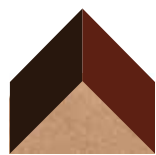
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# KURANDA MEN'S SHED

incorporating  
**KURANDA SHE SHED**



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

## A Great Start to the Year

The year has kicked off on a high note for the Kuranda Men's Shed, with several new members joining us in February. It's always great to see fresh faces, and we welcome them warmly into our community.

One of our standout members is Don from Speewah, whom I've nicknamed "Leonardo"—a nod to the great inventor Leonardo da Vinci—because he's always coming up with clever and practical ideas. His latest creation, the Papaya harvester, is a perfect example of his ingenuity. It's a simple yet effective tool: a pole with an old chisel blade embedded just ahead of a wire basket, which catches the severed papaya. It works a treat!

Don has also designed other handy tools, including one for easily disassembling pallets and another for moving heavy items like fridges and washing machines. But his talents don't stop at toolmaking—he's also an excellent cook! He generously shares his recipes, and I recently tried his Broccoli Bake, which turned out to be absolutely delicious.

The Kuranda Men's Shed is a fantastic community resource, providing a space for skill-sharing, social connection, and creativity. We're delighted to see more people showing interest in joining. If you'd like to be part of this great group, membership is just \$60 per year.

We also recently held our Annual General Meeting on 22 February 2025 which was well attended. It's encouraging to see such strong engagement from our members, as the Shed continues to grow and thrive. Existing members were re-endorsed in their current positions.

**President and Shed Manager:** Daryl Douglass

**Treasurer:** Kirsten Kolijn

**Secretary:** Douglas Buchanan

The existing Vice President, John Todd, stepped down and Greg Sutton was elected to the vacant position.

The Shed's finances are in good shape and new membership is expanding. We look forward to another productive and enjoyable year ahead!



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

**Session Times**  
Mixed Shed (male and female) • Tuesday 8.30am–12pm  
Men's Shed • Wed & Sat 8.30am–11.30am  
She Shed • Friday 8am–1pm  
116 Kuranda Heights Road  
**Contact:** Daryl (President) mensshedkuranda@gmail.com  
**f Kuranda Men's Shed**



Don with his Papaya harvester creation.

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**Register today for Mareeba Shire Council's Pre-Qualified Supplier List!**



**Mareeba SHIRE COUNCIL**

**If you offer qualified trade services, professional services or occasional plant, and would like to do business with Mareeba Shire Council we want to hear from you!**

Mareeba Shire Council is now accepting applications for the following registers, which offer you an opportunity to be considered for upcoming projects and contracts.

- Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers (ROPS) - Trades and Professional Services
- Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers (ROPS) - Occasional Plant

**Why Register?**

- ✓ Work with the Mareeba Shire Council on exciting community projects
- ✓ Get access to local projects
- ✓ Increase your business visibility

**How to Register:**

1. **Visit Our Website:** Go to <https://msc.qld.gov.au/council/tenders/> and navigate to the "Current Tenders, Quotes and Expressions of Interest" page.
2. **Register on VendorPanel:** Registration is free, takes only a few moments to complete and as an added bonus your business profile will also be visible to other external companies <https://info.vendorpanel.com/workwithmareebashirecouncil/>
3. **Upload Documents:** Include necessary documents like licenses, insurances, and references.
4. **Assessment:** The Council will assess all applications to ensure suppliers meet the necessary criteria. Successful applicants will be included on the Register of Pre-Qualified Supplier (ROPS). The ROPS arrangement is a non-exclusive panel of suppliers and is not limited in the number of suppliers that will be appointed. Please note that inclusion on the ROPS does not guarantee the Supplier a commitment for future engagement for goods and services during the Term.

**Deadline to Apply: Thursday, 20 March 2025 at 11:00am.**

Don't miss out on this opportunity!  
For inquiries, contact us on 1300 308 461 or email [tenders@msc.qld.gov.au](mailto:tenders@msc.qld.gov.au)

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

## ST SAVIOUR'S KURANDA

### SUNDAY

8am Holy Communion  
9.30am Sung Eucharist  
5pm Evening Prayer

### TUESDAY

9am Holy Communion

### ASH WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH

5.30pm Holy Communion with Ashes

### ACTIVITIES

Home Groups  
Alpha  
A Life Worth Living  
Sunday School

### POSSUM CORNER OP SHOP

8.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Saturday

## St Saviour's Thought for March

This month we open our Bibles to St Luke's gospel Chapter 5 and read verses to 11.

As we watch Jesus move towards Simon's boat and climb into it we might ask ourselves a question. What in my life could Jesus use? Are there things I may not think a great deal of, things I take for granted, which I could offer my Jesus? Could he use some of my time? Could he use some of my money? Could he use some of my professional gifts? These things are to each of us what Simon's boat was to him.

"Put out into the deep water and let down your nets. Simon is nonplussed. They have just had a frustrating night: they didn't catch a thing. However, Simon pulls out into the lake, probably expecting to say "I told you so." What happens shakes him to the depths of his being. They are inundated with fish; so much so that they have to yell for help.

What would it mean for you and for me for Jesus to say to us "Put out into the deep and let down your nets?" He might be saying that he wants us to invest ourselves in areas where we are holding back. He might be saying that he wants us to invest more, risk more, contribute more to our marriage, or our job, or our children or our own spiritual journey. He might be suggesting that if we don't expect more we will certainly not find more!

Simon responds to the great catch by feeling unworthy. He has done nothing to deserve it. But, come to think of it, when we look at the various blessings we have been given, can we really say that we deserve them? If there is any truth

in that thought, then perhaps it is time for us to bow down to Jesus and acknowledge our unworthiness, as Peter did. Our Lord's great generosity and love toward us will fill us with a sense of gratitude and will give us a sense of great joy. I know that this may sound too simple, yet the good news of Christ is essentially simple! Jesus said that unless we can be childlike, which surely includes simplicity; we can't even see his kingdom.

If Jesus said to his disciples "You will be catching men," and if we claim to be his disciples today, what can this promise mean for us? It will mean different things for each of us. But surely it means for all of us that we find some way of communicating to others that faith in Jesus Christ is an important factor in our lives. After all, if you or I discovered something of immense help to us, wouldn't we share it with others for whom we care? If Jesus used Simon's boat, what ordinary and taken-for granted elements of our lives could he use?

Enquiries to Chris Wright

Phone: 4093 8735

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



## ST CHRISTOPHER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

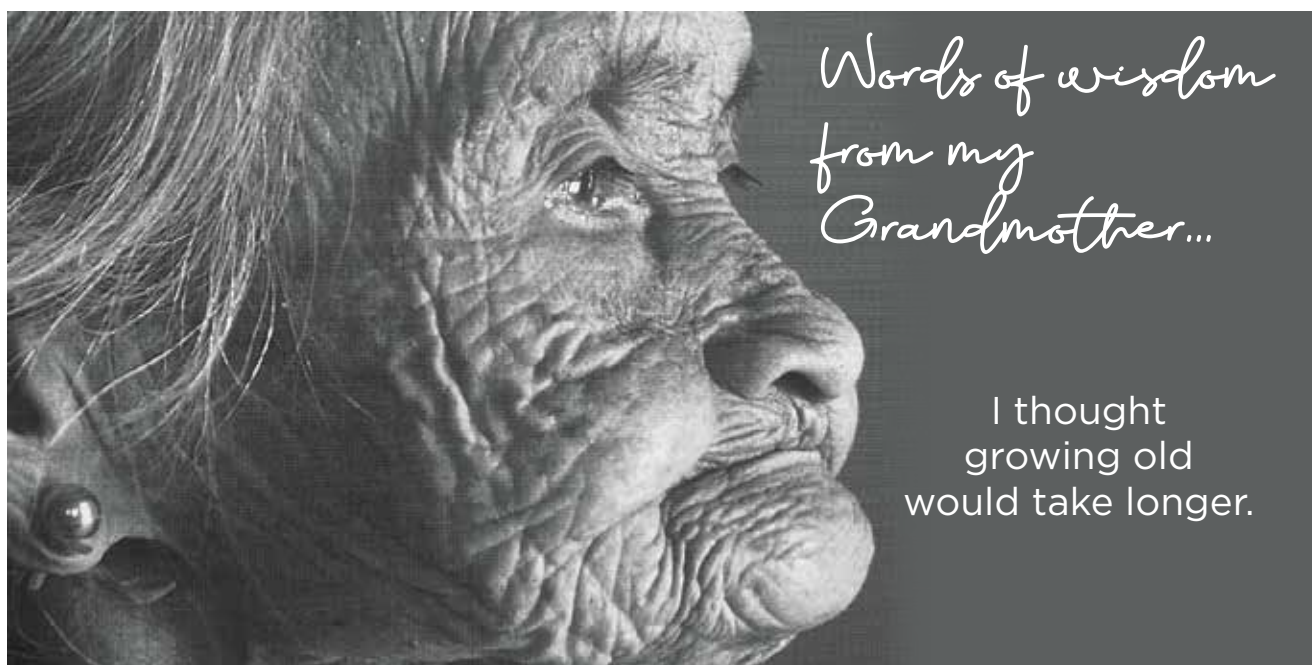
20 Barang Street, Kuranda  
Serviced by the Northern Beaches Parish

Sunday Mass: 5pm  
Wednesday Mass: 6pm

P | 07 4092 1077

E | [Mareeba.parish@cairns.catholic.org.au](mailto:Mareeba.parish@cairns.catholic.org.au)

 Lifeline  
13 11 14



Words of wisdom  
from my  
Grandmother...

I thought  
growing old  
would take longer.

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

"...a second or two elapsed ere, with a throb of wonder and awe, I became definitely conscious that the room was not untenanted. In the corner where the divan met the wall sat a wondrous and venerable figure, crowned with a felt head-dress of the kind called 'taj' by dervishes (but of unusual height and make), round the base of which was wound a small white turban. The face of him on whom I gazed I can never forget, though I cannot describe it. Those piercing eyes seemed to read one's very soul; power and authority sat on that ample brow; while the deep lines on the forehead and face implied an age which the jet-black hair and beard flowing down in indistinguishable luxuriance almost to the waist seemed to belie. No need to ask in whose presence I stood, as I bowed myself before one who is the object of a devotion and love which kings might envy and emperors sigh for in vain!

A mild dignified voice bade me be seated, and then continued:

*Praise be to God that thou hast attained!... Thou hast come to see a prisoner and an exile.... We desire but the good of the world and happiness of the nations; yet they deem us a stirrer up of strife and sedition worthy of bondage and banishment... That all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened;*

*that diversity of religion should cease, and differences of race be annulled – what harm is there in this?... Yet so it shall be; these fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the "Most Great Peace" shall come... Do not you in Europe need this also? Is not this that which Christ foretold?... Yet do we see your kings and rulers lavishing their treasures more freely on means for the destruction of the human race than on that which would conduce to the happiness of mankind... These strifes and this bloodshed and discord must cease, and all men be as one kindred and one family... Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country; let him rather glory in this, that he loves his kind..."* (Professor E. G. Browne, from his pen portrait on visiting Bahá'u'lláh in the Holy Land in April 1890)

**Meditations/Reflections:** all welcome to Soul Food Meditations on last Sunday of each month 2pm Kuranda (these are very popular). Also discussion evenings – please call to attend.

**Morning prayers:** each Thursday at 8am, in lower Therwine Street, Kuranda followed by coffee – join us.

**Study Circles:** by arrangement, please feel free to enquire. Also regular events in Cairns, Atherton, Mareeba, Malanda, Tolga and other places. Open for all interested.



## Beyond Blue

[beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au)

1300 22 4636

@beyondblue @beyondblue

@beyondblueofficial

company/beyondblue



## Seventh-day Adventist Church

Wirramoo Street, Kuranda

Services held every Saturday  
ALL WELCOME

Sabbath School (all ages) 9.30am  
Divine Service 11am

All enquiries welcome.

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

The Bahá'í Community of Mareeba/Kuranda

**FOREST SOLUTIONS FNQ**  
*Proudly supporting SES and Australian Institute of Policing*

**LOCAL KURANDA BUSINESS**

*For all your garden needs...*

- Earthworks
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- Maintenance
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**0405 906 555**

# KURANDA EARTHWORKS & TREE SERVICES

**Call for a FREE quote**  
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**Driveways • Rock Retainer Walls • Culverts • Site Clearing • Dams • Landscaping • Tree Services**





# Kuranda

## Landscape Supplies & Raw Materials

House/Shed Pads, Land/Site Clearing  
Rock Retaining Walls  
Driveway/Roadway Excavation

### EARTHMOVING

**45 Myola Road Ph: 4093 8377**  
[www.kurandalandscape.com.au](http://www.kurandalandscape.com.au)



# Defiant PEST SERVICES

- 100% Local
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- Competitive Prices

Are cockies, ants or spiders driving you insane? ... or any other pest?

Worried about Termites?

We do Termite Inspections & Treatments.

Do you love your Frogs?

Us too! We do Frog Friendly, Effective, Pest Treatments.

## WE CAN HELP!

Call Darrell & Lisa Turner  
**0408 174 791**  
[defiantpestservices@gmail.com](mailto:defiantpestservices@gmail.com)

PMT0-10352/PMT1004513814 a **small** Family Business - **BIG** on Customer Service

Jamie & Heidi  
New Pools & Renovations  
**0437 338 058**



info@tppools.com.au • PO Box 563, Kuranda Q 4881  
[www.tropicalprestigepools.com.au](http://www.tropicalprestigepools.com.au)

Case 590 Super M Series 3  
With 900, 600, 450, 300 and Mud Bucket

- Land Clearing
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- Ponds & Dams
- 24/7 Emergency Call Outs
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- Chain Saw
- Quick Hitch Tilt on Application



**KURANDA BACKHOE HIRE**

Owner/Operator **Jeff Kapteyn**  
ph. **0427 530 253**  
16 Years Experience

*\*Local business since 1981\**



For all your welding and steel fabrication requirements

**Call John 0411 105 256**

WELDING & STEEL FABRICATION

CALL **ADRIAN 0429 265 082**

- Domestic
- Commercial
- Air Conditioning



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Now completing all air conditioning installations  
*Call or text and I'll turn up GUARANTEED!*

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ARC Lic L166416

**YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICIAN**

*Red tail Property Maintenance*

Greg & Lou 0411 490 843  
[redtailpm@yahoo.com](mailto:redtailpm@yahoo.com)

Small - Med Renovations  
ALL Home Repairs  
ANY Handy Work  
ALL Odd Jobs



## GRATIS CLASSIFIEDS\*

**A huge assortment** of comfortable, yet stylish, shoes are available right here in Kuranda Village. Just Gorgeous open daily 10am-3pm.

**Always a bargain** can be found on the outside racks at Just Gorgeous. Look for the red and aqua umbrellas on Coondoo Street just down from the fire station.

**Clothing alterations & dressmaking** in Speewah. Karen is professional and reasonably priced 0459 184 223.

**Farm Stall** - Self-serve at 28 Monaro Close, Kuranda. Has home grown fruit, herbs and pot plants. We have cavendish bananas plus other seasonal fruits. Facebook: Little Myola Farm Stall.

**Gentle pain relief** and rebalancing using Ortho-Bionomy, \$95/hr. Anti-inflammatory Kunzea essential oil - TGA listed for arthritis relief and flu, eases insect bites, tinea and muscle soreness. Call Sheree Scott 0421 102 722.

**Guitar Lessons.** Long-time local offering guitar lessons. Beginners to intermediate players. Blue Card. Dave Breeze 0404 290 060.

**Lawn mowing,** whipper snipping, yard tidy-up, rubbish removal, chainsaw work. Long term local transitioning out of tree-logging. Friendly, reliable, professional. Contact Shane Little 0404 258 606

**Marriage Celebrant** - Cheryl Tonkin. Local, regional & remote. Phone 0407 670 954

**Picture Framing** Free custom framing quotes at Terra Nova Gallery, 15 Therwine Street. Call 0412 387 557.

**Résumés.** In Speewah, Cairns longest-running resume writing business - over 30 years' experience. Résumés, Employment Applications, web text, all forms of copy writing, editing and proofreading. Word Factory (Suzy Grinter) Phone 4093 0449.

**Singing Lessons,** classically trained teacher with 30 years teaching experience. Absolutely all styles, sing the music of your choice. 0429 090 476

**Street Pantry** is located at the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre on Rob Veivers Drive (next to Butterfly Sanctuary). Open 24/7 for donations of nonperishable food or for

others to take items as needed. Will also receive food items and toiletries to distribute.

**THAI KAI CLOSED - Reopens 1 April 2025**  
Apologies for any inconvenience.

**Theatre Workshops Thursdays FREE** - Kuranda Amphitheatre Youth 13+ @ 4.30pm Kids 7+ @ 5pm Adults @6pm See poster on page 19.

**TUTOR/Editor** - Registered Teacher/Guidance Counsellor. Taking bookings for Years 1-10, Special Needs, web copy and university essay editing. Convenient location Myola Road. Contact 0414 706 454 Facebook: Tree Frog Tutoring.

## Heads Up!

The Kuranda Paper deadline for April 2025 edition is **Thursday 20 March 2025**. Please send all submissions and advertising to...

[mail@kurandapaper.com](mailto:mail@kurandapaper.com)



**\* 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)  
**Batreach** 4093 8858  
**TigerLodge Wildcare** 4093 0761 (24/7 phone service)  
**Kuranda Vets** 4093 7283  
**DES CASSOWARY HOTLINE** 1300 130 372 (24/7)  
**SNAKE & ANIMAL REMOVAL**  
 Jax Bergersen (non-venomous snakes only) 4093 8834  
 Miss Hiss Reptiles (all reptiles) 0447 888 872  
 Steve Larkin (all reptiles, mammals, birds, feral pigs, dogs) 0412 263 279

## 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  
**Septic Tank Emptying:**  
**Paul Jennings** 0417 632 688

## LAUNDROMATS

**Gurii Gambi** 5C Coondoo Street

## 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 Lumholtz 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, Kuranda

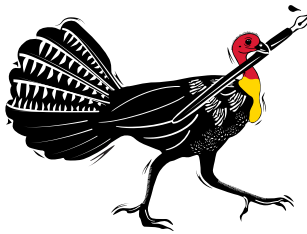
**RECYCLE** Donate your aluminium cans to **COUCH** (Committee for Oncology Unit at Cairns Hospital).  
 Recycle bin located at the Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Road.



## ROAD REPORTS

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

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



## HELPFUL KURANDA COMMUNITY FACEBOOK GROUPS

Here are some helpful Kuranda and district community Facebook groups. Member numbers as at November 2024.

**Kuranda Range Updates** (43,300+ members)

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

**Kuranda Notice Board** (12,800 + members)

Information sharing, discussion, advertising.

**Speewah & Surround Residents** (3,600+ members)

Information sharing and support.

**Koah Community** (3,200 members)

Information sharing and support.

**All Things Kuranda** (1,700+ members)

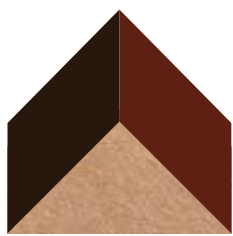
Discussion group for Kuranda district residents only.

**Kuranda Ratepayers & Residents Working Group** (550+ members)

Discussion group for issues affecting Kuranda ratepayers and residents.

**Upcycling Kuranda** (250+ members)

Free recycle group for Kuranda creatives. No buying or selling.



## KURANDA MEN'S SHED RECYCLING

C10055234

We welcome recycling from Kuranda residents at our Arara Street drop off point. We accept:

- glass beer bottles
- aluminium cans
- plastic soft drink bottles
- aluminium cans
- poppers

*Help your local Men's Shed to keep operating.*

**\*\*No milk bottles please\*\***

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

## RAINFALL

February 2025 – 612mm  
 (to 25 February 2025)

Annual Total – 1122.1mm  
 (to 25 February 2025)

Courtesy of Kuranda Railway Station



## 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 222 222**

[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**

## Community Services

### KURANDA LIBRARY and COUNCIL OFFICE

Monday to Friday: 10am–5pm

(No Council business after 4pm weekdays)

Kuranda Community Precinct  
18-22 Arara Street, Kuranda  
4093 9185

kurandal@msc.qld.gov.au  
msc.qld.gov.au/libraries

SERVICES NOT OPEN PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

### KURANDA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Open 7 days from 10am

4093 9311

kurandavic@msc.qld.gov.au

### KURANDA TRANSFER STATION

#### OPERATING HOURS

Tuesday & Thursday: 9am–4pm,

Saturday & Sunday: 9am–5pm

2186 Kennedy Highway, Koah

1300 308 461

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. Go to [www.emergency.msc.qld.gov.au](http://www.emergency.msc.qld.gov.au)

## Join your local SES

Kuranda SES Training  
every second Tuesday 7pm  
at Fallon Road.

Contact Caitlin **0476 772 500**



### 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/Myola	Duncan Blakey 0408 151 199
Warden Speewah	Mick Dub 0428 820 631
Davies Creek	4093 3181
Koah	4093 7738
Speewah	0428 820 631

**Permits required for fires larger than 2 metres in any direction**



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

## JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

**Robin Anscomb – 0409 046 932**  
(Operates 24/7)

### TRANSPORT & ALERTS

**Kuranda Transfers** 07 3132 3273

**Rideshare** 1300 743 374

**Trans North** 3036 2070



Local & Airport Transfers

Reliable, comfortable, and affordable rides for the Kuranda community. Call or Book Online

**Call: 07 3132 3273**

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

#### Traffic Alerts Far North Region Roads

Sign up for SMS traffic alerts for the Kuranda Range, Gillies Range and Captain Cook Highway (Palm Cove to Craiglie). Go to Department of Main Roads website [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au) and subscribe to your preferred SMS alert service. Or call **13 19 40** to subscribe or report an incident.

#### Live Kuranda Range Traffic Updates

Volunteer-run **Kuranda Range Updates** Facebook group is the fastest way to keep up to date in real time with road conditions from Smithfield to Mareeba.

#### Kuranda Scenic Railway (KSR) Updates for Kuranda Businesses

Subscribe to the Kuranda Scenic Railway for timely updates i.e. maintenance or closures. Email your business name and email address to [krsales@qr.com.au](mailto:krsales@qr.com.au)



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 Hospitals (\$3), Greyhound Terminal (\$3),

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.

**\*\*No services operate Good Friday, Anzac Day and Christmas Day\*\***

#### Bus stops are located at:

Cairns – Platform 1, Cairns Central Railway Station, Cairns  
Cairns T.A.F.E – Newton Street (7.15am & 3.00pm Services from and to Kuranda)  
Smithfield – Bus shelter near the traffic lights on Kennedy Highway at bottom of the Kuranda Range  
Kuranda – 15 Therwine Street – opposite Visitor 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

#### Ticket Sales:

**Purchase tickets from the driver as you board the bus** or from Piagnos News at 142 Byrnes Street Mareeba. Phone 3036 2070 (office hours)

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

#### Atherton Tablelands to Cairns

Route 850	Monday to Friday			Saturday, Sunday and Pub Holidays	
Departs Atherton	6.00am	9.15am	1.00pm	8.00am	1.30pm
Departs Mareeba	6.30am	9.45am	1.30pm	8.30am	2.00pm
Departs Speewah	6.50am	10.05am	1.50pm	8.50am	2.20pm
Departs Kuranda	7.15am	10.25am	2.10pm	9.10am	2.40pm
Departs rainforest	-	10.30am	2.15pm	-	2.45pm
Arrives Cairns	8.50am	11.15am	3.00pm	10.00am	3.30pm

#### Cairns to Atherton Tablelands

Route 850	Monday to Friday			Saturday, Sunday and Pub Holidays	
Departs Cairns	7.00am	9.25am	3.30pm	10.30am	4.00pm
Departs Smithfield	7.20am	9.45am	3.50pm	10.50am	4.20pm
Departs Kuranda	7.40am	10.05am	4.10pm	11.10am	4.40pm
Departs Speewah	8.00am	10.25am	4.30pm	11.20am	5.00pm
Departs Mareeba	8.20am	10.45am	4.50pm	11.40am	5.20pm
Arrives Atherton	8.50am	11.15am	5.20pm	12.10am	5.50pm

Current as at 3 April 2024

**WHAT'S ON IN MARCH?**

**9 March – WEIRD & WONDERFUL WET TROPICS**  
2-5pm. Presented by the Yellow Crazy Ants Community Taskforce. Free event about amazing insects and invertebrates of the Wet Tropics. See page 17. Contact Rachel Reese 0474 560 700 for more information.

**15 March – Kuranda 8 BALL**  
Bar open.

**27 March – Kuranda Envirocare Meeting**  
6pm.

Proud to be the home of:



**CONTACT US**

Kuranda Recreation Centre  
 krc4881@gmail.com

**JUMRUM BAR OPEN TUESDAY 6.30 PM**

**WHAT'S ON**

**Come join us in our air conditioned classes!**

**KURANDA 8 BALL**  
Competitive Pool  
Tuesday 6.30–10.30pm  
Bar open, affordable prices

**KURANDA RANGERS**  
Training Thursday 4.30–5.30pm  
Keira 0437 778 849

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

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

**Venue for Hire**

Are you having a party or celebration? The KRC has multiple areas available for hire for functions, seminars and activities. Email krc4881@gmail.com



**What's On at Koah Hall**

**EVERY MONDAY**

**PILATES** with Jaide 6–7pm  
0488 229 700

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**FELDENDKRAIS WITH JUSTINE**  
9–11am Justine 0408 735 309

**EVERY THURSDAY (from 30 Jan)**

**PILATES** with Jaide 6–7pm  
0488 229 700

**THURSDAY 6 & 20 MARCH**

**MANKIND PROJECT MEN'S GROUP** – 7pm. Open to all men.  
Simon 0459 755 553

**EVERY SUNDAY**

**SHIBARI SANGHA** –  
Creating Shibari Community. 11am–1pm.  
Contact Nikki 0433 779 796

**Koah Sports and Social Club ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Sunday 16 March 4.30pm**  
Office Bearer Positions up for new friends!  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**HIRE FEES**

- 1 hour \$10
- 24-hour only \$150 (community rates)
- \$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

**KOAH MONTHLY MARKET**

**Saturday 1 March 8am till Midday**

*Hey! The first Koah Monthly Market of the year is Saturday 1 March! New stall holders and regulars are invited to join us for a brand new year!*

- Live music
- Community Market with all the local goodness! Produce, honey, plants, crafts, treats, treasures
- Fresh coffee and delish' Koah Hall Fundraiser BBQ!
- Stallholders welcomed – casual and/or permanent
- SMS/Voicemail Nicky 0488 961 660 or direct message via Koah Monthly Markets Facebook page.

**DREAM BIG! CIRCUS CLASSES**

Bookings are essential. Please contact Sophie 0409 333 404. More info at [www.dreamstatecircus.com](http://www.dreamstatecircus.com) on the Dream BIG! Circus School page.

**TUESDAY – Beginner Aerial** – 4–5.15pm, Age 8+  
**Intermediate Aerial** – 5.15–6.45pm, Age 9+

**WEDNESDAY – Circus 1** – 3.45–4.45pm, Age 5-9  
**Circus 2** – 4.45–5.45pm, Age 9 to Adults  
**Show Class** – 5.45–7pm – Age 8 to Adults



**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Contributors please advise of any changes via email [mail@kurandapaper.com](mailto:mail@kurandapaper.com)

For events at the Kuranda Recreation Centre or the Koah Hall please see details in their columns above. See page 4 for CWA listings for this month.

**EVERY MONDAY**

**Al-Anon** Family Groups 11am–12pm hall under St Saviour's Church. Kate 4093 9668 or 1300ALANON  
**Ashtanga Yoga** 5.30am & 6pm. Biannka 0407 634 116  
**Kuranda Envirocare** Nursery volunteering. 9am–12noon. 0474 560 700

**EVERY SECOND MONDAY OF MONTH**

**Kuranda Writers Group** 10am–12noon, Kuranda Library.

**EVERY TUESDAY**

**Taekwon-Do & Self Defence** 6–7.30pm Kuranda QCWA Hall. Jeff 0437 438 196  
**Mixed (male & female) Men's Shed** Kuranda 8.30am–12pm. [mensshedkuranda@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedkuranda@gmail.com)

**Kuranda Choir** 6–7.30pm Kuranda Amphitheatre Understage. Trish 0428 284 305

**SECOND TUESDAY**

**Kuranda SES Training** 7pm sharp at Fallon Road. Paul 0448 008 087  
**She Shed Kuranda** 1–5pm. [mensshedkuranda@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedkuranda@gmail.com)

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**Ashtanga Yoga** 5.30am. Biannka 0407 634 116  
**Social Tennis** 5pm Wednesdays and Sundays at the Kuranda Recreation Centre. Gidi 0448 480 200  
**Men's Shed** Kuranda 8.30am–11.30am. [mensshedkuranda@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedkuranda@gmail.com)  
**Mah Jong** 1–4pm Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre.  
**Djabugay Language Classes** 6–8pm Nyuwarri Estate (old Ngoonbi farm), 1496 Kennedy Highway, Kuranda. 40938 116

**EVERY THURSDAY**

**Kuranda Envirocare** Nursery volunteering. 9am–12noon. 0474 560 700  
**Taekwon-Do & Self Defence** 6–7.30pm Kuranda QCWA Hall. Jeff 0437 438 196  
**Ashtanga Yoga** 6pm. Biannka 0407 634 116  
**Domestic Violence Help** Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre by appointment 4093 8933  
**K.A.S.T.** (Kuranda Amphitheatre Society Theatre) Free workshops. Youth 13+ @ 4.30pm, Kids 7+ @ 5pm, Adults @ 6pm Kuranda Amphitheatre Understage.

**Kuranda Rangers soccer**  
Keira 0437 778 849 for any queries.

**EVERY SECOND THURSDAY OF MONTH**

**Kuranda Library Book Club** 10am, Kuranda Library. Cheryl 0407 670 954 or [cheryl.tonkin@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.tonkin@gmail.com)  
New members/readers are always welcome.

**EVERY FRIDAY**

**Ashtanga Yoga** 6am. Biannka 0407 634 116  
**Kuranda Story Time** 10am–12pm, Kuranda Library. Every Friday, during school term.  
**She Shed Kuranda** 8am–1pm. [mensshedkuranda@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedkuranda@gmail.com)

**EVERY SATURDAY**

**Tree Planting** Kuranda Envirocare. Contact 0474 560 700 or check Facebook or website [www.envirocare.org.au](http://www.envirocare.org.au)  
**Men's Shed** Kuranda 8.30am–11.30am. [mensshedkuranda@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedkuranda@gmail.com)

**EVERY SUNDAY**

**Social Tennis** 5pm Wednesdays and Sundays at the Kuranda Recreation Centre. Gidi 0448 480 200  
**AA Group** St Christopher's Catholic Church 9.30am 1300 222 222

**EVERY SECOND SUNDAY**

**Kuranda Amphitheatre Working Bee** 9am–1pm. [emailvolunteers@kurandaamphitheatre.org](mailto:emailvolunteers@kurandaamphitheatre.org)