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# THE KURANDA PAPER

December 2024 | January 2025

Issue 371

FREE INDEPENDENT MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1991

WWW.KURANDAPAPER.COM

## LET'S CELEBRATE!

It looks like the last month of this incredibly challenging year will be ushered out with a healthy round of great community events. Time to come together to celebrate the good fortune of friends and family, after the turmoil of a once-in-a-lifetime natural disaster.

There are so many wonderful events on offer including the Christmas Twilight Markets to enjoy with music and good food on Saturday 14 December. Also on offer is the re-opening of the Kuranda Skate Park on Saturday 7 December, The Joker Pokers at the Birdwing Cafe on Friday 13 December, and a concert in the beautiful St Saviours church featuring original folk songs by Toshi Sakamoto on Friday 20 December. The last Koah Markets for the year will be held on Saturday 7 December, which will be followed that night by performances of Tibetan Sacred Music and Sacred Dance by Tenzin Choegyal and Tenzin Kunsang.

There has rarely been a year where it has been more important to be actively joyous and hopeful for the future. Because, although the past year may seem like one step forward but several back, the truth is that despite the obstacles of the early part of the year we have seen some projects such as the redevelopment of Anzac Park and the Kuranda Skate Park which represent significant improvements to the village amenity, and the spirit of resilience.

This year has been a year to remember for sure, but for many one they would rather forget. Last December's record-breaking, disastrous flooding has left scars on the landscape, and traumatic memories for those severely affected by the flooding, loss of power and isolation over days and weeks last December. As we anticipate the arrival of the Wet Season please consider that its arrival might be an emotional or even physical challenge for some whose

lives, and in some cases homes, are still in the process of being restored to 'normal'.

The Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre has been the focus for community recovery efforts providing a wide range of support services, co-ordinating donations and requests for assistance. The Centre will close for a short break from Friday 20 December until Monday 6 January 2025. They have provided the following holiday key crisis and contact numbers for those requiring assistance during that time:

Emergency	000	Homeless Hotline	1800 474 753
Kids Helpline	1800 551 800	Headspace	1800 650 890
Mensline	1300 789 978	Lifeline	131 114
Suicide Call Back	1300 659 467	DVConnect Womensline	1800 811 811
Beyond Blue	1300 224 636	DVConnect Mensline	1800 600 636

Thanks must also go to the Kuranda and district emergency service volunteers, especially our SES and rural fireies, who worked ceaselessly during the most awful of conditions to help keep our community safe.

Finally, we at *The Kuranda Paper* wish everyone a safe, healthy, joyous holiday season, as our hard working volunteers take a break until the February 2025 edition. Thank you to all our local advertisers who make this independent community newspaper possible. Thank you to our contributors, our proofreaders and paper folders, our posties and most especially our readers. See you in 2025, our 34th year of uninterrupted publication.



### KURANDA SKATE PARK

COMMUNITY EVENT  
RE-OPENING CELEBRATION

Saturday 7 December @ 11am

The highly anticipated reopening of the Kuranda Skate Park will be celebrated at a community event commencing at 11am on 7 December 2024. There will be a free community BBQ, local and professional skaters, BMX riders, and a live DJ performance.

The Kuranda Skate Park is located adjacent to the Kuranda Amphitheatre, Barron Falls Road.

*Graffiti artist, Jak Lilley (Paradox Creative) putting the finishing touches to his mural at the Kuranda Skate Park.*



SHOP LOCAL • EMPLOY LOCAL • ENJOY LOCAL



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

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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 2024

President: Nettie O'Connell

Vice President: Kerstin Brown

Secretary: Trish Green

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

## DEADLINES

February

Edition 372/2025

All copy and advertisements due by 10am

Thursday 23 January

Paper published

Thursday 30 January 2025

Management is not responsible for any copy missing deadline.

### HEADS UP FOR CLEAN UP

Earlier this year, some hardy Kuranda and district locals participated in the annual, nationwide Clean Up Australia Day. Led by the enthusiastic Jenny Lane (Fairy Jenny), many bags of rubbish were collected in the Kuranda township.

Since that time, I have spoken to many people who would like to be involved in the next Clean Up which will be held on the first Sunday of March (2 March 2025).

The next issue of *The Kuranda Paper* will not be until February, so view this as an early reminder.

Further details will be made available on local Facebook sites from early 2025.

*Malcolm Frost, Kuranda*

### REMEMBERING CLIFF TIMMINS 13 DECEMBER 2023

One year passes but the memories  
will never leave us.

Lovingly remembered and dearly missed by  
Carol Jeanes, families and friends.



#### Cover Masthead

Our masthead this month features details from the recently completed mural at the Kuranda Skate Park by Cairns-based graffiti design artist, Jak Lilley (Paradox Creative).

The mural is the final touch on a major re-design and upgrade of the original skate park which was established in 1993.

A community event to celebrate the re-opening will be held at the Skate Park on Saturday 7 December at 11am – located on Barron Falls Road adjacent to the Kuranda Amphitheatre.

For more details of the project and event please see page 29 of this edition.

### LET'S LOVE UP KURANDA

A rumour came to my attention that the Kuranda Aquatic Centre is being considered for closure.

As a frequent recreational user of the pool I was spurred on to find answers.

After speaking with Mareeba Shire Councillor Lenore Wyatt I was reassured this was not the case as a new contractor has been signed off by Council for its continuing care and maintenance.

Council is aware the Kuranda pool is under-utilised by the community which motivates me to encourage the community to attend this little jewel of ours, whether it's attending water aerobic sessions, swimming laps or a general splash splash. Perhaps consider holding your child's next birthday party at the pool.

Otherwise in the future we could find ourselves in the position of a "use it or lose it" situation.

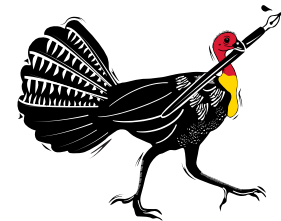
Granted, the Kuranda pool has seen better times being therapeutically frequented when it was a magnesium pool. If you would like to see magnesium reinstated at the pool, please contact Lenore Wyatt via email outlining your reasons for the request.

I realised how beneficial this pool could be as I witnessed three Aquatic Therapists work to enable a quadriplegic wheelchair-bound person experience the weightless freedom of being supported while floating on his back. The whole process was so careful, considered and trusting – it brought tears to my eyes witnessing a moment of lightness and liberation. Add to that magnesium replacing chlorine and we all benefit more together.

Country town swimming pools, like we have in Kuranda, are special and rare. Especially sharing with plovers and being observed by a pademelon or two. This pool is owned by everyone in our community so I urge everyone to be proactive and press Lenore Wyatt (LenoreW@msc.qld.gov.au) and the Mareeba Shire Council to reinstate the magnesium.

I'm following up the standard of cleaning in the change rooms. It's only by chipping away collectively and becoming a citizen caretaker do we see the changes we all deserve. We can then relax and become loving users of our Kuranda Aquatic Centre.

*Anna Raye, Kuranda*



**Kuranda Media  
ASSOCIATION**

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11am Wednesday 11 December 2024

The Kuranda Paper office

Shop 2, Red House Arcade, 24 Coondoo St, Kuranda.

Annual Memberships \$10. Applications for membership to mail@kurandapaper.com

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.

#### 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.

**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 (Coondoo St), Kuranda Visitor Information Centre (Centenary Park), Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (Rob Veivers Dr), Kuranda Pharmacy & Newsagency (Coondoo St), Kuranda Arts Co-op (Coondoo 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

# Kuranda Christmas TWILIGHT MARKETS

"It's truly an enchanting sight to see the Kuranda Original Rainforest Markets at night, lit up with thousands of twinkling lights".

Kuranda Original Rainforest Market  
and Therwine St Traders  
**Kuranda 2024**  
**Christmas Twilight Markets**  
**SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER**  
\*\*DINNER OPTIONS WITH ENTERTAINMENT\*\*

- \*La Fonda Latina\*
- \*Maria Gourmet\*
- 4628 YoroZuya
- German Tucker
- Jacs Cafe
- Frozen Nature
- Hayabusa of Kuranda
- Mesa Familia Kuranda
- Butterfly Shop & Cafe Bar
- \*AYA Earth Food\*
- Hawks Sweet Hub
- Annabels Pies
- BUSK Tea House
- Phô Corner
- PanYa Noodle Hut
- BarZaart
- Petit Cafe

**Kuranda Original Rainforest Markets**  
**Saturday 14 December 2024**  
**Retail trading 3-7pm • Cafés Open till late**

Kuranda will once again be sparkling at the Kuranda Original Rainforest Market, Market Mall, and in Therwine Street for our annual Christmas Twilight Markets on Saturday 14 December. There will be specialist retail trading into the night bringing together our community with festive cheer, celebrating the season with our cafés and restaurants opening for a Special Christmas Twilight Dinner, each setting up with their own fan fare menu.

There are extended trading hours (until 7pm) from our fabulous local shops, unique with that Kuranda flair, from handmade jewellery to designer fashion, fair trade gifts, locally made crafts, arts and gift vouchers for your loved ones too. From small stocking fillers to top of the line, there's something for everyone.

To bring extra sparkle to the day, Fairy Jenny from the Magical Lane, is celebrating her 6th Birthday with a Fairy Scavenger Hunt (11am-6pm) and a cake cutting ceremony at 6pm (see Fairy Jenny's advertisement below).

Tomomi Reflexology Massage is giving an informative small group talk titled "How to regulate your nervous system with brain to body connections" from 4-5pm, to be followed by a special afternoon tea served by Busk Japanese Tea House in our Zen Garden. Enquiries and bookings welcomed at 0492 456 516.

And for our merry makers, you can sit and dine, just unwind, but bring your party shoes, with LIVE entertainment at Maria Gourmet (bookings only) from 6-8pm, with a solo performance from Icaro, our Kuranda-based Colombian artiste, bringing a blend of Reggae roots, dancehall beats, Afro Latin, hip hop reggae and more to the floor. At La Fonda Latina, DJ JC is 'Funkdafied' to set the groove to bring the Markets alive. Meanwhile Aya Earthfood will be bringing their festive flair to Kuranda with an all embracing welcome - indulge in their most popular dishes, amazing vibes, a musical fusion of tribal and Middle Eastern feels. There will be DJs presenting their reels amid live drumming, guaranteed to have you dancing into the night, so come and enjoy our little slice of paradise at the Kuranda Christmas Twilight Markets.



Fairy Jenny



Icaro

**LA FONDA LATINA**  
Tacos  
Empanadas  
Plantain chips  
Corn Fritters  
Big breakfast  
Omelette  
Coffee  
Fresh Juices

**TRADITIONAL LATIN AMERICAN FOOD, COFFEE AND FRESH JUICES**

KURANDA ORIGINAL RAINFOREST MARKETS  
OPEN WED-SUN  
0410775175

Celebrate  
**The Magical Lane**  
**6TH BIRTHDAY**  
11AM - 6PM  
CAKE CUTTING 6PM  
**\$10** 14th December 2024  
Twilight night  
FAIRY SCAVENGER HUNT  
around the market to find fairies & their treats

**Thanks For Your Support**  
**Seasons Greetings**

**10AM to 3PM EVERY DAY**

**Just Gorgeous**

16 COONDOO ST. KURANDA • 4093 7508  
[www.justgorgeous.net.au](http://www.justgorgeous.net.au)

# I'M RIDING MY BIKE

by Chris Harth, Speewah

I'm sneaking my bike  
Down the back stair  
I'm off for a ride  
I don't care where

My Silver Spectre  
All shiny and new  
Hidden for Christmas  
But I saw through

I'm riding my bike  
Exploring the streets  
Pumping the pedals  
Straining my feet

No-one around me  
I'm out for a thrill  
Where to next?  
Let's try that big hill

I've crested the top  
Easy for me  
King of the mountain  
And all that I see

Down now I go  
I haven't a care  
Picking up speed  
Wind in my hair

Wherever I want  
Whatever it takes  
Hang on a sec  
Where are the brakes?

The brakes and the lights  
I've come to regret  
Like the bell and the basket  
Weren't installed yet

The whole bike is shaking  
Will this be my end?  
A tree dead ahead  
And a right-angle bend

I've mounted the curb  
I'm up in the air  
Tumbling round and around  
Life isn't fair!

First it's the ground  
Then the sky that I see  
I've broken some branches  
Just missed the big tee

I've got scratches and aches  
I've skinned my right Knee  
I'm not riding my bike  
Now my bikes riding me

I shove the bike off  
And struggle to rise  
The bump on my head  
Seems to double in size

I pull leaves from my hair  
And lean on the trunk  
Everywhere hurts  
I think I am sunk

The Silver Spectre  
I'm sad to attest  
Is nothing more  
Than a Grey Ghostly mess

The front wheel is buckled  
The frame is all bent  
The chain has come off  
Who knows where it went

I'm lugging my bike  
Up the steep slope  
I feel every hurt  
I feel like a dope

I struggle back home  
At last at my house  
Sneak up the back stair  
Soft as a mouse

I re-wrap the bike  
Put it under the tree  
Then lay on the couch  
They won't know it was me

I eye off the gifts  
Spread out on the floor  
I can see through the wrapping  
Just like before

And there at the back  
What's that I can see?  
My brother's skateboard  
Beckoning me





**FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER**

# CHRISTMAS

*Stravaganza*

**JOKER POKERS SPREADING AROUND CHRISTMAS JOY IN THE BEER GARDEN**  
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM BIRDWING CAFE, KURANDA CANDY, SANDRA VIDEN, HONEY HOUSE KURANDA OR ONLINE @ [EVENTBRITE.COM.AU](http://EVENTBRITE.COM.AU)



Pizza		SMALL	LARGE
<b>CHEESE</b>		16	20
Tasty Cheese, Mozzarella Cheese, Parmesan Cheese, Napoli Sauce			
<b>HAM &amp; CHEESE</b>		18	22
Ham, Mozzarella Cheese, Napoli Sauce			
<b>HAMMON</b>		18	22
Ham, Pineapple, Mozzarella Cheese, Napoli Sauce			
<b>BBQ CHICKEN</b>		18	25
Chicken, Red Onion, Mozzarella Cheese, BBQ Sauce			
<b>PEPPERONI</b>		18	25
Pepperoni, Mozzarella Cheese, Napoli Sauce			
<b>VEGETARIAN</b>		18	25
Tomato, Capicum, Pesto, Zucchini, Grilled Eggplant, Mushroom, Mozzarella Cheese, Napoli Sauce			
<b>MUSHROOM</b>		18	25
Mushrooms, Mozzarella Cheese, Napoli Sauce			
<b>SUPREME</b>		18	25
Ham, Pepperoni, Capicum, Onion, Mushroom, Pineapple, Chis, Mozzarella Cheese, Napoli Sauce			
<b>CAESAR</b>		18	25
Chicken, Bacon, Parmesan, Egg, Mozzarella Cheese, Napoli Sauce finished with Cos Lettuce and Dressing			
<b>LAMB</b>		18	25
Grilled Lamb, Bacon, Tomato, Pine, Rosemary, Mozzarella Cheese, Pesto			



**UNWIND IN OUR BEER GARDEN**  
COOL DRINKS, LUSH SURROUNDINGS  
& PURE RELAXATION



**FRIDAY PIZZA NIGHTS**  
HOT & FRESH PIZZAS, MUSIC, GOOD VIBES  
DINE-IN / PHONE / ONLINE

PHONE  
07 4093 9363

ONLINE  
[bopple.app/birdwing](http://bopple.app/birdwing)

**BIRDWING CAFE**  
GREAT COFFEE, DELICIOUS TREATS,  
OPEN DAILY

LICENCED  
GLUTEN FREE  
& VEGETARIAN  
AVAILABLE



**FIND US AT 23 COONDOO STREET**

HARD WORK | EXPERIENCE | HONESTY | DEDICATION



NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

# Curious?

“

Would you like an obligation-free, current market assessment to help with your decision-making for the New Year?

Contact me today.

”

Sonia Poole | 0407 028 388 | [sonia.poole@raywhite.com](mailto:sonia.poole@raywhite.com)

# Kuranda Weir Recovery – End of Year Update

As 2024 comes to a close, we want to update the Kuranda community on the progress of the Kuranda Weir recovery following the significant damage caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper almost a year ago.

This project has been challenging, but we are proud of the progress made to restore vital infrastructure and ensure its resilience against future extreme weather events. CleanCo deeply appreciates the patience and support of the Kuranda community as we continue this important work.

## Key Milestones Achieved

- Earlier this year, we safely brought the Barron Gorge Hydro Power Station back online.
- A coffer dam (temporary rock wall) has been constructed to divert water flow, enabling us to work safely and reinforcing the site ahead of the wet season.
- We excavated the embankment area and have begun pouring the foundations for a new, more resilient concrete wall that will replace the destroyed earth embankment.

## What's Happening Now

As part of Stage 2, construction will continue through the wet season, with safety our top priority. Here's what we are focusing on:

- Specialist engineers are working with the construction team to build mass concrete blocks that will form the permanent concrete wall, designed to be more resilient than the original weir.
- The new structure is being built to a standard that supports a service life of at least 40 years.
- The permanent wall requires approximately 2000 cubic metres of concrete – enough to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

## Thank you

We understand that these works may have caused some disruption, including increased traffic and noise. CleanCo is committed to minimising impacts and keeping you informed of any significant developments, and we thank you for your ongoing patience and support as we work to complete these vital recovery efforts.

We also acknowledge the Djabugay People and appreciate



Kuranda Weir permanent rock wall under construction.

their ongoing collaboration to ensure the protection of cultural heritage throughout the project.

## Stay safe this Christmas

As a reminder, water levels in the Barron River may change without notice during construction. This can make water activities dangerous. Please stay safe and undertake activities in the area at your own risk.

Source: CleanCo Queensland



Post floods damage at Kuranda Weir after Tropical Cyclone Jasper 2023.



CleanCo team at the Kuranda Weir.



Coffer dam at Kuranda Weir. Photos: CleanCo Queensland




## Kuranda Riverboat

the best thing you can do in Kuranda




Enjoy one of the region's most relaxing experiences, which provides a wonderful opportunity to witness the glorious flora and fauna of this ancient tropical rainforest environment, as well as hearing about the history of Kuranda.

**Phone 0412 159 212**  
**tours@kurandariverboat.com.au**  
**kurandariverboat.com.au**





# 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

Hello to those who don't know me, I am Bree James, and I am deeply honoured to be your new Member for Barron River.

A little bit of background... I've been a small business owner my whole adult life. At 14 years of age, I was singing and playing saxophone in clubs and pubs in my Dad's band, and by the age of 18 I started my first official business (when ABNs came out in 1998) – an events and entertainment business that I've had for over 25 years. I also founded the parenting magazine *PakMag*, which printed over 4.5 million copies and published 438 editions. So I have a huge soft spot for regional publishers.

I know how much heart and soul goes into bringing a print product together, so I want to commend the team at *The Kuranda Paper* for all the incredible work they do. Supporting community papers like *The Kuranda Paper* is so important for our community.

One of the main reasons I wanted to have a seat in Parliament is to advocate for small business owners and 'parentpreneurs' – those brave people raising a business and a family at the same time. I believe it's never been easier to start a small business, but never been harder to have one.

You have my word, that whatever issues come my way, I will be fair and reasonable. I will always look at things from all perspectives and I will stand up for what is best for the majority. I am a heart-driven person, who when times get tough, will not give up. My actions will show that I am someone the community can depend on.

I know our region needs more investment – I will chase every opportunity I can to get our region its fair share and I will hustle this government hard as to why we deserve it. I am here, because I want solutions and a vision for the future of our region.

December marks a year since the catastrophic Cyclone Jasper floods hit our region. My

thoughts are with the many of you who are still rebuilding. I would like to take a moment to give massive gratitude and thanks to the selfless people in the community who stepped up—and continue to do so—to support those impacted. To those still recovering, please don't feel alone. Your community is here for you, so please continue to lean on the amazing Kuranda community. If you are still having insurance issues, be sure to get in contact with my office via email as I am in discussions with one of our Senators about the issue.

I made an election commitment to upgrade the community halls in our region and that includes the beautiful Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre. We all know how important this Centre is and that it needs some upgrades.

The Kuranda Range Road is finally being repaired after last year's rain events and soon I will have an update on the Barron River Bridge.

There is a lot to do!

An update on our office – it will remain in Redlynch. Right now we are going through the recruitment process and I anticipate we will have a full team ready to kick off in the New Year from 13 January 2025. Thank you everyone for your patience while we get our feet under the desk.

I hope to see you in December, but if I miss you, I hope you have a wonderful festive season with love and laughter.

Happy New Year!

Bree James.

### Contacting my office

- I prioritise Barron River residents so please ensure your email has your:
  - » full name
  - » residential address
  - » contact number (if you did not provide that in the original email)
- Please be aware that the time it takes me to respond to you depends on my parliamentary and electorate commitments. It may also be impacted by the time it takes relevant third parties to provide information to my office to enable a complete response from me to your enquiry.
- If your email is part of an automated mass-email campaign with words generated from a third-party organisation, I will certainly note your views on the topic, but a formal response will not be provided at all times.
- Finally, please note the Barron River Electoral office will not be up and running with staff until the New Year as we are still recruiting a new team and getting the office fit for purpose.

Thank you, Bree

## TOSHI SAKAMOTO

### CHURCH CONCERT

Original Folk Songs in Japanese  
& a bit of English Cover



Friday 20th DEC

@St Saviour's Anglican Church in Kuranda

18:00 Start till around 19:00

\$15 at door

\$10 for concessions, kids are free

Enquiry: 0450314192

## KURANDA RANGE ROAD CLOSURES

Please note that night closures on the Kuranda Range Road (Kennedy Highway) have been extended to **20 December**. Reconstruction works on the road are progressing with night closures in place from 9pm to 4am every night to 20 December – except Friday and Saturday nights.

### Let through times during night closures

Queued traffic at the top and bottom of the Range will be let through at midnight (12am) only. Road users must be in the queue by midnight to be let through – the road will then be closed again until 4am.

Variable Message Signs (VMS) will be in place on the approaches to the work sites to ensure motorists are aware of the changed traffic conditions. Changes in dates due to poor weather will be posted on the VMS.

To keep up to date subscribe to email TMR updates [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/far-north-queensland-2024-cyclone-reconstruction-works](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/far-north-queensland-2024-cyclone-reconstruction-works) or call 1800 187 937. For updates on traffic conditions, call 131 940.

For live on-the-spot info join the Kuranda Range Updates Facebook Group – just don't ask "Is the Range open?"

**WHISPERING SKY**  
Sacred Music – Sacred Dance

featuring  
**TENZIN KUNSANG & TENZIN CHOEGYAL**  
Saturday 7 December 2024

**TIBETAN DANCE WORKSHOP**  
Soul Temple  
10/12 Rob Veivers Drive  
2:00pm - 3:00pm  
Admission \$20  
BOOK: [www.trybooking.com/CWWAA](http://www.trybooking.com/CWWAA)

**CONCERT**  
Koah Hall  
322 Koah Road  
6:30pm - 8:00pm  
Admission \$35  
Concession \$25  
Tickets also at the door  
BOOK: [www.trybooking.com/CWVXR](http://www.trybooking.com/CWVXR)

Enquiries 0428 942 095

## Sounds of Tibet in Kuranda



Featuring two Tibetan musicians, Tenzin Choegyral (Australia) and Tenzin Kunsang (Japan), *Whispering Sky – Sacred Music – Sacred Dance* is coming to Kuranda on 7 December 2024

In a program of music and dance, Choegyral and Kunsang bring Tibetan music firmly into the contemporary world, with an afternoon dance workshop in Kuranda and a beautiful Tibetan concert in the Koah Hall in the evening.

Tenzin Choegyral is a Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, activist and cultural ambassador and one of a handful of artists keeping Tibet's music alive in the freedom of exile. Escaping Tibet as a child and now a world-renowned performer, he has an intriguing back story.

Tenzin Kunsang is a classically trained singer-dancer born in exile in India.

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## Councillor Column



### MAREEBA SHIRE DEPUTY MAYOR CR. LENORE WYATT

I am pleased to share with you an update on ongoing projects and initiatives around Kuranda.

#### Managing Our Waste Footprint

Managing our waste is one of the most important ways we can help protect our environment and this was highlighted during National Recycling Week last month. Recycling is an activity in which the whole community can participate, and the Council provides facilities at transfer stations and drop-off points to support this.

In 2023–2024, Mareeba Shire Council recycled more than 3,100 tonnes of materials, which is the equivalent of over 620 African elephants!

Council has also recently teamed up with Mareeba Recycling and Containers for Change to open two new bag drop stations – one in the park just south of the Mareeba Heritage Museum and the other in Raleigh Street Dimbulah, following the success of the bag drop in Arara Street, Kuranda.

Bag drops are a wonderful initiative where you can receive 10 cents back for each eligible container recycled. Download the Containers for Change app and set up an account for the refund and visit Council's website for further information. Cash it, don't trash it!

Council also recently hosted three home composting workshops in Mareeba, Koah and Mutchilba to raise awareness about reducing green waste going into landfill while creating nutrient-rich soil for the garden.

If you would like to learn more about ways to get involved in reducing your waste footprint, please visit Council's website.

#### School holidays

With the school holidays just around the corner, make sure to enjoy the many wonderful parks and open spaces around the Shire. Remember to visit the Kuranda Aquatic Centre to stay cool this summer.

The libraries will be hosting a free Zumba session for all ages:

- Tuesday 10 December 1.30pm at Chillagoe Library
- Tuesday 17 December 10.30am at Dimbulah Library
- Tuesday 7 January 10.30am at Mareeba Library
- Tuesday 14 January 10.30am at Kuranda Library

On behalf of Mareeba Shire Council, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period.

Our customer service centres and libraries will be closed from 12pm Friday 20 December 2024, and will reopen on Monday 6 January 2025. For urgent enquiries during this period, please contact Council on 1300 308 461.

Deputy Mayor Cr. Lenore Wyatt  
0447 757 336  
LenoreW@msc.qld.gov.au  
PO Box 154, Mareeba QLD 4880

## MAREEBA SHIRE COUNCIL - COMMUNITY UPDATE




### Christmas Lights Competition

**Entries Close: Sunday, 8 December 2024**

Nominations are now open for the Mareeba Shire Council and The Express Newspaper Christmas Lights Competition!

**Best Residential Home**  
**Best Rural Home**  
**Best Business**  
**Best Street**



Scan the QR code to enter, visit Council's website or contact Council for assistance on 1300 308 431.




### Bridge Upgrade for Oak Forest Road, Mona Mona

At November's Council meeting, a contract was awarded for upgrades to the bridge crossing the Barron River on Oak Forest Road, Mona Mona.

The bridge services the community of Mona Mona and provides access to nine rural properties.

An inspection of the bridge in 2021 identified that deck upgrades were required. The bridge is a single-lane concrete causeway that links to an ageing timber bridge structure. In its current condition, the bridge has a load-limit of five tonnes.

Council is delighted to announce we have received \$320,000 in funding under the Australian Government's Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (formerly the Bridges Renewal Program), in addition to \$80,000 in Council funds. The contract has been awarded to Neater Constructions for a total of \$450,667 (excluding GST).

The works will include new steel supports, protective coating of the existing steel girders and a new timber deck, which will achieve a 44-tonne load capacity. The bridge will not be raised to a higher level as this would increase the cost significantly.

The works will begin after the 2024/25 wet season and should take approximately six weeks to complete.



Barron River bridge on Oak Forest Road

### Mayor's Christmas Appeal



**Mayor's Christmas Appeal**

Providing community donations to local families in need.

For more information, please phone 1300 308 461.



The 2024 Mayor's Christmas Appeal has been launched. Each year, generous community members and organisations make donations which Council then distributes to local families in need with the help of community organisations across the Shire, including the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre.

Council would like to encourage residents to get behind the annual cause and donate to the appeal to assist those in need. If you have never donated before, please consider making a small donation to the Mayor's Christmas Appeal for the first time in 2024.

Your donations will be gratefully accepted at Mareeba Shire Council Customer Service Centres in Mareeba and Kuranda.

Donations can also be made by cheque and mailed to PO Box 154, Mareeba QLD 4880. Please make the cheque payable to 'Mayor's Appeal Gift Fund'.

Visit Council's website and search 'Mayor's Christmas Appeal' for more information.

### Discount Green Waste Days in December

#### Kuranda Transfer Station

**Saturday, 7 December and Sunday, 8 December 2024**

As the wet season approaches, take advantage of discounted green waste disposal days.

Clean, uncontaminated domestic green waste will be accepted for just \$5 per load, with multiple loads allowed.

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- Basic plumbing
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- Roof repairs, re-screws & leak sealing



**Science, snow and Steiner:  
a field trip to remember**

This term, 19 students from the Cairns Hinterland Steiner School (Classes 7-10) embarked on an unforgettable educational field trip to the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The trip was designed to enrich students' understanding of Australia's history, culture, heritage, and democracy.

The adventure began early as the students, and their teachers, boarded a flight from Cairns to Sydney. A walk and picnic lunch at the Sydney Harbour Bridge served as the perfect pitstop before they continued their journey by bus to Canberra and onto their accommodation which bordered a state forest. Each morning, students enjoyed a brisk walk through the adjacent bushland, encountering Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Crimson Rosellas. The morning verse was spoken in a peaceful clearing in the crisp, fresh air, setting a serene tone for the day ahead.

The schedule was action-packed, starting with a visit to the Australian National Library, where students marvelled at the sheer scale of its 271 kilometres of book-laden shelves spanning over five buildings. A hands-on session at the Australian Electoral Commission provided an engaging mock voting experience, deepening students' understanding of democracy. This was followed by a guided tour of Parliament House, including the Senate and the House of Representatives. Walking up Parliament Hill was a highlight, offering a powerful moment to reflect on the principle that, "The people are always on top of the government." At sunset, the group participated in the Last Post ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, during which student speakers laid a symbolic wreath for those that have died during their service for Australia in times of war.

Art and culture were brought to life with visits to the National Gallery of Australia and the National Portrait Gallery, where students admired diverse artworks, from classical to modern and expressionist pieces. The evenings were a delightful 'out-breath', featuring activities such as



*Clockwise: The Aboriginal Memorial, CHSS students learn about democracy at Parliament House, Mateo at the War Memorial reflecting moment on those who died during the wars, and students at the National Australian Art Gallery.*

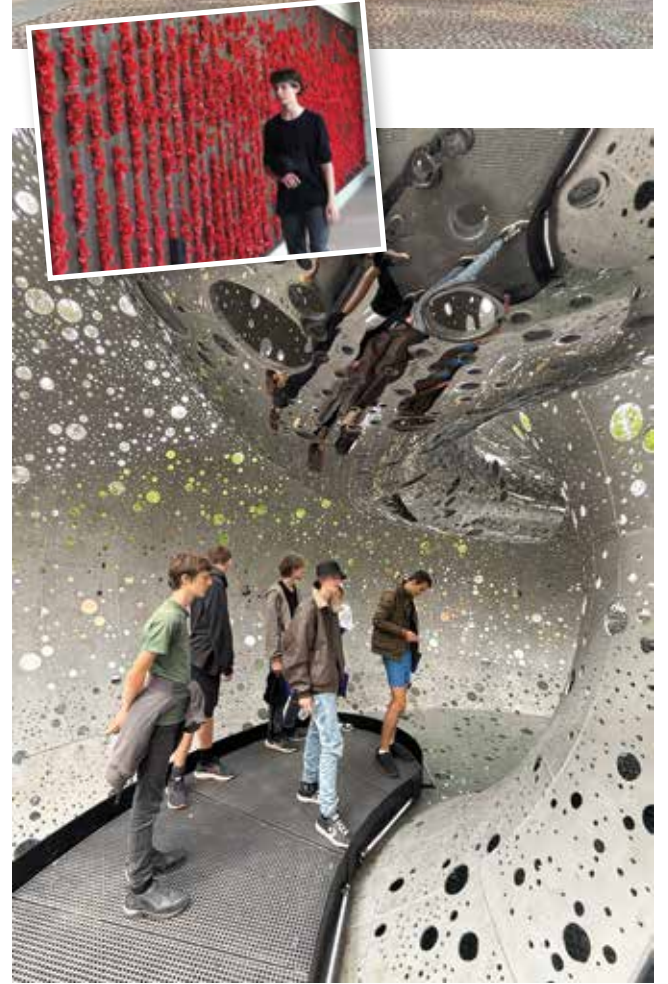
ice skating, interactive sports simulations at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and stargazing at the National Observatory at Mount Stromlo. Guided by two passionate PhD students, the astronomy session included hands-on demonstrations about gravitational force and planetary orbits, culminating in telescope views of the Moon and Saturn. Another highlight for many was undoubtedly the visit to the science-themed park Questacon, where students discovered the wonders of science through interactive and playful exhibits.

The trip's grand finale was a journey to Thredbo, where students braved icy winds to hike towards the summit of Mount Kosciuszko. This adventurous hike tested their resilience and teamwork, with many experiencing snow for the first time. The joy of a snowball fight and a thrilling ride on the Alpine Coaster added excitement to the day.

A heartfelt thank you goes to camp leader and schoolteacher Mark Mather for organising this enriching and well-structured trip. The students' discipline, determination, and team spirit were exemplary, and we are confident that the memories made during this adventure will stay with them for a lifetime.

This trip was supported by funding (\$750 per student) from the Australian Government under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program.

To find out more about the Cairns Hinterland Steiner School and its rich academic curriculum please visit [chss.qld.edu.au](http://chss.qld.edu.au) or call the enrolments team on (07) 4093 8809.



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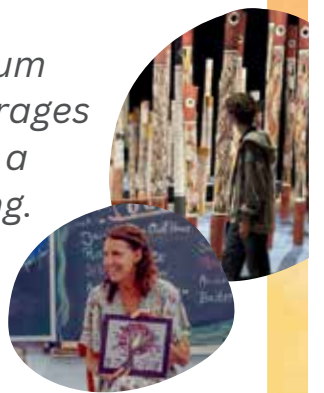


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**What's Happening at the Amphitheatre**

**KAST Christmas Members Event – Sunday 22 December, 4–8pm, Top Pavilion**  
 KAST Theatre crew are staging a community Christmas event to entertain and spread the festive cheer. A Variety show that includes children's activities, face painting, Bubbles, our own Fairy Jenny, craft activities, interactive physical theatre, Christmas Carols, a Santa performance, variety acts, and an original pantomime by Janet Bowron, this is an afternoon and evening for the whole family.

This is a KAS members' night – if you are not a member, memberships are available on the night (all memberships are half price for the end of the year).

**Future Master Plan completed**

The Future Master Planning process is now complete, and has produced a highly practical and professional planning document and guide for future Committees. Aside from hosting, planning, and delivering events, the KAS Committee is responsible for the maintenance and planning for the large amount of infrastructure and gardens on Amphitheatre grounds.

Stemming from community consultations at the beginning of the year, this project reflects the input of participating members and community for maintenance and capital projects for the Amphitheatre.

It includes a 10-year maintenance plan, and 30 pages of architectural drawings with recommendations for upgrades and innovations for Amphitheatre infrastructure from the community. The Committee will present the document to Council in January, and it will be on display in the Amphitheatre Understage foyer and on our website.

**Music Industry Gathering**

Many in our community are keen for the Amphitheatre to regularly host the large live gigs that were the mainstay of the venue in the 1980s and 90s.

The Australian live music industry has changed dramatically in the past two decades. Streaming services now dominate listening practices, removing a once reliable income stream for artists. Combined with increased touring costs, corporate promoter practices, screens replacing live music in pubs, noise and compliance restrictions, and the huge impact of the Covid years, circumstances have changed touring practices, audience behaviours, and drastically reduced revenue streams for independent artists and venues.

To this end, KAS volunteers attended the Cairns Music Industry Gathering held over the weekend of 8-10 November, to participate in 'Live and Local' – a Live Music Development program for local communities. An initiative from the Federal Live Music Office and APRA AMCOS, it is intended to 'strengthen the ecology of local grassroots live music communities'. This program is open to all local Councils.




The forums gathered local artist and venue feedback, and provided examples of Councils throughout Australia supporting the local live music scene via dedicated policy.

This provided us an opportunity to network, and advance the Amphitheatre and its diverse infrastructure as a venue to host all kinds of live music events, as well as facilitating productive discussions with representatives from Cairns music industry, the Live Music Office and Queensland Music Festival.

**Volunteers needed!**

Our next KAS AGM is in February 2025, and there will be a number of Committee positions available. Please consider joining the Kuranda Amphitheatre Society Committee – the only requirement is that you are a member of KAS at the time of nomination (two weeks prior to the AGM). Memberships are always available on our website, and at the Honey House on Therwine Street, Kuranda.

One Love Kuranda! Kuranda Amphitheatre Management Committee

 [www.kurandaamphitheatre.org](http://www.kurandaamphitheatre.org)  
 [info@kurandaamphitheatre.org](mailto:info@kurandaamphitheatre.org)  
 Kuranda Amphitheatre

**LOCAL AUTHOR RELEASES A NEW BOOK CELEBRATING THE BIRDLIFE OF KURANDA**

Local author, photographer and artist Buck Richardson has added to his previous published works including *Mythology: Discover the Magic* and *Tropical Queensland Wildlife from Dusk to Dawn Science and Art* with a new compilation of local birds – *Birdlife of Kuranda*. Now available at the Kuranda Arts Co-op (corner of Coondoo and Thongon Streets) where Buck is also an exhibiting artist.



"When I first moved to Kuranda village with its vibrant creative community in tropical Australia with my wife and young family, we hand-built our own timber home together on the edge of UNESCO's World Heritage Wet Tropics. The World Heritage listing, declared in 2005, meets all four natural World Heritage criteria by showing exceptional natural beauty, major stages in Earth's evolutionary history, outstanding examples of ongoing ecological/biological evolution, and a proliferation of biodiversity.

It was the vibrant colours, patterns and interactions of this myriad biodiversity of species in dynamic equilibrium that we could observe 24/7 that blew me away. As artists and photographers, our home was a natural observational platform or 'bird-hide' embedded within the rainforest. Initially we captured what we could draw and hand-cut to make hundreds of bespoke screen-prints on fabric. These featured frogs and butterflies, and birds and fish, as globally this is where two natural wonder World Heritage areas meet – the Wet Tropics Rainforest and the wondrous Great Barrier Reef, both based on outstanding biodiversity.

All in our 'backyard.' What a privilege! This booklet documents the birdlife I have had the privilege to photograph in our home territory of Kuranda." *Buck Richardson, Kuranda.*

**Help fight electric ants by booking a free yard check**

Far North Queenslanders are being called on to help protect our environment, economy and way of life by supporting efforts to eradicate electric ants. National Electric Ant Eradication Program principal project officer Robert Ibell encouraged people to look for electric ants and report them to Biosecurity Queensland by calling 13 25 23.

"Early detection and reporting are key for eradicating electric ants, which have been found in many areas of Far North Queensland, including the Daintree," Mr Ibell said.

"Electric ants are one of the world's worst invasive pests, with potential to impact our outdoor lifestyle, unique environment and profitable tourism and agriculture industries. They can inflict a long-lasting venomous sting, which causes moderate to severe pain and, in rare cases, severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis). They can also make our pets blind. Left untreated, electric ants will kill and displace native wildlife and animals, disrupt the ecosystems and harm the environment. Native flora and fauna, along with agricultural crops and fruit trees, will fail to thrive."

"Our free yard checks are quick and easy and can be booked by calling 13 25 23 or visiting [www.daf.qld.gov.au/anthunt](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/anthunt)," he said.

Mr Ibell said areas with electric ants received targeted bait treatments that were harmless to animals and humans.

"We use a small granular bait specifically designed for electric ants, under strict permit conditions issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority," he said.

"We use half a teaspoon of this treatment per square metre, and the granules contain less than one per cent of the active chemical. It is harmless to humans and animals at these concentrations. We do ask people to lock up their chickens and other pets for the first 48 hours – not because the treatment could harm them, but because we need the electric ant workers to take the bait back to the queens. If chickens or pets pick up the bait, it will not make it to the queens. The treatment breaks down in direct sunlight after 48 hours, or sooner if wet."



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Seasons Greetings to all our friends and our customers who have visited us over the past year. The Gallery is slowly being stocked up ready for the busy season and we are looking forward to helping you with gift ideas.

Below L-R: Glass decorations by Klaus Bruksch, Christmas card by Henri Hunsinger, Christmas tree by Kerry Geck.



### Melting Pot 2024 – 50th Jubilee National Ceramic Exhibition

The 17th Cairns Ceramics Exhibition, *Melting Pot 2024* will be held at the Court House Gallery in Cairns from 29 November 2024 to 11 January 2025. Mollie Bosworth and Kate Prynne have both submitted work into this exhibition.

**Travellers Crossing Exhibition** by Arts Co-op fibre artist, Toni Rogers and Tablelands artist Helen Hume.

The exhibition opening was a great success and supported by many local artists. Toni's artworks in the exhibition include knitted vintage Japanese paper, momigami treated packaging paper, grasses, ceramics and stitched feathers ... and more feathers! Helen Hume's artworks feature spectacular large painted canvases and ceramics.

This exhibition at the Tableland Regional Gallery is open now and continues through to 13 January 2025.



Above: "Cinnabar Nights" by Mollie Bosworth

The opening of "Travellers Crossing" exhibition.

Left: Toni Rogers and Marcia Bird.

Below: Jana Iriyadi, Toni Rogers and Mollie Bosworth.



### Quirky Chooks!

It's been a year since we introduced Kerry Geck as our new artist and her quirky ceramic chooks and vessels have been really popular with our visitors. Kerry digs her own wild clay from her property, processes it and then creates unique ceramic objects. She is obsessed with wild clays and her practice supports sustainability, and a realisation that clay is of the earth and can be dug up by our own hands.

### Documenting your work by Toni Rogers

Even if now, you may not think you need to document your work, there is sure to be a time in the future when someone is going to be looking at it saying, "What is this? What is it to do with? Who was the person who made it?"

We all know the wonderful found objects with no story of making or usage, and no documentation of process or materials. How many of us have family albums with no identification of long gone relatives? Believe me, it does not take long for those details to be utterly forgotten. You have to consider that if you do not document things now, in 100 years someone else will make something up about it from guess work.

The sort of information you need:

- **You:** Name, date and place of birth, background (this provides clues to influences), education and training, work experience, travel etc., exhibitions and publications.
- **Your work:** What your work deals with generally and what the sources of ideas are, and where the shifts and changes have been made and ideas you were dealing with when you made it. What record you have of your work i.e. its size, date and place of making, materials and processes, design drawings etc.

Most of you will already have biological information about yourselves. As well, the following list of headings is a very basic checklist of the sort of information you could consider using to document each of your works. The amount of space you provide for each entry can be varied depending on your needs, and there is no doubt there are other headings you could add. It could be photocopied for card index, filed in a plastic sleeve (with photos and reviews etc.) or it could form the basis for a computer database.

You could also document your work in some photographic form, when sending slides, prints and photographic images to someone else. You need to make sure the basic information is clearly included on it: your name, the form and title of the work, materials etc. – and the photographer's name because this is usually necessary for copyright purposes.

The following form can be expanded, with plenty of space for categories, as needed:

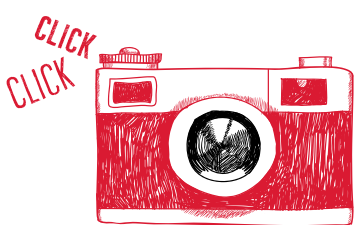
- Name
- Form: Title, Part of Series, Date made, Size, Materials, Process, Cleaning instructions.
- Record: Exhibited, References, Purchased by (date), Price value.

What I have discovered is that if something is not written down – it simply did not happen.

Toni Rogers



Above: "Chooks" and "Hooked Fish" by Kerry Geck.



## 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).



### NOVEMBER

"Creative play, just added the guava stick legs one day as I was leaving work. Quick phone pic. Everyone in Kuranda is familiar with the beautiful artworks of Rebecca Koller, as per the bin sticker"

Gerhard Hillmann  
(3 November 2024)



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# THE YEAR THAT WAS @ THE KURANDA PAPER 2024



2024 marked the 33rd year of uninterrupted publication of Kuranda's own independent community newspaper, and with the July 2024 edition, the start of our 34th. A very special thank you to all the fabulous, generous artists, writers and photographers whose creativity graces our pages, adding that bit of Kuranda creative spark to each edition. And of course, as advertising is our sole source of income, we simply could not remain viable without the continued support of our wonderful local advertisers. Thank you. Don't forget that every edition of *The Kuranda Paper* is available on our website – if you want to read a past edition that you may have missed.

Our front page for the final edition of 2023 warned of the seasonal perils of cyclones, flooding and bushfires – “Stay safe and be prepared”. This is an annual reminder to take necessary precautions, have a disaster plan and support in place, or perhaps join one of the local emergency services such as SES and rural fire brigades. With hindsight though, no one could have been fully prepared for the extraordinary weather event that was Cyclone Jasper, and its flooding aftermath, which would go on to shape our 2024 on many levels, catastrophically for some.

The new Kuranda Heights cemetery was progressing, with earthworks completed. Options for the Barron River Bridge at Kuranda were presented to the public for feedback.

The Adult section of our 2024 Short Story Competition *A Spirited Tale* opened for entries.

**Rainfall for December 2023: 1951.1mm (Total rainfall for 2023: 4417.2mm). Rainfall for January 2024: 539.3 mm**



Our masthead featured a photograph by Steven Nowakowski capturing a sodden Kuranda and swollen Barron River on 18 December 2023 – the day after the flood peak from Cyclone Jasper. From the air, the extent of the devastation to the Kuranda weir, the riverbanks and Kuranda railway line are not evident.

Our front page celebrated the Koah Sports and Social Club and Dream BIG! Circus School's Australia Day Award win by Mareeba Shire Council (MSC). Our short story competition deadline was extended in the face of the 'lost months' of December and January. Grateful thanks were given to our local SES, who with rural fire brigades, responded to over 140 requests for assistance caused by Cyclone Jasper. MSC provided an overview of its response to the extensive damage caused shire wide by Cyclone Jasper and associated flooding and warned it could take 18 to 24 months to fully address.

Vale to Cliff Timmins 'The Kuranda Ice Cream Man' and also to Peter North. Peter gave generously of his time to many local community groups including the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre, Envirocare and the Kuranda Media Association, as well as writing for many years his iconic gardening column under the nom de plume of 'Alectura' (brush turkey).

The Kuranda CWA Hall continued to provide an essential venue for the community, hosting two Cyclone Jasper Community Recovery Hub days in January. It was good to see the hall also receiving some long overdue maintenance made possible in part by a donation through dispersed funds from the disbanded Kuranda Traders Association – just one of many local groups to receive such assistance.

**Rainfall for the month: 237.1mm**



Our masthead featured a detail from an original painting *Birdwing on Scarlet Ginger* by Candida 'Candy' Raymond. BatReach shared photos of some of the many injured wildlife it takes in for rescue and rehabilitation, providing a life-giving haven for vulnerable, and endearing, native animals for almost three decades. The BatReach volunteers are passionate and hardworking, and donations are always welcome to support this important work.

The Kuranda Medical Centre updated the community on the challenges they are facing in trying to recruit and retain General Practitioner doctors, leading to difficulties in meeting the demand for appointments. They requested community support and patience for the staff at the Centre when booking.

The Queensland Local Government election was set for 16 March, with 11 candidates vying for the six Councillor positions available. The outcome of Mayoral contest was already known with Mayor Angela Toppin being returned unopposed.

Council repairs continued following Cyclone Jasper with a total of 190 roads across the Shire sustaining damage, roughly half the roads in the Shire. Council partnered with Containers for Change to increase recycling options in Kuranda with five new street bins for recyclables. Buluwai Rangers worked with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) on fire management, helping to create quality habitat for endangered Northern Bettongs.

The Kuranda Writers Group changed coordinators with Eve Stafford taking up the baton. Cate Lamont, Neighbourhood Centre vice president and board member retired after many years of service to the community.

**Rainfall for the month: 893.9mm**



Our masthead featured a detail from an original painting *Rainforest Concert* by Henri Hunsinger. Our front page story was a call out for the Kuranda community to come together to support four-year-old Tariella, and her family, as they faced the challenges of seeking medical treatment for her childhood bone cancer.

We opened up the Children and Young Adults section of our *A Spirited Tale/Tail* short story competition for entries.

A new Mareeba Shire Council, with some old and some new faces, was sworn in on 26 March. There were ongoing repairs to the ravaged Kuranda Range Road, providing plenty of inconvenience and frustration for road users. The Kuranda Scenic Railway services—which were cut following the extensive damage to the lines in December—were restored in March, but ongoing rain caused further temporary closures. Suzy Grinter in her *A Grinters Tale* spoke for all of us as she lamented the extended Wet – “We used to go troppo frequently in the wet but for periods of two or three weeks, not four months”.

Despite the extended Wet, community groups were getting back into the swing of things with the Amphitheatre hosting local theatre and their always popular *Love Bomb* music night. Here at the Kuranda Media Association we finally managed to hold our rain-checked AGM with the 2023 Committee returned. Capital works around Kuranda also progressed despite the rain, including reinstalment of Hans Pehl's iconic ironworks and the start of an extensive redevelopment of the Kuranda Skate Park.

**Rainfall for the month: 449.7mm**



Our masthead for the month featured a detail from an original painting by artist, and extraordinary wildlife carer, Rebecca Koller, featuring four of her flying-fox patients. Our front page story *Community Under Stress* highlighted the hard hit Speewah community which had launched a petition to impel Telstra to upgrade their backup batteries at their towers – because a loss of power in a very short time meant loss of communications, including emergency calls. This loss of communications following loss of power was not limited to Speewah and became evident across the Far North during Cyclone Jasper when Ergon crews were overwhelmed and at times unable to access lines to restore power. It remains an ongoing concern.

Also hard hit by damage caused by flooding following Cyclone Jasper was the Kuranda Riverboat. Because water levels were at an all time low caused by the break in the Kuranda Weir wall, the Kuranda Riverboat was unable to operate since mid-December. It did seem that planned repairs to the Weir would mean river levels could be restored soon and the Riverboat cruise again. Repairs to the riverbank and Esplanade walk continue, but it is a huge job.

We published our Adult short story winner *The Piano Teacher* by Ann Harth, and runner up *A Spirited Tale* by Suzy Grinter.

We said Vale to Brian Davidson, who had been instrumental in the early days of *The Kuranda Paper*. Well known local, Beverly Henderson, retired after 22 years of volunteering at the Kuranda Visitor Information Centre.

**Rainfall for the month: 134.6mm**



Our front page highlighted the critical construction works underway by Cleanco Queensland to repair the Kuranda Weir wall to both restore water levels in the Barron River at Kuranda, and allow for power generation at the Kuranda Hydro to recommence following flooding in December. Our masthead featured an aerial photo by Steven Nowakowski showing the river in its former glory with the Kuranda Riverboat in operation.

The documentary *Stories of Jasper* (interviews with locals affected by Cyclone Jasper), was released and can be viewed on the Mareeba Shire Council website. Works continued at the Barron River Bridge in Kuranda with single lane operations put in place, making travelling the still unrepaired Kuranda Range Road even more frustrating.

The Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce took to the streets of Kuranda surveying for signs of these invasive ants and educating community members. The Envirocare column gave an update on the 15 frog monitoring stations, eight of which Djabugay Bulmba Rangers are monitoring, as well as the purchase of four acoustic monitoring devices and the recording of frog calls.

The Kuranda ITF Taekwon-Do group scored gold, silver and bronze awards at the NQ Games AAITF National Taekwon-Do Championships. The Kuranda Arts Co-op column featured the beautiful botanical art of Robyn King. We published our second runner up short story *Log* by Malcolm Frost. The Kuranda Historical Society had begun the work of entering information into the The Collecting Bug record system, with the view to establish a website presence once enough records (200) have been entered.

**Rainfall for the month: 37.5mm**



July in Kuranda was starting to feel 'normal' again. There was so much on offer we devoted the entire front page to music, theatre and festival events – *July in Kuranda – A Cultural Feast* including the Kuranda Roots Festival which was set to celebrate its 22nd birthday.

Our masthead for the month featured a lush landscape photograph of Emerald Creek by Kevin Explores – well known on social media for his aerial photography. The Kuranda Riverboat was back in the water and the Kuranda Weir repairs were continuing and on time. Anzac Park improvements were underway. The Kuranda Riverwalk was re-opened although there still remained much more work to restore it to its former amenity. The Kuranda Skate Park redevelopment was progressing.

We published the winning stories in the Children and Young Adult categories of our short story competition – *Spirit Whispers and Ballet Slippers* by Jasmine Sporre (Young Adult) and *A Battle through Bushes* by Buster Pearson (Child).

The Cassowary Art Trail and Kuranda Conservation announced the latest in plans to promote and educate visitors, and locals, about our amazing cassowaries. Planned is a giant cassowary statue, in the spirit of Australia's iconic 'big' attractions. The statue will be handpainted by local artists and located in Centenary Park. Djabugay launched the latest updated versions of their Djabugay Language work books, first printed in 1989. Available through the Djabugay office.

And it was our 33rd birthday! The very first edition of *The Kuranda Paper* was published on 26 July 1991.

**Rainfall for the month: 114.9mm**



Our masthead featured a detail from an original painting *Back to Country* by Mamu artist Melanie Hava. Our front page celebrated the awarding of an Excellence in Early Childhood Education and Care award to our very own Kuranda Community Kindy, presented at an awards night in Brisbane. Well into 40 years of providing caring and stimulating early education, the Kindy truly is a community treasure. Well done and congratulations.

The Kuranda Walking Tour app for mobile devices was launched. The app allows locals and visitors to explore three Kuranda 'trails' – a Nature Trail, History Trail, and the Public Art Trail. The Anzac Park refresh was completed and the amenity much improved. The Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre moved operations temporarily to the library site as mould was treated and renovations made to the Centre.

Kevin Explores shared before and after (the floods) aerial photographs of the Barron River at Kuranda.

There were several long-time community members to pay tribute to and farewell. Vale Michael O'Neill, Elaine Cushman and remembering Coral Stratford on her anniversary. A reminder that *The Kuranda Paper* does not charge to publish death notices or memorial notices for local community members and we are always happy work with loved ones to honour their loved ones.

The Hakko Cultural Festival held at the Kuranda Amphitheatre in July was a great success, increasing the possibility of it to become a regular festival addition in Kuranda. Artists from the Kuranda Indigenous Tourism Hub participated in the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in July and were a vibrant presence.

**Rainfall for the month: 128.5mm**



Spring in Kuranda. This year the Spring festivities were spread across the Village and the Amphitheatre, while the Cairns Hinterland Steiner School also held its annual Spring Fair at the school grounds on Boyles Road. In the Village, Fairies, Mad Hatters, music and good food certainly brought the spring spirit alive. Let's hope for a revival of community-led spring festivities so many remember and cherish.

Our September masthead featured details from a hand embroidered *Flower Power 'scrappyball'* by Gayle Hannah, using recycled and salvaged materials. On the theme of sustainable crafting, Chelsey Reis shared her ideas on a how a regenerative lifestyle can be lived, even with a simple act of patching and mending clothes.

The annual Speewah to the Hat (Red Beret Hotel – Redlynch) Charity Walk raised \$5150 which was distributed, as always, to local causes and individuals in need of help. Surely one of the best reasons possible to take a walk – so lookout for it again in 2025.

The Kuranda CWA hall received a new coat of paint in its 87th year.

Yellow crazy ant annual surveys in Russett Park returned good news with no ants detected. Spot treatments continued in Green Forest Road areas and the monthly surveys of Kuranda streets continued. Continuing measures must be taken to ensure that there is no spreading of invasive ants through potted plants and cuttings, potting soil, green waste, hay, straw, manure, old timber or furniture items which have been on the ground.

**Rainfall for the month: 58.4mm**



Our masthead for October featured our first ever glass artwork. The fused glass artwork *Renewal After Fire* is by local artist Kate Pryne, who also offers personalised workshops. Our front page recognised the work of Cathy Retter who was awarded a Wet Tropics Cassowary Award – the Thorsborne Award for Community Conservation and Rehabilitation, for her decades of environmental activism and work, including through Kuranda Envirocare and the Yellow Crazy Ants Community Taskforce.

A year's worth of planning, gathering and making by local fibre artist Toni Rogers was coming to fruition with the opening of her collaborative exhibition *Travellers Crossing*, with Tablelands artist Helen Hume, in early November.

The Kuranda Medical Centre updated the community to say that although appointments continue to be difficult they have been successful in getting some locum doctors to improve the situation, with a permanent doctor to be here early in the new year. Another complication affecting the Centre are the number of DNA (did not attend) appointments—i.e. people who book but don't turn up—which threatens the viability of the Centre.

Council announced upgrades to Coondoo Street to commence soon following securing of funding footpaths, planter boxes and some lighting of the historic fig trees.

The Kuranda District State College had much to celebrate having secured State funding of \$2.65 million to upgrade their Multi-Purpose Sports facility.

**Rainfall for the month: 37.5mm**



Our masthead featured feathers in the process of being stitched onto fabric by Toni Rogers, some of multiple thousands in her exhibition works.

Our front page paid tribute to the essential community venue of the Kuranda CWA hall celebrating 87 years, and all the members of the Kuranda QCWA who have maintained it and made it available for so many purposes through the years, the most recent of which was to provide a polling place during the Queensland State election held on 26 October.

The State election saw the Barron River electorate live up to its 'bell weather' reputation, unbroken since 1974. A bell weather seat is one where 'so goes the seat, so goes the government'. The new MP for Barron River is Bree James (LNP) and, as is tradition, *The Kuranda Paper* will provide her with a space to directly address the Kuranda and district residents. If you have issues to raise please remember our Letters page for your concerns.

Water levels in the Barron River were projected to stabilise in mid-November following completion of foundation works for a permanent concrete wall.

Our Djabugay Ngirra wordsearch for the month was full of bugs and things that bite, making it easier to curse in more than one language.

Molly Bosworth's acclaimed ceramic artworks are well known to many locals, but her stunning tropical garden featured recently on the ABC *Gardening Australia* TV program, and now in the magazine of the same name, is a real work of art as well.

**Rainfall for the month: 78mm**

## Are you disaster ready?

**What are the most common disasters in FNQ?**  
Bushfires, storms, floods, cyclones and heatwaves



### How do I prepare for disaster season?

- Understand your risk
- Sign up to the Early Warning Network to receive severe weather emergency alerts by SMS, email or voice to landlines.
- Decide in advance if you will evacuate or shelter in place.
- Know your evacuation route and prepare an emergency plan, including emergency numbers:
  - **Police, Ambulance or Fire: 000**
  - **SES: 132 500**
- Clean up your yard, secure loose items and move possessions to high ground if you live in an area prone to flooding.
- Take appropriate steps to protect your property.
- If necessary, get sandbags ready early, contact the local SES for location.
- Pack an emergency kit. Have enough supplies to last at least 3 days, locations that are easily isolated should keep supplies for 5 to 7 days.
- Get to know your neighbours.
- Purchase a battery radio to keep informed about disasters in case you become isolated and lose power and communications.
- Familiarise yourself with the Australian Warning System symbols.



#### Advice (Yellow):

An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



#### Watch and Act (Orange):

There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.



#### Emergency Warning (Red):

An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

### What do I do during an event?

- Listen to advice from Emergency Services.
- Be aware of your surroundings and action your emergency plan.
- Keep informed - visit MSC Emergency Management Dashboard and the Bureau of Meteorology.
- Keep in contact with your friends or family.
- Follow on Facebook - My Police Tablelands, QLD Fire Department and Mareeba Shire Council.
- Listen to local radio stations - ABC Far North (Cairns / Kuranda 801AM, Mareeba 106.7 FM, Dimbulah 91.7 FM, Mt Molloy 95.7 FM), Black Star (96.7 FM), KIK-FM (88.7 FM) 4AM (558 AM).
- Download Emergency Apps - SES Assistance QLD, Emergency +, BOM, Red Cross First Aid and SunWater.

### What do I do after an event?

- Listen to advice from Emergency Services.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines
- To report electric shocks or fallen powerlines 24/7 dial **000** or call **13 16 70**.
- Never drive in flood waters, there could be hidden dangers.
- Returning to affected buildings? Be mindful of electricity and gas connections, water and food safety, fallen trees.
- Phone Ergon Energy on **13 22 96** If you have lost power or are experiencing electricity supply problems.
- Visit Mareeba Shire Council Emergency Management Dashboard for up-to-date information on road conditions and power outages.
- Contact your insurance company to lodge a claim and seek guidance for the next steps.
- Visit Mareeba Shire Council's website for the latest information on assistance and grants available.

## Are you disaster ready?

**View the factsheet online**

### How does Mareeba Shire Council respond during a disaster?

Local governments are primarily responsible for co-ordinating disaster events in their local government areas.

MSC is responsible for the development and implementation of a local disaster management plan. Coordinated disaster management is achieved through the LDMG (Local Disaster Management Group).

Membership of the LDMG is comprised of representatives from Council, State Emergency Response Agencies (SES, QLD Police, QLD Fire Dept), Department of Health, Department of Education and Department of Transport & Main Roads

The LDMG has four sub-groups that support different sectors and assets of the community. The Economic Sub-Group, Public Health and Environment Sub-Group, Built, Environment / Infrastructure Sub-Group, and Community Support Sub-Group.

In the event of a disaster, the LDMG may establish a Local Disaster Coordination Centre. Requests for assistance will be directed through this centre and escalated as necessary.

Council hosts the Emergency Management Dashboard to provide residents with up-to-date information from multiple state agencies and sources in one place.

Council will keep the community informed of any changes to services during this time, such as water outages or rubbish bin collections, via the MSC website and Facebook Page and broadcast messages via local radio stations.

### How does Mareeba Shire Council respond after a disaster?

Immediately following an event, Council's primary responsibility is to restore its essential services as soon as possible. This includes:

- Ensuring access to local roads
- Maintaining water and waste services
- Continuing kerbside waste collection

You can help Council by reporting incidents on **1300 308 461**.

After addressing immediate needs, Council begins other restorative works such as repairing local roads and restoring public facilities and infrastructure.

State and Federal funding are often required to repair disaster damage through Disaster Recovery Fund Arrangements.

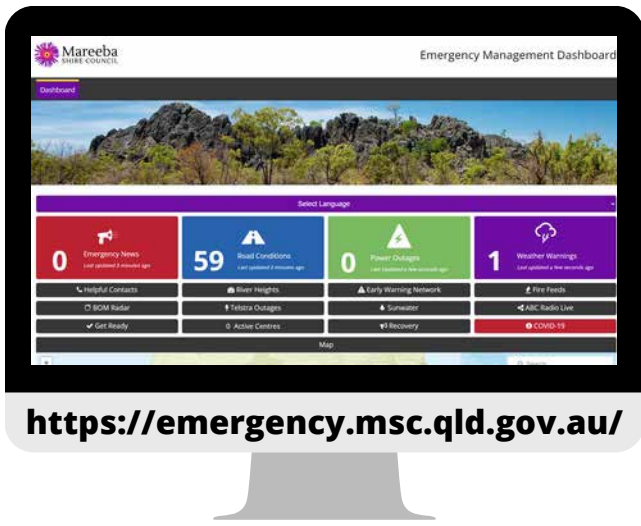


For tips to help you Get Ready this Summer, visit Get Ready Queensland.



For emergency alerts, sign up to Early Warning Network.





<https://emergency.msc.qld.gov.au/>

Visit the Emergency Management Dashboard for:

- Emergency news
- Bushfire alerts
- Road conditions
- BOM updates and radar
- Helpful contacts
- Power outages
- and more!



For disaster recovery information on grants and resources, visit MSC Disaster Assistance or scan the QR Code above.

### Cyclone Jasper and Flooding Event Recovery

Mareeba Shire was heavily impacted by Cyclone Jasper and the flooding event that occurred in December 2023.

The Myola rain gauge received an incredible 2.4m of rain within 7 days, which is the average annual rainfall.

With over 900 calls and 185 requests for assistance during the event, Mareeba Shire Council faced unprecedented requests for support.

More than half of our Shire's road network was affected, as well as critical infrastructure, underscoring the severity of this weather event.

Nearly one year on, and the work to restore infrastructure continues.

Mareeba Shire Council has been very grateful to receive assistance provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for the Jawaree Road repairs.



### Jarawee Road, Kuranda

The works for Jarawee Road are approximately 20% complete with the excavations on the eastern side now finished, and design works awaiting approval. Once the final design is complete, the works should move fairly quickly.



### Barron River Esplanade - Before and After Restoration

Earlier this year, Council worked to restore access to the Riverwalk. Council is currently advocating for funding to make further improvements to the popular walking track. Council also undertook works to reopen the walking tracks in town.



### Kuranda Water Treatment Plant

The December 2023 flood caused significant damage to the Kuranda Water Treatment Plant. Council were able to restore the facility to ensure clean drinking water for residents as well as make repairs to the sewage treatment plant.



### Kuranda Water Treatment Plant emergent works

#### Barron Falls Road and Hilltop Close

The landslip repairs have now been completed at Barron Falls Road and at Hilltop Close, with both projects receiving assistance provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Without the support from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and its Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Council would not be able to afford to make these repairs. The funding helps ensure the safety of our infrastructure and the wellbeing of our community.



### Get Ready Mareeba Shire

In October, Mareeba Shire Council teamed up with the Get Ready Queensland team to host a free community information event, including the screening of the Stories of Jasper documentary at the Mareeba Drive-In. The event was a great opportunity to the community to meet our local emergency responders and learn how to prepare for disasters.

Supported by the Queensland Government's Get Ready Queensland program. For more information, visit [getready.qld.gov.au](http://getready.qld.gov.au).



Every year, Kuranda's Emergency Services come together to make sure that Santa doesn't get lost as he travels around Kuranda visiting the children and adults of the Kuranda community. The unexpected cacophony of sirens sure gets some hearts racing – and not just Kuranda kids who eagerly line the streets and roads of the district, to wave to our Emergency Super-heroes, and maybe catch a lolly or two. Every year it comes as a big surprise to newcomers to the area – so this is your heads up. Representatives from Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, Rural Fire Service and SES volunteers all participate in this annual event.

This year, Operation Rudolph will on **TWO different Saturdays** with **TWO separate routes** – Speewah/Cardinia/Koah, and Kuranda and surrounds – see details below.

**Please note:** Following the end of the Speewah to Koah run, everyone is invited to enjoy cold watermelon and soft drinks courtesy of the Speewah Fire Brigade at the Koah Hall.

SPEEWAH, CARDINIA AND KOAH	KURANDA AND SURROUNDS
<b>SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER</b>	<b>SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER</b>
<b>Departs Speewah Tavern at 2.30pm then travels via</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speewah Road to Stoney Creek Road</li> <li>• Stoney Creek Road to Kelly Road</li> <li>• Up Kelly Road to the Possum Ridge turnoff</li> <li>• Back the same way to Speewah Road                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ganyan Drive loop then William Smith Drive</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Right turn into Douglas Track and into Veivers Drive</li> <li>• Veivers Drive back to the highway, then Cardinia Boulevard</li> <li>• Koah Road to the end and back</li> <li>• Finishing at the Koah Hall</li> </ul>	<b>Departs Kuranda Urban Fire Station at 2pm then travels via</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coondoo Street – Thongon Street                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barron Falls Road</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mason Road – Williamson Drive                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warril Drive</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gregory Terrace – Coconut Grove – Saddle Mountain Road</li> <li>• Myola Road – Oak Forest Road – Mantaka – Kowrowa</li> </ul>



## SPOOKY SUCCESS AT SPEEWAH



The streets of Speewah were filled with ghouls, ghosts and gashlies for Halloween as residents threw themselves into the Halloween spirit. The annual event has steadily grown over the past few years – this year there were more than 400 participants! Even greater things are planned for 2025.

Photos: Thomas Verfürth, Speewah



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# A Grinter's Tale

Trust Winnie the Pooh to invent mindfulness. His creator may have said he had a little brain, but he and Piglet came out with some corkers that maybe we should live by.

"What day is it today?" asked Pooh.

"It's today!" squeaked Piglet.

"My favourite day", said Pooh.

And thus was born the concept of living in the moment.

Personally, me being me, I have no idea how anyone can live in the moment. I'm living in the moment right at this moment watching the puppy pee on my wooden floor. I'd rather get out of this particular moment and into the future when he is house trained, to be honest.

When I am living in the moment, I am living in the moment. But the rest of the time I am planning ahead (three minutes maximum), worrying about the future, or reminiscing about how good or bad the past was. And lately the past is a lot brighter than the present, so why wouldn't I choose to reminisce?

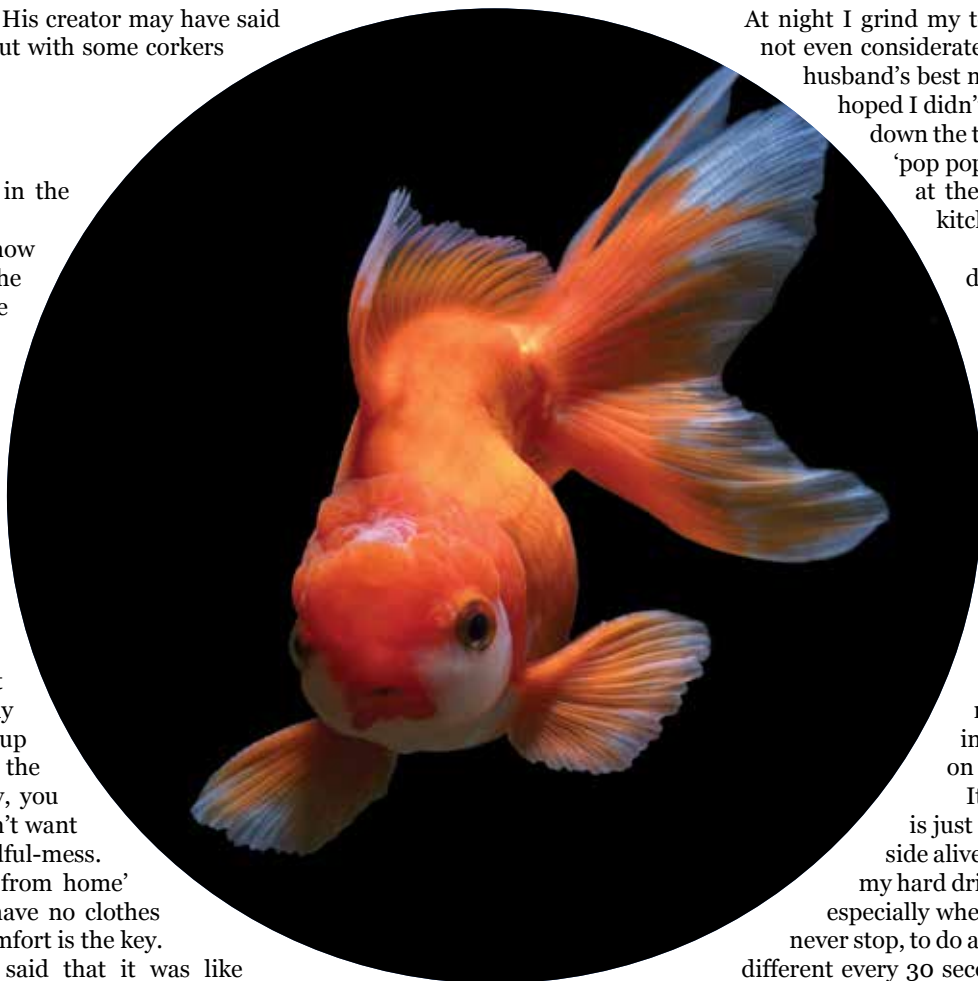
I saw a poster on Pinterest or somewhere the other day that read: "The present moment is all we have". I thought that was utterly pessimistic, although it did make me clear up the kitchen quickly and stuff everything in the dishwasher in case it was true. I mean to say, you never know, maybe it was a sign, and I wouldn't want anybody to think I was slovenly or lived in mindful-mess. It was too late to change out of my 'I work from home' clothes, which tend to make me look like I have no clothes sense whatsoever, which is indeed true, but comfort is the key.

When explaining mindfulness, someone said that it was like driving, you are paying attention to the road ahead, the movements of other vehicles, present enough to predict what other drivers are going to do, and aware of where you are.

Me? Well, I am paying attention to the road ahead, yes I am. But I am also listening to my current Diana Gabaldon *Outlander* series book on Audible, wondering if I closed the hay shed and if I have enough change for a parking meter in town. I'm testing my memory of film stars' names, and the surnames of people I met yesterday to make sure I still have myself with me.

I'm wondering if I will find a parking spot, and whether the meter will get indigestion from the number of 20c coins I insert. Twice, when parking near Cairns Hospital, I have found that parking meters are like horses with impaction colic, they are unable to vomit. I've been out of pocket by over \$10 both as a result of having to find an alternative parking spot at a meter that I sense audibly sniggers as I reluctantly pay a fortune on card due to running out of coins.

Like probably 90% of us in the pointy section of life, I'm too busy testing my memory to think about nothing. Besides, concentrating solely on your breathing in meditation is really difficult when you have chronic sinus problems. Thus when you legends are sitting peaceful and relaxed with nothing but the soft zephyr of your exhalations rippling through your aura, or a gentle chanting emanating from a relaxation app, I am becoming more and more conscious of how little oxygen I must take in on a daily basis with a constantly blocked snout.



At night I grind my teeth listening to the clock and the fan ticking, not even considerate enough to be in unison. It brings to mind my husband's best mate telling me days before our wedding that he hoped I didn't snore, because Brian had flushed their goldfish down the toilet because he could hear it making that gentle 'pop pop' sound fish make when they are gasping for air at the surface of the water. The goldfish was in the kitchen, not the bedroom.

I don't think I ever slept soundly for the duration of my married life.

Well with growing resolution to address my inability to chill, I wonder why I should even worry about what some people see as a curse. Whatever name you want to call it, I've been like this all my life, and it has only been an advantage and an adventure. It's driven me to do silly things like jump out of planes on a regular basis, scuba dive in the sharky oceans of Zanzibar, breathe the ammonia drenched atmosphere of bat inhabited, uncharted caves deep underneath the mountains of the Arabian desert and sleep in tents in the wilds of Africa.

I loathe it when people say, "You still ride your horses at your age?" in the same incredulous way you might ask, "You have arsenic on your breakfast cereal?"

It's left a lot of lines on my face, but "just do it" is just so very rewarding when you come out the other side alive. I don't have a delete button. I can't defragment my hard drive. It's so hard to change the habits of a lifetime, especially when you always thought it was perfectly normal to never stop, to do at least five things at once, think about something

different every 30 seconds, never finish anything completely without starting on something else, live with forgetfulness and finish people's sentences.

No wonder I called my business Word Factory. I'm sure you can think of alternative names that are similar but not quite so polite. I often do, and have to stop myself saying that to perfect strangers. Yes, it seems I do have verbal diarrhoea and have been likened to the Energiser Bunny. I've started to recognise when people are bored with my long stories; they go very quiet, stare into the near distance with glazed eyes, stifle a yawn, then just drop to the floor in a feigned faint, or suddenly point out a Ulysses butterfly that isn't there. Maybe that is in hope that I will follow it, like Winnie the Pooh.

I know it's good stuff, and I wish I could get my head around it, but I'm sure we had mindfulness before we had mindfulness. It's become trendy to be mindful, like it was to embrace the benefits of cranberries or ginseng or nasal or other less pleasant irrigations.

In a year where children probably think Santa is the reason for Christmas and for many the true meaning of Christmas is lost, I fervently hope that more people will wake up to what has and will continue to happen in the world. It is our apathy that threatens our democracy, our rights, our weather, our communication, our health, and particularly our freedoms.

There is no place for apathy in 2025.

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

Mother Teresa

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**Kuranda Historical Society**

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PO Box 896, Kuranda

Kuranda Historical Society

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

**The story of Christmas in Kuranda**

*What was Christmas time like in Kuranda in the era before television and the internet? How did the citizens of the town and their visitors amuse themselves in the festive season?*

The story of Christmas in Kuranda reveals a rich tapestry of community festivities, cultural expressions, and occasional poignant moments. Here's a comprehensive look at how Kuranda has celebrated Christmas over the years:

In the early 1900s, Kuranda's Christmas celebrations were grand and community-focused. The 1910 Christmas Carnival, for instance, featured a variety of sports events starting on Boxing Day, a grand fancy dress ball, cricket matches against visiting teams, and lawn tennis competitions. These events extended into the New Year with activities like progressive euchre parties and dances, culminating in a special excursion from Cairns on New Year's Day for a cricket match.

However, not all Christmases were joyful. On 29 December 1910, the festivities were marred by a tragic incident where Dorothy Parkinson, who had travelled from Herberton to Kuranda with her sister for the celebrations, was drowned in the Barron River. Dorothy was 19 years old. She was buried in Kuranda.

Despite such tragedies, the spirit of celebration continued in subsequent years. The Christmas of 1923 featured a variety of events including a Christmas Ball, mistletoe dances, and a boating picnic. The community also engaged in humorous and theatrical activities such as a mock court held at Fitzpatrick's Hotel, where participants played roles in a staged trial.

The revelry included a wide range of costumes and disguises at the grand Christmas Ball which took place at the Kuranda Hall on the evening of 25 December. Participants dressed up as characters from different nations and even as iconic figures like Charlie Chaplin. The celebrations were not just limited to the locals but also attracted guests from surrounding areas, indicating Kuranda's popularity as a holiday destination during the festive season.

Music played a significant role in the celebrations, with bands of serenaders starting their performances on the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve, moving from one hotel to another, creating a festive and lively atmosphere.

In more recent years, Kuranda has embraced more organised events to celebrate Christmas. For instance, the

merchants in Kuranda have been active in organising events such as the Kuranda Twilight Trading night (14 December – see page 3), where local stores and businesses stay open late, and the community enjoys an evening of shopping, dining, and entertainment. This event reflects a modern approach to community celebrations, focusing on supporting local businesses and providing entertainment for families and visitors.

Throughout its history, Kuranda's Christmas celebrations have been characterised by strong community involvement. Local organisations and groups often come together to organise events, reflecting the town's collaborative spirit. This involvement ensures that the celebrations are inclusive and representative of the entire community.

Overall, the history of Christmas in Kuranda showcases a community rich in festive traditions, resilient in the face of adversity, and a strong sense of community engagement. These celebrations not only provided entertainment but also fostered a sense of togetherness and joy among the residents and visitors alike.

The evolution of these celebrations over the years also mirrors the changes in the community's structure and economic focus, adapting to modern times while still keeping the festive spirit alive.

**KHS ACTIVITIES**

The booth at the CWA Hall for the recent election was a big success, with two new people joining KHS, and many raffle tickets sold. The basket of goodies was full of wonderful local delights and was admired by all.

The winning raffle ticket was kindly drawn by Michelle Mobbs, who was working with the Electoral Commission at the CWA Polling Booth. Kuranda local Frances Utzi won the raffle!



*Anne Clarke, Marjorie Cutting and Vaughan Edwards at the KHS info stall at the CWA during the recent State Election.*

Happy Holidays from the Kuranda Historic Society.

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**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Kuranda RSL Sub Branch commemorated Remembrance Day on 11 November 2024 in Centenary Park, Kuranda. The service was officiated by Craig Kerr with students from Kuranda District State College (KDSC) delivering the Ode of Remembrance. Wreaths were laid in honour of Royal Australian Navy, Army and Airforce, Legacy, CWA, and Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.



*Left: Burt Holland raising the RSL flag. Below left: Lyn Blythe laying wreath for Legacy. Below: Year 6 KDSC captains Mena Campbell and Milla Gurney Kuranda RSL Sub Branch president Craig Kerr. Bottom right: Members of the Kuranda RSL Sub Branch.*

*Photos: Nettie O'Connell.*



This article is being repeated at the request of Alan and Deanna Henderson as the plight of Christmas beetles is ongoing, and those conducting the research remain in need of public assistance. Please follow the links in the article to see how you can help.

Alan and Deanna recently hosted the BBC for 26 days prior to "The Bugs Alive Conference" which was run over five days in Kuranda at the end of November. Next year readers can look forward to some articles in The Kuranda Paper on the documentary work they have been doing with crews from the UK.



# Christmas beetles count

Summer in Australia is signified by all sorts of occurrences in nature, but one which many people identify with is the appearance of Christmas beetles. These stunning beetles usually emerge in early summer, coinciding with Christmas. In the past, they have been seen in large numbers, decorating gum trees in their own unique way. Unfortunately, it is mainly the older generation of people that remember these beetles, as they are sadly in decline. The mass emergence of these beetles during the Christmas season is becoming a thing of the past. Scientists are trying to discover why, and we need your help!

Christmas beetles belong to the scarab family of beetles. We have over thirty species of Christmas beetles in Australia, with colour forms which include brown, green, blue and even stunning gold. The majority of species are found along the east coast of Australia, and most are endemic (found only in Australia).

The life cycle of these beetles is the same basic cycle as most beetles. In this case, eggs are laid underground in grasslands adjacent to eucalypt trees or forests. The grubs (larvae) feed upon grass roots and their growth is dependent on soil temperature. Those in warmer climates may emerge a year later, whilst those in cooler regions may spend two years underground. The larvae are called curl grubs – they are crescent-shaped with a pale, reddish-brown head and three pairs of legs, but can be quite difficult to distinguish from other beetle larvae.

After pupating, the adults time their emergence with warmer conditions and are also stimulated by rainfall. Different species will emerge at different times throughout the summer; perhaps to avoid direct competition. Other factors can influence the exact timing of their emergence, such as seasonal variations in weather patterns. Most Christmas beetles emerge from November to February, but as we know, many appear in late December. But in the last 15 years, the number of beetles emerging each year is declining. Why is this? We simply do not have enough information currently to know for sure. There are some contributing factors. One is definitely habitat loss, as grassland areas and open woodland areas are cleared for developments. The second is our use of insecticides in the garden and around the home, and the third is climate change. These beetles are essential to a healthy ecosystem, as they provide food for mammals, birds and reptiles at a time when these animals are raising young.

So, how can you help with saving the Christmas beetle? The University of Sydney has teamed up with Invertebrates Australia, an organisation that is dedicated to the conservation of invertebrates all across Australia. They have a project called the Christmas Beetle Count, and they are asking you to record when you spot a Christmas beetle. This is called citizen science, and it is an exciting way to be part of a large research project.



## The steps to be involved are simple:

1. Download the iNaturalist app. This can be on your smart phone or mobile device, or you can also access it on a computer
2. Create an account – this is completely free
3. Search for the project "Christmas Beetle Count"
4. Take a photo of the Christmas beetle that you have found. Christmas beetles are nocturnal, so it is likely you'll find them flying to lights at night, but you might also spot them on gum trees through the day.
5. Add your observation and photo to the iNaturalist app and include as much information about where you found the beetle as possible. Even if you haven't joined the project, any sighting of a Christmas beetle will be included. Be sure to update the geoprivacy to open (which gives the exact location the photo was taken), or obscured, which will round the location data to a 20km radius.

And that's it! But what if you don't know how to identify a Christmas beetle? The Australian Museum has an app that will help you ID a Christmas beetle – it's called **Xmas Beetle ID Guide**. iNaturalist will also help to ID your beetle from the thousands of records it already has on beetles. A few guidelines are that Christmas beetles tend to be oval in shape, and are quite chunky beetles. They are often iridescent in colour, but not always. Their head has a sort of 'duckbill' shape, and their back legs are thick, like they are wearing a set of leg warmers.

For more information about this project, go to the Invertebrates Australia website at [www.invertebratesaustralia.org/christmasbeetles](http://www.invertebratesaustralia.org/christmasbeetles) They also have a great webinar all about the project.

## Deanna Henderson, Minibeast Wildlife

Top: The stunning Golden Christmas Beetle (*Anoplognathus aureus*) from Kuranda.

Above left: A beautiful local – a green rainforest species from Kuranda (*Anoplognathus smaragdinus*)

Above right: A trio of Christmas Beetles (*Anoplognathus boisduvalii*) in a gum tree near Speewah.

Photos: Alan Henderson

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### Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (KNC)

Operated by Kuranda Information & Support Centre Assoc. Inc.

6 Rob Veivers Drive, Kuranda  
PO Box 170, Kuranda Qld 4881  
4093 8933  
manager@kurandanc.org.au



# CASSOWARY ART TRAIL UPDATE

**Christmas Closure Dates** – The Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (KNC) will close at 1pm Friday 20 December 2024 and re-open at 9am Monday 6 January 2025. We would like to thank all community members, staff, and volunteers for their contributions to the Centre in 2024. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

**Annual General Meeting** – KNC's 2024 AGM was held on Monday 25 November 2024. The 2025 Management Board are: President – Jennifer McHugh, Vice President – Fran Hynes, Treasurer – Robyn King, Secretary – Sarah-Jane Hart, Board Members – Roger Harvey, Karen Penninga, Terry Eager and Joanne Pine.

A heartfelt thank you to our retiring treasurer Ricia Ainge for your dedication to the Centre over the years.

It has been a particularly challenging year. Specifically with the aftermath of the rain event which was Cyclone Jasper. The impact on the community has extended well into 2024 as community members put their lives and properties back together. We were fortunate enough to gain funding for two Community Connect Workers who assisted community members on their road to recovery after the cyclone and subsequent flooding. These workers being Jade Falvo and Eleanor Gilkerson, who were extremely helpful, responsive, and supportive to community members who were affected.

The KNC premises were also not immune to the vagaries of the weather. The need to relocate to the library from July to September while extensive mould mitigation work was conducted on the KNC premises also stretched our capacity and interrupted service delivery to the community.

**Staffing** – Heidi Avolio – Manager, Erica Thompson – Family Support, Jan Boag – Administration Officer/Bookkeeper, Jade Falvo – Community Development, Suella Wason – Community Development, Karen Smith – NILS, and Ceri Hughes – Family Support/Individual Support.

**Community Development Update** – Over the past two months Jade and Suella have been meeting with community members to discuss, plan and publish an emergency list of essential household items required during an emergency and emergency contacts that are Kuranda specific.

Jade and Suella are very enthusiastic to assist community members in getting projects up and running in the community. Please drop into the Centre or attend a community meeting at the KNC if you have any ideas for community events and projects. Please check our Facebook page for future meeting dates.

**Community Garden** – If you are interested in helping or contributing to the Community Garden, please drop in and see Lunar.

**Furniture Exchange** – Our Furniture Exchange Program is run by Centre staff and our amazing volunteers Zach and Terry. Please call the Centre to donate or to be added to the furniture wanted list. PLEASE do not leave items at the Centre as we often have to pay for dumping if the item cannot be gifted. Please no electrical items.

**Street Pantry** – We appreciate your contribution. Please do not donate opened or out of date items. We also encourage nonperishables in tins or packets, please no glass (sadly, glass jars have been smashed on the road, which endangers the public and road users). Thanks again to Volunteer Karen Penninga and TRACQs for preparing meals that are frozen then distributed to community members who are struggling financially.

**Laundry** – Our laundry is available free of charge for community members who do not have access to a washing machine or dryer.

**Holiday key crisis and contact numbers** – see page 1.



The Council approved location for the 'big' cassowary statue in Centenary Park.

### New Landmark to Celebrate Kuranda's Cultural and Natural Heritage

The Mareeba Shire Council has approved plans for an impressive 4-metre-high cassowary statue to be erected in Centenary Park, Kuranda, marking a significant milestone in celebrating the region's rich cultural and environmental heritage.

The landmark sculpture will feature unique artwork telling local stories, to be created by a collaborative group of talented local artists. This innovative project aims to bridge the gap between cultural storytelling and environmental awareness, highlighting the cassowary's vital role in our ecosystem.

Mareeba Shire Council Mayor, Angela Toppin, described the project as a perfect fusion of art, culture and environmental awareness that will serve as testament to Kuranda's commitment to preserving both its natural and cultural heritage.

Beginning in early 2025, the project will bring together artists from diverse backgrounds to collaborate on this significant public artwork. The initiative seeks to foster creative partnerships within the local arts community while creating a meaningful tourist attraction as well as highlighting the cassowary's importance to the Wet Tropics environment.

### Expanding of the Cassowary Art Trail with an additional painted statue!

We are proud to announce that Hartley's Crocodile Adventures will receive a cassowary statue on 12 December painted by local artist Corrin Skeene.

Thank you very much to Angela and Peter Freeman who support the Cassowary Art Trail. More details about the artist and her story coming soon!

### Supporting the Project

Cassowary Art Trail together with Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery Inc. invites tourism operators, local businesses and community members to be part of this landmark project through sponsorship and donations. Your contribution will help bring this unique vision to life and create a lasting legacy for future generations.

To make a donation, visit [www.cassowarytrail.com.au](http://www.cassowarytrail.com.au) and click on "donate".

To become a sponsor please send an email to [info@cassowarytrail.com.au](mailto:info@cassowarytrail.com.au).

Thank you very much for your support!

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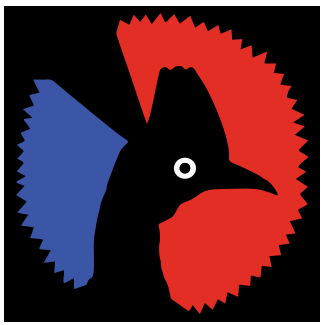
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# KURANDA conservation COMMUNITY NURSERY Inc

1 Pademelon Lane, Kuranda 4881  
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[www.kurandaconservation.org](http://www.kurandaconservation.org)

*The KCons Community Nursery is nearly always open!*

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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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## 2024 HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR US



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Our community nursery is pumping, the trailers are hardly ever home, our amazing bin stickers are getting the conservation message out there and contributing to our ability to fund our activities.

We are surrounded by dedicated, loyal and energetic supporters who report cassowary sightings, bring in seeds, work in the nursery, do our accounting, paint fabulous bin stickers for us and keep coming back year after year.

Hour upon hour has been invested by volunteers who meticulously record on the WildNet database all the details about the cassowaries that have been seen throughout the entire Kuranda region for past decades.

Week after week, the same hard workers come to the nursery to build infrastructure, move things around, shovel gravel, load soil, prick out tiny plants, pot up thriving seedlings, keep us clean and dusted, offer suggestions.

At around 11am we gather around the coffee table and share a sweet treat, tell improbable stories and have a hearty laugh. We're good friends.

Dealing with growing things is never boring (unless you have 100 lomandra plants to pot up) because every change in season brings in new species, plants we've never raised before, like Licuala, and we're always learning.

What's in store for 2025? More of the same, we hope, with your help.

Please continue to bring in new fruit, ask us to identify a plant for you, call in a cassowary sighting.

Buying one of our bin stickers helps us achieve the things that we need money for and hopefully brings some joy to you.

*Plant a tree a day!*



Buy Stickers for \$25 each @ [www.kurandaconservation.org](http://www.kurandaconservation.org)



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# NORTH QUEENSLAND WILDLIFE TRUST – FUNDING ANNOUNCED



Christmas cheer has come early with another record funding allocation of over \$75,000 from the locally founded and operated North Queensland Wildlife Trust.

The North Queensland Wildlife Trust (NQWT) was established in 2004 by the Freeman family who own and operate Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, Kuranda Koala Gardens and Birdworld Kuranda. The Trust is focussed very much on grass roots conservation efforts, hands-on wildlife care, critical habitat acquisition, conservation, research and preservation. At the Freeman attractions, there are easy mechanisms for visitors to make an active contribution to the conservation of native species and local habitats with funds accumulating weekly.

In further recognition, Peter and Angela Freeman were also recently awarded the Chairman's Award for Excellence at the North Queensland Tourism Awards for their dedication to conservation and wildlife.

**The funding recipients are:**

**Gondwana Rainforest Trust** – Funding \$3,000 to support the acquisition of Lot 92 Cape Tribulation Road (RP738993). Located at Cow Bay in Far North Queensland. The Trust is securing this 8.9 hectare property due to its exceptional value to nature conservation. Strategically located at Cow Bay it adjoins the Daintree National Park and World Heritage Area.

**Far North Queensland Wildlife Rescue** – Funding \$4,085 for critical medical equipment and for the purchase of urgently needed incubators and additional funds to assist with the carers buying wildlife food as \$50 for animals eating insects, mice, crickets etc.

**Kuranda Envirocare** – Funding \$4,995.20 For interpretive signage and to support the Kuranda Tree frog's monitoring program as well as to create habitat for this very endemic frog. Signage is hoped to engage the public and will hopefully bring volunteers to support the program.

**The Agile Project Wildlife Rescue** – Funding \$3,000 – Turf for maintenance of pre-release and rehabilitation sites. This funding will help purchase replacement turf for rejuvenation of release sites and allow greater involvement



by the community by providing labour for the turfing and maintenance process.

**Bats and Tree Society of Cairns (BatSoc) Inc.** – Funding \$10,000 – Annual support for the Kuranda creche and release facility in time for pupping season. The creche facility provides housing for sick, injured or orphaned bats prior to their release back to the wild. The particular focus of this funding is the Spectacled Flying-fox which is an endangered and keystone species of the Wet Tropics.

And last but not least, **Rainforest Rescue** – Funding \$50,000 – to support the acquisition of 110 Cape Tribulation Road to be converted from a disused sugar cane farm back to a viable rainforest habitat. The North Queensland Wildlife Trust has committed the first funding to provide the initial large acquisition contribution to assist Rainforest Rescue in raising the \$425,000 required to protect this part-regenerated property. Once restored it will be the subject of an application for Nature Refuge covenant to ensure it is protected in perpetuity.

More exciting announcements are also expected to come soon regarding the Magnetic Island Koala Hospital.

Source: North Queensland Wildlife Trust (NQWT)



## Season's Greetings!

From the  
**Kuranda Media Association**

We wish you a safe holiday season  
and a prosperous New Year!

Deadline for the February edition  
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### Kuranda's own tree frog



Kuranda Tree frog  
(*Litoria myola*).  
Photo: Ed Evans.

Much of Kuranda Envirocare's recent work has focused on averting the decline of the critically endangered Kuranda Tree frog (*Litoria myola*). Without intervention Kuranda's own tree frog would inevitably slide into extinction.

With limited budget and resources Kuranda Envirocare must target the areas where our efforts can be the most effective, which means understanding the habits and requirement of a healthy Kuranda Tree frog population.

Habitat destruction is the principal cause of its decline. Land clearing in the last 100 years has left the frog in small and isolated populations.

The male and female frogs do not live in the same areas, only coming together to breed. The males live close to water, usually within 20 metres of a creek. They do not live along the Barron River, only in small areas of creeks that feed into the river, often just upstream of the junctions.

The female frogs, however, live high in the rainforest canopy, from about 30–180 metres from the creek. That habitat is the one most affected by land clearing and therefore targeted by Kuranda Envirocare for revegetation.

Large areas of guinea grass are very dangerous for the continued survival of the frog. Corridors connecting known populations with other creeks without any frogs or with at risk populations are also necessary.

Kuranda Envirocare works with Dr Conrad Hoskin at JCU and many local volunteers to monitor the number of frogs in each population.

The good news is that frog populations have recovered in some areas where replanting has occurred such as lower Cain Creek and areas of Owen Creek. Where rainforest was retained along creeks and surrounding areas, populations have remained.

It's up to all of us, the Kuranda community, to pull together and ensure the continued existence of the Kuranda Tree frog. If you have a creek on your property, consider joining the Frog Friendly Neighbourhood through Kuranda Envirocare, or join a Kuranda Envirocare frog friendly planting.



Leah and Cameron enjoying planting at Cain Creek.

### New Envirocare Committee

The following committee positions were filled at the AGM:

- President – Anne Clarke
- Vice President – Bruce Wannan
- Secretary – Elizabeth Noble
- Treasurer – Neil Boland
- Committee Members – Marjorie Cutting and Margaret Zehntner

### Plant of the Month Blue flax lily – *Dianella species*



*Dianella caerulea*

An ideal garden plant with strappy foliage and spikes of blue flowers followed by blue to purple berries. *Dianella* adapts readily to most conditions, with mulching and watering giving the best looking plants. Two species are available in the Envirocare nursery.

### • Date Claimers •

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

## We are the invasive resist-ants



Volunteering on our ant surveys is a great way to get active and involved. Photo: R Reese.

### That's a wrap!

With the wet season closing in, we have finished our community-led volunteer surveys along Kuranda's streets. A huge 'thank you' to all the volunteers who helped, and to all the residents who came out to chat with our teams. We conducted surveys one Saturday each month from April to October, with an extra survey in September. We sampled more than 6,000 points along these streets:

- Rob Veivers Dr
- Morton St
- Harriman St
- Barang St
- Arara St
- Meeroo St
- Thongon St
- Wirramo St
- Caroono St
- Barron Falls Rd
- Tully Ct
- Ardmore Park Rd
- Kullaroo Cl
- Kuranda Cr
- Black Mountain Rd
- Spear Rd
- Shiva Cl
- Greene Ln
- Gregory Tce
- Daniel Pl
- Butler Dr

These surveys help us keep on the front foot, detecting invasive ants early. The great news is, no invasive ants were detected! Be sure to do your part by getting your free yard check at least once a year, as invasive ants can hitch a ride from Cairns or Mareeba in common items like garden plants, mulch, turf and used garden items.

### School holiday fun

We are busy planning a fun school holiday event for January to keep big and little ants occupied! Watch this space or our Facebook page for more details. Our 'Weird & Wonderful Wet Tropics' event will get you up-close with some of our amazing insects and arachnids. This all-ages event will feature our ant detector dogs and hands-on activities to help protect our amazing wildlife.



Above: Our January event 'Weird & Wonderful Wet Tropics' will let you get up-close with amazing critters. Photo: WTMA.

Right: Fun at the Koah Markets learning about our amazing ants. Photo: R Reese.



### Happy holidays!

Check out these top tips for the festive season from your local ant colony:

- **If Mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy** – In ant families, the queen rules the roost and everyone serves her needs. So make sure you take care of that special lady in your household!
- **Fill 'er up** – Many ants have special workers called 'repletes' whose job is to gorge themselves on food when it's available, then feed it back to the other ants when times are lean. So if you get criticised for over-indulgence, just tell everyone you're doing your part to help the family survive!
- **Fly away home** – How to gracefully say goodbye when you're ready to leave? Take your cue from the flying ants that magically appear around Christmas time. At the first sniff of rain, they take to the skies looking for their next big adventure. So just glance at the sky, say 'Looks like a storm coming' and away you go!

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Wishing you a happy holiday!

Rachel

## Join the invasive resist-ants

Coordinator: Rachel Reese

0474 560 700

coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au

Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce

ycacommunitytaskforce

communitytaskforce.org.au





As our Kindy year nears the end of Term four, we take the chance to reflect with the children on our year and all the things we have learned, enjoyed and achieved.

In Term one we explored kindness. What does it mean to be kind? How can we be kind and thoughtful people. We made our own books about the kind things the children did at Kindy.

In Term two we enjoyed being creative with lots of painting and cooking. We made vegetable soup and pizzas to eat.

In Term three we explored safety and learned about trains. We ended the term with a visit to the Kuranda train station.

All year we have been very engaged in our language and culture program. We have been learning about the Djabugay language and culture with Mrs Tahalani Hunter, as well as other languages and cultures from around Australia and the world.

In week seven of Term four we took the time to reflect on all of our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) goals that we have achieved. It was exciting to see how many goals we have achieved. We are very proud to be able to sit with the children and have them be part of this extremely important process.

Some of the goals we have achieved this year include getting new flags and flag poles so that the Kindy children can raise the flags each morning, also the creation of our reconciliation and RAP wall – inspired by the Djabugay book called *Buda: dji Miya-Miya Djada*. This has allowed us to make reconciliation visible and tangible everyday.

It has been an amazing year at Kindy and we are already excited for 2025. Thank you to everyone who has been part of our year. Gurru, Gaban-gabun galin. See you later, go carefully.



Left: Reflecting on our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) goals.

Below right: RAP goals display that we can get down to use for reflection and planning.

Below: The Reconciliation Wall Budadji Djama.



We are excited to let families know that we will be able to offer FREE KINDY for target age children in 2025! Target age for 2025 is children born between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021. This is a wonderful opportunity so please contact us at [kcka@westnet.com.au](mailto:kcka@westnet.com.au) or call on 07 4093 8087 for any enrolment enquiries. **Places for 2025 are quickly filling, so please contact us early to avoid disappointment.**



## KURANDA BRANCH

20 Thongon Street

Email: [kurandabranch@qcwa.org.au](mailto:kurandabranch@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.*

## HIGH TEA AND BIRTHDAY CAKE!

**High Tea and Celebrating 87 Years** – On Saturday 24 November at CWA Hall we held another successful High Tea event combined with the 87th birthday of the Kuranda CWA. A beautiful afternoon and lovely spread of delicious treats was organised with the expertise of Liza Soenario. There were generous raffles, an enjoyable violin recital by Bili Hammett-Ryan, and a CWA Dance Group performance inclusive of the audience!

Many thanks for the support given by QCWA Far North District, friends of Kuranda CWA, Mareeba Shire Mayor Angela Toppin and Councillor Amy Braes.



Above: Kuranda CWA 87 years Celebration with MSC Mayor Angela Toppin and Carol Jeanes (CWA President).

Left: Caroline Ryan (CWA Member) and MSC Councillor Amy Braes helping with CWA High Tea.

**Country Kitchens** – 2025 may see a focus on Country Kitchens as we have some interested members. Contact Vicki Donovan 0400 791 345 if you would like to support this venture.

**Kuranda CWA Membership** – Check out QCWA website and see the benefits of becoming a CWA member, or enquire locally via email [kurandabranch.qcwa.org.au](mailto:kurandabranch.qcwa.org.au).

**CWA monthly Members' meeting** – Wednesday 11 December 9–10.30am. As this will be the last meeting for the year we will meet at a coffee shop.

**Social Gathering** – No December social this month.

### 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, parking, and flexible hire times.

We currently have hire availability on Tuesdays 1–5pm, Wednesdays and evenings (except on 2nd and 3rd week for CWA meetings 8am–12pm), Thursdays until 4pm, most Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are free. Please enquire for availability as bookings can change.

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### Christmas Closure Dates

The Kuranda Library and Customer Service Centre would like to advise that we will be closed from 12pm Friday 20 December 2024, and will re-open on Monday 6 January 2025. We wish everybody a safe and merry holiday season!

### Thank you Kuranda!

We would like to take a quick moment to thank the community for continuing to support the library over the past year. We love having you visit us - whether you are coming in to borrow, to study and work in the library, coming along to the programs and events we host and run, or just to find a quiet spot to read for an hour or two - we always love seeing your faces.

The most borrowed Adult Fiction book for this year is a tie between *Simply Lies* by David Baldacci, and *Taste of Blood* by Lynda La Plante. It also appears that the most popular genre for Adult Fiction this year has been murder mystery – you guys really love a page turner!

The most borrowed Magazine series this year has been ABC's *Organic Gardener* – we're not too surprised to see this, we know how many green thumbs there are out there in the community – and continuing with the nature theme, the most borrowed Non-Fiction title was *Best Walks Around Cairns and the Tablelands* by Sally McPhee, Carmen Riordan, and Beth Wilson.

The kids have been borrowing up a storm this year too. The most borrowed picture book this year was a Peppa the Pig book, *Peppa the Unicorn*, surprising all of us that thought anything *Bluey* was a shoe-in. Graphic novels and Manga have also been incredibly popular this year with our junior readers, with *Dog Man: Fetch 22* by Dav Pilkey taking out the top spot for most borrowed junior fiction title.

We've also played host to a stack of different programs, events, and groups in the library this year. Our regular group meetings and programs have continued with great success this year, and we've even welcomed a new Book Club and Homeschool Group meetup in the library.

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to use the library and come along to one of the programs or events. We can't wait to finish out the year with you, and we look forward to bringing you new and exciting books and events in 2025.

### Join Debbie Ball for a FREE Zumba Dance Party at the Library!

Debbie will be getting this party started at the Kuranda Library on Tuesday 14 January 2025 from 10.30am. If you can't make it to our session, Debbie will be visiting the other Mareeba Shire Council libraries across December and January.

Bookings are absolutely essential, so to book your spot, call the library on 4093 9185 or simply scan the QR code and visit the Featured Events page on our website Home | Mareeba Shire Council Libraries (spydus.com) to book online.



### Looking for other things to do throughout the School Holidays?

There's always something to do at the library! We have puzzles, boardgames, toys, as well as PlayStation and Nintendo games all available to play with, and of course, plenty of reading material. We also have our Story Time sessions running from 10am on Friday mornings throughout the holidays featuring a different variety of hands-on crafts and sensory activities for the children to explore and learn from, where the kids take the lead in choosing what they want to do. Next time you hear the kids commenting they're bored, take a trip to the library!

**Book Review – Manga Classics: *Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen, story adaptation by Stacey King, art by Po Tse. Manga Classics, 2023. Review by Meg.

★★★★★ 3 out of 5 stars

**Publisher's Blurb:** *Beloved by millions over, Pride and Prejudice is delightfully transformed in this bold new manga adaptation. All the joy, humour and romance of Jane Austen's original story is perfectly illuminated by rich and sumptuous art, and faithfully adapted for a new generation of readers!*



Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is one of my all-time favourite books – so much so, that a few years ago, I made a project of finding and reading as many adaptations of it that I could find (a bit nerdy of me, I know). While I had previously found a graphic novel version of the book, before now, I had not come across a Manga adaptation.

For those who aren't familiar, 'Manga' is a style of comic book originating in Japan. It's also read from right-to-left, which is backwards from what you might be used to—this means that each page begins the top right corner. I really liked that this was helpfully explained with text and a diagram at the very beginning of the book, as it did take a little getting used to in the first few pages.

As far as adaptations go – it wasn't my favourite. I think it did a good job of conveying the essence of the story, with all the major plot points hit upon, and the overall themes of the book being conveyed adequately. I think that for myself as a reader who, at this point, knows the original book almost inside out, I was disappointed that they didn't use as much of the original text for dialogue as they could have, instead opting to simplify or modernise the language.

I will say the art is beautifully rendered, and I also appreciated that there was a cast of characters list at the beginning you could refer to. I do also think that the art was great at depicting the humour of the original text, while balancing it with the trademark Manga art-style.

I'd recommend this adaptation for a younger audience – tweens and young adults, who are maybe looking to test the waters of adult classic books. I think it's a good way to try a classic, and be introduced to the story, without the barrier of the regency period language that can be a little daunting to new readers at first.

Manga is also a great starting point for reluctant readers, as well as helping to develop visual literacy and critical thinking skills. For those interested, we have a range of Manga Classics available in the library to try, and you can view our entire Manga collection online via our website.



## Kuranda Writers Group

We had an attendance of seven at our meeting this month which included our newest member, seven-week-old Roger. Toni Rogers, was absent, but some of us had seen her at her exhibition, *Travellers Crossing*, at the Tableland Regional Gallery – an inspiring and thought-provoking collection of unique creations.

Eve started us off with an article from *The Guardian* about Jamie Oliver's recent young adult fantasy novel partially set in Australia. *Billy and the Epic Escape* involves a Central Australian Aboriginal girl who can read minds and speak to animals because "that's the indigenous way" and has her using words from the Gamilaraay people of New South Wales and southern Queensland. The issue demonstrated how we live in a time where celebrity often trumps competence. The author, editor and publisher did not conduct even the most basic research for the book they were producing. Jamie Oliver has expressed regret and asked for the book to be withdrawn.

With Christmas fast approaching, Eve brought a couple of children's books that earned admiration and probably a couple of future sales. *The Anatomy Busy Book* is an interactive depiction of the human body in all its glory. *How Do I Feel?* by Rebekah Lipp and Craig Phillips is an illustrated and comprehensive dictionary of emotions.

The discussion turned to our writing goals and the types of feedback (if any) we are each looking for. All writers are unique in their aspirations, and it's important for requested feedback to match and support the intent of the creator. Respect, sensitivity and clear understanding of the author's purpose is vital when offering feedback.

The list of books we are reading is diverse and fascinating. *Revolutionary Psychology* by Samaul Aun Weor, *Still Life* by Sarah Winman, *Horse and March* both by Geraldine Brooks, and *Cherrywood* by Jock Serong. Roger and his mum were reading parenting books and *The Humanure Handbook* by Joseph Jenkins.

At 11 o'clock, we observed a minute of silence to mark Remembrance Day (formerly called Armistice Day) – the 11th of the 11th.

Our writing homework this week was to write letters to the editor. Two of the letters will be submitted in this edition of the paper. Although not adhering to the suggested task, inspiration sent a couple of members in different directions with a short story and picture book text.

Our writing assignment for the next meeting on Monday 9 December is to write a travel story between 500 and 1000 words, but all writing is welcome. *Ann Harth*

Next meet:

**Monday 9 December – 10am-12 noon**  
at Kuranda Library, Arara Street

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

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### Black Cherry Tomatoes

You never know when you are in for a surprise!

I found a tomato plant in my garden with some small tomatoes. They had an unusual pattern and some parts of the tomato were black.

I have never seen them before. I did not plant them so I thought maybe a bird brought them in a dropping! They tasted really nice so I went surfing the net and found out that they are Black Cherry tomatoes.

I saved some seeds. This is what I did – to get rid of unwanted seed-borne diseases I fermented the seeds. Remove the seeds and pulp. Put in glass jar with some water. Leave for a few days. A foam or crust will form on the surface, indicating that the fermentation has occurred and the surrounding pulp has dissolved. Rinse seeds. Get rid of debris and empty seeds. (Empty seeds float). Spread the wet seeds out on non-stick paper to dry. Leave to dry for a week or so in a shady spot indoors. Don't dry in sun.

Next I did a viability test on these tomato seeds. I planted 10 seeds in a pot. I have learned to always use labels for all the different seeds I sow no matter if it is in pots or directly in the garden. Then I wait. If it is very sunny and windy I water the pot every day. Then the seeds start to germinate and in this case all 10 seeds germinated. So the viability is 100%. If you

sow 10 seeds and 2 germinate your viability is 20%. However, seeds will not germinate if they are sown at the wrong time of the season. Some plants are definitely winter crops and some are definitely summer crops. Some grow all year round. The seed has a memory and knows when the conditions are right for germination. One winter I sowed a row of Rocket. For three weeks nothing happened. I thought I might have sown at wrong time so I sowed a second row of Rocket next to the first row. Another three weeks passed and nothing happened. Then I thought that my seeds were too old. I decided to have one last go and sowed a third row. Two days later the first row of Rocket started to germinate. In the end all three rows germinated. Tell yourself to be patient.

There is a Guiana chestnut tree in the garden, it has just finished flowering. The tree has many names – Water chestnut, Provision tree, French peanut, Malabar chestnut, Mexican fortune tree, Dollar plant and Saba nut. Once the nuts are ready to harvest the pod will drop to the ground and split open. The nuts are yummy to eat fresh and raw as well as fried in the pan. I don't save the seeds/nuts for later planting but plant in a pot straight away. They are fast to germinate. Give it a go, it is great fun.

For more information on seedsavers and meetings in our region, please email [seedsavers@kurandaregion.org](mailto:seedsavers@kurandaregion.org) also check out Kuranda.TV (YouTube channel) to see videos on local seed savers, gardening, syntropics and permaculture.

*Happy seed saving! Ulla Melchiorsen*

## Buluwai Indigenous Corporation News

The Rainforest People Country Culture Interactive Map was filmed with Traditional Owners across this living cultural landscape and delivered in collaboration with Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and SharingStories Foundation. This innovative project brings you closer to the heart of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area – prepare to be inspired, captivated and uplifted by the rich stories of Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples.

Buluwai Traditional Owner Willie Brim shares insights into Bama lore, highlighting the deep interconnectedness of nature and the importance of honouring the land and its spirits.



"My name is Willie but my traditional name is ngũnba meaning platypus. It's also the traditional name of the Kuranda area. I'm in the rainforest system here and this place was ruled by Aboriginal lore, Buluwanydji lore. All the old people, they passed on the knowledge on how to look after this place."



**Watch Story**  
Bama lore and nature



**Check Out**  
Interactive Story Map

If you would like to find out more about the corporation's activities, get a membership form, discuss Buluwai areas of responsibility with traditional owners or any other matter relating to the Buluwai tribe, Dianne Brim can be reached on 0459 062 784.

#### Meetings

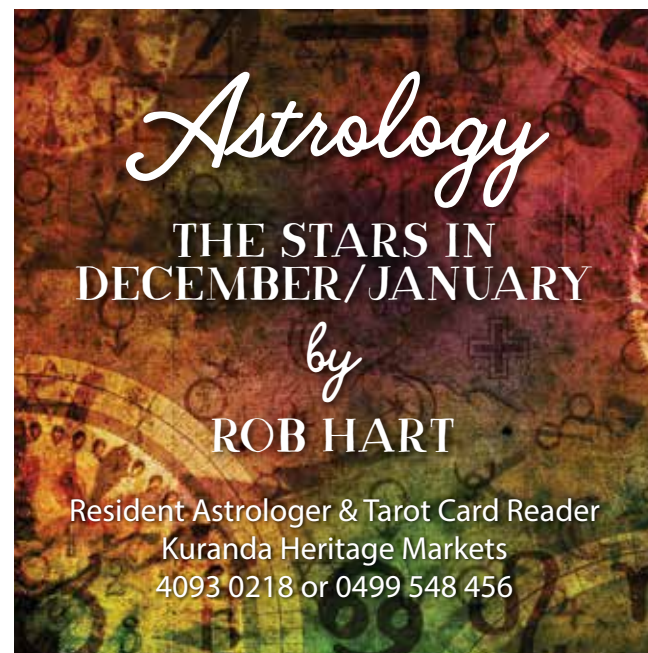
10am–12pm Saturdays @ Kuranda Amphitheatre  
2025: 8 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July.



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December begins with a new moon in Sagittarius. Hopeful, optimistic and tending to exaggerate the positive. An excellent time to explore, extend boundaries and just go a bit further than caution would advise.

So the first day of the last month of a tumultuous 2024 is a final burst of Fire energy. And with Pluto now, at last, settled into Aquarius for the long haul we can contemplate next year breaking through a lot of barriers and a whole new wave of opportunities pouring through.

With Venus also crossing into Aquarius on 7 December, along with the asteroid Ceres "The Goddess of the Harvest", great joy can be had by expressing a real love for the outrageous, the weird and the sudden unexpected surprises that come along. Also quite kinky if that is your thing.

Mars spends December retrograding in Leo. Whoops! If you feel you've overstepped the mark a strategic retreat is the best way forward. And with a full moon in Gemini on 15 December aligning with Gemini Jupiter, well, partying to excess is not only likely but highly recommended. This is Christmas – party time!

And the month ends as it began, with a new moon, this time in Capricorn. So we sign off on 2024 with the promise of stability and respect as the foundations for next year's restructuring and maybe some enlightened leadership. Settling now into cautious optimism.

And January 2025? Looking at the planetary movements it's a bit "ho hum, boring, nothing to see here". Really? Maybe that's an indication of life settling into some comfortable patterns and stress levels declining. That would also suggest the decision-makers will have an honourable year to our benefit. Maybe...

When the Sun moves into Aquarius and joins Pluto on 20 January, we have the centre (the Sun) aligning with the outer boundary (Pluto) in an exciting revolutionary combination of potentials and a total Aquarian vibe. A unique time of positive evolutionary progress. And with Venus and Mars in a soft Water trine, Pisces to Cancer, a very gentle creative force is ground-swelling into action and given that Uranus in Taurus is also in harmony, Water to Earth, it would suggest that love really does begin to "guide the planet", gently but irresistibly. Then as Mercury crosses into Aquarius at the end of the month, there will be exciting news confirming our shift in direction.

An Aquarian Sun trine to a Gemini Jupiter on the last day of January really emphasises a successful lift off. Maybe there is something to see here. High hopes bear fruit!

Blessings.





# RANGERS report

## Kuranda Rangers Football Club Kicks Off 2025 Season – 16 January

The Kuranda Rangers Football Club is ready to hit the ground running as we prepare for an exciting 2025 season, with weekly training sessions resuming on Thursday 16 January. Reflecting on a successful and action-packed 2024, we are eager to build on our achievements and welcome players of all skill levels to join us.

### Reflecting on 2024 – A year of growth and success

2024 was an incredible year for the Kuranda Rangers. We saw outstanding performances on the field, a growing sense of community spirit, and a surge in participation from players of all ages. Our teams showcased resilience and passion, making us all proud to be part of this fantastic club.

Off the pitch, we also made strides in fostering a supportive environment for players, parents, and volunteers. However, as we look to grow even further in 2025, we urgently need more volunteers to help as coaches.

### Volunteers Needed – Join the team behind the team

We're calling on anyone aged 16 and above to make a real difference in the Club by stepping into a coaching role. Whether you're a parent, student, or someone who loves being part of a team, we need your support.

- No soccer experience required!
- Coaching certificates provided – the Club will cover the cost and assist you in earning

recognised coaching qualifications.

- A great opportunity for students studying sports or PE at school or college who want to enhance their resumes with coaching experience.

Volunteering as a coach is a rewarding way to contribute to the community, develop leadership skills, and help shape the next generation of football players in Kuranda.

### Exciting News for 2025

We're thrilled to announce that the Club has been working hard to secure new sponsors for the 2025 season. Keep an eye out as we reveal our supporters in the new year – their contributions will help us continue to grow and provide the best possible experience for our players and families.

If you're interested or know someone who might be, please contact us at [kurandarangersfootball@gmail.com](mailto:kurandarangersfootball@gmail.com) or join us at one of our training sessions starting 16 January 2025.

Together, let's make 2025 another memorable year for the Kuranda Rangers Football Club and continue the legacy of this fantastic community!

David Lyons

Are you interested in playing football? For more information follow our Facebook page or send us an email [kurandarangersfootball@gmail.com](mailto:kurandarangersfootball@gmail.com)

### Club contacts:

Keira Nash 0437 778 849 and Adric Rusch 0429 488 214.

## Merry Christmas from everyone at the Kuranda Rangers!

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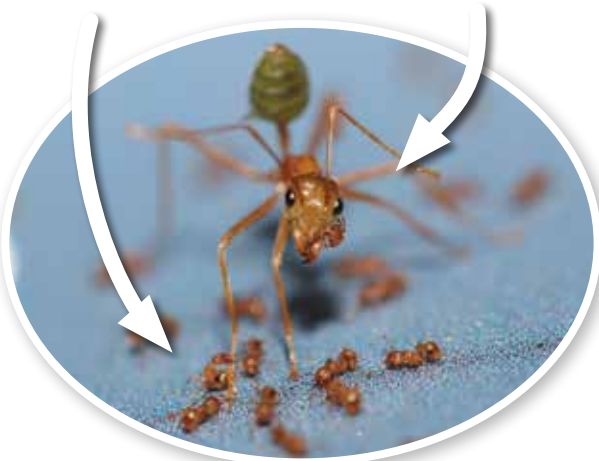
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# WAYGAL-A-GALING BUWAL-WU

## 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.



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



GUWAY  
 GUYIY  
 GUYURRU  
 MALIYARR  
 MANGGA  
 MURRGU  
 MURRAA  
 NYUBI  
 NYUMBA  
 NYUNGA  
 NYUNGGULU  
 WABARR  
 WADIRR  
 WADJI  
 WADJINGAL  
 WAGA  
 WAGAL  
 WALBIRRWALBIRR  
 WALBURRI  
 WANGARRI  
 WANGGIRR

WARRUWARRU  
 WAYWAY  
 WILGARR  
 WUBA  
 WUNYAN  
 WURRUBA  
 YABAL  
 YABURU  
 YADJUL  
 YALMA  
 YALMBA  
 YALUUYALUU  
 YAMALYAMAL  
 YILAALA  
 YINDIN  
 YINIGARRAY  
 YIRRMBA  
 YIWANDIBIY  
 YUNGAY  
 YUWARRANGGAL

### WORD MEANINGS

**GUWAY:** entrance, doorway. *Guway budan!* Open the door!  
**GUYIY:** to show. *Ngayanda djumburru guyin!* Show me the track!  
**GUYURRU:** wind  
**MALIYARR:** grassfire  
**MANGGA:** nest, pouch  
**MURRGU:** bush turkey or scrub hen mound/burial ground  
**MURRAA:** snakeskin  
**NYUBI:** father-in-law  
**NYUMBA:** spit, saliva. *Gari nyumba daban!* Don't spit!  
**NYUNGA:** beard, moustache  
**NYUNGGULU:** Torres Strait pigeon  
**WABARR:** the hunt. *Wabarr-a-galing.* Going hunting.  
**WADIRR:** initiation marks on a man's stomach and chest  
**WADJI:** stone axe  
**WADJINGAL:** Kuranda quandong, four-cornered nut also called gurrndu  
**WAGA:** bank, hillside  
**WAGAL:** wife  
**WALBIRRWALBIRR:** butterfly

**WALBURRI:** sugar glider, flying possum  
**WANGARRI:** adolescent boy  
**WANGGIRR:** ribs  
**WARRUWARRU:** male youths  
**WAYWAY:** breath  
**WILGARR:** green tree snake  
**WUBA:** red ochre  
**WUNYAN:** camp site  
**WURRUBA:** beeswax  
**YABAL:** nephew, niece  
**YABURU:** mature girl  
**YADJUL:** straight, correct  
**YALMA:** cross-boomerang  
**YALMBA:** flat. *Bulmba yalmba.* Flat country.  
**YALUUYALUU:** these times  
**YAMALYAMAL:** cool. *Bana yamalyamal.* Cool waters.  
**YILAALA:** a married couple  
**YINDIN:** a cricket  
**YINIGARRAY:** to become scared. *Ngawu yinigarrang.* I'm frightened.

**YIRRMBA:** multi-pronged fishing spear  
**YIWANDIBIY:** to play. *Nyurramba wawu yiwandabiy-galin!* All of you go outside to play!  
**YUNGAY:** to swim, to slither  
**YUWARRANGGAL:** to measure. *Gudji yabulam yuwarrangga!* Measure that lawyer cane.



Sugar glider. Photo: Timur Garifov via Unsplash

### 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. **djun.gal** (sky)  
 /ngg/ is pronounced as the ng sound in the word "finger" e.g. **nyinggarra** (eel)  
 /ay/ is generally pronounced as in the English word "eye" e.g. **Djabugay**

#### Stress

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

In words of two syllables, the first syllable is stressed e.g. **bina** (ear).  
 In words of three syllables, the first syllable is stressed e.g. **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).**

*Buwal bugan 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.



The highly anticipated reopening of the Kuranda Skate Park will be celebrated at a community event at 11:00 AM on December 7, 2024, with a free BBQ, professional skaters and BMX riders, and a live DJ.

"Mareeba Shire Council engaged TRACQS to undertake the upgrades to the Kuranda Skate Park, and they have done a wonderful job. This will be a great meeting place for the community, and the artwork captures the unique Kuranda spirit," said Mareeba Shire Mayor Angela Toppin.

"The Kuranda Skate Park has been a fantastic project, and we are very excited to open the facility to Kuranda and the surrounding communities," said Lance Starr, TRACQS Community Activity Manager.

"The project included 340 square metres of concrete laid around the existing skate bowl, two new shelters with seating, a water bubbler, a grinding bar for skaters, a rock retaining wall, new turf, and 50 bollards around the park," explained Mr. Starr.

"We also removed the existing paint in preparation for the new mural and applied a protective coating," added Mr. Starr.

"I would like to thank Mareeba Shire Council for their assistance, TRACQS Supervisors Jason Ball and Adric Rusch, as well as the TRACQS Community Assistance Workers, who were upskilled in concreting, painting, welding, machinery operation, landscaping, and general construction," said Mr. Starr.

Cairns-based graffiti artist Jak Lilley (Paradox Creative) was excited to take a unique approach to the artwork to complement the structural design of the facility while representing the areas and communities featured in the space: Kuranda, Koah, Mantaka, Kowrowa, and Mona Mona.

"Coming from a skateboarding background, we aimed for the works to serve as a dynamic yet functional art piece. The placement of the artwork on the surfaces of the space was designed to enhance the skate park's usability for patrons, intentionally fitting the skate park's flowlines, curvatures, hips, bowl, and transition areas," said Mr. Lilley.

All graphic elements featured in the artwork were chosen to represent the iconic natural diversity found within the local area and greater region.

"The Barron River serves as a key feature and functional design element, connecting and accentuating parts of the piece. Abstracted graphic representations of the Wet Tropics bioregion vegetation maps and textures sourced from local eucalypt species serve as a background feature for the works and a directional element throughout the space and the park's structure," explained Mr. Lilley.

Another element of interest in the artwork are the constellations, which can be viewed at night directly above the park. The typographic style chosen for each area title draws influence from 1980s skateboarding logos and aims to create a sense of pride for the communities represented.

"I am truly looking forward to the skate park's opening and seeing the community enjoy the space and artwork," concluded Mr. Lilley.



## Kuranda Skate Park Community Event!

**Saturday, 7 December 2024 at 11am**  
**Kuranda Skate Park**  
**(near the Kuranda Amphitheatre)**

- **Local Skaters and BMX Riders**
- **Free community BBQ**
- **Live DJ performance**



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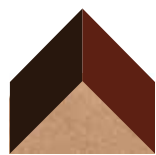
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# KURANDA MEN'S SHED

incorporating  
**KURANDA SHE SHED**



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

## Celebrating a Year of Projects, Creativity and Community

The Kuranda Men's Shed has wrapped up another fruitful year, celebrating the dedication and creativity of its members, and looking forward to a new year of projects and camaraderie. This year, the Shed has been a bustling hub of activity, where members have taken on projects of all sizes, from large-scale restorations to detailed handcrafted creations.

Among the larger projects, the team has collaborated on restoring old trailers and bringing new life to aged furniture. These substantial undertakings not only showcase the technical skills of the members but also highlight the Shed's commitment to preserving and repurposing valuable resources.

But it's not all big projects at the Kuranda Men's Shed. Many members have enjoyed focusing on smaller, personal ventures. Dougie has been honing his skills in wood sculpting, crafting intricate pieces that show off his developing talent and eye for detail. John, on the other hand, has been busy making a variety of walking sticks, each unique and tailored to support and delight their future owners. In the spirit of creating a safer environment for everyone, Don has taken on the task of building a new steel handrail, ensuring safe access on the Shed's stairs.

Right: John's walking sticks.

Below: Dougie's sculptures.



In November, members gathered for a combined Christmas and Melbourne Cup luncheon, celebrating the year's achievements and enjoying some friendly rivalry. The Sweeps brought some extra cheer, with several members having lucky wins that added excitement to the day.

Looking ahead, we have a few updates to our schedule. The Tuesday mixed session, open to both male and female participants, will now be held in the morning from 8.30am to midday. This change aims to welcome more members, provide flexibility, and allow everyone to make the most of the day.

Reflecting on a successful year, the Kuranda Men's Shed was excited to welcome new faces in 2024, ready to share skills, ideas, and fellowship with even more members. From all of us at the Shed, season's greetings to the Kuranda community! We look forward to another great year of making, learning, and connecting.

### 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

Kuranda Men's Shed

## Alternative Communications Post Cyclone Now Available

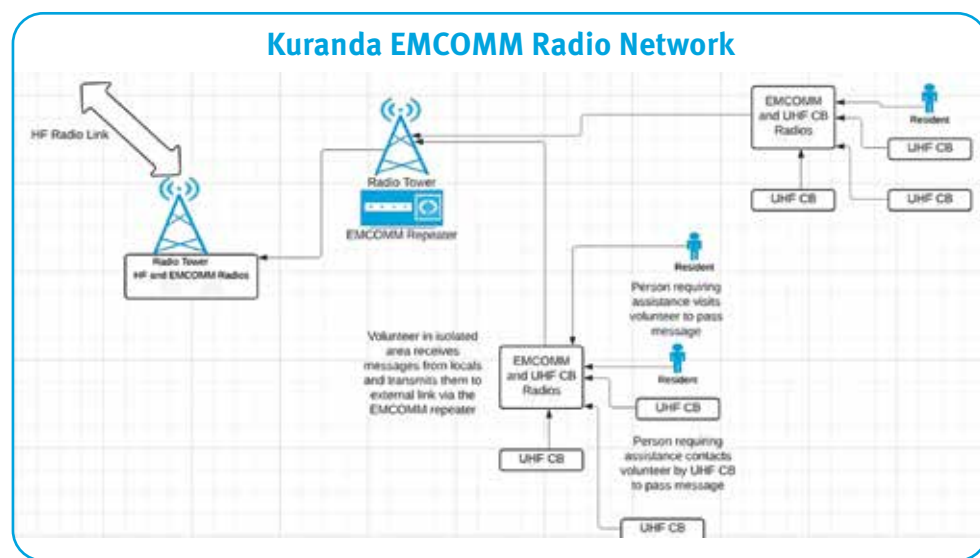
Following the devastation caused by Cyclone Jasper and its massive rainfall, many parts of the Kuranda area were completely isolated. The restoration of services including internet, telephones, mobile phones and road access took hours or days, placing many residents in real danger in case of life-threatening injuries or other emergencies.

It became clear to many in the community that an alternative communication system was required during this danger period and a number of locals have banded together to implement such a system. The system is based on a radio repeater located at Mt Haren, the highest point in the area, operating in a radio band that is best suited for communications through the local geography and vegetation. The repeater planning allows for it to operate at least four days without mains power.

A number of volunteers have bought radios that can work with the repeater and they will provide a means of communicating for isolated locals in their area. Messages given to these volunteers will be transmitted, via the repeater, to other volunteers outside the immediate area who can pass the messages on to emergency services. These out-of-area volunteers are amateur radio operators who may have normal communications still operating or, through their hobby, have equipment that is capable of contacting amateurs in other parts of the State and can pass on requests for help.

Messages can be passed to the radio volunteers either by visiting them at their residence or calling them on UHF CB Channel 5, the legally designated CB emergency channel.

While emergency messages are the main purpose of the network, personal welfare messages can be sent as a second priority: an example could be a message to concerned relatives out of the area about the condition of locals. The following diagram shows how this network of radios is connected.



Additionally, the Mareeba Shire Council Disaster Centre will have a radio on the network. This will enable them to obtain additional information from the radio volunteers about conditions in their area. As the SES are also represented at the Disaster Centre, relevant information can be passed to them.

While the volunteers will do all possible to provide this assistance they, and the equipment used, are subject to the extreme conditions that occur with a cyclone and no guarantee can be given.

There is a Facebook page, Kuranda Area Communications Network, where additional information is available.

The project has been supported by the RFDS (provision of facilities in their Mt Haren radio hut), Cairns Amateur Radio Club and Tablelands Electronics and Radio Club (members supplying radios and providing communications outside the disaster area), Kuranda Mens Shed (making antennas), Mareeba Shire Council (provision of some hardware) and the Repeater System/ACMA Licence Fees have been provided by local resident, Howard Small.

The way to get in touch and pass a message is shown in the following table:

Area	By radio	In person
Speewah (2 stations)	UHF CB Channel 5	
Koah	UHF CB Channel 5	
Top of the Range	UHF CB Channel 5	
Jarawee/Fairyland Road	UHF CB Channel 5	Visit 10 Jarawee Road, Kuranda
Near Kingfisher Close, Kuranda	UHF CB Channel 5	
Near Platypus Close, Kuranda	UHF CB Channel 5	
Near Cadagi Drive, Russet Park	UHF CB Channel 5	

Updates will be posted on the Facebook groups Kuranda Notice Board and Kuranda Area Communications Network. If possible, there will also be updates in the Kuranda Paper. If anyone wishes to purchase a radio and be a radio volunteer, please request to join the Kuranda Area Communications Network Facebook group.

# REPORT YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

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# ST SAVIOUR'S KURANDA

## SUNDAY

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

15 December – 6pm Carol Service

## TUESDAY

9am Holy Communion

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Sunday 15 December – 6pm Carol Service

**Tuesday 24 December – CHRISTMAS EVE**

7.30pm Carols by Candlelight for children with mums and dads plus Holy Communion

**Wednesday 25 December – CHRISTMAS DAY**

8.30am Christmas Family Communion

**Wednesday 1 January 2025**

9.30am New Year's Day Service

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# St Saviour's Thought for Christmas

Each year at Christmas I enjoy the Christmas nativity scene and carols, which in their soft familiarity, often allow us to forget the harsh details of the birth of Jesus. In the romantic version Mary smiles, her hair is unruffled. She looks fresh as a daisy, unlike any newly delivered mother. Jesus is silent and still, clean and pink and happy unlike most newborns. But we need to think and imagine a little more accurately about the birth of Jesus.

Joseph would not leave Mary behind, alone to face the shame and difficulties by herself, so he took her with him to Bethlehem. We may want to accuse him for making a young first-time pregnant mother travel such a distance. It's no wonder she had the baby after that kind of trip. Donkeys don't carry evenly, they swing their hips as you ride. It would be a lot more of a roller coaster ride than a ride down the Range on a bus. We can forget all this, the difficulties and obstacles, but St Luke's Gospel brings them into play.

We have a story of a young girl surprised by her pregnancy which would bring shame and dishonour and a puzzled man engaged to be married to her. Mary and Joseph believed, but she must have been afraid and he must have had his doubts.

St Luke's Gospel provides the detail about the census for taxing explains why a couple living in Nazareth had their child in a Bethlehem stable, but it also shows more of their difficulties for the taxes and the census were part of the Roman occupation of Judah. Mary and Joseph belonged to an oppressed people living in an occupied land.

I always imagine Bethlehem as it is today and was when Jesus was born – an overcrowded city, full of rotting garbage, full of people and noise and jostling everywhere. And let's be honest, stables stink. The stable may have been warm but it would have smelled of manure, animal hair and rotting straw. The stable of a busy innkeeper is not spotless, the smoke from the torches; Mary is tired and dirty from a long trip and despite the angel's assurance, she is afraid. Mary has

no midwife, and it is hard to imagine that Joseph attended prenatal classes. So this young mother must give birth in a stable with only the help of an old inexperienced man.

It is our human inclination to soften the dirt and suffering and fear, but we must recognise that Jesus was born into poverty, dirt, homelessness and fear, into a very real world, our world. Jesus was born a wrinkled, bloody baby to a scared young girl in a stable.

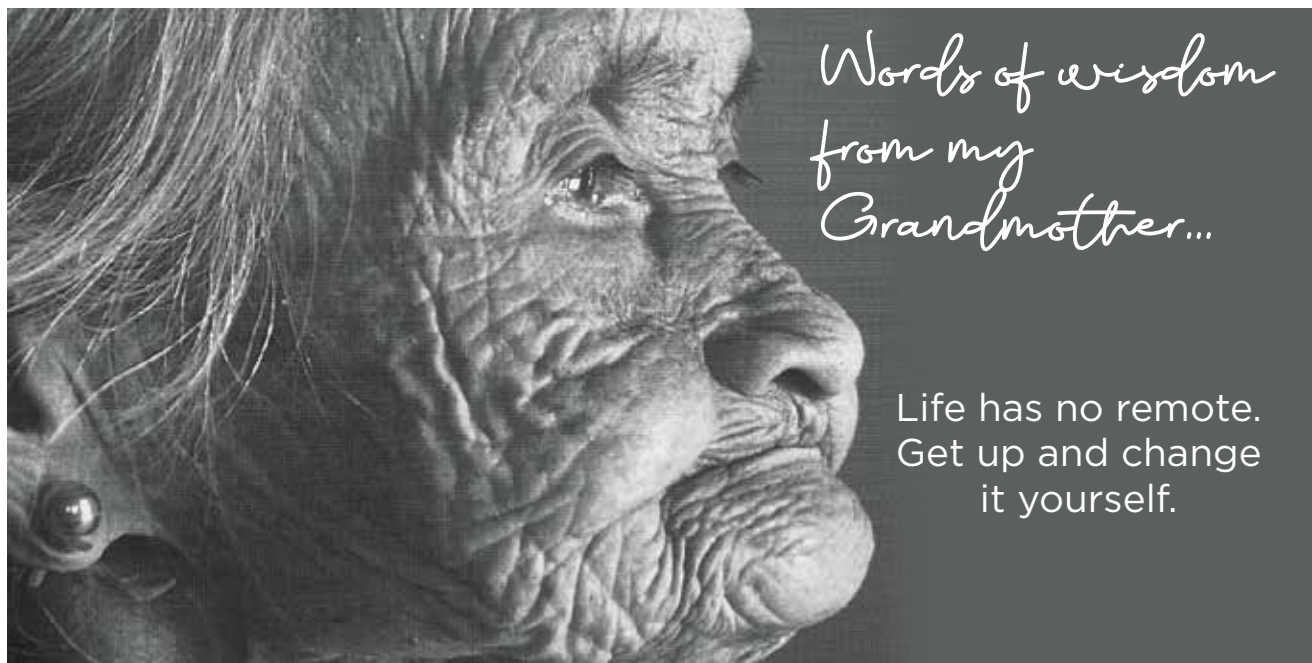
The world of our imagined nativity scene needs no redemption, it is perfect already. But Jesus was born into the world we know with all its wonders and with all its hatred, fear, dirt and pain. God so loved the world and God so loves you and me as we are.

But that harsh manger scene is transformed into something warm and sweet by the presence of Jesus himself. We see a stinky stable as something warm and mysterious and wonderful because we see it in the light of Jesus Christ.

If we can see something warm and mysterious and wonderful in the nativity scene, it is by the same light of Jesus Christ that we can see something warm and mysterious and wonderful, and see that God loves us, in ourselves and in one another. My prayer this Christmas is that we might experience something warm, mysterious and wonderful in ourselves, in one another and throughout the entire world.

## News from St Saviour's

Christmas is coming and there are lots of preparations coming on at St Saviour's for the Christmas Services. On Sunday 15 December we are holding our Carols Service at 6pm. On Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December, there will be Carols by Candlelight for children with mums and dads with Holy Communion at 7.30pm. On Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December, there will be the Christmas Day family service at 8.30am.



*Words of wisdom  
from my  
Grandmother...*

Life has no remote.  
Get up and change  
it yourself.

# THOUGHT OF THE MONTH FROM THE BAHAI FAITH

"Religion is the outer expression of the divine reality. Therefore it must be living, vitalised, moving and progressive. If it be without motion and non-progressive it is without the divine life; it is dead. The divine institutes are continuously active and evolutionary; therefore the revelation of them must be progressive and continuous. All things are subject to re-formation. This is a century of life and renewal. Sciences and arts, industry and invention have been reformed. Law and ethics have been reconstituted, reorganised. The world of thought has been regenerated. Sciences of former ages and philosophies of the past are useless today. Present exigencies demand new methods of solution; world problems are without precedent. Old ideas and modes of thought are fast becoming obsolete. Ancient laws and archaic ethical systems will not meet the requirements of modern conditions, for this is clearly the century of a new life, the century of the revelation of the reality and therefore the greatest of all centuries.

...It is evident that no vital results are now forthcoming from the customs, institutions and standpoints of the past. In view of this, shall blind imitations of ancestral forms and

theological interpretations continue to guide and control the religious life and spiritual development of humanity today?

The nations and religions are steeped in blind and bigoted imitations... That is to say they profess religious belief blindly and without investigation, making unity and agreement impossible. It is evident therefore that this condition will not be remedied without a reformation in the world of religion. In other words the fundamental reality of the divine religions must be renewed, reformed, revoiced to mankind." (Abdu'l-Baha)

**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.

All enquiries welcome.

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

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

**Mayor's Christmas Appeal.** Funds for local families in need can be donated at the Kuranda Library Customer Service Centre.

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

**Pre-cyclone discount Green Waste days.** Discounted green waste days at the Kuranda Transfer Station on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 December. See page 8 for details.

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**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.

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**Women's Sexual Assault Survivors Group** - Atherton and Mareeba. 4091 4036

## Heads Up!

The Kuranda Paper deadline for February 2025 edition is **Thursday 23 January 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)

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**Kuranda Medical Centre** cnr Thongon and Barang Sts  
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**Kuranda Transfer Station** 2186 Kennedy Hwy, Koah  
**MSC Recycle Station** – Arara Street, Kuranda

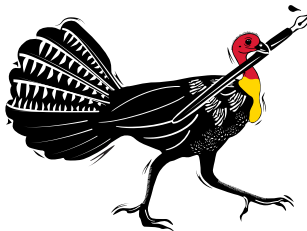
**RECYCLE** Donate your aluminium cans to **COUCH** (Committee for Oncology Unit at Cairns Hospital).  
 Recycle bin located at the Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Road.



## 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)

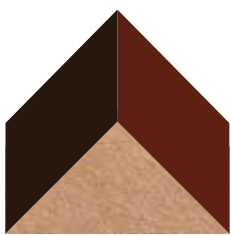
Discussion group for Kuranda district residents only.

**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.



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

## 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\*\***

## RAINFALL

**Total November 2024**  
 78.0mm  
 (to 30 November 2024)

**December 2024 – 83.5mm**  
 (to 3 December 2024)

**Annual Total – 2793.1mm**  
 (to 3 December 2024)

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)



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**

### 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)

### TRANSPORT & ALERTS

**Kuranda Transfers** 07 3132 3273

**Rideshare** 1300 743 374

**Trans North** 3036 2070

#### KURANDA RANGE ROAD NIGHT WORKS

Night works and road closures are in place on the Kuranda Range Road until 20 December. The Range will close from 9pm to 4am every night except for Friday and Saturday nights. Queued traffic will be let through at the top and bottom of the Range at midnight and then the road will be closed again until 4am. After 20 December, the road will be open to a single lane under traffic control over the Christmas period. Visit [tmr.qld.gov.au](http://tmr.qld.gov.au) for any changes.

#### 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)



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)



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

As 2024 draws to a close, all of us at the Kuranda Recreation Centre (KRC) wish the whole community a happy and safe festive season!

We'd also like to thank our hirers for their continued support this year and the public who have attended the wide range of classes and activities that we host at the Centre. The KRC is a community venue for all so please continue to support this wonderful community resource.

### WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER?

In December we still have a number of classes on, however Pilates will have their last class on Thursday 19 December before they take a break over Christmas.

Kuranda 8 Ball and Kuranda Rangers have finished their seasons and will return in 2025.

Be sure to contact our hirers directly if you have any queries about their classes or class times and dates over Christmas.

### WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY?

Pilates classes will resume on Monday 6 January 2025.

Kuranda Rangers will commence weekly training for the new season on 16 January.

*Happy Christmas from the KRC team to each and all of you!*



# 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 24 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

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

**Mixed (male & female) Men's Shed** Kuranda 8.30am–12pm. [mensshedkuranda@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedkuranda@gmail.com)

## CONTACT US

 Kuranda Recreation Centre  
 [krc4881@gmail.com](mailto:krc4881@gmail.com)

**JUMRUM BAR OPEN  
TUESDAY 6.30 PM**

## WHAT'S ON

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

**KURANDA 8 BALL** – finished for 2024  
Competitive Pool  
Tuesday 6.30–10.30pm  
Bar open, affordable prices

**KURANDA RANGERS** – finished for 2024  
Training Thursday 4.30–5.30pm  
Keira 0437 778 849

**PILATES** – last class 19 December  
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](mailto:krc4881@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 Nyuwarrri Estate (old Ngoonbi farm), 1496 Kennedy Highway, Kuranda. 40938 116

### EVERY THURSDAY

**Kuranda Envirocare** Nursery volunteering. 9am–12noon. 0474 560 700

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

**Ashtanga Yoga** 6pm. Biannka 0407 634 116

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

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

**K.A.S.T.** (Kuranda Amphitheatre Society Theatre) 6pm Kuranda Amphitheatre Understage.



## What's On at Koah Hall

### EVERY MONDAY

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

**WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER** (Jan TBC)

**FELDENKRAIS WITH JUSTINE**  
9.30–10.30am. Justine 0408 735 309

**THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER** (Jan TBC)

**TRI YOGA**  
5.30–6.45pm. Sage 0457 069 457

### SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER

**WHISPERING SKY – MUSIC  
AND DANCE** – 6pm. See page 7.  
Tickets [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1315435](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1315435)

### SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

**SEEDSAVERS**  
2–5pm. Ulla Melchiorson 0436 024 269

**THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER and  
9 & 23 JANUARY 2025**

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

### FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER

**COMMUNITY SONG CIRCLE**  
6.15pm. Kym 0409 963 638

**SUNDAY 15 & 22 DECEMBER and  
12, 19 & 26 JANUARY**

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

### DREAM BIG! CIRCUS CLASSES – Term Time \*\*Starts back end January\*\*

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 – Aerial Silks, Trapeze, and Lyra** Various classes 4–6.45pm

**WEDNESDAY – Circus 1** – 3.45–4.45pm, Age 5–9, **Circus 2** – 4.45–5.45pm, Age 10+ and **Show Class** – 5.45–7pm – Age 8+

### 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

**\*\*last one until March 2025!\*\***

**Saturday 7 December  
8am till Midday**

- Live music brought to you by JEANETTE WORMALD TRIO bringing Joy to the CHRISTMAS MARKET!
- One Horse Open Sleigh Rides, FREE face painting and much more
- Shop Local – Gifts that give twice!
- Community Market with all the local goodness! Produce, honey, plants, crafts, treats, treasures
- SMS/Voicemail Nicky 0488 961 660 or direct message via Koah Monthly Markets Facebook page.

*The Koah Hall Committee  
would like to wish everyone a  
very Happy Festive Season  
and all the best for  
the year ahead!*

### 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. Email [volunteers@kurandaamphitheatre.org](mailto:volunteers@kurandaamphitheatre.org)