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THE KURANDA PAPER

February 2026

Issue 383

FREE INDEPENDENT MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1991

WWW.KURANDAPAPER.COM

KURANDA WEIR RECOVERY UPDATE

The Kuranda Weir Recovery Project is almost complete, with final stabilisation works active and progressing as planned.

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper significantly damaged the weir in late 2023, with repairs over the past two years focused on restoration and future-proofing the infrastructure.

Work in 2024 focused on construction of the main permanent concrete dam wall, marking a significant milestone and transitioning the project from emergency reinstatement to long-term resilience and operational readiness.

In 2025, priorities included raising the permanent dam wall to its final height, which has now been reached and continuing works to permanently stabilise the embankment.

As part of the ongoing embankment stabilisation works CleanCo will install a retaining wall to further strengthen the embankment and protect against dam seepage.

This involves drilling and installing reinforced columns deep into the ground.

These works are scheduled to begin on 23 February and will occur over approximately six weeks.

Works will be carried out between 7:00am and 5:00pm,

Monday to Friday.

During this period, nearby residents may notice construction-related noise and localised vibration near the Kuranda Weir site.

Acting Barron Gorge Site Manager Matt Ferguson said the past couple of years had been a strong collaborative effort.

"This final stage represents years of planning, engineering and hard work to ensure the Kuranda Weir is not only repaired but strengthened for the long term. The works underway now are about securing the structure so it can continue to operate safely and reliably for many years to come.

"For everyone involved there's a real sense of responsibility in this work, which is why so much care is being taken to ensure what we deliver will protect all infrastructure and

CleanCo will install a retaining wall to further strengthen the embankment and protect against dam seepage. Photo CleanCo



keep it operating safely for generations to come."

The major concrete works are scheduled for completion by February, followed by river piling works, with final infrastructure repairs and revegetation of cleared areas to be completed by September 2026.

CONGRATULATIONS SPEEWAH FIRIES

Mareeba Shire Council Environmental Achievement Award winners, the Speewah Rural Fire Brigade has exemplified the spirit of service for over 40 years through wildfire response and mitigation, community engagement and collaborative fire management. The group continues to also foster community bonds through initiatives such as the annual Rudolph Run before Christmas.

Beyond emergency response, the Speewah RFB invests heavily in training its members and are leaders in strategic fire mitigation, and implementing complex cool burning practices.



Mareeba Shire Councillor Mary Graham presents the award to ... (l to r) Second Officer Greg Sutton, Third Officer Donna Cowlbeck, First Officer Mick Dub. Photo MSC



Proud members of the award winning Speewah Rural Fire Brigade. Photo Mick Dub.



Last year's priorities included raising the permanent dam wall to its final height, which has now been reached. Photo CleanCo



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THE Kuranda Paper

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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 2026

President: Toni Rogers

Vice President: Kerstin Brown

Secretary: Anna Raye

Treasurer: Gayle Hannah

Members Representative: Toni Rogers

Paper Production this edition:

Alex Harris Graphic Design (layout and design), Gayle Hannah (production), Toni Rogers, Anna Raye, Garth Owen, Sarah Arrowsmith, Andrew Stacey (proofreading). Thanks to volunteers, contributors, advertisers and distributors.

DEADLINES

March

Edition 384/2026

All copy and advertisements due by 10am

Thursday 19 February

Paper published

Thursday 26 February 2026

Management is not responsible for any copy missing deadline.



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

NEWS FROM THE KURANDA MEDICAL CENTRE

I wish to update readers on the comings and goings of GPs at the Kuranda Medical Centre in recent weeks.

Dr Lauren Taylor has finished her 12 month placement as a GP registrar on the RACGP training program and has moved to continue her training with McLeod St Medical and the "Hospital in the Home" team. Many thanks Lauren.

Lauren has been replaced by two new doctors, Dr Christopher Parkes who will be working in Kuranda on a full-time basis over the next 12 months and Dr Kathi Wall who will likewise be here for 12 months with a commitment to three and a half days per week. We may also be joined by Dr Saeed Abbasi although this is yet to be finally confirmed.

I hope the addition of these new doctors to our team will free up more appointments and allow our patients in Kuranda and surrounding areas to continue to receive care at the Kuranda Medical Centre.

I'd just also like to remind people that as of 1 December 2025 the Kuranda Medical Centre joined the Government Bulk Billing program and consultations at the Kuranda Medical Centre are now bulk billed.

Kind regards

Dr Dave Cuming, Kuranda Medical Centre

NEW YEAR NEWS KURANDA MEDIA ASSOCIATION (PUBLISHERS OF THE KURANDA PAPER)

The Kuranda Media Association (KMA) is a volunteer-run not-for-profit community group established in 1991. The KMA AGM was held on Saturday 14 December and it was great to be able to report to members that the Association, and *The Kuranda Paper*, are rock solid as we move towards our 35th anniversary edition in July 2026. This is thanks to our wonderful local advertisers, our only source of funding, our contributors and most essentially our members and volunteers.

The 2026 KMA Management Committee consists of President (and Members Representative) Toni Rogers, Vice President Kerstin Brown, Secretary Anna Raye and Treasurer Gayle Hannah.

2025 was a big year of change for the KMA as our president and in house graphic designer, Nettie O'Connell, took up another position in August. The last four editions for 2025 were produced remotely using the skills of our back up designer Trish Biggs, and some very ingenious workarounds. Thank you Trish.

In November, we began our search for a new graphic designer and we are pleased to announce that, with this edition, we are very excited to have local graphic designer and tattoo artist, Alex Harris, in production. Many thanks to everyone who applied for the position.

We are still looking for someone who might be interested in volunteering to share some of the administrative tasks involved in production. For more information about what is involved please email us at mail@kurandapaper.com.

Finally, if you are not receiving your free copy of *The Kuranda Paper* in your post/mail box please contact the Kuranda Post Office to make sure you do.

Wishing all our readers and supporters a healthy, happy and prosperous 2026.

The KP Team



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.

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I - 129x124	\$145
J - 85x188	\$145
K - 85x124	\$105
L - 85x60 (business card)	\$70

as of 1 July 2025

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. Hard copy outlets:

KURANDA: Kuranda Post Office (Thoree St), Kuranda Visitor Information Centre (Centenary Park), Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (Rob Veivers Dr), Kuranda Pharmacy & Newsagency (Coondoo St), Kuranda Arts Co-op (Coondoo St), Here's Good (Coondoo St), Cornetts IGA (Thongon St), BP Service Station, Annabel's Pies

(Therwine St), Honey House Kuranda (Therwine St), The Bread Balloon (Coondoo 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 Humpy

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

SMITHFIELD: Totem Clothing (Smithfield Shopping Centre), **CAIRNS & SMITHFIELD:** Libraries

KURANDA POOL SHADE SAIL PROJECT

The Kuranda Aquatic Centre, next to the Kuranda District State College campus on Myola Rd, is a great community resource, but it is under-utilised. Without shade, the pool becomes unbearably hot during the summer, the UV exposure is at an all-time high during most of the opening

hours and thus keeps locals away. Over summer especially, when rivers and creeks are not always safe to swim in, locals need somewhere safe to cool down. We need a pool with a shade sail that provides ... well ... shade. Somewhere safe to exercise, play, and connect.



Concept drawing of proposed sails providing shade over our lovely community pool.
Photo Mia Dunne

A group of locals who use the pool year-around have been taking some moves towards making a change. Starting with a handful of lap swimmers last year, we approached council, held meetings, sought (and won) government support, applied for and became an official 'incorporated' association, opened a bank account and are now in the position to apply for grants to get the project off the ground.

This group, now known as 'Kuranda Aquatic Centre Upgrade Inc.' is working toward transforming our pool into a real hub for community activities — from kids learning to swim

without being fried, to a place to play, exercise, connect, cool down, provide jobs and to hopefully break even financially.

As stated above, we have received local, State and Federal government support, and along with local organisations including Ngonbi, CWA and the Neighbourhood Centre we are building momentum. We have conducted interest/recruitment drives in the village and now have strong local support from the community in order to present strong supporting materials for grant applications. But more support is needed. In fact, the more numbers we have, the more power we can yield.

If you would like to know more you can get in touch via email kuranda.acu@gmail.com or visit the website (<https://kurandashadesail.netlify.app/>) via the QR code attached to become involved.

We'll keep the updates flowing to this masthead (pardon the pun!).

Kuranda Aquatic Centre Upgrade Group



FROM SOUL-FOLK INTO LOOP DANCE KENTA HAYASHI - TOSHI SAKAMOTO - LIVE IN KURANDA

World-touring Japanese loop pedal artist Kenta Hayashi and Kuranda-based folk singer-songwriter Toshi Sakamoto come together for a special live performance in Kuranda.

Kenta Hayashi is a Japanese guitarist and live looper known for immersive, frequency-based live-looping performances that transform solo playing into a rich, orchestral sound. Using guitar, voice, effects and loop pedals, he creates layered compositions in real time, blending psychedelic and dub-influenced textures with hypnotic grooves and dynamic builds. Rooted in 444 Hz and 432 Hz tunings, his music connects sound, vibration, and movement. Kenta has performed in 38 countries across Europe, the UK, Australia, Asia, and the Americas.

Toshi Sakamoto is a Japanese-born folk singer-songwriter based in Kuranda, creating soulful healing folk music that resonates beyond language. Singing mainly in Japanese and accompanied by nylon-string guitar, his expressive performances move between tenderness and strength. His songs reflect on life, love, resilience after failure, and a quiet prayer for peace. Toshi performs regularly in Kuranda and across Far North Queensland and was warmly received at the Woodford Folk Festival late last year.

An evening that flows from heartfelt soul-folk into rhythm-driven loop dance, inviting deep listening, feeling and movement.

Food will be catered by Yorozuya (4628), the much-loved Japanese cafe and restaurant from the Kuranda Original Markets, offering sushi, noodles, and more.

When: 30 January, doors open at 6:00pm
Where: 1/20 Coondoo Street (ex Cafe Mandala), Kuranda
Tickets: \$20 at the door or online (QRcode below)

This is a BYO event, so please bring your own drinks. Soft drinks will be available.



LA FONDA LATINA *Cafe & Bar*
9am-2:30pm
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Building a Disaster-ready Mareeba Shire



Barron Falls Road, December 2023

Thanks to funding from the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Mareeba Shire Council will deliver a range of community resilience and recovery activities over the next 12 months.

Our aim is to establish a strong, sustainable community network that can provide vital support before and during disaster events as well as helping our communities recover more quickly.

This initiative also focuses on fostering resilience at the local level—empowering residents, businesses, and community groups to work together, share resources, and build preparedness for the future.

We want YOU to be part of this important process. Here's how you can get involved:

BECOME A COMMUNITY GUARDIAN

Nominate here by 16 Feb: 

Our Shire is made up of many unique communities. We're inviting residents to nominate as Community Guardians—local points of contact who share information and liaise with Council to ensure their community is prepared, informed, and supported before, during, and after emergencies.

COMMUNITY POP-UP STALLS

Come and have a chat with us or complete the Disaster Preparedness Survey in person.

Kuranda Library: Friday, 6 Feb 10 am - 1 pm

Dimbulah Library: Tuesday, 10 Feb 11 am - 2 pm

Mareeba IGA Complex: Wednesday, 11 Feb 9 am - 1 pm

Keep an eye out for upcoming:

- **Community training opportunities**
- **Local gatherings**

1300 308 461 | disastermanagement@msc.qld.gov.au

COMPLETE THE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SURVEY

Your feedback will help shape a tailored program of events and activities to strengthen disaster resilience across our Shire.



It only takes a few minutes and your input makes a real difference! Survey closes 16 Feb 2026.

Stay informed through:

-  **Newspaper updates**
-  **Council's Facebook page**
-  **Council's website**
-  **Local radio**



Australian Government



Queensland Government

Jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

HAVE YOU BEEN SITTING
ON THE MARKET
FOR SOME TIME
WITH NO RESULT?

RayWhite

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OF SELLING BUT
UNSURE OF WHICH
AGENT TO TRUST?

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ACHIEVE IN TODAY'S MARKET, CONTACT SONIA FOR A
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SONIA POOLE
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Councillor Column



Throughout the year, the free Munch & Learn sessions will be held once a month which are bite-sized digital workshops for small businesses. Come along on 16 February to the Kuranda Community Precinct Room above the Kuranda Library to learn how to build a simple, professional-looking website using Google Sites. Perfect for beginners, this workshop covers layout, navigation, images and publishing your site online. These workshops are delivered by the State Library of Queensland in partnership with Mareeba Shire Council, supported by the Department of Customer Service, Open Data and Small and Family Business.

Council looks forward to beginning works this year on the Kuranda Community Precinct Playground, near the Kuranda Library, following community consultation last year. We will share more information on this project soon.

Works are continuing on the amenities block in Centenary Park, with all external works now complete. We thank the community for their patience as we continue works internally.

We recently celebrated the Mareeba Shire Australia Day Awards, highlighting the incredible work our volunteers do in the community. I would like to make a special mention of the Speewah Rural Fire Brigade, who won the Environmental Achievement Award for 2026.

The Speewah Rural Fire Brigade has exemplified the spirit of service for over 40 years through wildfire response and mitigation, community engagement and collaborative fire management. The group continues to foster community bonds through initiatives such as the annual Rudolph Run before Christmas.

Beyond emergency response, the Speewah Rural Fire Brigade invests heavily in training its members and are leaders in strategic fire mitigation, implementing complex cool burning practices. These burns are carefully planned and rotated annually, allowing wildlife to escape and ecosystems to regenerate - balancing safety with environmental care.

Please feel free to contact me if you have anything you would like to discuss.

Mayor Angela Toppin AM
Phone number: 07 4086 4659
Postal address: PO Box 154 Mareeba QLD 4880
Email: Mayor@msc.qld.gov.au

Registration is

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140km - 8-10 May 2026 - Mareeba to Chillagoe

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Fitness Club | Over 35s | Over 55s | School | Social



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MAREEBA SHIRE COUNCIL - COMMUNITY UPDATE



MAREEBA SHIRE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD WINNERS

1. Citizen of the Year: Stacey Crockford
2. Young Citizen of the Year: Velenia Musso-Tatti
3. Environmental Achievement Award: Speewah Rural Fire Brigade
4. Sportsperson of the Year: Oliver Hampton
5. Junior Sportsperson of the Year: Harry Sullivan
6. Junior Sportsperson of the Year Highly Commended: Finnlay Ford
7. Community Service Award: Alison McLean
8. Community Service Award Highly Commended: Annette Morrison
9. Junior Community Service Award: Mareeba Lions Young Leaders in Service
10. Arts and Cultural Award: Peter Shimmin
11. Junior Arts and Cultural Award: Toby Fealy
12. Community Organisation of the Year: Mareeba Friends of the Hospital Foundation Bingo Volunteers



Centenary Park Amenities Update

All external and internal building and painting works have now been completed.

Further works are required to upgrade wash basin facilities within both the male and female amenities.

These works are scheduled to commence approximately 9 February 2026 and will be undertaken in a staged manner over a period of five days, as outlined below:

- Female amenities: approximately 2.5 days
- Male amenities: approximately 2.5 days

During the works, the operational amenity will be temporarily designated as a unisex facility, with internal separation provided to ensure appropriate and functional use for all users.

Every effort will be made to minimise disruption during this period.

We thank you for your patience and cooperation while these essential improvement works are completed.



Across the Mareeba Shire, our residents show incredible community spirit, academic excellence and sporting success. Congratulations to everyone who was nominated for an award.



Thinking of nominating someone in 2027?
Nominations will open in September 2026.



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

Happy New Year!

I look forward to continuing to update the Kuranda community in 2026 – it is going to be a huge year. I want to acknowledge the serious concerns raised by businesses and locals regarding crime and antisocial behaviour and thank everyone who has reached out. I have been working with the Queensland Police Service to provide an update and want to thank QPS for sharing this information with me.

LIQUOR ACCORD EXPANSION

On 21 November 2025, the Cairns Liquor Accord was expanded to include Kuranda. This expansion introduced restrictions on cask wine sales and reinforced mandatory ID checks.

Engagement with the Barron River Hotel has been positive, with the venue agreeing to work closely with Queensland Police Service (QPS) on revised policies which include reducing takeaway alcohol sales and extending the ban for patrons caught public drinking.

INCREASED POLICE PRESENCE

In response to community concerns, increased police patrols commenced on overtime from 23 December 2025. High-visibility patrols from Mareeba Station and Highway Patrol were also deployed, primarily during daytime hours to enhance safety during business operations. This increased enforcement led to multiple arrests in the park area.

On 15 January 2026, police launched Operation Yankee Gentry, targeting property crime and anti-social behaviour in the Kuranda area. Between 15 and 21 January, the operation resulted in 15 arrests, 19 charges, 12 move-on directions, and the seizure and destruction of 93 litres of alcohol. These results relate to the operation only.

ADDRESSING YOUTH CRIME

A stakeholder meeting was held on 14 January 2026 involving QPS, Ngonbi, Elders, the Justice Group, and Council representatives. Key outcomes included Ngonbi progressing plans to establish an after-hours Youth Hub and approaches being made to other support services to increase their presence in Kuranda. Council has agreed to lead future stakeholder meetings.

QPS met with the Department of Housing on 22 January 2026 regarding a property on Barang Street, which has been identified as being linked to ongoing anti-social and alcohol-fuelled behaviour.

Following this meeting, PCYC commenced the Club and Culture Program in Kuranda on 21 January 2026 which aims to create generational change by supporting school attendance, improving literacy and numeracy confidence, and strengthening resilience, community connection, and cultural engagement.

The Crisafulli Government continues to support the QPS with the laws and resources they need to do their jobs and restore safety to Kuranda.

I encourage you and other residents of Kuranda to continue reporting suspicious activity to Policelink on 131 444. Alternatively, if you are in danger or feel threatened, please call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

BARRON RIVER BRIDGE AND KURANDA RANGE NIGHT WORKS

Following a successful trial of nightworks on the Barron River Bridge, the next round of night works is set to start from 2 February. The works will take place between 9pm and 4am, from Monday 2 February through to Friday 27 February 2026.

The bridge will operate under single-lane conditions overnight across the four-week period, and for the final two weeks, from 16 to 27 February, there will be short, intermittent full closures as required to safely complete the work.

Kuranda Range full night closures will resume 15 February 2026 but only for three weeks (weather permitting). The range will be closed Sunday to Thursday with no night works Fridays and Saturdays. Thank you again to the community for their patience with this. This has been a massive project and we are nearly there.

Until next month,
Bree James, Member for Barron River

Youth Activities @ Kuranda

PCYC Mareeba

Wednesdays 3.30pm to 7pm
(location subject to weather)

What Sports, Arts & crafts, Life & cultural skills. Sausage sizzle.

Who Young people aged 10-17yrs

When 3.30pm to 7pm Wednesday each week*
*Check for updates - PCYC Mareeba Facebook

Cost Free

Where Centenary Park, Coondoo Street, Kuranda

Contact Mary-Anne West
Youth Club Program Manager
4092 4231 / 0459 151 049
mareeba@pcyc.org.au

Participants are free to come and go as they please during this DROP IN program. Parents must arrange transport of their youth.
*location may change due to weather, check PCYC Mareeba facebook page for updates**

Building safer, healthier communities through youth development

pcyc.org.au



Message from Matt Your Member for Leichhardt

I'd like to start off by wishing you all a Happy New Year!
I hope that 2026 is a happy & successful year for you & your family.

At the back end of last year, the Federal Government delivered \$49 million in funding to boost resilience for cyclone-damaged roads here in Far North Queensland. This includes a significant portion of funding to the Kuranda Range Road. The funding provided will be used to upgrade the drainage at a number of spots along the Kuranda Range Road. Geotechnical investigations and detailed design have been completed across many of the 100-plus damage sites on Kuranda Range Road and Captain Cook Highway and construction is beginning. The Department of Transport & Main Roads have let me know that the majority of works are due to be completed by the end of 2026.

07 4051 2220

200 Mulgrave Road, Westcourt

matt.smith.mp@aph.gov.au

Matt Smith MP on Facebook and Instagram

As we deal with the extreme weather that often comes along in the Wet Season, I'd urge you all to have your cyclone kit ready and stocked with plenty of water and non-perishables. For information in the case of any incident, a reminder that your official emergency broadcaster is 106.7 ABC Far North and that all the information that you need will be available on the Bureau of Meteorology's website, www.bom.gov.au

If you've got any specific questions about the ongoing Kuranda Range works, how best to prep for cyclone season or any other federal government responsibilities please don't hesitate to give my team a call at 07 4051 2220, email us at matt.smith.mp@aph.gov.au or check out my socials at Matt Smith MP on Facebook and Instagram.

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Christmas brought plenty of rain to Kuranda this year, and with it a reminder of how exposed wet-season infrastructure can be. On Christmas Day, a feeder power pole servicing the Kuranda Amphitheatre came down, leaving the site without power and temporarily closed. Since then, Mareeba Shire Council has been working hard to restore power, with ongoing rain and ground conditions pushing the timeline back. At this stage, power is expected to return in early February, weather permitting. While the pause has been frustrating, safety has remained the priority and the community's patience and understanding has been greatly appreciated. Even without power, the Amphitheatre hasn't been standing still. Behind the scenes, planning has continued, conversations have been had and the focus has stayed firmly on readiness for the year ahead.

After an extended period of advocacy and negotiation, the Kuranda Amphitheatre Society has now signed a 10-year lease for the site. Over the past 15 months, and across two committees, sustained efforts were made to secure longer-term tenure. Members were invited to attend the December working bee to share any concerns, or to contact the committee directly regarding the lease. With no objections raised and Council's position unchanged, the decision was made to proceed so the Society can continue operating, planning and activating this much-loved community space.

In December, a small but mighty working bee saw just three members and the committee turn up on the day and together they achieved a remarkable amount. Maintenance and preparation work was knocked over, leaving the Amphitheatre ship-shape and ready for the big bookings flowing in this year. It was a timely reminder that progress doesn't always come from big crowds, but from consistency, commitment and people willing to get stuck in.

Looking ahead, there's plenty to be excited about. Brackets & Jam is back for 2026, returning as a monthly staple on the first Saturday of every month from 6pm till late, down at the UnderStage. Performers are invited to book a 20-minute (or less) bracket through Pix at theman@pixrecords.com. Expect bar and food flowing, music, dancing, laughter and a whole lot of community love. Entry is a gold coin for members and \$10 for non-members, and everyone is welcome, whether you're performing, jamming or simply soaking up the vibe.

The **Kuranda Community Market** also returns for the year, with the first market set for the **second Sunday in May**. This much-loved gathering celebrates local makers, creatives, food and connection, and promises another season of glorious community goodness. Keep an eye on the socials for stallholder details and updates as the date approaches.

Community connection continues at the heart of everything, with **the Kuranda Amphitheatre Society AGM taking place on Saturday 21 February at 3:30pm**. The AGM is a chance to reconnect, share where things are at and help shape the year ahead together. In line with the constitution, all committee positions are vacated and re-elected at the AGM. Many current committee members are keen to stay involved and new faces, fresh energy and curious minds are warmly encouraged to step forward. The Society is particularly seeking a Treasurer, a Volunteer Coordinator and a Media and Marketing hero, as well as anyone interested in contributing in ways that suit their skills, time and enthusiasm. After the formalities, the meeting will roll into refreshments, relaxed vibes and some beats, because good conversations are made better with music.

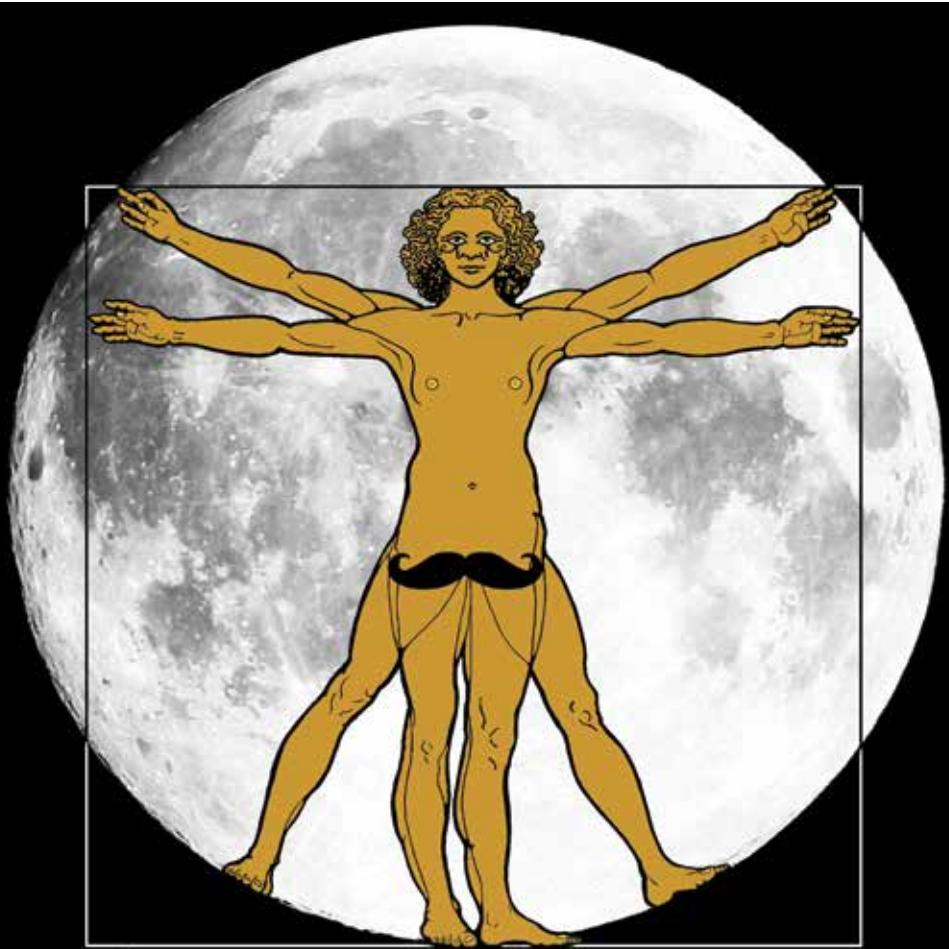
Finally, plans are officially underway for a BIG ENViroMENT Festival at the Ampi. The first working group meeting will be held on **Wednesday 11 February at 4pm at the Top Shed** and all movers, shakers, dreamers and doers are invited. With \$5,000 in RADF funding secured to pay artists, the foundations are set. The vision is a festival centred on sustainability, creativity and community, reusing what we already have to help make our world a better place. With the right energy and collaboration, this has the potential to grow into a major annual event that builds year by year and the community is invited to help shape the magic from the ground up.

Despite rain, power outages and wet-season curveballs, the Amphitheatre continues to do what it has always done best: bring people together, nurture creativity and keep community connection alive.

See you on the dance floor soon.

www.kurandaamphitheatre.org
info@kurandaamphitheatre.org
 Kuranda Amphitheatre

KURANDA AMPHITHEATRE SOCIETY AGM
SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY ~ 3:30PM.



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A very Happy New Year to all our friends and supporters.

The Kuranda Arts Co-operative continues to position "Kuranda Art" as an internationally recognised trademark for quality and innovative art. This has been achieved and sustained through the active participation of our members in developing, supporting and promoting the artists of Kuranda and Far North Queensland.

With new artists coming on board and existing members continuing to create and evolve, the Arts Co-op will be presenting an exciting array of new work over the next twelve months. We welcome new members to join us either as supporting members or as exhibiting artists.

As a not-for-profit organisation with no paid employees, exhibiting artists contribute by working two days per month in the Gallery and are encouraged to assist with other aspects of its operation. Some of our artists have also been attending digital workshops to enhance the Gallery's online presence—now an essential part of staying visible and competitive, particularly within the tourism sector.

Kate Prynne has entered the Cairns Art Society exhibition with one of her new reactive glass art pieces and has six other works in the Kuranda Arts Co-op Gallery, framed and ready to hang. All are created using powders and fine frits, pure silver foil and glass enamels on reactive glass giving many possibilities of light and dark, distance and reflection. Thanks to former Kuranda resident Carla Teixeira, who now lives in the Blue Mountains, Kate now has her own website where her work can be found and bought as well as being on the Kuranda Arts Co-op website. www.kateprynnedesigns.com

Arts Co-op member Toni Rogers and Terrie Nicholson (Herberton) have also been selected for the Cairns Art Society Awards exhibition this month. Their collaborative artwork "Celluloid Diva" is carefully constructed using discarded VHS tapes and feathers. The exhibition opens at the Cairns Gallery at 5.30pm on 30 January and runs through to 8 March 2026.

Cathy Harvey attended a two day lampwork workshop with glass artist Pauline Delaney (www.paulinedelaney.com), at River Studios in Melbourne. Cathy has been focussing on fine-tuning her skills and techniques in marble making and blowing hollow beads.



Celluloid Diva (photo by Mollie Bosworth)



Terry Eager - tv screen sculpture of rainforest



Kate Prynne

Cnr Coondoo & Thongon Streets • 4093 9026
www.kurandaartscoop.com

Our artist featured this month is one of the original Arts Co-op members - Terry Eager

Can you describe your artistic style. What is your preferred medium, and why? My artform is kiln-formed glass. I originally began working in leadlight back in 1980 because there was no-one else I knew working in that medium. Then I started wanting to create my own textures and cast details. I was lucky that Judy Bohm-Parr had a studio in Cairns at the time and was doing classes in warm glass so I quickly moved on to that and enjoyed also making pieces that were from my own imagination rather than fitting in to others ideas in commissioned pieces.

What motivates you as an artist? Most of my working life has been working with people and I loved being in my own space being able to just please myself – it makes a good balance in my life. I love seeing what the glass can do and I like to respond to the organic environment we are lucky enough to live in.

Describe the best piece of art you have created. One of my favourite pieces of art is the piece that is still in the gallery and depicts the view of looking up through the canopy of the rainforest. It is made from recycled TV glass which was a challenge to use at first as it was all grey but I loved the limitations of only working with form and depth of glass. The windows in the Uniting Church in Atherton were one of my largest projects (unfortunately not my design but a challenge to execute!).

What artists inspire you and where do you find inspiration? I find my inspiration everywhere! Often browsing on websites or visiting exhibitions in other places. My recent trip to Italy and Murano in particular was almost overwhelming with inspiration. I'd never seen so much glass in so many forms before.

How do you learn new skills and/or techniques? Mainly by experimenting or reading tutorials I find online.

What has been the most challenging and rewarding part of being an artist? Easily the most challenging has been the last few years. My practice had declined significantly working two jobs and just getting older and slower. Then I retired and had no excuse. But I have found it a challenge, having built a new workshop and not getting it set up completely and trying to get back into making, wanting to make something different, things not working out etc... What is rewarding is the support from other artists at the Co-op that made me persevere and come up with something different for the *Gathered* exhibition in Atherton. Perfect theme as I gathered my thoughts and ideas and all the scrap glass I have stored away. One of the best parts of being part of a group of artists is they know what you are talking about when you express your challenges and offer ideas and feedback. Thanks guys ...

What do you like to do when you're not creating art? When not creating I have a plethora of things I like doing. I love spending time with my grandchildren and my own children (was so nice having my son Rowan back from Thailand for a year). I have great friends to hang out with and play cards and go to movies etc. Love gardening and love travelling... looking forward to my annual trip to Adelaide soon and filling up on the culture, art and catching up with old friends there.

Can you describe your studio/workspace and your favourite time of day to create? It was a great achievement to move off my verandah to a purpose-built space where my kiln and glass storage could dwell happily. I used to love working at night when there were no distractions but now I get too tired. I like to have my morning coffee in town with friends and head back to the workshop (could do with aircon now though...) Sometimes I set an alarm to ensure I stay focused for a period of time, though once I get into it, then it's easy.

What is your favourite tool that you can't do without? Other than my kilns and my glass cutter (obviously) I really enjoy my mallet hammer and inner tube that I use for smashing glass and creating powders and shards.

Do you think art is important in society? Yes I do! And it is important to have many forms of art – those that challenge, those that inspire and those that soothe. I like to think mine inspire and soothe, giving reflections of our environment and then appreciating more what we see around us...



Terry Eager

LIFE DRAWING AT THE KURANDA CWA HALL

The Kuranda Art Co-operative offers life drawing sessions on the first Sunday of each month.

Our next session is: Sunday 1 Feb, 1- 3pm at the Kuranda CWA Hall (corner of Thongon and Barang Streets, Kuranda Village).

What to bring, what to expect:
 Arrive early to set up tables and easels. Beginners, intermediate and advanced artists welcome. A series of three to ten minute warm-up poses, then three 20-minute poses with breaks. Artists must provide their own drawing boards and drawing materials.

Cost: \$15. No booking necessary.

For modelling opportunities and further information contact: Theo Tremblay, convenor: 0415 127 089



Life drawing study by Henri Hunsinger



Angela Martin
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Bringing you the latest from Kuranda and Mareeba Shire's vibrant tourism community. As we settle into the new year, Mareeba Shire Tourism (MST) and the Kuranda Visitor Information Centre (KVIC) continue to focus on supporting operators and preparing for the summer months. Cyclone and wet season readiness remains a key priority and the team works hard to ensure visitors and operators have access to accurate, up-to-date information.

December's Twilight Trading saw the village sparkle with lights, bringing the community together in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Operators are encouraged to start planning for future events this year to make the most of seasonal opportunities and connect with the community.

Looking ahead, the Mareeba Shire Tourism Networking Event in Kuranda on 26 February will bring local operators together to discuss all things Skyrail, including the upcoming maintenance and upgrade period and how businesses will be supporting visitors during this period. It's a valuable opportunity to share ideas, strengthen industry connections and hear the latest updates on regional tourism initiatives. Operators are encouraged to attend and connect with peers, ensuring our community continues to thrive through collaboration and shared knowledge.

February also brings opportunities for operators to continue building business resilience and digital capability. The popular Munch & Learn workshops hosted by Mareeba Shire Council are free, hands-on sessions designed to give practical skills and tools that make a real difference. Upcoming sessions include "Create a Quick Free Website" on 16 February, ideal for operators looking to refresh or establish their online presence.

The new year also brings exciting marketing opportunities. TEQ's Drive Campaign: Australia's Holiday Highway continues to highlight Queensland road trips, while April's TTNQ campaign "Tasting the Tropics" encourages operators to feature their local produce and experiences. Aligning social media and marketing efforts with these campaigns helps amplify your reach and connects visitors with what's on offer in our region.

On the regional front, the Destination Davies MTB launch last year continues to make an impact, bringing more visitors to the Shire and supporting local operators. We're also looking forward to the TTNQ Networking Event in Cairns on 12 February, a chance for operators to connect, share ideas and discover new opportunities. These initiatives help strengthen our tourism network while providing visitors with unique and memorable experiences.

With the New Year already kicked off, think about updating your brochures in our centre and if you haven't already, join our partnership program to stay up to date with all things tourism in the region.

Simone Van Der Zwaag
Manager, Kuranda Visitor Information Centre.

"You can't see everything in Kuranda inside one day. You can't even benefit by breathing its tonic like mountain air unless you are prepared to rest for a while."

*Frederick Parkhurst Dodd
"The Butterfly Man of Kuranda" 1861-1937*



Attendees networking at the recent Mareeba Shire Tourism networking event held at the Emerald Creek Ice-creamery. Photo supplied.

February 2026 Events in Mareeba Shire

Date	Event	Location / Notes
12 Feb	TTNQ Networking Event	Build relationships with peers, discover industry updates, and stay informed about the latest trends in regional tourism.
16 Feb	Munch & Learn: Create a Quick Free Website	Kuranda Community Precinct Room – above the Kuranda Library: 9am-11am. Kickstart your digital presence! Learn how to build a simple, professional-looking website using Google Sites.
26 Feb	MST Networking Event	Let's discuss all things Skyrail, including the upcoming maintenance closures and how businesses will be supporting visitors during this period.

STRONG DEMAND FOR FREE 'MUNCH AND LEARN' BUSINESS SKILLS WORKSHOPS

If you're a small business owner in Kuranda or Mareeba, you can benefit from the much loved 'Munch and Learn' workshops - offering easy, practical ways to boost digital confidence. The workshops have become a trusted learning hub for local business owners wanting fresh ideas in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Each free, two-hour session includes morning or afternoon tea, and participants can step away from daily demands to learn to use digital tools that will help their businesses grow.

Designed for regional small businesses - whether you're a home-based maker, tourism operator, café owner, freelancer or tradie - each workshop focuses on skills you can use immediately. Past participants have reported improvements in attracting customers, promoting their services online and streamlining daily tasks with simple digital tools.

Ricky Clark, Regional Digital Development Officer at the State Library of Queensland, said the strong local response reflected the value of the workshops.

"Small businesses here are resilient, hardworking and community minded, and digital confidence gives them an even stronger foundation," he said.

"Whether it's setting up a website, learning to create great visuals, or exploring new technologies like AI, these workshops give local operators practical tools that strengthen their business and connect them with new opportunities."

Delivered in partnership with Mareeba Shire Council, the series is part of the State Library's Regional Digital Development project, supported by the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business.

Beyond new skills, the workshops also provide the opportunity to meet other local business owners, share tips, discuss challenges, and explore partnerships.

Bookings are essential. Reserve your spot via State Library's Digital and You app www.digitalandyou.com.au/app or search for 'Mareeba Shire events' on Humanitix.

Workshops run monthly on Mondays:

- Kuranda Community Precinct Room: 9am-11am
- Mareeba Library: 1pm-3pm

Upcoming 2026 sessions:

- **16 February** – Create a Quick and Free Website
Build a simple, cost-effective online presence for your business.
- **23 March** – Blogging Basics
Share stories, updates and expertise that build trust and visibility.
- **27 April** – Podcasting Made Simple
Create easy audio content to promote your business or local stories.
- **25 May** – Canva Basics
Design eye catching posters, menus, social media content and more.
- **22 June** – Beyond ChatGPT: The Expanding World of AI
Explore a range of AI tools that save time, spark ideas and streamline business tasks.



**DIGITAL
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Monday 16 February 2026
Kuranda 9-11am & Mareeba 1-3pm

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Meetings & Contacts

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Saturdays @ Kuranda
Amphitheatre

2026: 14 February, 14
March, 11 April, 9 May,
13 June

office@buluwai.org
www.buluwai.org
facebook.com/buluwai
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Buluwai Indigenous Corporation News

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
2026 DATES: 14 February, 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June

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An Exciting New Year at the Kindy

A new Kindy year is about to start and the team at Kuranda Kindy have been busy making sure it will be extraordinary. One of the wonderful things about working in a kindergarten is that every year is different. This is because we have new groups of interesting and imaginative Kindy children sharing their ideas and interests with us. So, when the doors open on Tuesday 27 January, our team needs to be ready to go!

To get inspired and make sure we are up to date with some of the latest early childhood educational research some keen members of the team headed down to Cairns for the C&K Welcome Back Day. This is a great chance to share professional development with other teachers, educators and the C&K team. A highlight from the day was hearing Ali Porteous from Childspace, New Zealand, talk about environments and rituals.

This talk was so inspiring, reminding us to slow down, be present and see the beauty in the rituals that we create.

What thoughtful rituals will we continue or create in 2026?

Other areas of professional development that were covered included safeguarding children: child safe standards/compliance program, inclusion, documentation, and intentional teaching.

Our Early Childhood Pedagogical Adviser Liz Smith introduced the new C&K planning books with meaningful cover art painted by Jinneecka Don who grew up on Yidinjji Country and is a descendant of the Djabugay and Kuku Yalanji tribes.

We are lucky to have some of Jinneecka's art up on our kindergarten walls.



Members of the C&K Team with artwork by Jinneecka Don. Photo supplied.

"Ritual isn't about doing a routine mindlessly. It's a way of building something good into your life so that you don't forget what's important. Done mindfully, a ritual can remind you to be conscious. Done mindlessly, a ritual is meaningless."

– Thich Nhat Hanh, Zen Buddhist monk

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KURANDA RANGE ROAD AND KENNEDY HIGHWAY UPDATE (AS OF 21 JANUARY 2026)

NIGHT CLOSURES

Short-term scheduled night closures (9pm to 4am, Sunday to Thursday nights) will be required on Kuranda Range Road for a period from Sunday 15 February until end of March 2026, weather and site conditions permitting.

- Traffic will be let through once in each direction at midnight (12am).

- There are no scheduled night closures on Friday and Saturday nights.

This is to enable construction activities to be completed that are not possible using single-lane closures or long traffic holds.

PROGRESS OF WORKS KURANDA RANGE ROAD:

As at the start of 2026:

- 24 geotechnical sites have been repaired along the Kennedy Highway.
- 21 of the completed sites are on Kuranda Range Road.
- 7 sites have repairs in progress, 5 of these are on Kuranda Range Road.
- More than 10 sites on Kuranda Range Road are targeted for works during 2026.
- Up to three single-lane sections are in operation on Kuranda Range Road.

The section at Henry Ross Lookout will remain under 24/7 single-lane traffic control until reconstruction works are completed. The other single-lane sections will operate intermittently as required.

Traffic Site 1 (Henry Ross Lookout area)

- This section is under 24/7 single-lane traffic control as day and night works are ongoing on the major downslope slip, about 200m towards Cairns from the lookout.
- Recent stabilisation works have included shot-creting and ongoing soil nail drilling.

Traffic Site 2 (about 1km above the hairpin bend area)

- Soil nailing, drilling and stabilisation works have recommenced at an upslope slip about 1km above the hairpin bend.
- This section is under single-lane traffic control when works are underway at the site.

Traffic Site 3 (between Saddle Mountain Road and Streets Creek)

- Stabilisation works are underway at two upslope sites between Saddle Mountain Road and Streets Creek.
- As the geotechnical repair sites are about 1km apart, a single-lane section will move from one repair site to the other, depending on works required, to minimise the extent of lane closures.

PROGRESS OF WORKS KURANDA TO MAREEBA:

Traffic Site 4 (Kennedy Highway near Tichum Creek)

- Stabilisation works are recommencing by the end of January at two upslope slips on the Kennedy Highway, between Spena Road turnoff and Tichum Creek.
- This section of road will be under single-lane traffic control during the daytime, when required for the works.

If you need further information about these works, please contact the TMR Cairns office by email at cairns.office@tmr.qld.gov.au, visit the project webpage Kuranda Range Road reconstruction or telephone 1800 187 937.

Source: The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) www.tmr.qld.gov.au

KURANDA MEN'S SHED

incorporating
KURANDA SHE SHED

Kuranda Men's Shed – Busy Hands, Strong Community

A Busy and Positive Start to the Year for Our Shed

The new year is well underway and it has been encouraging to see so many of our members renew their memberships for 2026. Membership renewal is now open and will close on February 28, with the annual fee remaining at a very reasonable \$60 per year. We encourage all members who have not yet renewed to do so before the closing date.

Before the Christmas break, we enjoyed a wonderful pre-Christmas breakfast that brought together members, family and friends. It was a relaxed and happy morning, with plenty of good food, good company and shared laughter – a great way to wrap up the year.

Over the past year, our members also successfully completed a couple of projects for the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre. Supporting local organisations is something we value highly, and we remain open to assisting other community groups where we can.

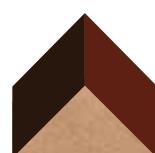
Looking ahead, our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on February 28, and all

members are warmly invited to attend. The AGM is an important opportunity to reflect on the year that has been and to help shape the direction of the Shed for the year ahead. Recently, several members attended a Regional Men's Shed Conference, where an exciting new initiative was introduced – the Queensland Men's Shed Trail. This idea encourages shedders and others to visit Men's Sheds while travelling around the state. The trail aims to build friendships and



Session Times

Mixed Shed (male and female) • Tuesday 8.30am–12pm
 Men's Shed • Wed & Sat 8.30am–11.30am
 She Shed • Friday 8.30am–1pm



Australian Men's Shed Association
 SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



cooperation between sheds, with local shedders offering visiting members advice on accommodation and sightseeing in their area.

Finally, a special mention goes to one of our members who has at last completed his Christmas gift for his step-grandson – a truly fabulous hand-carved and decorated cobra. The craftsmanship and dedication behind this project are a great example of the skills, patience and pride that are part of our Shed culture.

We look forward to another productive and enjoyable year ahead.

Daryl Douglass, President.

116 Kuranda Heights Road
 Contact: Daryl Douglass, President
mensshedkuranda@gmail.com

f Kuranda Men's Shed

A Grinter's Tale

I knew civilisation was taking a turn for the worse when we started paying extravagant amounts of money for denim jeans with huge, fraying rips in the legs.

To think that in my teens and early twenties we revelled in sewing Mickey Mouse, peace signs or big flower patches onto our jeans if they tore, not only to make them last longer, but to take us into the flower power era confident in our hippiness AND fashion sustainability.

I often wished I could sew, or rather enjoy sewing, but I hated the subject at school. However the choices we were offered were geared towards us becoming either careerists or Stepford wives. I think another choice was Domestic Science (that always made me laugh) or Chemistry. Domestic Science was more about cooking than turning you into a domestic goddess. There was absolutely no hope of me taking over my father's pharmacies, and much as I loved biology, I found it very difficult to dissect an earthworm or a frog, which put me on the back foot. My father soon gave up his idea of me inheriting the family pharmacies, or for that matter, being a Stepford wife.

I was raised in the days when just about all our mums could sew their own, and their children's garments, from necessity. And they could press clothes (and even hair) to perfection with a tiny dry triangle of iron without scorching the victim, or the family cocker spaniel pulling it off the board and scorching the carpet. I suppose there was less scorching of clothes because there were less synthetic fabrics. These were the days when handkerchiefs and sheets and towels and even face flannels and socks and Dad's underpants were all tortured with a hot iron. Kmart underpants would never have survived.

These were the days when woollen socks were darned by hand again and again over a wooden mushroom, and every piece of aluminium foil used to wrap sandwiches or cover a bowl was lovingly folded and put away in a drawer for reuse. Dog bones were free at the butcher's shop and the hard ends of broccoli went into the soup. Nothing escaped. You never dared leave half a yoghurt in the fridge at home, as mum would finish it up to avoid waste. I truly admire the thriftiness and resourcefulness of those who came through world wars and their aftermath with rationing in place.

Given the curriculum pairing offering the choice of needlework, as they called it, and physics, I saw no option, as anything that involved calculus or algebra left me nauseous. Enough to know that if you apply force to a fixed mass you get a predictable amount of acceleration. But I knew that already, because I had a horse.

I thought it might be fun to split the atom, but couldn't see how this could be done in the classroom without dire consequences. Although, come to think of it, our convent school could have done with a bit of a revamp.

I suffered through every miserable needlework class with Mrs Lyons, who was the spitting image of Popeye's true love, Olive Oyl and had the same habit of saying "Oh dear" all the time, especially when she saw my sewing efforts. When it came to the Year 12 'O' level examination, I had no idea what the two parts of dress material in my hands were destined to become given my masterly seamstress capabilities, and had to rely on my trusty best friend to raise her hand to her shoulder to indicate what I was supposed to stitch together. Ah, a sleeve to be stitched into the bodice of a blouse! Of course! Fortunately, Olive Oyl was busy watching the workmen in the swimming pool area below the classroom, so fortunately, I only failed

needlework because I sewed the sleeve to the neck or perhaps my uniform, rather than being excommunicated for cheating.

The most common form of punishment at the convent was a lunchtime spent in the school's little chapel room, reciting the rosary over and over. It was second home to me. I don't think we were locked in per se, but there was an Angel of No Mercy at the door.

I was sent straight to the chapel during one rainy lunchtime when it was too wet to create havoc in the school grounds. No playground for us, the convent was a grand old building with extensive lawns, a hockey pitch, netball courts and shady trees under which we would plait each other's hair and lie blatantly about boyfriends that didn't exist except in our vivid imaginations.

Bored to bits staring out at the heavy grey sky, I was sitting backwards on one of the old fashioned, heavy desks and suddenly felt myself propelled towards the door of our 'form room'. Moving at some speed, considering the weight of the desk and me combined, we hurtled down the corridor and around a bend where I nearly fell off said desk. I wish I had. Someone in front of us yelled "Gaelea's coming!"

Our history teacher was a raven haired Margaret Thatcher, an Iron Maiden to be feared above all fears. My blood ran cold.

A sixty point turn ensued and by this time I had turned around so I could see where I was going. There was a lot of giggling and puffing going on behind me, as the pushing team neared our form room door.

A moment of relief ensued as we neared the open door, my legs stretched out to kick the door further open. The next second there was a sickening splintering noise, and I was staring at my legs which had come to a halt in the space between the two layers of the plywood door. Inside the room, as we approached the home run, Frances C, caught in the excitement of our flight from impending murder, had decided it would be even more fun if she banged the door shut on us to prevent us entering.

Fortunately, it was winter, and I was sporting the convent uniform's very unbecoming long grey socks and escaped serious injury, though it was a Bandaid job, and made the door look like a murder scene. Unfortunately, when Gaily, as we sarcastically called this fearsome educator, came around the corner, I was the only one present, trapped in the depths of the door. I did a full week of lunchtime rosaries, but in the spirit of martyrdom, I did not dob on my classmates for getting me into this predicament.

The most unfair incarceration, to my mind, was being jailed at lunchtime for wearing the wrong shoes to school. This time, my long suffering mum stood her ground against Reverend Mother.

"Could I suggest you try and buy shoes for her at the school shop. She's got big, narrow feet. Maybe I should cut her toes off." GO MUM!!! I must admit I was a bit worried about the last bit though.

I was let out on bail with my Bugs Bunny feet. So were my shoes and my pride, which was a little dented by hearing "She's got big feet". But then, so have Elle, Kate Winslet and Paris Hilton who also wear holey jeans, but probably not fake Louis Vuitton or Prada. Having big feet is a curse, but they are handy in high wind or after one too many chardonnays.

How did I get from holey jeans to holy retribution in one column? I will improve on this as I grow up.



Image:sarahdaa@unsplash



Kuranda Medical Centre
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The wet season kitchen and pantry

Keeping it fresh

With heat and increased humidity the challenges of storing non-perishable foods ramp up. And it comes at a time when we are most at risk of having food supply chains disrupted by flooding and cyclonic activity. Fifty five years ago when I moved to Kuranda the supply chains were far weaker as almost everything came by truck and with a smaller resident population in the Far North at the time, the big suppliers weren't as quick to shift to air freight or barges as they are now, to overcome the closure of roads from the south. We now have a far more reliable, all year round, supply of fresh fruit and vegetables, grains, proteins and other kitchen necessities which means that for most households we no longer need to hold many weeks of food items in our homes. We do, however, need to find ways to keep what we have free of mould and pests and as fresh as possible for as long as possible.

Keeping many staples such as flour, rice, nuts, dried fruit, and any opened jars from swift decay in the tropics, means resorting to strategies people in 'civilised' climes would never use. The fridge and freezer are your best friend. Spices are best kept in sealed containers in the freezer, or fridge, in sealable bags or containers. Beware of condensation which forms on the outside of freezer containers – if it gets into your spices it can spoil them. Clare Richards, in her excellent book 'Tropical Cuisine' recommends wrapping containers in a dry tea towel to take out of the freezer, using a dry spoon to quickly remove required spice, and returning sealed container to the freezer. Even tea can go mouldy so the freezer or fridge is the best place for storing that as well.

Another staple which can quickly go mouldy is fresh bread. If you make your own or have access to fresh baked, only make or buy enough for a couple of days. If any is left over after that time, freeze as backups. It's very important not to be tempted to leave items like butter or milk sitting out between meals or any cooked food out overnight, even for less than hour, as spoilage is not only a waste but a health hazard.

Summer is fruit paradise. But local vegetable growers can find this time challenging because the heat can cause herbs and salad greens to bolt and heavy rain can damage crops. Snap up fresh local greens whenever you find them, try some of the lesser known tropical greens which thrive during the Wet. Of course, these days unless there's a major interruption to supply you can find most greens of choice all year round, but they can be expensive and not always as fresh as you'd like. This year might be the year to consider establishing a perennial tropical greens garden, a great addition to healthy tropical living.

Also consider exploring the world of sprouting. Nothing says fresh like home grown sprouts. Most people have come across alfalfa, mung and sunflower sprouts but there are so many more varieties out there. Sprouts add extra flavour, texture and of course nutrition, to any meal - be it a humble salad, sandwich or wrap, stir fry, as a topping on a curry, pasta dish,

or many of the other exciting uses such as savoury pancakes, pakoras or fritters. My personal favourites at the moment are Dr Vogel's Red Rambo Radish sprouts and his Lentils sprouts and his very handy sprouting jars. Of course you can use any jar with some gauze and a rubber band but I find these jars, with their handy lids with a 'foot' to keep them inclined and draining, very effective. As with everything in the Wet, when humidity regularly sits at 80% plus, you need just the right amount of moisture – I usually start my sprouts by putting one tablespoon of seeds in the jar, covering with cold water and leaving overnight. In the morning I fill the jar with water to overflow and incline to drain. Next day rinse in the morning and at night and lay the jar flat near a window but away from heat and direct light, so the seeds have room to grow. Your sprouts should be ready to go by day three. Rinse, drain and refrigerate. Start your next lot. Grow Your Own and Enjoy! Enjoy! *Queenobean*

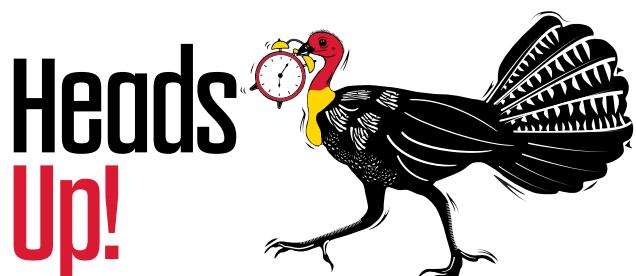
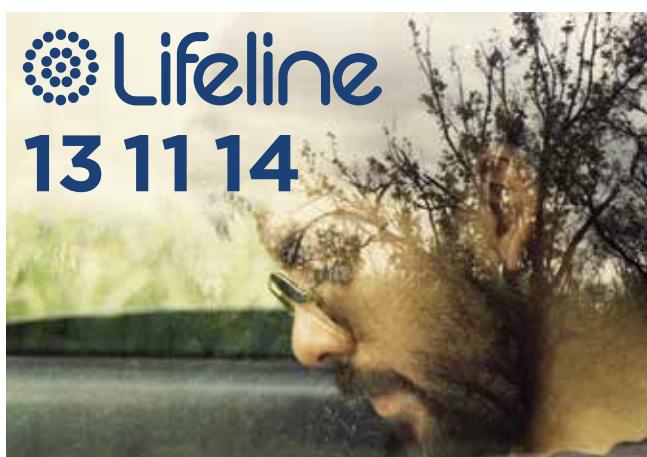
SPICY LENTIL SUMMER ROLLS (vegan, gluten-free) via www.sproutpeople.org

Makes 6

INGREDIENTS:

6 rice paper wraps. Filling: 1/2 cup coriander sprigs (substitute parsley or mint if preferred), 1 1/4 cup grated carrots, 1 1/4 cup grated beets, 1 large avocado skinned, seeded and diced, 1 1/2 cups sprouted lentils, 1-2 tbsp sriracha (chilli sauce), 1 tbsp toasted (dark) sesame oil, pinch of salt.

METHOD: Set up workspace. You need a bowl of warm water and a damp, clean tea towel to work on. Combine all the filling ingredients. Taste and adjust as desired. Working one roll at a time: put the rice wrap flat into the large bowl of warm water, being careful to not let it curl up, until it is just soft, about one minute. Lay the wrap down on the tea towel. Down the centre, like a burrito, layer one sixth portion of the filling. Fold over the top and bottom ends over the filling, tuck the right flap over and then roll to close. Repeat with remaining wraps. If you need to make the rolls a few hours before a party, arrange the fresh summer rolls in a single layer on a serving tray. Rinse and wring out your tea towel in cool water and cover the rolls if you are planning to eat within the hour. Leftovers can be individually wrapped in plastic but refrigeration can make them rubbery – so fresh made is best made!



The Kuranda Paper deadline for March 2026 edition #384 is **Thursday 19 February 2026**. Please send all submissions and advertising to mail@kurandapaper.com

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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.

CWA is about friendship, education, connection & advocacy.

CWA SODALITY – Where Women Meet. Sunday 1 February 4-6pm. Japanese Tea Ceremony. Local creativity - join in and be inspired. Phone Holly 0494 369 462.

CWA CRAFTS GROUP offers a relaxing place to share creativity with morning tea. Fridays

6 and 20 February 10.30am-12.30pm. Contact Trish Maude 0417 050 911

CWA Monthly Members meeting – Wednesday 11 February 9.am includes Morning Tea.

CWA DANCE GROUP Tuesday mornings, new participants welcome. Contact Sandra

0447 737 415

QCWA COUNTRY KITCHENS – anyone interested check out QCWA online. Contact 0427 937 348

WHAT'S ON AT THE CWA Hall?

Contact the following hirers for any enquiries regarding their activities:

Taekwon-Do – Jeff Dieben 0437 438 196

Vinyasa Yoga - Monday and Thursdays 7.30-8.30am. Contact Valentina 0439 287 403

Yoga Ashaya - Thursdays – starts 12 February 9-10am. Contact Ashaya 0402 822 798

Gentle Flow Yoga - Feb (Saturdays 7.30-8.30am) & Sound Healing on 3rd Wednesday

Contact Kylie Arantz 0400 781 607

Kuranda Life Drawing - Theo Tremblay, 1st Sunday, monthly 1-3pm. Ph 0415 127 089

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

We currently have availability; Monday 9am-8pm, Tuesdays 12pm–5pm. Wednesdays; mostly free 12-8pm. Thursdays 12 - 4pm. SOME; Fridays / Saturdays / Sundays are free.

Please enquire via attached email address as bookings can change.

'PATCHING IT TOGETHER' this patchwork has been displayed in the Kuranda CWA Hall for many years. Patchwork is a great way to test your needlework and improve your skills. QCWA promotes craft activities as a way to promote friendships, skill sharing and learning and QCWA conducts various artistic statewide competitions for members October each year. The Kuranda CWA Craft Group will be meeting on Fridays 6 and 20 in February at 10.30am. All are invited to join in. A 'cuppa' is included. Photo Krishna Buhler.



A WELCOME INVITATION CHINESE NEW YEAR AFTERNOON TEA

Hosted by the Kuranda Mahjong Group
Wednesday 18 February 1-4 pm Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre



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

Monday to Thursday 9am–5pm | Friday 9am–1pm

CHRISTMAS WRAP UP: December was a big heart-warming month for the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (KNC) with the delivery of our annual Christmas Toy Drive and Food Hamper Program for clients who accessed our services throughout the year. 2025 was our biggest effort yet with 50 Christmas hampers distributed and more than 150 children receiving Christmas presents.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Mareeba Shire Council Mayor's Christmas Appeal, Anglicare, GIVIT, Woolworths, Kuranda IGA, Kuranda Pharmacy, Yin and Yarns Yoga, Kuranda Transfers, Hayabusa Tea House, Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre, Kuranda Amphitheatre Markets, as well as the many individuals who donated thoughtful and beautiful gifts for local children.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: KNC's community garden is beginning to produce some lovely fresh food. In February we will be launching weekly cooking classes while conditions are too wet to work in the garden. These classes will be inspired by ingredients grown in the community garden. Spaces will be limited, so bookings are essential. All ingredients and materials will be provided, and participants will be able to take home what they create. We also welcome community members who are interested in teaching a class to get in touch.

MAHJONG: To celebrate the 2026 Chinese New Year Festival the regular Mahjong group is hosting afternoon tea on Wednesday 18 February at 1pm. Community members are invited to come along, watch, learn and have a go at playing if you choose to. Enjoy delicious food, fortune cookies and fun games in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere – all are welcome!

WEAVING: Next weaving workshop Tuesday 3 February at 11.30 am on KNC's back deck. Come and try, everyone welcome. These workshops are free and a great opportunity to learn a new creative skill. Bring a plate to share if you like.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook Page for upcoming events.



Beautiful earings from a recent workshop. photo supplied

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Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre

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BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

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Kuranda Community Garden working bee group

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FIGHTING EXTINCTION - CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THREE CHARITIES THANKS TO NORTH QUEENSLAND WILDLIFE TRUST

In a year of record giving, three conservation charities have received \$64,800 in the latest round of funding, delivered just in time for Christmas 2025.

This funding offers hope for the recovery of several endangered species. The North Queensland Wildlife Trust (NQWT) has helped many researchers and local conservation groups since its inception in 2004. Each application is assessed on its worthiness to conserve native species and local habitats. Established by Angela and Peter Freeman, 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 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. The primary source for the foundation funding is a small levy on all wildlife encounter photos offered and funding accumulated from the 'Containers for Change' bottle recycling project. A 'win win' for visitors who will leave in the knowledge that their containers are being recycled for a very worthy cause.

The recipients of the latest round of funding are:
Frog Safe - Funding of \$4,800 to investigate the cause of cutaneous and facial tumours of tree frogs (Litoria genus) in North Queensland.

Amphibians, such as Queensland's iconic tree frogs, are excellent bio-indicator species, revealing environmental stressors, pollutants, or pathogens affecting tropical Australian wetlands.

Tumours in Queensland Litoria frogs are an emerging health concern, appearing predominantly during spring-summer. The funding will allow the characterisation of neoplasm morphology and establish a tissue repository for eco-toxicological investigations. This project will reveal amphibian health status and investigate environmental factors driving tumour emergence, informing wildlife conservation and ecological monitoring.

Deborah Pergolotti, founder of Frog Safe, the world's first frog hospital, said, "Frog Safe is working with veterinary pathologist, Dr. Viviana Gonzalez Astudillo, of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Queensland.

"Our role as Frog Safe will be to receive all potential cancer cases from a wide geographic region in Queensland, coordinate tissue sampling with a Cairns vet, organise storage of the samples and coordinate special shipping of batches of those samples down to UQ for extensive histopathology, toxicology and virus identification work. This work will provide key insights into wildlife and environmental health in North Qld and is crucial for conservation of our iconic frogs."

Bats and Tree Society of Cairns (BatSoc) Inc. – Funding \$10,000 to assist with the running costs of the Kuranda-based creche for endangered Spectacled Flying-fox pups rescued from the greater Cairns region.

The Creche facility provides housing for sick, injured or orphaned bats prior to their release back to the wild. Spectacled flying-foxes are a keystone species of the Wet Tropics and have suffered a 75% population decline since 2004. Each year over 200 orphaned pups are rescued from the Cairns region alone.

Pups are raised by individual permitted wildlife carers prior to "learning to be bats" at the creche and release facility which is situated adjacent to a wild colony of Spectacled flying-foxes.

The full costs of a flying-fox creche are around \$30,000 per season. President of the Bats and Trees Society of Cairns, Maree Treadwell Kerr said 'The funding from NQWT is essential to this year's rehabilitation and release program as there are no State government Wildlife Carer grants this season. This funding takes a considerable burden off wildlife carers and assists in the prevention of burnout so that carers can concentrate on getting healthy animals back to the wild for future population recruitment.'

And last but not least, University of the Sunshine Coast – Funding of \$50,000 to manufacture and distribute the first doses of the newly APVMA approved Koala Chlamydia vaccines to wild koalas to protect them from this debilitating disease and save koalas from potential extinction.

Koala populations are declining rapidly across eastern Australia due to high chlamydia infection rates. Chlamydia affects koala fertility and is one of the most significant drivers of koala population decline.

Over the last decade, renowned microbiologist, Professor Peter Timms, has led a UniSC research team in developing, testing and validating the only single-dose chlamydia vaccine proven effective in wild koala populations. This vaccine is now ready for manufacture and distribution to wild koalas and will reduce infection prevalence as well as reduce disease to rebuild koala populations across eastern Australia.

Working collaboratively with Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, Friends of the Koala, RSPCA Queensland, Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, and other koala conservation partners, approved vaccine doses will be distributed through these trusted wildlife hospitals and conservation partners for targeted vaccination of wild koalas.

Professor Timms said "This funding allows the roll out of this world-first vaccine to wild koalas and will decrease disease levels and increase survival rates as well as improving the resilience of koala populations to chlamydia."

The Freeman Family is proud to continue assistance to the people who assist Australia's koalas, bats, frogs and other wildlife so that future generations can continue to enjoy and experience the wonder of our amazing nature and biodiversity.

The Freeman Family would strongly urge other tourism operators to join with them in supporting the Koala Chlamydia Vaccine rollout project which is one of the most significant advances in the protection of native Koalas in Queensland.

Angela Freeman,
co-founder of the North Queensland Wildlife Trust.

More info: info@wildlifetropicalnorthqueensland.com

WHAT A BEAUTY

This is the Gargantuan Stick Insect (Ctenomorpha gargantua), Australia's largest stick insect. Females have been measured up to 56.5cm long, making them one of the longest stick insects in the world. They are a local species that we breed here at Kuranda Minibeast Wildlife and we are very excited to have lots of big girls this year!

Caitlin Henderson | Wildlife Photographer/Filmmaker
She's Got Legs www.gotlegsmacro.com
Facebook – shesgotlegs/australiantspiderandinsectphotography



THE Kuranda Paper
est. 1991





www.minibeastwildlife.com.au



MASTERS OF THE SKIES

Although we think our skies are busy now with aircraft flying constantly around the globe, these thousands of aircraft flights daily add little congestion compared to the millions of flights made by insects every second. Insects rule the sky and have done so for around 300 million years. Taking to the sky was one of the most significant evolutionary events within the insect world, and within the animal world for that matter. With the ability to fly came great opportunities such as increased ability to hunt and forage for food, ability to escape predators, and a means to find mates and colonise new areas quickly.

Not all insects have wings, and those that do only develop them when they reach maturity. Their full wings appear after their final development stage, and at first are soft and delicate. Blood is pumped into the wing veins which expand them rapidly to their full size before they harden in the air. Insect wings come in a multitude of shapes and sizes. Some are clear, while others have intricate patterns and colours on them.

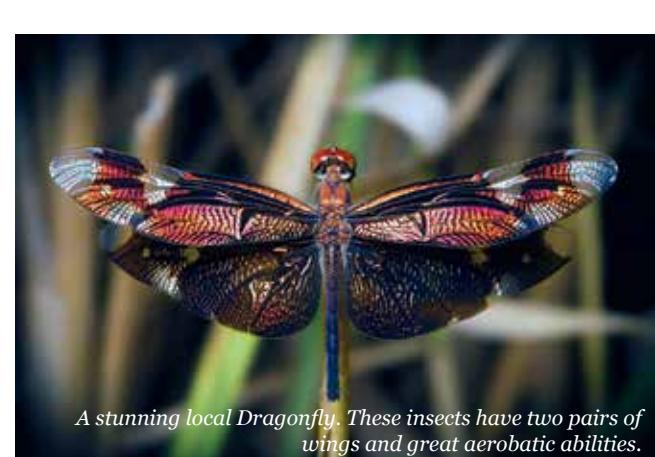
Flies are one of the most frequently encountered flying insects and are accomplished fliers. They have a single pair of wings, and are counterbalanced with small organs called halteres. These gyrate in time with the beating wings, allowing the fly to control balance during flight. Most flies have the ability to take off quickly, to fly quite rapidly, and zoom through all number of obstacles with exact precision. Some of the masters in this group are the hoverflies which have the ability to hover and fly backwards.

Butterflies and moths have wings which are covered with microscopic scales, and unlike the flies, they have two pairs of wings. Most butterflies fly by day and most moths fly by night, but there are exceptions. Their wing scales are an important part of their defence. Shedding scales is an excellent way for butterflies and moths to struggle free from a spider's web. This group includes not only some of the most beautiful flying insects but also some of the most accomplished. Some moths are extremely fast (60km/h) and can hover whilst feeding on flowers, while some butterflies have been observed flying at altitudes of 6000m. The largest wingspan of all flying insects is shared by members of this group; the Atlas Moth and Queen Alexandra Butterfly can measure up to 30cm across!

If there are true aerobatic champions within the insect world, the dragonflies would have to take the crown. With their two pairs of long wings and excellent flight control they have the ability to fly forward, backward, up, down, sideways and hover, much like a helicopter can. Unlike a helicopter, dragonflies can accelerate at an incredible rate and reach top speed in seconds which for some is close to 100km/h.

While these insects have the ability to fly very quickly to avoid danger, their wings are always exposed and vulnerable to damage. One group of insects, the beetles, evolved wing protection in that their forewings become hard armoured plates called elytra to protect their hind wings. Although the speed of take off is slower, beetles are able to protect their valuable assets when they are not in use which allows them to burrow, climb and generally do things that other flying insects cannot. The heaviest flying insect in the world is the Goliath Beetle and weighs a mammoth 80-100gs. The flight of this beetle would have to be seen to be believed.

Alan Henderson, Minibeast Wildlife Kuranda



A Longicorn beetle takes off. Beetles must lift their elytra and unfold their flight wings.



A Hoverfly. Flies have single pair of wings.



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Kuranda Historical Society

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

Planned Video Project

The Kuranda Historical Society (KHS) has received grant funding from Mareeba Shire Council's Regional Arts Development Fund to run an oral history video production and workshop project. The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Mareeba Shire Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland. This funding will allow KHS to hold a workshop on video production. The intention of the workshop is to build up the capacity of KHS members and associated volunteers so that they can film interviews with key Kuranda artists or long-term residents talking about their life and work in Kuranda. KHS plans to produce ten short videos which will be added to the KHS online collection (at The Collecting Bug).

The one-day workshop will teach participants how to use KHS video and audio equipment purchased last year, how to prepare interview filming prompts, learn about film techniques and editing practice. The workshop will be conducted by Peter McCabe with assistance from KHS members who have already undertaken some training and are familiar with our equipment. Participants will then be able to assist in filming or editing the videos with KHS members. If you are interested in attending the workshop or have ideas about members of the Kuranda community who were active in the development of Kuranda township, infrastructure and tourism ventures, the artistic and hippie community, as well as families who have contributed to Kuranda's cultural history, please email us. The workshop will be held in the next couple of months and the filming completed in September this year.

Meet N'Greets

KHS intends to continue holding small Meet N' Greets during 2026 with topics around Kuranda's local history and people, with details of each meeting advertised in the KHS column of the Kuranda Paper. All are welcome. Janine Evans, our new KHS committee member spoke at our last KHS Meet N' Greet held in the CWA Hall regarding Ellis Rowan, a well-known Australian artist and botanical illustrator who painted in water colours during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. She also did a series



*A corner of the Fairyland tearooms,
note the handmade lawyer cane furniture.
Credit: Queensland State Archives*

of illustrations on birds, butterflies and insects. Janine is writing her PhD about the contribution of female botanical artists to botanical science in Northern Queensland. Some of Ellis Rowan's illustrations are held in the National Library of Australia and can be viewed online (<https://www.library.gov.au/research/guides-and-resources/guides-selected-collections/ellis-rowan-collection>). Ellis made six trips to Queensland between 1887 and 1913 and spent some time collecting and painting plants from the Myola area.

The Collecting Bug Additions

New additions to the Collecting Bug include a fascinating history of Minnie Ghyn Thompson Dick and her family who established the Fairyland Tea Gardens in Kuranda in the early 1900s. This history was prepared by M. A. Gilmore in 2021 from unpublished family accounts and can be read in full online (item 173 on the Collecting Bug website). John and Minnie Dick purchased 100 acres of rainforest sight unseen after the birth of their sixth child and 14 years of travel from New South Wales to Queensland. The property contained a small cottage, a citrus orchard, banana and pineapple plantings and ninety acres of untouched rainforest. The family settled, John left to continue his travels and photography business and Minnie lived off the produce on the land, exploring the forest and decided she could create a business from the wonders of the rainforest. The family established trails in the forest, bridges over the streams and built furniture for the tea rooms from lawyer cane. Minnie and her youngest daughter "Clive" continued to run the Tea Gardens for a decade as the older children made their way in the world. Clive rowed visitors over the river, cooked afternoon teas and guided visitors in the forest. Minnie and Clive made the tea gardens an integral part of the tourism attractions operating in Kuranda in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1934 the property was transferred to the Railway Commissioner, and then in 1948 it was acquired by the Queensland Tourist Board run by lessees until 1954.

For more information on Kuranda's history please send an email to kurandahistoricalsocietycollec@gmail.com or get in touch with the committee via kurandahistory@gmail.com.

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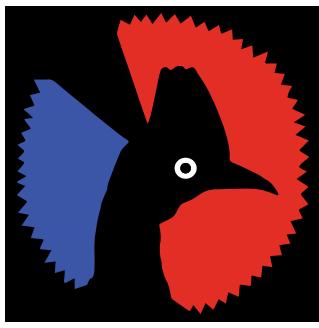
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- Want advice on what to plant at your place? Give us a call.
- Let us know if you see a cassowary on the road or in the bush.
- Three **BOX TRAILERS** available to borrow - 0439 899 731.

CASSOWARIES AND PLANT

WHO ARE WE?

Kuranda Conservation is one of a vast spread of community groups who care about our environment, its wildlife and each other. We connect to a wide network of wildlife carers. Our focus is on cassowaries, their habitat and how we can fit into this fragile ecological setting. If you ask us a question about something we can't answer, we'll refer you to someone who can. No one is employed at our native plant nursery. We're all volunteers. We do what we do because we love it. Money is not a motivation for us. We need it to do the things we want to do, but it is not the reason we do them. We do what we do because it needs to be done.

Kuranda Conservation is self-supporting, for the most part. Occasionally, we apply for funding to help us with special projects such as the Big Cassowary statue project. Our fundraising projects include:

- The community nursery from which we sell native plants at low cost. Volunteers operate the nursery. While we specialise in cassowary, i.e. wildlife, food plants, our range goes far beyond cassowaries. Why do we sell the plants so cheaply? We want you to plant them on your property instead of non-native pretty plants. Love where you live. Enhance it; don't try to change it. Let it change you.

- Bin Stickers: The pictures on our inspiring range of native animal bin stickers were painted by the talented Rebecca Koller and gifted to Kuranda Conservation. She is an amazing woman with few limits to her skills, energy and generosity. Steven Nowakowski and Nettie O'Connell of Nettie O Design converted the paintings digitally and Inspired Signs prints them into the final product. This appropriate and unique product greatly contributes to our operating funds.
- Jules has perfected a method of applying leaf designs onto recycled T-shirts, which sell like hot cakes at functions such as Ecofiesta and the Collins Markets. Kuranda Conservation reaps a healthy share of the profits from her skill and industry.
- Trailer hire: We hire out our trailers to locals who need to shift stuff. It's a community service that pays for itself.
- We have a dedicated Gift Fund to which tax-deductible donations can be made. We can spend these funds on research, particularly on cassowaries. We'd love to know where they go when we don't know where they are. What might that tell us about the condition of their habitat?

Kuranda Conservation also plays a role in Local and Regional Government planning. How we plan for developments that affect our environment is critically important. We critique planning documents when they come up for public comment, always suggesting the need for environmental wildlife corridors and important high conservation areas to be preserved. We often receive information about trees being cut down or developments that are being undertaken that we take to Council on your behalf. Our lobbying has resulted in some convictions and rectifications, so it is worth the trouble to keep your eyes open and query anything you think might not be quite right.



Antidesma erostre, wild currant, edible. Photo by Dianne Daniels

\$25 per sticker
350x600mm

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www.kurandaconservation.org

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\$5ea



CASSOWARY ART TRAIL UPDATE

SUPPORT NEEDED - EVERY CONTRIBUTION COUNTS

Donations:

If you would like to make a donation, please go to www.cassowarytrail.com.au.

Your generosity will ensure this sculpture becomes a reality and stands as a testament to our community's collaborative spirit. Each dollar counts. Let's create something remarkable together!

BUSINESSES PLEASE NOTE: Advertisement space still available: For a permanent business exposure for your business with logo/name on the large sign next to the BIG Cassowary, available with a one-off payment. First step would be to pledge a certain tier/amount chosen and payment only if the funding to finalise the project is secured. Information and documents are available at www.cassowarytrail.com.au or can be requested at info@cassowarytrail.com.au.

The whole Cassowary Art Trail team thanks for all your support. The Big Cassowary Kuranda is a project of Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery Inc.

Big Cassowary at Centenary Park, Kuranda



Artist concept. Photo supplied

Shop for becoming a Silver sponsor. We also received donations from The Not Just Chocolate Shop Kuranda and the operator of Port Douglas based Kuranda Day-Tours.

A big thank you to everyone helping to increase our funding now to \$62,000, however to reach our goal of \$90,000 to finalise the project in 2026 we need all the support we can to get this Big project over the line.

We are sure that such a unique installation in Kuranda will create an additional drawcard to visit the region, especially self-driving tourists, but more importantly it will provide information and promote interest for the Southern Cassowary, and share our unique local stories, hand painted on this impressive statue by local artists.

The Big Cassowary would add to our existing range of handpainted life-size statues which act as cassowary ambassadors at various Kuranda and regional locations - to find them all visit www.cassowarytrail.com.au.



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Academic Nurturing Creative

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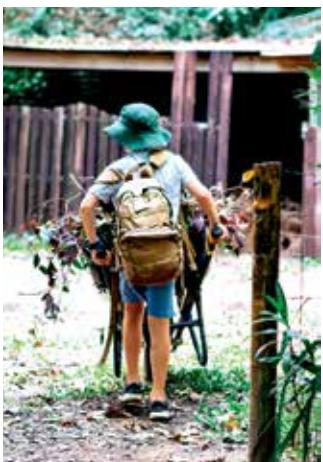
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chss.qld.edu.au

46 Boyles Road, Kuranda



The school garden in full harvest. Photo supplied by CHSS

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 Cairns Hinterland
Steiner School
Academic Nurturing Creative

Cultivating curiosity and presence - seasonal learning in the garden -

Cairns Hinterland Steiner School (CHSS) is celebrating the continued success of its vibrant Gardening Program, which offers students a unique, hands-on learning experience deeply connected to nature, seasonal rhythms, and sustainable living.

Each week, students from Year 1 through Year 8 step into the school's flourishing garden to engage in meaningful practical activities including planting, soil care, composting, harvesting, and preparing fresh produce.

Under the guidance of specialist Gardening Teacher Jeanie Ford, the program blends biodynamic principles with creative exploration. Children take part in a wide variety of hands-on activities — from garden art installations to apiary skills such as wiring bee frames, harvesting honey, and dipping beeswax candles, to preparing iced flower elixirs, herbal drinks, salads and homemade preserves. These experiences provide practical life skills while nurturing a deeper understanding of ecological systems and the importance of caring for the natural world.

The Gardening Program also fosters strong community connections, where older and younger students participate in shared garden spaces. Nature journaling, sensory exploration, and simple garden-to-plate cooking further enrich the learning experience, supporting confidence, cooperation and a sense of belonging.

"The garden gives our students a place to slow down, work with their hands to connect to the earth, and feel part of something living," said Jeanie. "Watching children's confidence grow as they care for the plants, bees and each other is one of the most rewarding parts of our Gardening Program."

CHSS is proud to offer an outdoor learning environment that nourishes resilience, responsibility and joy—qualities that students carry with them far beyond the garden gate.

To learn more about the Cairns Hinterland Steiner School visit chss.qld.edu.au or social media (Facebook and Instagram). School Tours take place every fortnight during term time — phone the office to book (07) 4093 8809.

The school garden in full harvest. Photo supplied by CHSS

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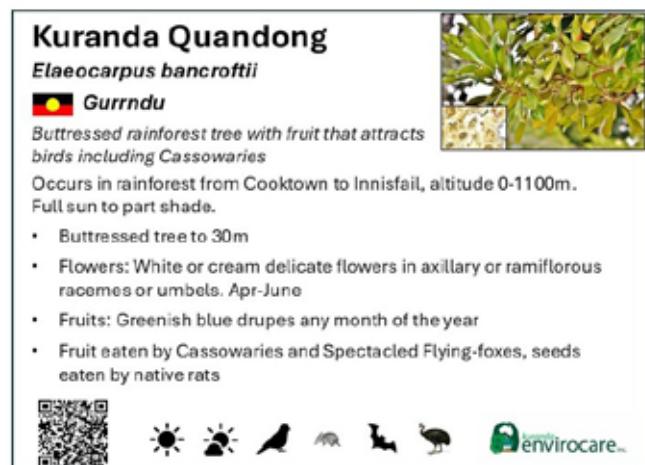


Our Latest Nursery Labelling

As our customers have been increasing we've been looking at ways we can provide more self service as a nursery, for those who have a fair idea about what they're looking for or just need more info about the plant they're in front of. We're always happy to provide advice for your particular site as well so please come and have a chat, we love to know where the plants are headed and see photos of their progress.

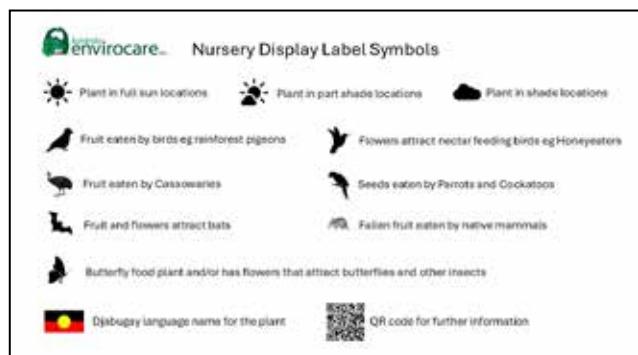
We've introduced our new labelling system, developed by Richard, one of our volunteers. It seems to be working well, with good feedback from customers and now nearly every species in the nursery has its own larger more readable label. Always happy for feedback on ways to improve.

Note diagrams in this article are for example only.



Friends of the Kuranda Tree Frog

They are all pretty straightforward, some even have QR codes to take you to more information about the tree if you'd like. There are a few symbols at the bottom of the labels which might not be clear so here's some explanation.



12 years of Frog Monitoring data being reported on soon

Dr Conrad Hoskin will be analysing the 12 yrs of data we have on the frogs of this area and particularly the critically endangered Kuranda Tree frog. Especially important are the last two years of data showing their recovery after the 2023 Cyclone Jasper rain bomb caused the Barron River to swell to its high bank mark, sweeping 14m high through all the frog habitats we monitor. This analysis and other genetic work on this species will guide the conservation effort for this frog over the next decade.

• Date Claimers •

30 January 6pm Frog Monitoring

Receive details via group texts and emails. Contact Cathy, on 0419624940, Facebook - Friends of the Kuranda Tree Frog or email info@envirocare.org.au

Forest Sheoak

Allocasuarina torulosa

A common tree of open and savannah woodlands. Seeds eaten by parrots and Cockatoos.



Occurs in rainforest margins, wet sclerophyll forest and open woodland from the Iron Range area to near Jenolan Caves NSW, altitude 0-1200m. Full sun.

- Tree to 20m. Dioecious (separate male and female plants)
- Flowers: Male flowers scale-like brown terminal spikes. Female flowers cluster of ramiflorous red styles in tight whorls. Jan & May
- Fruits: Brown cones. July-Feb
- Fruit and seeds eaten by Parrots and Cockatoos



Allocasuarina torulosa. Photo credit Richard Owen

KURANDA WASTE-BUSTERS

by Julia Mauro

HELLO WET SEASON, HELLO MOULD!

This month, take the low-waste mould-removal challenge!

In Kuranda, it's wet for many months of the year. If you let mould take over, you'll end up throwing things in the bin. We want to get as much life out of our things as possible and reduce the amount of chemicals we're using.

So here are some tips for some natural cleaning, mould prevention and mould removal. Prevention is better than cure when it comes to mould because mould is insidious and can be very bad for your health. Even if you can't see it, it can get into walls and surfaces.

The most important things are regular surface cleaning, dusting, and ventilation. Use dehumidifiers and fans to reduce indoor moisture. Repair leaks in roofs, walls and pipes.

Last Wet Season, a friend asked me, "How on Earth do you keep the mould out of the house? I mean, I closed up an unused room and then went in there and there was mould on everything!" She was wondering if she'd have to throw out the mattress and the pillows and start again.

In the wet tropics, we shouldn't be closing up rooms. Airflow is your friend and surface dirt is your enemy because it gives mould a breeding ground.

Mattress and pillow protectors are a worthwhile investment to prevent mould and dust mites getting inside your bed. Sustainability advocate Lottie Dalziel recommends a deep clean of your mattress: scatter bicarb soda over the bottom of the mattress, leave it for an hour and then vacuum-clean it.

To remove mould, fill a spray bottle with half white vinegar and half water (this is a general-purpose cleaner). Then add four drops of essential clove oil (per 750ml vinegar/water solution), which you can get from the pharmacy, health food shops and even some supermarkets. Clove oil kills mould. Mist the solution over the mouldy surface and wipe with a damp cloth or sponge. Avoid dry-brushing mould because this can release mould spores into the air.

You don't need to buy chemicals like bleach. If you do have chemicals for dealing with mould, use them up and then switch to the old-fashioned solution. Or try 'Green Goo Anti-Mould Spray', available at the post office.

Wash curtains, towels, bedding and cushion covers regularly. Dalziel recommends putting a bowl of bicarb soda in your wardrobe to absorb any moisture.

Use the clothes dryer when necessary to make sure clothes dry properly, but be mindful that dryers use a lot of energy. Laundry is best done when the electricity tariff is lowest, outside peak-demand energy periods.

Air-conditioning helps keep rooms and cars cool and dry, fighting humidity, but it also has a high energy cost. If you do use air-con, do what Ergon recommends and set it to 25°C in summer, on the air-recirculate setting. You'll save money and put less pressure on the power grid. To avoid running the clothes dryer, hang your clothes to dry in an air-conditioned room.

Wishing you luck getting through the Wet Season mould-free!



Mould-busting!

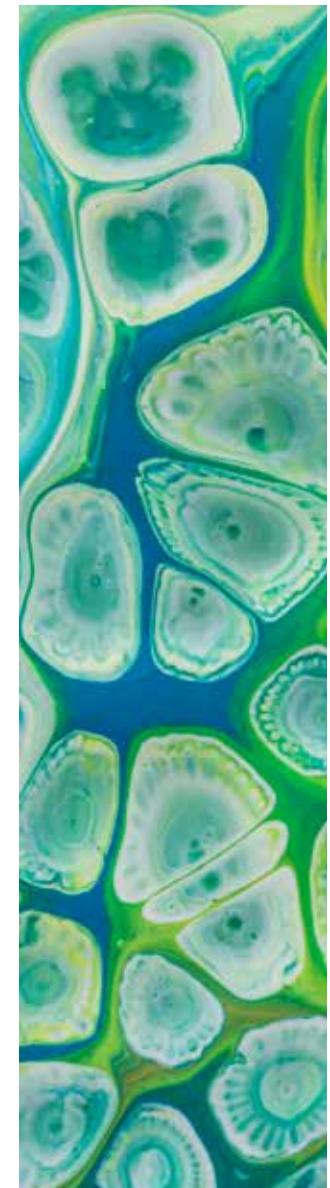
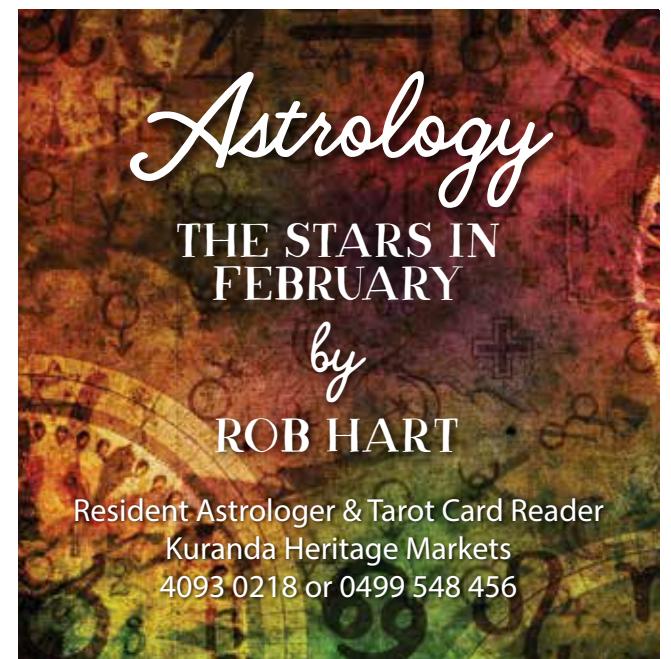
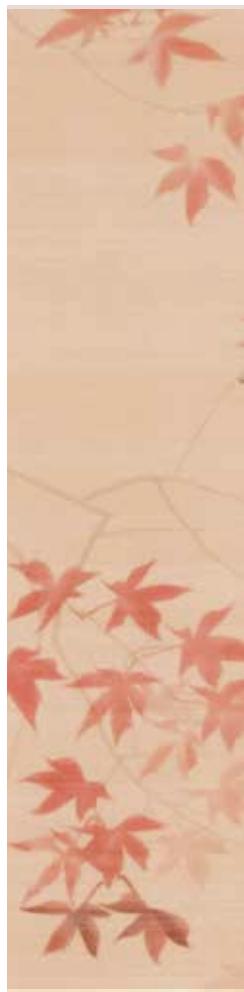


Photo. Freepik



This is very much a month focusing on, and promising, beginnings and therefore significantly also completions and culminations. Consider the beginning of the month: a Leo full moon, Sun, Mars, Venus, Mercury and Pluto all clustered in Aquarius with Saturn and Neptune on the Alpha – Omega point of the zodiac: zero degrees Aries. Stepping into the evolving frequencies of Aquarius indeed, with all the pieces in place.

And then on 17 February, the new Aquarian moon aligns exactly with Sun and Earth, creating a solar eclipse, an annular eclipse, where the moon is so perfectly positioned that at total eclipse there is a ring of gold light around the darkened moon. Quite beautiful. Early evening in our part of the world.

With Saturn and Neptune straddling the zero Aries point, the practical and the spiritual, or the material and the illusory, meet and merge at the beginning of cycles – 30 years for Saturn and 165 years for Neptune. Put the magic into the mundane, spirit into earth and whatever we may begin at this time will be energised indeed.

There is a very strong encouragement now not to just let things happen but make them do so. Looking at all the Aquarian energy pouring in, the paradox is thrown into high relief. We are independent individuals AND we are an essential, intrinsic part of the whole. Get that resolved and we surge ahead. Seldom do the planets indicate such a positive boost of evolving awareness of the illusion of separation, and the positive sharing of the light. Never has that affirmation “light overcomes dark” been more true.

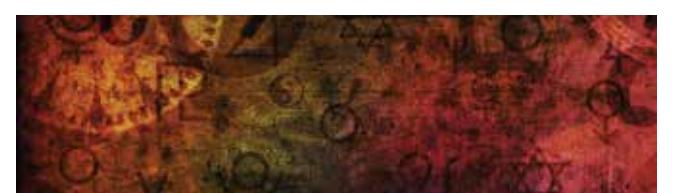
With that focus, whatever your personal birth chart may suggest, we are all in this exciting time together. World events will take on even more transformational, evolutionary progress: sudden, startling and very representative of the Aquarian rulers: Uranus and Saturn – revolution laying strong foundations

Jupiter, “exalted” in Cancer now, is expanding: the birth of new alliances and resource-sharing agreements.

A very exciting time: evolutionary, techno-driven and progressive, laying foundations for long-term respect, balance, spiritual awareness and magic.

Last day of February a rising moon aligns with Pluto. Now there's a burst of new life and transformation. Go for it!

Blessings Rob.



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Kuranda Writers Group

Next meet:

Monday 9 February - 10am-12 noon
at Kuranda Library, Arara Street

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1253010558786902>
All welcome!

K-boom! That's what just happened to the 65 year annual Adelaide Writers' Week. In early January the invitation to Australian-Palestinian author, academic and lawyer Randa Abdelfattah was withdrawn by the overarching Adelaide Festival board following a request from the Jewish Community Council of South Australia (JCCSA) in the wake of the Bondi terror attack mid-December 2025.

The complete implosion of AWW as a whole that followed was swift. Five days later, over 180 (70%) of the invited authors had pulled out in protest, including boycotts by internationals like Pulitzer Prize winners and former NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

Several literary associations and sponsors immediately followed, making strongly worded public statements on their boycott. On 13 January, AWW's curatorial director Louise Adler AM who'd issued all authors' invitations, also resigned. Herself a child of Holocaust survivors and current board member of the progressive Jewish Council of Australia, Adler is a towering and revered figure in Australian publishing.

"I cannot be party to silencing writers . . . (as it) weakens freedom of speech and is the harbinger of a less free nation, where lobbying and political pressure determine who gets to speak and who doesn't," she wrote in an opinion piece in the media. She added, "AWW is the canary in the coalmine. Friends and colleagues in the arts, beware of the future. They are coming for you."

Two days later, the 2026 AWW event itself was cancelled entirely, followed by the overall Adelaide Festival Board of which AWW is part of the program, stepping down, with the Premier stepping in to appoint a new Adelaide Festival board.

While the former board may have thought cancelling a Palestinian speaker was justified risk-management at the time, they completely underestimated the enormity of the paradoxical international risk they invoked instead. With 160,000 attendees in 2025, the free entry AWW is the largest literary festival nationally and a major draw for the broader Adelaide Festival, contributing \$62.6 M to the SA economy.

Amid this, at the Kuranda Writers Group meeting on 12 January, this shemozzle was a hot topic. Note that there is a much bigger and more nuanced story around these bare facts that anyone can follow up online.

A contingent from Kuranda friends regularly make the annual trek to AWW as a good place to all hang out together while harvesting the best live discussions in the land. On the lawns of the Pioneer Gardens, two stages operate at once, with large audiences seated under sprawling shade cloth with adjacent bookshops, authors signing their books after speaking, and food outlets. I fondly remember attending AWW in the early 1990s, describing my first immersion as "listening to endless bedtime stories for big people".

The other topical subject raised was the arrest of prominent WA children's author Craig Silvey on allegedly possessing child exploitation material. Author of Honey Bee and Runt, both on school curriculums and currently being made into films, this news was a shock.

Writing on the topic of 'The Wet,' Magda entranced our January meeting with a heart-throbbing romantic rain-dance encounter. Hot, as well as wet. She also had another story on the smell of rain, known as 'petrichor'.

Gerry had a wild west story of getting bogged in the rain somewhere near Julia Creek, and how he managed to get unbogged, with much made of developing the outdoor characters who rallied to his rescue.

As for what we are watching, for some it was the 3 part series on tennis champ Yvonne Goolagong. Toni told us about watching cricket, while some had been watching Australian military history of Pearl Harbour, Kokoda, Vietnam and other theatres of war on YouTube, noting the disparity between the US and Australian versions of these events.

Magda then expanded on her most recent book, with illustrations, called 'Pixie Karma Sutra', explaining that the old Indian Karma Sutra classic could, in her opinion, do with an update.

Newcomers to the group at Kuranda Library on the second Monday of February from 10.00am – 12 noon will be warmly welcomed. The topic for the 9 February meeting is 'The Gathering'. Inspired by a fictional family reunion called Whipbird by WA author Robert Drewe where the weekend at a country estate, laced by smoky BBQs and alcohol, brings out some hilarious extended family schisms, our own writings could be an incident about our own Christmas gatherings, or even a funeral, real or imagined.

Eve Stafford

2nd Monday of the month 10am -12 noon

at Kuranda Library, Arara Street (old school site).

FEBRUARY 2026: 9 February 2026

"A word after a word after a word is power"

- Margaret Atwood

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and

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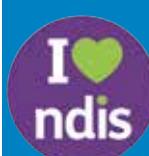
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WAYGAL-A-GALING BUWAL-WU

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.



B D G A L B U L B R R D D J P Y N M J N B
U W Y W U N A Y M Z D K Y D J A N A Y W D
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D B I B U N B A Y M A G A Y I N G M W Y K
A W U R A N D B A D J A N D J I G A L I Y
R B U R R D J A L B A N D J I L Y I D J I
R A W A N D A N G W N L L D J I G U Y A D
I N M D J U N D A Y G A R U G A R G X Q J
L G P M V J D D A N G G A L B U R R A Y N
Z G J Q N B A G U L I R R M A N G G A W R
W A G A L G L M U R R G U Y U N G A Y K M
L L G U R R U N G G A W U R R M B A K Y B
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BADJANDJI
BALABIRA
BANDJIL
BANGGAL
BANYDJARRIL
BIBUNBAY
BULIRR
BUNDARRIL
BURRAY
BURRDJAL
DANGGAL
DJABUL
DJAGIR
DJAMUY
DJANAY
DJANDAL
DJIBAL
DJIGUYA
DJUNDAY
DJUNGGANG

DUNYU
GALBU
GALIY
GARRY
GARUGAR
GULIRR
GURRUNGGA
MANGGA
MAGAYING
MURRGU
NGUNAL
NYINAY
WAGAL
WANDANG
WIYAM
WUNAY
WURAN
WURRMBA
YIDJI
YUNGAY

WORD MEANINGS

BADJANDJI: forbidden, taboo relationship.
BALABIRA: curlew. *Balabira yilaala*. Curlew couple.
BANDJIL: female/girl, woman. Female of any species. *Bundaarra bandjil*. Female cassowary.
BANGGAL: big. *Gulu djulbin banggal galgalay-djada*. This tree is big and tall.
BANYDJARRIL: to follow. *Nyurra nganya banydjarril*. You are following me.
BIBUNBAY: young ones/children.
BULIRR: staghorn fern.
BUNDARRIL: to lead. *Ngawu nyurrany bundarril*. I am leading you.
BURRAY: to fly. *Djarruy burrang*. The bird is flying.
BURRDJAL: to visit. *Gurrungga nganya burrdjal*. Kookaburra visits me.
DANGGAL: wing(s). *Balabirra danggal gawurru djanang*. Curlew standing wings outstretched.
DJABUL: promised one.
DJAGIR: Rose butternut, northern bollygum.
DJAMUY: forbidden, taboo foods.
DJANAY: to stand. *Ngawu djanang*. I am standing.
DJANDAL: aerial fig root/ fig vine to Waybarra, the meeting place of spirits beyond the stars. The verb djandal means to put someone on the right road.
DJIBAL: pencil orchid/clitoris

DJIGUYA: Catbird
DJUNDAY: to walk. *Gulu bama djundang*. This person is walking.
DJUNGGANG: running. *Wawun djunggang*. Bush turkey running.
DUNYU: husband
GALBU: Butcher bird
GALIY: to go. *Ngawu galing Gimunydfa*. I am going to Gimuy(Cairns).
GARRY: to come. *Nganydji garrang*. We are coming.
GARUGAR: Umbrella tree
GULIRR: angry
GURRUNGGA: Kookaburra
MANGGA: nest/pubic hair
MAGAYING: climbing, rising
MURRGU: the mound of bush turkey or scrub hen/ a grave
NGUNAL: Lace monitor
NYINAY: to sit, to reside in a place. *Ngawu Ngumbanydfa nyinang*. I stay in Ngunbay.
WAGAL: wife
WANDANG: falling. *Dugu wandang*. Leaves are falling.
WIYAM: baby cassowary.
WUNAY: to lie down. *Ngawu wunay-galing*. I'm going to lie down.

WURAN: steam. *Wuran magaying*. Steam rising up.
WURRMBA: sleep. *Ngawu wurrmba wunay-galing*. I'm going to lie down and sleep.
YIDJI: pademelon
YUNGAY: to swim. *Ngawu yungay-galing*. I'm going to swim.



Photo by Timothy Dykes - 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
/u:/ "book" e.g. **mudu** (back)
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)
as in the American pronunciation of /r/ in car e.g. **biri** (fire)

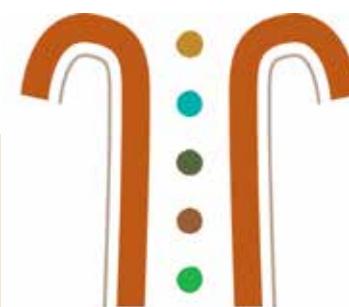
/ny/ is like the initial /n/ in onion, like an /n/ and a /y/ pronounced simultaneously e.g. **nyurra** (you)
/ng/ as in the word "singer" e.g. **bungan** (sun)
/n,g/ when you see the n,g broken by a stop do not run
/ngg/ two sounds together e.g. **djin.gal** (sky)
is pronounced as the ng sound in the 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 Nyuvarri Estate (old Ngoonbi farm).



Djabugay
Tribal Aboriginal Corporation

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

Learn about this endangered language with its storylore going back into the last ice age, with Michael Quinn and Bada Djaygul/Dennis Hunter



RANGERS report

KURANDA RANGERS 2026 SEASON KICKS OFF!

The Kuranda Rangers Football Club is back and gearing up for an exciting new season, this time from our new home ground at Bartley Park (Kuranda Community Precinct, adjacent to the old Kuranda Primary School site). It's an exciting step for the Club, giving us dedicated facilities and a place to truly call our own.

While training officially resumes in February, we're starting the season with three Come & Try Days, the perfect introduction for anyone curious about joining the Club.

COME & TRY DAYS

29 January, 5 & 12 February
4:30pm @ Bartley Park
All ages up to 14 welcome!

Whether your child is brand new to football or looking for a fun, inclusive team to join, these sessions are a great way to get involved.

We Need You!

To keep growing and thriving, Kuranda Rangers is looking for:

- Players (especially in age groups from U5 to U12)
- Coaches to help support and inspire the next generation
- Committee members to help with club operations and planning

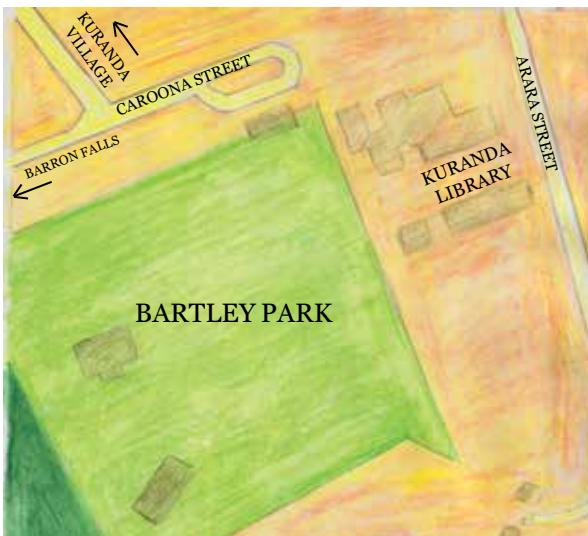
If you're looking to give back to the community or just want to be part of something active and rewarding, now is a great time to join.

Supporter shirts will be ready to order soon, so you can wear your colours with pride on the sidelines.

And finally, a huge thanks to all the families, volunteers, and sponsors who continue to make Kuranda Rangers a special part of the Kuranda community. Here's to another fantastic season ahead, now at Bartley Park!

For all updates on sign-on, scheduling and events, follow the Kuranda Rangers Football Club Facebook page. Go Rangers!

Go Rangers!



Please note new Kuranda rangers Training ground - Bartley Park in the Kuranda Community Precinct -

Please contact the Club for more information:
 • kurandarangersfootball@gmail.com
 • For all updates on sign-on, scheduling and events, follow the Kuranda Rangers Football Club Facebook page.



KURANDA HORSE & PONY CLUB NEWS

KURANDA HORSE AND PONY CLUB MEET AND GREET DAY AND AGM



2026 is the Chinese New Year of the Horse! Dust off your saddles and boots, this could be your year to join a fun, community-based club suitable for horse owners young and old. Our Club offers many opportunities for learning and fun through our rally days and clinics.

If you are competitive, you can attend local gymkhana throughout the region. Or if you just want a fun outing with your fur baby and make some new friends, our Club is the place!

The Kuranda Horse and Pony Club warmly invites all local horse owners and riders to come along to our Meet and Greet day.

We will also conduct our annual AGM, where we will offer any keen participants the chance to volunteer for our Club committee. Our Club only survives through memberships and a dedicated committee. We would love to see some new faces and welcome fresh new ideas for an exciting 2026 for the KHPC.

When: Saturday, 31 January

Where: 178 Myola Rd, Kuranda - KHPC Club Grounds

Time: 10am

Bring: Hat, waterbottle, sunscreen

Lunch: A bbq sausage sizzle and drinks will be provided thanks to sponsor Narellan Pools FNQ

Please RSVP: kurandahpc@gmail.com for catering purposes.

We look forward to welcoming some fresh new faces!

The Club grounds are top notch, space for all our events and often host clinics by visiting instructors for local equestrians.

Follow us on Facebook for updates and information.



Kuranda Horse and Pony Club, good for all sizes and ages.
Photos supplied KHPC

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Entity Structure Advice

Bookkeeping

The Tax Team left to right Simone, Amjad, Jena, Shaun and Linda



4093 8222 info@kurandavillageaccountancy.com.au

kurandavillageaccountancy.com.au

NEWS FROM KURANDA VILLAGE ACCOUNTANCY

A Timely Reminder: Protecting Your Family and Staying Ahead of Tax Time

Taking the time to put proper family wealth protection structures in place is one of the most important steps you can take to look after the people who matter most, both now and into the future.

Simple planning, such as having an up-to-date Will, appropriate authorities in place and correct structures around family and business assets can make a significant difference if life takes an unexpected turn. These steps aren't about complexity, they're about clarity, security and peace of mind for your loved ones.

It's also a good time to start thinking ahead to End of Financial Year. Preparing early helps avoid last-minute stress and gives you the opportunity to bring records up to date, especially if previous years have fallen behind.

With the ATO becoming increasingly strict around lodgement deadlines and penalties, delaying action can be costly. Early conversations allow time to correct issues and catch up on outstanding obligations.

If you're unsure where you stand — whether with family planning or tax matters — now is the time to act. Starting early makes all the difference.

Please call into our office if we can help. You'll find us at 12 Rob Veivers Drive, next to Petit Café. Phone 4093 8222 or email us at info@kurandavillageaccountancy.com.au

Kuranda Village Accountancy



*Local service for Kuranda and
'Top of the Range' residents*

YOUTH LINK NEWS



Celebrating Kuranda Youth: Sport, Creativity & Community Connection

Youth Link Kuranda would like to extend a huge congratulations to the Kuranda boys who recently represented our community in Rugby League at the Survival Day Knockouts Reconciliation Carnival on the 23 January. Regardless of the final results, their commitment, teamwork and pride in showing up for Kuranda deserves recognition. It's powerful to see young people stepping up, backing each other and representing community through sport.



As the year wrapped up at Youth Link, the Centre was filled with meaningful moments of connection. Families joined young people in the space to share food, music and time together, creating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Music jam sessions, big shared meals and a water slide helped round out the day, giving young people space to unwind and express themselves. These moments of joy and belonging are at the heart of what Youth Link exists for - providing a safe, supportive space where young people feel valued and encouraged to be themselves.

Looking ahead, Youth Link is excited to be teaming up with Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation and Desert Pea Media for an upcoming community gig at the Kuranda Amphitheatre on Friday 7 February, from 12–5pm. The event is designed to showcase the incredible local talent growing right here in our region and to continue uplifting the voices of young people across the community. The lineup features headliners Rainforest Rhythm, an exciting next-generation reggae band of local youth, alongside performances from Cloud 9, Djawarray, Diggis and Komorebi. Together, the artists reflect the depth, creativity and future of Kuranda's music scene.

On the day, Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation will be running cultural activities, while Youth Link will be curating a gallery wall showcasing artwork created by young people over the years. There will also be a jumping castle, sausage sizzle and free entry, with the whole community encouraged to come along and show support for local youth. Desert Pea Media will also be using the event as an opportunity to launch their upcoming program, running an information stall and Q&A session to yarn with young people and families about what's coming up the following week and how to get involved.

This event is about celebrating the positive — recognising young people's talents, voices and leadership, and continuing to create spaces where they feel connected, supported and proud of who they are. At a time when there is a lot of conversation about young people, Youth Link and its partners are focused on backing the good, nurturing potential and strengthening community connection. Transport options from Kowrowa and Mantaka are currently being explored, with further details to be shared closer to the event.

As we head into the new school year, Youth Link would like to wish all students and families a strong and positive start. We're looking forward to another year of creativity, growth and exciting opportunities for Kuranda's young people, and can't wait to see what 2026 has in store.

Desert Pea Media is a cross-cultural organisation operating nationally for over 20 years, having delivered over 200 creative, collaborative community media projects in over 90 communities around Australia using the power of storytelling for personal transformation and social change. The deeply collaborative creative process brings people together through truth-telling and intergenerational conversations that explore history, identity, country and culture and uses contemporary media-making to get the message out to the world.

Desert Pea Media, in partnership with local community organisations, presents an exciting new creative, early-intervention program designed to engage and empower 'at risk' young people in Kuranda. The objective is to build creative diversionary pathways, reinforce positive community leadership and celebrate local Indigenous people, culture and identity.

DPM has history in Kuranda, including a National Indigenous Music Award for KDA Crew – "Djabuganydjii Bama" (view on Desert Pea Media YouTube channel) and some engaging short films.

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8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Sung Eucharist
9.30am Sunday school
5.00pm Evening Prayer

TUESDAY

9.00am Holy Communion

SPECIAL SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday March 18th
Holy Communion 5.00pm

ACTIVITIES

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Alpha
A Life Worth Living
Sunday School

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Wirramoo Street, Kuranda

Services held every Saturday
ALL WELCOME

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

St Saviour's Thought for February

This month we read a short passage from St Matthew's Gospel Chapter 4 verse 13-16.

One of the most wonderful things we can do for someone is to affirm them. We can help them to become aware that we think a great deal of them and therefore expect much from them. It is not enough just to feel this; we have to express it. This is where we often fail. Sometimes we fail most with those who are closest to us and whom we love the most.

Failing to affirm others can also cost a great deal in the workplace. In both family life and with our colleagues or employees we can for a long time assume that they are fully aware of our appreciation of their performance, so we fail to mention it. They do not feel they can ask us and keep wondering until the relationship is damaged.

Jesus was careful again and again to affirm people, making it clear that he thought they had a great deal to give if they only chose to do so. He was equally ready to question their motives and actions if he felt it necessary, as we must if relationships are to be honest and real.

In this Gospel passage Jesus is surrounded by a crowd on a hillside near the Sea of Galilee. He turns to them and says something so affirming and generous that we use it to this day. Jesus says simply, "You are the salt of the earth".

But immediately he emphasises that being the salt of the earth, being gifted, being useful, being creative, brings with it responsibility. The question then is how we use and offer what we have been given [v 13].

Again Jesus affirms his listeners. He says "You are the light of the world." Once more he immediately asks us to be accountable to God for the gifts and qualities that may entail [v 14]. We may be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, but we will be so only if our gifts are directed out from ourselves towards others. If they are all directed into ourselves and our own interests, then that which makes us salt and light is useless to God. The whole value of salt is its effect beyond itself. The whole point of light is to reach out and to guide.

Jesus is quite direct and stern here. He affirms us but calls us to account for what he knows we can be and do. Affirming people does not mean that we ignore their shortcomings. But if we affirm one another when we should, we will enable each other to respond to the demands and the responsibilities placed upon us.

Jesus then shows us that affirming one another makes it possible for us to be responsible to ourselves and to one another.

News from St Saviours

St Saviour's has been very active over the Christmas / New Year period with wonderful Christmas and Epiphany services. Sunday school will commence for the New Year on Sunday the 8th of February at 9.30am new faces are very welcome.



*Words of wisdom
from my
Grandmother...*

If you think nobody
cares about you, try
missing a couple of
bank payments.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH FROM THE BAHÁ'I FAITH

"... O ye people of the world! has there not been enough of these wars and strifes, this restlessness and enmity? Surely there has been enough. How long must the innocent ones be killed in battle? How long must mothers lament their children? And how long must fathers cry and lament? Is not this bloodthirsty earth yet satisfied with the blood of the youth of the world? Must this bloodshed, and these sanguinary conditions still go on? Will the world continue at war?

"God has created the world for all people. O children of humanity! be kind to one another. Do not see any strangeness in one another. Consider this word which His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh spoke sixty years ago: 'O people of the world! Ye are all the leaves of one tree, the fruit of one branch, the drops of one sea.'"

Perhaps, still, that melodious voice of 'Abdu'l-Bahá is sounding in the ears of those that search for the truth and who say the time for superstition has passed away, the time of illumination has come, the whole of mankind must be servants of humanity (servants of one another).

'Abdu'l-Bahá used to say that the members of all nations and religions were from God, that all religions have come for

the training of mankind, all have come for the unity of hearts and for the showing forth of affection, one toward another, and, because the truth of all religions is one, all the prophet praised God, all the religions worshipped one God, the prophets are from one Reality."

(Baha'u'llah)

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 and for location.

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 in Cairns, Atherton, Mareeba, Malanda, Tolga and other places.

All enquiries welcome.

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**THE KURANDA PAPER
DEADLINES AND PUBLISHING DATES
2026**

All contributions to be sent to:

✉ mail@kurandapaper.com ✉ PO Box 66, Kuranda Q 4881

EDITION	ADVERTISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS DUE	PAPER PUBLISHED
FEBRUARY EDITION #383	10am Thursday 22 January	Thursday 29 January
MARCH EDITION #384	10am Thursday 19 February	Thursday 26 February
APRIL EDITION #385	10am Thursday 19 March	Thursday 26 March
MAY EDITION #386	10am Thursday 23 April	Thursday 30 April
JUNE EDITION #387	10am Thursday 21 May	Thursday 28 May
JULY EDITION #388	10am Thursday 25 June	Thursday 2 July
AUGUST EDITION #389	10am Thursday 23 July	Thursday 30 July
SEPTEMBER EDITION #390	10am Thursday 20 August	Thursday 27 August
OCTOBER EDITION #391	10am Thursday 24 September	Thursday 1 October
NOVEMBER EDITION #392	10am Thursday 22 October	Thursday 29 October
DECEMBER-JANUARY EDITION #393 (Final for 2026)	10am Thursday 26 November	Thursday 3 December



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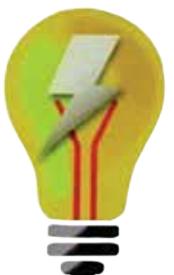


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Community Donation Drive

Support local families struggling with the rising cost of living. Donations of pantry staples and toiletry items can be dropped off at the Centre.

Heads Up!
The Kuranda Paper deadline for March 2026 edition is **Thursday 19 February 2026**. Please send all submissions and advertising to...

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

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Defibrillator locations in Kuranda region.

Kuranda Men's Shed end of Kuranda Heights Road
Kuranda Pharmacy cnr Coondoo and Thongon Sts
Kuranda Medical Centre cnr Thongon and Barang Sts
Kuranda Ambulance Station, Fallon Road
Kuranda Swimming Pool, Myola Road
Steiner School, Boyles Road
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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.

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C10055234



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HELP GROUPS



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January 2026 399.0 mm

(to 27 January 2026)

Annual total 399.0 mm

(to 27 January 2026)

Courtesy of Kuranda Railway Station



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1800 55 1800
kidshelpline.com.au

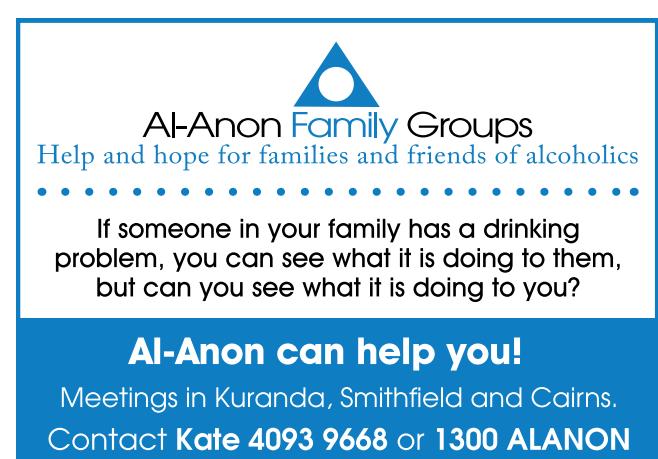
Kids Helpline is Australia's only free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.



Need help with a drinking problem?

1300 222 222

www.aa.org.au



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

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

Al-Anon can help you!

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



Mareeba
SHIRE COUNCIL

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 Contacts

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



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

Join your local SES

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

Contact Caitlin **0476 772 500**



TRANSPORT & ALERTS

Kuranda Transfers 0497 159 385

Rideshare 1300 743 374

Trans North 3036 2070

KURANDA TRANSFERS .COMAU

Call/SMS **0497 159 385**

Private Driver | Local & Airport Transfers

Kuranda locals—mention this ad for a discount!

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 Craigie). Go to Department of Main Roads website 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 ksrsales@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.

****All Sundays, Christmas Day, New Years Day, Good Friday, Anzac Day, Labour Day (Qld)****

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 Therwina 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 www.transnorthbus.com.au

NEW TIMETABLE

Atherton Tablelands to Cairns

Route 850	Monday to Saturday
Departs Atherton	7.00am 1.30pm
Departs Mareeba	7.30am 2.00pm
Departs Speewah	7.50am 2.20pm
Departs Kuranda	8.05am 2.40pm
Arrives Cairns	9.00am 3.30pm

Cairns to Atherton Tablelands

Route 850	Monday to Saturday
Departs Cairns	10.00am 4.00pm
Departs Smithfield	10.20am 4.20pm
Departs Kuranda	10.40am 4.40pm
Departs Speewah	10.50am 5.00pm
Departs Mareeba	11.20am 5.20pm
Arrives Atherton	11.50am 5.50pm

No Services Operate on the Following Days

• All Sundays • Christmas Day • New Years Day
• Good Friday • Anzac Day • Labour Day (Qld)

For more information visit www.transnorthbus.com.au

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

New Year New You!
Start something new in 2026 & join one of our weekly classes or workshops:

WEDNESDAY 11 & 25 FEBRUARY:

4:30pm - Gentle Yoga - "Slow down & reconnect."
Contact Gemma - 0435 085 503
www.grounding-essence.com

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY:

6pm Yin Yoga & Sound Bath Meditation with Gemma
Contact Gemma - 0435 085 503
www.grounding-essence.com
*** All events are current as of 22 January ***

OTHER:

*Commercial kitchen available for hire
*Plenty of Parking available
*Airconditioned hall

*Membership \$10 solo/20 family offers discounts and specials on bar prices and venue hire. Join now for yearly membership!
Volunteers always welcome
Contact us: krc4881@gmail.com or via Facebook (Kuranda Recreation Centre).

CONTACT US



Kuranda Recreation Centre



krc4881@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON

Come join us in our air conditioned classes!

KURANDA 8 BALL

New season starts in March 2026.

JUMRUM BAR

Tuesdays 6:30pm – 10pm & Sundays 3pm – 6pm

PILATES

Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30 - 10:30am, Thursdays 9 - 10am with Davini Saturdays 8:15 - 9:15am with Jaide Davini 0414 994 123 and Jaide 0488 229 700

TAI CHI

Mondays 6 - 7pm with Les 0400 938 276

YIN YOGA

Mondays 7:15 - 8.15pm with Gemma Bookings essential.
Contact Gemma - 0435 085 503
www.grounding-essence.com

Kuranda Recreation Centre Inc., Fallon Road, PO Box 716, Kuranda QLD 4881

Venue for Hire

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



What's On at Koah Hall

EVERY MONDAY

PILATES with Jaide 6 - 7pm
0488 229 700

THURSDAY 5 & 19 FEBRUARY

MANKIND PROJECT MEN'S GROUP – 7pm 0428 865 636

EVERY TUESDAY

FELDENKRAIS with Justine 9:30 - 10:30 am 0408 735 309



HIRE FEES

- \$10 per hour
- Full day and evening (24-hour block) \$150
- \$200 refundable bond for one-off events (if space is left as you found it)

www.koahhall.com

✉ koah.hall@gmail.com

✉ Koah Hall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

4:30pm Annual General Meeting for Koah Sports and Social Club. All welcome. New Committee members needed. Come along, make new friends and contribute to our vibrant community. See you there.

KOAH MONTHLY MARKET

BACK ON

SATURDAY 7 MARCH!!!

(no market in February)

8am till Midday

- New stallholders are welcome and invited to join us for all the fun!
- SMS/Voicemail Nicky 0488 961 660 or FB messenger via Koah Monthly Markets Facebook page.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Contributors please advise of any changes via email mail@kurandapaper.com

For events at the Kuranda Recreation Centre or the Koah Hall please see details in their columns above. See page 15 for CWA listings for this month.

EVERY MONDAY

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

Ashtanga Yoga 5.30am & 6pm. Biannka 0407 634 116

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

EVERY SECOND MONDAY OF MONTH

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

EVERY TUESDAY

Taekwon-Do & Self Defence 6–7.30pm Kuranda QCWA Hall. Jeff 0437 438 196

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



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

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

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

Mah Jong 1–4pm Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre.

Djabugay Language Classes 6–8pm Nyuwarri Estate (old Nguonbi farm), 1496 Kennedy Highway, Kuranda. 40938 116

EVERY THURSDAY

Kuranda Envirocare Nursery volunteering.

9am–12noon. 0474 560 700

Taekwon-Do & Self Defence 6–7.30pm Kuranda QCWA Hall. Jeff 0437 438 196

Ashtanga Yoga 6pm. Biannka 0407 634 116

Domestic Violence Help Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre by appointment 4093 8933

K.A.S.T. (Kuranda Amphitheatre Society Theatre) Free workshops. Youth 13+ @ 4.30pm, Kids 7+ @ 5pm, Adults @ 6pm Kuranda Amphitheatre Understage.

Kuranda Rangers soccer Keira 0437 778 849 for any queries.

EVERY SECOND THURSDAY OF MONTH

Kuranda Library Book Club 10am, Kuranda Library. Cheryl 0407 670 954 or cheryl.tonkin@gmail.com

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 8.30am–1pm. mensshedkuranda@gmail.com

EVERY SATURDAY

Men's Shed 8.30am–11.30am mensshedkuranda@gmail.com. Envirocare Nursery Plant Sales 10am - 12noon

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