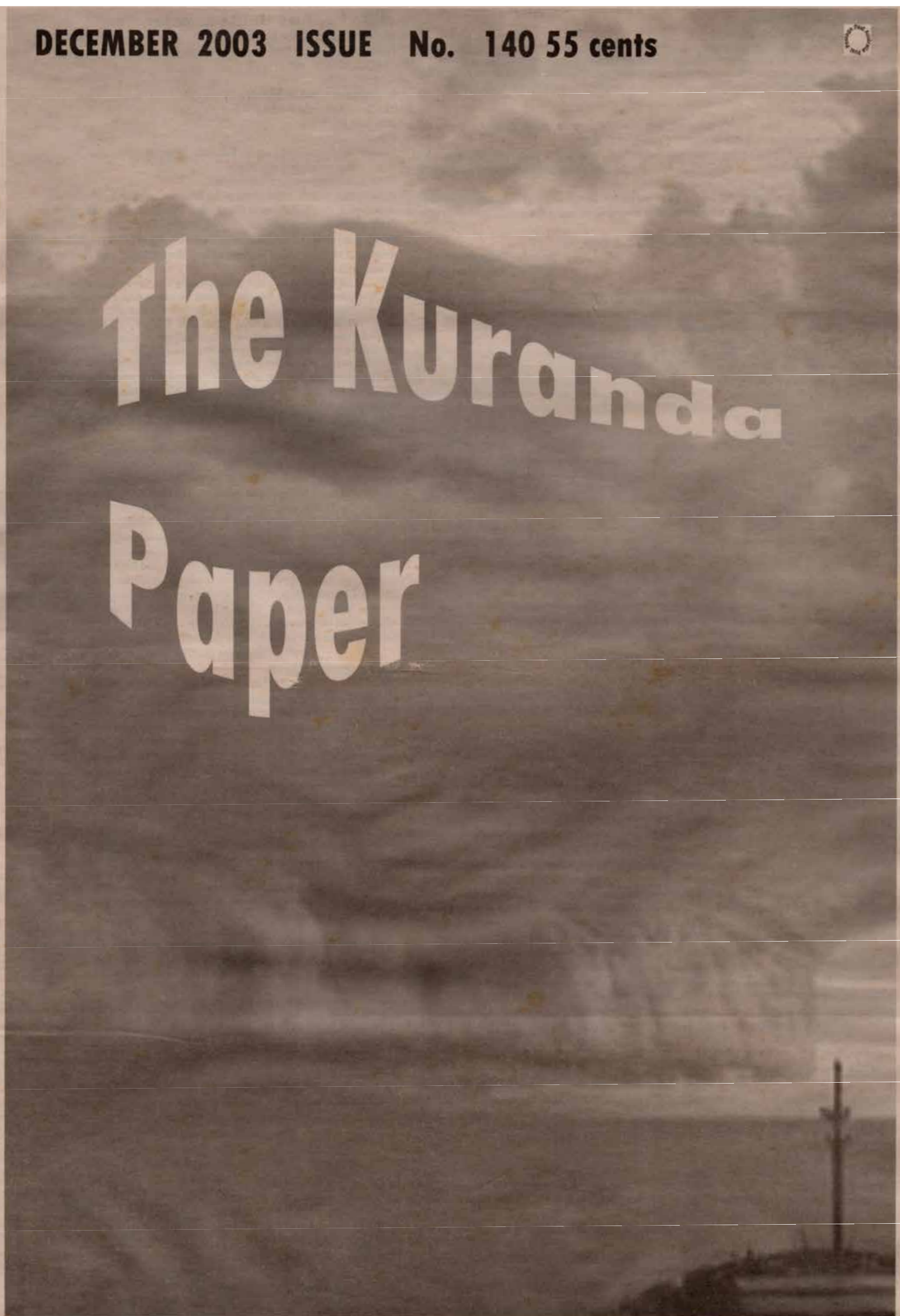


DECEMBER 2003 ISSUE No. 140 55 cents



# The Kuranda Paper



COMMUNITY LETTERS

PO BOX 66 KURANDA 4872

Please note: The Kuranda Paper attempts to print all letters received. Please keep yours to the point and under 200 words. All are subject to editing. We do not publish anonymous letters or those of doubtful origin. Please ensure your correct signature, name, full street address and phone contact are submitted with your letter. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Kuranda Paper.

Dear Kuranda Paper,

This is very belated, but I would like to thank Gail and Barry from Kuranda Hotel for organising the Medieval Capers on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.

The atmosphere was set from the beginning. The smell from the roasting meat, flares burning everywhere and the costumes the staff and some guests wore, suggested that for a few hours we were back in medieval times.

The area around the pool was a good stage for the show, and the very professional Michael Quinn and David Martin treated us to a very entertaining time together with Shaun Hines, who did the fire twirling.

Great night Gail and Barry. Hope you will put more on.

Annette Christensen.  
Kuranda Rainforest Park.

Dear Kuranda Paper,

Thank you for bringing to our attention the Mareeba Shire Council's plan to rezone Kuranda. I am very disappointed that the council did not hold a community meeting for such an important issue, which will impact the future of our village for many years to come.

The council has only given us until the 26<sup>th</sup> of November '03 to decipher the complex zoning maps and criteria book, written in a language beyond the comprehension for the average person. Unfortunately by the time this letter appears in the Kuranda Paper the deadline will have expired. Don't let this stop you from fighting for what is rightfully yours. Ask council to give us an extension, give us that consultation that is our right! The future of our village should be in our hands!

I am also appalled to see that very little has been written in their Statement of Proposals to protect the village atmosphere, vibe or environment. If we allow the Shire Planning Scheme to be implemented in its present state we will have no legal grounds in which to object to unattractive buildings; loss of vegetation and/or trees; unsightly signage and any other over commercialized proposals property developers may wish to push upon our village. In our new millennium passion, protection and desire are no longer sufficient for a village such as our to control 'progress' and development.

As for the comments made by David Chapman in the Cairns Post dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October '03 'I think Kuranda needs some life breathed into it'. He needs to get his head out of the city smog and smell some good clean air to clear his mind, especially if he actually wants to be part of our community.

As residents we need to stand up and be heard, the Mareeba Shire Council must be made to realize that they do not understand the diversity of our village and the community within it. We are very passionate about the preservation of our village and I'm sure once more people are aware, the council will receive a lot more objections. Read the Shire Planning Scheme and take the time to write to council or lose the control we can still have over our future as a village in the rainforest.

Korina Jones

Dear Kuranda Paper,

I would like to thank everyone, who worked so hard to put together our own paper every month. All people I know read the Kuranda Paper, and I am sure most of the population in Kuranda does the same.

We all have very busy lives, and therefore it is absolutely wonderful that the team at Kuranda Paper volunteer their time to put together reading material for all to enjoy. Maybe we should all make a bigger effort to support them with material.

Also how many of us locals call in to see the Kuranda Railway Station from time to time? I had not been there for quite a while, I must admit.

A few weeks ago I went there early in the morning. What a lovely station we have. The plants are looking so healthy and there is an abundance of them. I honestly think that we have one of the best-looking railway stations in Australia. It is a real credit to the railway staff.

Annette Christensen. Kuranda Rainforest Park.

Dear Kuranda Paper,

My I say A big thank you to all the members of the Kuranda Community who have supported the street stalls outside St Saviour's Church this year run by St Saviour's and the Kuranda Local Ambulance Committee.

Your generously has enabled St Saviour's to provide emergency food for those in need, to support the education of two children via the World Vision programme and to generously support self help projects on the African continent in communities ravaged by HIV \ AIDS.

The Kuranda LAC has been able through your help to provide those essential extra's for the Kuranda Ambulance service that are not provided by the Queensland Ambulance Service.

We look forward to your patronage next year and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year

Chris Wright

Dear Kuranda Paper,

We at Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre would like to publicly acknowledge the tremendous community spirit demonstrated recently by our local Liberty Resort. Through the efforts of their Liberty Drag Charity Challenge and Cabaret Dinner, the resort was able to donate a very generous \$525 towards the work of KNC within the Kuranda community.

Most locals will be aware that the Neighbourhood Centre receives only the most modest of government funding with which to run its development and support programs as well as operate the Centre. To find a relatively new commercial enterprise with an articulated commitment to its local community is both refreshing and rare.

Congratulations Liberty and Thank you!

Cherry Ferrari (Centre Co-ordinator)

Dear Editor,

Shire of Kuranda. Whats the fuss? Kuranda has been subsidizing Mareeba for far too long! Whats good for the people of Kuranda is also good for business in Kuranda . A Shire of Kuranda could easily be created through a bipartisan supported bill through State Parliament. The current dictatorship by Local Government Act is not sustainable. Three tiers of Government are probably in breach of a Duty of Care for the Kuranda community.

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All contributions and advertising to The Green House Environment Shop, 9 Coondoo Street. Deadlines must be adhered to. Photographs and items for return to be collected from the Green House after publication

THE KURANDA MEDIA ASSOC. Inc. is a VOLUNTARY association.

A five-member committee deals with the running of the Organisation and a production team is in charge of producing the paper. To remain viable the Association depends on the money collected from advertisers, who would like to see the newspaper continue circulating. Our stated objectives are to **PROVIDE MEANS OF OPEN COMMUNICATION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND REFLECT THE ONGOING ASPIRATIONS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE KURANDA AREA.**

This edition No.140 of the Kuranda Paper was produced by a volunteer team including: Sharon Kalnins, Marié Boswarva, Peter Anderson, Jeff Thomas, Allan Rose, and Saddhen. Masthead compiled by Adie. Thanks to the Paper Folders. Thanks to Ann Mansfield and her staff at The Green House Environment Shop. Contributors please present your work in Typewritten Format. We are NOT able to scan handwritten articles. Classifieds and small items may be handwritten.

**Cont:-** We pay more tax than ever before and we see little to show for it. Safe, fun and fenced playgrounds please! A Kuranda Shire Swimming Pool & Gymnasium just like the suburbs of Cairns and other Highland towns. What about it Warren, Lesley, Steve & Mick? Give us our referendum or sponsor a bill! Could be a vote winner for you guys or for some independent candidates in the coming elections.

Andrew Ryan PO Box 708 Kuranda 4872 PH: 4093 9594

Dear Kuranda Paper,

For as long as I can remember, Kuranda has struggled with being unable to control its destiny. Decisions about our lifestyles, commercial direction and our environment have been made by people who don't live here and don't share our values.

Up until the mid 1990s, Mareeba Shire was divided into "divisions" which gave residents of Kuranda at least one voice in 9. Clearly, this situation was not satisfactory and has led to internal friction (because one representative cannot possibly represent more than one view in the area) and even more shire-wide dissatisfaction because, divided or united, Kuranda's vote was always lost.

Since the mid 1990s, Council chose to eliminate the divisions, promoting the view that the whole shire would be better served by all councillors being responsible for all corners of the shire. It was certainly worth giving the concept a try but we are now even worse off with all councillors coming from Mareeba and absolutely no chance of any person outside Mareeba being elected on to the shire council without healthy support from Mareeba.

When the Borzi team was elected to Council in 2000, they agreed to review the issue of divisional representation but unanimously agreed to retain the shire-wide arrangement. No surprises there because to revert to divisions would mean that a number of councillors would lose their seats to representatives from other parts of the shire.

The Borzi team (which excludes Tom Gilmore and Fred Cattarossi) believes that the people of Kuranda are fully supportive of the existing shire-wide arrangements but I think this needs to be tested.

This letter to the Kuranda community is the first announcement of my proposal to stand in the March 2004 Local Government elections to test the single issue of whether Kuranda people are content with having no say in the destiny of the place they live and work in. I intend to use the elections as a poll to establish how many people in Kuranda believe we

need to be more self-determining. I have no chance of winning a seat for Kuranda and these elections will again prove that. It's hard to be heard when you have no voice!  
Cont Page 3



DEADLINES		
FEB 2004 Paper		
Editorial	Wed 20	JAN
Advertising	Wed 20	JAN
Classifieds	Fri 23	JAN
Paper out	Thur 29	JAN

Continued from page 2 If the results show that the vast majority want self-determination, we'll have some bargaining power and will be able to move forward with investigating the various options open to us such as getting representation for Kuranda in the Mareeba Shire Council, becoming a shire in our own right, aligning with Douglas Shire with whom we share both commercial and environmental commonality or aligning with Cairns. If the result shows that we're happy to stay the way we are, then so be it.

The options we might want to chew over are discussed more fully further on in this Kuranda Paper.

Jax Bergersen, Pademelon Lane, Kuranda 4872 (4093 8834)

## Scary Times for Speewah Tavern

That's if you're talking about ghouls and ghosts, witches and vampires, bats and cats, Halloween pumpkins and other scary things. Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of October saw an excellent turn out of families and friends for a community Halloween Party hosted by Speewah Tavern.

97 children (plus a few more we think because we couldn't keep count of that many excited children in the end) enjoyed Halloween activities such as the Haunted House jumping castle, exploring the eerie feely boxes (in Witch Hilda's tent), arts and WITCHcrafts, face painting and the highly anticipated "Trick or Treat" walks run by some big kids (adults) who were just as excited about the night. To tantalize the taste buds



the kids were also treated to Halloween sweets such as "Deadmans fingers", "Red back spiders", "Draculas drinks" and "Witchypoos popcorn".

As the children wound down and said goodbye (which took some time with all the excitement) the big kids lingered in their daunting costumes and enjoyed the tunes of local band "Mongolian Waterflies", whose energy and talent drew the crowds out onto the dance floor for every set. Well-done guys!



It was a fantastic sight to see our local community coming together (locally) to have a damn good time. Speewah Tavern has got the recipe right for some good community fun for families.

Of course the whole night wouldn't have been such a success without the energy and efforts of both the Tavern and a number of local volunteers. Many thanks go out to the following wonderful people: Jenny & Patrick McHugh, Julianne Russell, Kylie and John Simmonds, Adam & Natalie Geering, Sylvia Sommer, Ann Harth; Speewah Tavern for hosting the event; Chris and Jimi from Speewah Life for collecting monies; Chef Mark for



Pictured are Public Arts Coordinator Margy Timmermans of Arts Nexus and artist Peter 'Potter' Thompson hugging one of Potter's Friends at the Crossroads

SCARY cont:- feeding the crowds; Lynece George & Charalee Hoezl, Meggie and Rebecca Harth; Barbara for the pumpkin carving demo; Neville and Janet Condon on guitar; Lisa Montgomery, Barry & Venietta and

Carioca Horse Lodge for their time and generosity on our trick and treat walks; Mongolian Waterflies for the music; all the kids (big ones and small ones) that joined in, dressed up in great costumes and had so much fun.

(Pray I haven't left any names out of this thank-you list). Well done Speewah Community -

Cheers for now.



## LIGHT UP FOR CHRISTMAS IN KURANDA



Join us for some magic and excitement in our own community this Christmas Season!

The community of Kuranda and surrounding districts is invited to join in and add some Christmas Lights & Decorations to their properties. Your decoration simply needs to be visible from the road - it might be in your front garden, on your power pole, your roof top, your bore shed or your letter box (remember the rural factor and electrical access!).

Entry categories include: "Residence", "Street", "Business" & "Traditional/Tropical Australia".

Entry Forms & Details now available from: Speewah Life, Kuranda AUR Express or Kowrowa Cash Store.

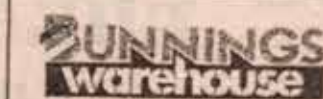
All entries must be lodged with participating stores by 5pm, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Lights on from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December through to and including Christmas day.

Judging is on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

### Prizes

- Category R (Residence): Outdoor setting (sponsored by Bunnings Warehouse: value \$300.00)
- Category S (Street): Cash & Drinks (sponsored by AUR Express, Geering Builders & Speewah Tavern: value \$150)
- Category B (Business): Cash Prize (sponsored by Kuranda Chamber of Commerce & Kuranda Rotary Club: value \$100)
- Category TA (Traditional/Tropical Australian): Cash & lights (sponsored by Kuranda Envirocare and TGT Hardware: value \$100)



FOR ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS NEEDS!

Speewah Tavern

Proudly supported by our sponsors:



(Kuranda Foodstore)



EnviroCare



Kuranda Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Inc.

## KURANDA SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

No great excitement this month. All aspects of the club are slowly steadying or improving. Like all clubs, we need more volunteers to put their hands up to help in the day to day running of the club and of course we can do with more new members.

We are hoping to form a Bridge group in the New Year. Interested people can contact Mary Yeates on 40937125. For interest in Chess and Games groups contact Dave Howe on 40930131. The 8 Ball, Bowls and Tennis can all do with new members and I think Darts may be reformed in the near future.

The restaurant has not been open regularly of late, due mainly to the pressure on the volunteers, so,

again, anyone interested in running or leasing the kitchen and/or other aspects of the club can contact the committee for discussions by calling Ellie Ralston on 40938871 or Eddie Blythe on 40937117.

Please keep in mind that the Club is a great venue for Christmas functions, with a dance floor and music. We can do all the catering or assist you with your own. Again, contact Ellie or Eddie on the above numbers.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and we hope for Peace and Prosperity for the Club and the Kuranda community in the future.

Dave Howe Vice President

## How Bizarre!

At the 1994 annual awards dinner given for Forensic Science, AAFS President, Dr Ron Harper Mills, astounded his audience with the legal complications of a bizarre death. Here is the story:

On March 23, 1994 the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head. Mr Opus had jumped from the top of a ten-story building intending to commit suicide.

He left a note to that effect, indicating his despondency. As he fell past the ninth floor his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast passing through a window, which killed him instantly. Neither the shooter nor the descender were aware that a safety net had been installed just below at the eighth floor level to protect some building workers and that Ronald Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide the way he had planned.

"Ordinarily, Dr Mills continued, "a person who sets out to commit suicide and ultimately succeeds, even though the mechanism might not be what he intended, is still defined as committing suicide." That Mr Opus was shot on the way to certain death, but probably would not have been successful because of the safety net, caused the medical examiner to feel that he had a homicide on his hands.

The room on the ninth floor, whence the shotgun blast emanated, was occupied by an elderly man and his wife. They were arguing vigorously and he was threatening her with a shotgun. The man was so upset that when he pulled the trigger he completely missed his wife and the pellets went through

the window, striking Mr Opus.

When one intends to kill subject A but kills subject B in the attempt, one is guilty of the murder of subject B. When confronted with the murder charge the old man and his wife were both adamant. They both said they thought the shotgun was unloaded.

The old man said it was his long-standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention to murder her. Therefore the killing of Mr Opus appeared to be an accident; that is, the gun had been accidentally loaded.

The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple's son loading the shotgun about six weeks prior to the fatal accident.

It transpired that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother.

The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son, for the death of Ronald Opus.

Now comes the exquisite twist. Further investigation revealed that the son was, in fact, Ronald Opus.

He had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the ten-story building on March 23rd, only to be killed by a shotgun blast passing through the ninth story window. The son had actually murdered himself so the medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

## KURANDA LIBRARY NEWS

Mareeba Shire Library Service would like to welcome the new Kuranda Librarian Yvonne Auld. Yvonne brings a diversity of knowledge and experience from her previous work in special and public libraries and in adult education. Yvonne is ably assisted at Kuranda by Faye and Laura - who between them have many years experience in library work - as well as Rebecca who assists on Saturdays outside of school hours.

For those of you who have the internet at home, you can access the library catalogue at [www.library.msc.qld.gov.au](http://www.library.msc.qld.gov.au) The online catalogue allows you to search for materials held at the four Mareeba Shire libraries - Chillagoe, Dimbulah, Kuranda and Mareeba. You can easily place reservations to pick up from your local Kuranda branch.

If you do not have access to the internet at home, the online public catalogue is available at the library during opening hours.

The library will be closed on Saturday 27th December and all public holidays over the Christmas and New Year period.

Wishing you all the best for the Christmas Season

The Kuranda Library Team

*Kuranda 8 ball*  
2003

*Hello once again to readers of the Kuranda Paper,*

Season 2 and our eight ball year are over and we would like to congratulate everyone on their efforts. The competition has been very good and all players and teams have proven to be very worthy competitors. Well done!

Four Cues have shown their class once again taking out the minor premierships with a very healthy 27 points margin between themselves and second placed Top Way. They are definitely the team to beat. True Cues and Top Pubbers shared third place on equal points and Chaos Cannons snared the last place in the finals.

Commiserations to Top Warriors, Speewah Flashers and Jiggers on not making further progress this season but there's always next year.

The finals rounds began on November 3 at the Top Pub. Top Way played a somewhat depleted True Cues line up and won that match 7 games to nil. Top Pubbers, who played in fourth position because of the toss of a coin had a convincing 7 games to 3 win over a gallant Chaos Cannons in the second match. Chaos had a good run but that's it for this year. The second round of the finals played on November 10 saw Four Cues (Minor Premiers) hosting Top Way at the Sports Club. The match was a close one but the favourites won in a nail biting last game. Four Cues 7 Top Way 5.

Final 4 was between True Cues and Top Pubbers, also played at the Sports Club. It seemed fitting that these two teams should meet at this stage of

the finals. Unfortunately this match was a one sided affair with Top Pubbers taking out the match 7-1. Better luck next year True Cues.

The qualifying final played on Monday November 17 was an all Top Pub match. It was a beauty. Top Way and Top Pubbers played a game worthy of any final and it was a pity that one of the teams had to lose. The game was decided in a play off between two players elected by their respective teams. Top Pubbers won and congratulations to them. Well done Top Way, be proud of the way you played.

The Grand Final was played on Saturday November 22 at the Sports Club.

Four Cues against Top Pubbers. Unfortunately the result of that match was unknown at the time this article was written and met the papers deadline because it hadn't been played yet. Seems a bit strange writing about the future as if it was the past! Never mind, we will bring you all the official results in the next edition of the Kuranda Paper.

Many thanks to those of you that have supported our numbers board and raffles during the year. That support really helps us with the intercity competitions and to assist our local players in gaining a place in the F.N.Q. representative team. Thanks once again.

We would like to wish everybody a very happy and safe Christmas season and a prosperous New Year.

**Best wishes, Kuranda 8 Ball.**

## ROTARY CLUB OF KURANDA

ROTARY CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARDS!

These Awards will be given bi-monthly and a Grand Prize to be presented every year in JUNE. SMILE! You could a lucky winner for giving friendly, respectful, efficient and memorable service to all customers who come your way.

We will be presenting the first prize in



**Diarmuid Houston and Hillary at the Chemist**

January, wishing you all Good Serving and Good Luck!

**SPEEWAH BAZAAR/CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS**

Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> will be the last Speewah Bazaar for 2003. This will be a special BAZAAR for kids. Santa will be there to take Christmas orders, he will arrive out of the blue by a most unusual transport because his reindeer cannot cope with our hot summer weather, he will land right at the front door of the Speewah Tavern. Music and entertainment will be the ingredient for the afternoon starting at LUNCHTIME. All children attending will have surprises and great food to start the Christmas season off with a wonderful afternoon. Pony Rides, competitions, balloons, races, and food-food-food!

Come see Santa Claus at Speewah Saturday LUNCHTIME 6<sup>th</sup> December. Oh! And don't forget to bring Mum and Dad; we have lots of surprises for them too.

SEE YOU ALL THERE! MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF KURANDA INC.

## THE KURANDA PAPER

WISHES TO THANK ALL ADVERTISERS AND CONTRIBUTORS WHO KEEP THE PAPER GOING.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND MANY HAPPY RETURNS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

*St Christopher's Catholic Church*  
*Barang St*

Our Sunday Mass will be held at 6 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month  
Mass 7.30 pm

**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA**

**ALL WELCOME**  
Informal style of family service

1st Sunday of the month.  
St. Christopher's church,  
Barang St. Kuranda.

**NEXT SERVICE: 9 am 7 Dec**

Enquiries to Pr. Russell Clark  
Phone 4092 1175  
& Krishna Buhler 4093 7348



**Kuranda Seventh-day Adventist Church**



Wirramoo St.

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

Services held every Saturday.  
**ALL WELCOME !!!**

**A Thought for Christmas**

This month we open our Bible at the Gospel of Matthew and read Chapter 1 verses 1-12.

Even in the face of the gulf that has opened between the Bible and our culture millions of people know these images of the wise men on their camels coming to the Christ Child. When a religious story reaches out beyond the bounds of the community of faith and spreads into the general culture, one wants to ask questions. Why is it so powerful a story? Why are its images received so vividly?

If we look at the sequence of events and the characters, we may see a reason. But we must look at them, not just as particular characters, but as types of human beings. Initially, we notice that we have the Wise Men, the aging King Herod, and the newborn child Jesus. The wise men are searching for the newborn child. For them he is no ordinary child. They have travelled in search of a potential king. As far as Herod is concerned nothing could be more threatening. He has been king for a very long time and he realizes his hold on power is now very fragile. Hence, he is all the more determined to deal with any child who is being touted as king.

Now, instead of using names let us say only that we have the travellers or the searchers, the young child, and the old king. Immediately we see that we are talking about aspects of ourselves and of our world. Searching for the new, the new possibility, the new breakthrough, the new paradigm, is at the heart of our humanity. We search for the new within ourselves, within our institutions, within our world. In so far as we do this we are wise men and women. We are the travellers and the searchers.

The new can be seen in the young child, the image of all that God is bringing to birth in creation. To say this is not for a moment to diminish the reality and the specific significance of the birth of Jesus. We are for a moment putting on another lens to see another level of eternal truth in this story.

But hovering like a shadow over the quest

of the travellers, and over the young child, is the old king. He has one objective: to stop the new birth, to kill the child. There is within each of us that which is trying to come to birth and that which is trying to prevent it. In our own lives, in the life of the church, of our country, and of every institution, the young child and the old king struggle.

What should we do? Well, what did the wise men do? They came to the young child and offered their gifts. For us the young child has a name. His name is **Jesus**. To offer our gifts to him is to acknowledge him as Our Lord.

All of us have gifts. Each of us chooses where to offer them. We can give them to the Old King of Death or to the Young Child of Life.

At the turning-point of Time,  
The Spirit-Light of the World  
Entered the stream of Earthly Evolution.  
Darkness of Night Had held its sway;  
Day-radiant Light  
Poured into the souls of men:  
Light that gave warmth  
To simple shepherds' hearts,  
Light that enlightened  
The wise heads of kings.

O Light Divine!  
O Sun of Christ!

Warm Thou our hearts,  
Enlighten Thou our heads,  
That good may become  
What from our hearts we would found  
And from our heads direct  
With single purpose.

Rudolf Steiner

**Dear Master Dear Lord**

Our Souls Have Touched  
And We Will Never Be The Same  
Our Lives Now Changed  
And There Is No One To Blame  
We've Been Through All The Hurdles  
And We've Suffered So Much Shame  
So Many Others Tell Us  
That It's Just Part Of The Game  
Yet To Each Other We Are Sure  
That There Is No Other Flame  
Cause Deep Down On The Inside  
We Know We Feel The Same  
Good Luck To You In All You Do  
In Your Search For Fortune And Fame  
I'll Be Waiting Here For You  
Still Loving You, Quite Sane!

**Dear Maiden Dear Lady**

DEEP IN THE GROUND OF THE HUMAN SOUL,  
OF VICTORY ASSURED,  
THE SPIRIT-SUN IS LIVING.  
ALL THROUGH THE WINTER OF THE INNER LIFE  
THE FAITHFUL HEART DIVINES IT.  
NOW THE HEART'S SPRING OF HOPE BEHOLDS  
THE SUN, HIS COMING GLORY  
IN CHRISTMAS' LIGHT OF BLESSING-  
TOKEN OF HIGHEST LIFE  
IN WINTER'S DEEPEST NIGHT.

RUDOLF STEINER

**KIDS**



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:

Kuranda 10.30 a.m. Sunday  
Neighbourhood Centre  
Cnr. Coondoo & Barang Sts.  
Ph 4093 0462

**News from St Saviour's Church**

Christmas is on the way and the annual Carol service at St Saviour's will be on Sunday **Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 6.00pm.**

Come along and help us sing all the old favorite Carols and join us for a Christmas supper afterwards.

On Christmas Eve we will have more Carols this time especially for Children the service by Candlelight starts at 7.30pm.

Also on Christmas Eve the traditional Evening Eucharist and the dedication of the Crib will commence at **10.30pm** (Please note the earlier time.)

On Christmas Day a family service will be held at **9.30am.**



*Wait a While*



Last month I had the pleasure of congratulating 22 fine young people on their graduation from Kuranda State High School and wishing them well for their future life journey. Every year I marvel at their maturity, commitment and passion and know that Kuranda High has given students a great preparation for their chosen pathway.

There is compelling evidence that completing years 11 and 12 increases the prospects of students gaining employment and for that reason the State Government is introducing a range of education and training reforms that will result in all students being required to be either in school, training or working from 2006 onwards. The current partnership between TAFE and Kuranda High to deliver tourism training is an example of the kind of programs that will be made available for all students in the future.

The details of the Beattie Government's 'Education and Training Reforms for the Future' can be accessed at <http://education.qld.gov.au/etrf> or by phoning a hotline on 1300650220 during working hours. These contacts will also provide more details of the introduction of the full-time preparatory year that will replace part-time preschool. I also have information that I can send to you so please take the time to find out more about our plans for an education system that will prepare all students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The home environment also plays a big part in the success of children at school and the redevelopment of the Top Kowrowa

community which will see 12 new detached homes constructed over the next 2-3 years will make a big difference to family life for residents. The State and Federal governments have provided \$800,000 specifically for a mini-sewerage treatment plant and other infrastructure that will benefit all residents in the Kowrowa communities and fulfils a commitment that I made at the last election to improve the quality of life for Kuranda's indigenous communities.

I have also been working with Ministers Swarten and Spence to find a permanent home for the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre. KNC provides such a great service to the whole community and has just taken over the auspicing of the Kuranda Child Protection Service, which also operates, from the Centre. I hope to be able to make an announcement before Christmas so stay tuned!

I would like to give a warm welcome to Jane and Blaine, our new Indigenous Sport and Recreation Officers, who will be working with young people in particular to keep them active, healthy and happy.

I know that a swimming pool is something that many people would like to see in Kuranda. Government subsidies would be available to the Mareeba Shire Council but they have yet to commit to this project. I think if the issue of the location of the pool could be resolved it would make it easier to obtain Council support. I have personally always favoured the high school site so please let me know your views.

This will be the last Kuranda News before Christmas so may I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the festive season and thank you for your support during the year.

#### SELF-DETERMINATION FOR KURANDA

For decades there has been intense discussion about how well Kuranda is served by Mareeba Shire Council. Up until the mid 1990s, Mareeba Shire was divided into "divisions" which gave residents of Kuranda at least one voice in 9. Clearly, this situation was not satisfactory and led to a great deal of internal friction (because one representative cannot possibly represent more than one view in the area) and even more shire-wide dissatisfaction because, divided or united, Kuranda's vote was always lost.

Kuranda sits in the Wet Tropics bioregion (along with Julatten and Mt Molloy which abut the Douglas Shire) and much of it is in or shares a boundary with the World Heritage Wet Tropics Area. The rest of the Mareeba Shire is in the Dry Tropics. The two bio-regions have different environmental, social and economic values. By and large, the people who chose to live in these different bio-regions also answer to a different set of values. At present, all decisions for Kuranda are made in Mareeba (different people, different values).

Kuranda contributes somewhere between 25% and 40% of the Mareeba Shire's income but has no decision-making voice.

Since the mid 1990s, the Council chose to eliminate the divisions, promoting the view that the whole shire would be better served by all councillors being responsible for all corners of the shire. It was certainly worth giving the concept a try.

Unfortunately, because Mareeba is the largest town, with approx 5500 voters as against all other towns in the shire with voting populations of less than 600, except for Kuranda which has about 1550, all councillors live and work in Mareeba. There is absolutely no chance of any person outside Mareeba being elected on to the shire council without healthy support from Mareeba.

In the lead-up to the 2000 elections, MSC agreed to review the issue of "divisional representation" but upon gaining office "unanimously agreed to retain the shire-wide arrangement" (Cr Borzi, Mayor). That came as no surprise for, to revert to divisions would mean most of the Mareeba-based councillors would lose their seats to other areas in the shire.

The people of Kuranda now have no voice and seem powerless to change the situation.

In an effort to address this, Jax Bergersen is proposing to stand in the March 2004 Local Government elections, using it to establish how many people in Kuranda believe we need to have some voice in determining our destiny. That will be her single platform.

She has no chance of winning a seat for Kuranda even if 100% of the Kuranda population voted for her. It won't split the vote if more than one person stands in Kuranda because we have eight people to choose from and you can put your vote against all the Kuranda people, not that it will help.

The Local Government elections, which are due on 27 March 2004, are closely scrutinised and results are

public. There will be no doubt as to the number of people who are expressing their opinion about this issue through that poll.

Several options as to how self-determination might be achieved have been mooted and they are discussed below.

#### A Kuranda Shire?

Our numbers are probably too small, and the cost of establishing the necessary infrastructure for Kuranda to be independent too high. The cost of Council maintaining Kuranda's utilities are already met by Kuranda's ratepayers, but it is recognised that the cost of staff and machinery are shared across the shire. However, there has been no serious investigation into just how possible it would be for Kuranda to support itself so we shouldn't abandon the idea yet.

Advice is that the trend is to amalgamate into larger shires rather than splitting shires into smaller ones but this obstacle, too, is not sufficient to drop the cause.

#### Aligning with Cairns City?

There are some who feel Kuranda is more aligned with Cairns as a tourist hub and because many of us shop and seek community services in Cairns. It is, after all, the major commercial centre of the region. Cairns and Kuranda also share some bioregional commonality. There are concerns that aligning with Cairns City would be leaping from the frying pan into the fire and we could find ourselves powerless to control our destiny by being again a minor voice for those similar reasons that exist for us currently. It'd be interesting to find out what most of us think about this.

#### Aligning with Douglas Shire?

Mareeba Shire is one of the largest in Queensland. It is a huge area to administer. More than 90% of the shire is in the Dry Tropics bioregion, including Mareeba and all the shire's councillors. Douglas Shire is one of the smallest, yet it shares the same bioregional values as both Julatten and Kuranda. Furthermore, Douglas Shire has a thriving eco-tourism industry, with Daintree and Port Douglas, as does Kuranda.

Aligning with Douglas Shire would reduce Mareeba Shire's ungainly size and troublesome diversity and expand Douglas Shire's small size and continuity.

#### Representation in Mareeba Shire

With Kuranda's disproportionate contribution to Mareeba's economy and biodiversity, we need, at the very least, to bolster our bargaining power with respect to Mareeba's ability to control our every move.

The Upcoming Local Government elections will give you at least some opportunity to say whether you think Kuranda should be in a position to control its own destiny, whatever it takes.

I would like to wish all residents of Kuranda and district a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year in 2004. Have a happy and safe holiday season



**Lesley Clark MP**  
**Member for Barron River**  
 Ph: 4038 2800 Fax: 4038 2801  
 Email: [barron.river@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:barron.river@parliament.qld.gov.au)

### KURANDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM INC.

It has been a fairly exacting year in the Kuranda Chamber with progress being slow on getting welcoming signs and maps erected and "meeters and greeters" in place, but we now enjoy closer and better links with the Kuranda Village Promotion Committee making it easier to get things underway. Our 2nd December meeting will be devoted to getting to know each other better on a social level with a "goodwill to all - forgive and forget" theme, no doubt helped along with good culinary support from Billy's Bar. There will be no meeting in January 2004. We are planning to have a meetings expert along to chair our February 2004 meeting and whip us into good shape for the AGM in March. Mareeba Council has accepted our offer to re-design its sign in Rob Vievers Drive. We believe that if it is designed with the character of Kuranda in mind, by one of our own, it will not be vandalised. So, we are seeking "expressions of interest" from local artists/designers and have set aside \$200 for that job. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd December at Billy's Bar. From 5pm will be a Special Meeting to consider another motion to change the Constitution to ensure better notice of issues to all members, followed by the briefest General Meeting to deal with the absolute essentials, followed by a social nibble and tittle.

Your Kuranda Chamber wishes you a safe and prosperous 2004.

Jax Bergersen President (4093 8834)  
 Anja Bakker Vice President (4093 7575)  
 Margaret Wilson Secretary (0412 187 926)  
 Louise Mabbutt Treasurer (4093 7231)

### Words of Wisdom from Osho Nirvana

Nirvana has two meanings; it is one of the most beautiful words, any language can be proud of this word. It has two meanings, but those two meanings are like two sides of the same coin. One meaning is "cessation of the ego" and the other meaning is "cessation of all desires". It happens simultaneously. The ego and the desires are intrinsically together, they are inseparably together. The moment ego dies, desires disappear, or vice versa: the moment desires are transcended, ego is transcended. And to be desireless, to be egoless, is to know the ultimate bliss, is to know the eternal ecstasy.

That's what sannyas is all about: the quest for the eternal ecstasy that begins but never ends.

## Exotic Pest Plants

The Mareeba Shire Council wishes to bring to the attention of residents and visitors to the wet tropics areas of our shire the problems associated with having plants like Mikania Vine growing in your gardens, or left to grow unattended in the bushland.

Mikania micrantha - a smothering vine that has the potential to become a major pest in the wet tropics region. It can scramble to the top of the rainforest canopy, and by growing over the forest, prevent light from reaching the trees, this stops photosynthesis, and large areas of trees die. With the loss of the native trees, habitat and food for indigenous animals also disappears. This is happening on many of the pacific islands, S.E. Asia, Indonesia, and New Guinea.

Mikania Vine carries large clusters of greenish white flowers on the growing tips of the plant, as these tips are at tree top height, wind can disperse the seeds (similar to blue top seeds) for long distances and infestations of the plant can

be found hundreds of metres away from the parent plant because of these wind dispersed seeds.

It is important to remember that, if clearing any weeds from your garden, that the waste is disposed of in a responsible way. Garden waste dumped in bushland has caused many environmental weeds out breaks in the past. When transporting pruning to the dump, please cover your load to prevent seeds blowing out all along the roadsides.

A joint project involving The Wet Tropics Management Authority, Local Government, and Department of Natural Resources and Mines, has seen the development of Identification sheets for environmental weeds placed in Public Libraries and Council Offices. These ID sheets contain coloured photos, descriptions of the plants and their associated problems, and detail the best practice control methods that can be used for their control. For any enquiries on pest plants or feral animals within the Mareeba Shire area please call Sid Clayton on 4092 4311 or 4030 3900

## HYDROPONIC GARDENING

by Jan Coulter

My garden is certainly different from the surrounding area. It is green and lush. It does not require a lot of water either only enough to feed the individual plants. I am a bit of a health freak and like my greens all the year round. This is possible with hydroponics as the water just flushes through when it rains. Watercress is one of my favourites I grow it in a cut down 25L plastic drum with river gravel as the medium and a hole about 5cm from the bottom for drainage. Rocket is another, I grow it in broccoli containers. Dwarf beans, wong bok, basil are all doing well despite the heat. I have a big variety of herbs which I utilise in most meals. Herbs which are dried do

not have the volatile oils that fresh ones have. I feed everything once a day until the nutrient comes out of the drainage hole and they capillary feed the rest of the time. Tomatoes I grow two to a 25l drum and they require about 2 litres each per day. My garden is at waist height which is another advantage, no stooping or bending. The plants thrive because they don't have to reach out for nutrient, it is like they are spoon fed. The calcium, potassium, magnesium etc in the nutrient mix all comes from the ground in the first place and is leached into the aquifer. For Information Ph 4093 0394 or call in when I am at the Video Shop.

## LOOKING OUT FOR LOCAL PLATYPUS



Along with being one of Australia's best-loved animals, the platypus is also one of the most difficult to survey and monitor. If you've ever seen a platypus in

the wild, you can make a real contribution to platypus conservation by sharing the details of your sightings with a new community-based program, *Platypus Care*.

To get a better handle on where platypus remain abundant and where they may have disappeared in Queensland, the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ) is collecting platypus sightings records in partnership with the Australian Platypus Conservancy, a non-government group devoted to platypus conservation. The records will also be forwarded to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's *NatureSearch* program.

Dr Melody Serena, Senior Conservation Biologist with the Australian Platypus Conservancy, said that although the platypus is still officially regarded as common across its range in eastern mainland Australia and Tasmania, the species is known to have declined dramatically in some river systems.

"We know that platypus numbers tend to drop when waterway environments become degraded, for example due to the loss of native trees on the banks, channel erosion or increasing salinity. Given that many of Queensland's waterways have been affected by such factors, it is not surprising that the animal's survival is threatened in some areas."

Unfortunately, platypus live-trapping surveys are too difficult and time-consuming to provide a practical technique for mapping where the animals are found across Queensland. However, the good news is that community sightings of platypus can be used as a very effective mapping technique - as long as plenty of sightings are provided.

Persons wishing to report where and when they've seen a platypus - either recently or in the past - can contact their local branch of WPSQ to register the sighting. These details can also be registered online by visiting the Platypus Care page of the WPSQ website ([www.wildlife.org.au](http://www.wildlife.org.au)).

Spokesperson for the Far North Queensland branch of WPSQ, Lee Curtis, said that learning more about how platypus are distributed will be an important step to conserving both the animals and the rivers and streams where they live. "We are also hoping that people will provide information about past sightings, to help find out how the health of our waterways has changed in living memory."

**For further details contact:**  
Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ)

Far North Queensland Branch  
(Contact: Lee K. Curtis  
Telephone: (07) 4095-3155  
Email: [lee@ataglan.com.au](mailto:lee@ataglan.com.au)  
[www.wildlife.org.au](http://www.wildlife.org.au)  
Australian Platypus Conservancy  
Geoff Williams  
Telephone: (03) 9716 1626  
Email: [platypus@vicnet.net.au](mailto:platypus@vicnet.net.au)



KURANDA  
**EnviroCare**  
INC.

PO Box 494 Kuranda 4872 Phone: 4093 8834  
[www.envirocare.org.au](http://www.envirocare.org.au)

## PRIDE AND PROGRESS

Sizing up the past year, and the one before that and the one before that, it's not hard to see the progress we've made. Take Kuranda's traffic light intersection, for instance. In every direction it used to be an avenue of guinea grass. Now it's flowering, leafy rainforest trees. Drive up Myola Road, beyond the Kuranda High School, beyond Mantaka to Kowrowa (before the general store) and you'll see where the guinea grass, lantana and every other weed have been replaced with trees. The weeds don't have a chance now. A forest is in the making and is taking over. That's progress.

That progress is due to thousands of hours of your and my time poured lovingly into the natural environment, week after week, year after year. You might only remove one weed and replace it with one tree at a time, but over time, you've changed the landscape, improved habitat for wildlife and for yourself. You've improved the quality of the creek and river water, because you've checked erosion and removed rubbish. That's progress and you should feel proud about what you've done.

### WELCOME TO KURANDA - ANOTHER CAUSE FOR PRIDE

Over 200 booklets about Kuranda, how to enjoy it and enhance it, have been handed out to new and old comers in the past couple of months. Praise for this compendium of information has been lavish. The materials of which the booklet is made have been funded by the Natural Heritage Trust through its Envirofund program, but the content, the words, the artwork and the knowledge have come from local EnviroCarers. Copies are available at the EnviroCare nursery.

### LAND FOR WILDLIFE CAN BE A TOUGH CALL

Kuranda EnviroCare members have been trained to assess applications for Land for Wildlife. If you and your plot achieve approval, you can proudly display the well-known Land for Wildlife sign at your property boundary which tells the rest of the world the value you place on your land as wildlife habitat. The most difficult element encountered by the assessors is how domestic pets fit into the wildlife habitat scene. Dogs can be killers, especially when egged on by a mate or in a pack, and can spread disease to wildlife. However, they can also be fairly satisfactorily contained in a fenced-off area which gives them plenty of room to run and romp. When you want to take them further afield, it's easy enough to put them on a lead and keep them under control. It's not so easy with cats. Cats kill, not through viciousness, but as a consequence of their play. Cats are not as containable as dogs. They are loners and can happily spend time stalking birds and small mammals with an admirable stealth. Feeding your cat till it's ready to burst, won't limit its desire to play (hunt). The only way to keep a cat under control and out of the forest or other people's gardens is to keep it in a cage, or make your house into a cage! That thought may irk you, but this is where there is a conflict with Land for Wildlife. It's not that you can't be approved for Land for Wildlife if you have a cat or a dog, it's just that you need to be able to convince the assessors that your domestic pets are always under your control.

Incidentally, it's law that your pets are contained within your boundary. If they are found in a neighbour's property they are deemed to be feral.

### KURANDA RANGE ROAD UPGRADE—DO WE REALLY NEED IT?

As plans for the upgrading of the Kuranda Range Road come to our attention, a number of Envirocarers are questioning the need for such massive works. Should we be looking more closely at better public transport options? Would it be enough just to create more over-taking lanes? Are the planners listening to the people or to the few who make their point loudest? To find out how many people don't think the road upgrade as drafted is necessary, a petition has been drawn up and signatures will be collected over the coming months, till Parliament sits again in the New Year. For more information about the petition, contact Sarah on 4085 0054.

### SATURDAY MORNING WORKING BEES

Check out our website: [www.envirocare.org.au](http://www.envirocare.org.au) or phone 4093 8834 to find out where we'll be next Saturday, 8am-9am, followed by the all important billy tea.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd December at EnviroCare nursery, Pademelon Lane, at 6pm. We'll deal with the absolute meeting essentials before we tuck in to the "bring a plate", BYO end-of-year wind up. All welcome.  
**SPECIAL GUEST: RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL NATURALIST**  
**PASSING THROUGH, ONCE-ONLY OPPORTUNITY.** (David whatsisname)  
There'll be no meeting in January. First meeting in 2004 will be on Wednesday 4th February and the AGM will be on 3rd March.

*EnviroCare is making progress*

# News from the Neighbourhood Centre

**Hello Everyone,**

As another year draws to a close, it is timely to consider where we've come from as a community service in 2003 and where we hope to go to in 2004. Certainly community support for KNC is at an all time high and we feel privileged to have "earned" this remarkable status! In the last twelve months, almost 4000 locals have passed over our doorstep, requiring assistance with everything from 10 cents worth of photocopying to a child at risk of harm to support and guidance with a major drug or alcohol problem.

The partnership between Kuranda District Child Protection Service and the Community Support Service, both under KNC's umbrella, is now all but complete. Grace has been physically located here since Easter and will now financially come under the auspice of the Centre as well. Thank you to KMKM for their commitment to the initial auspice and early development and support of this innovative and highly successful program.

Looking back over the year, I wanted to gauge which social problems came most to my attention here at KNC. It wasn't hard to determine.....alcohol abuse, closely followed by illicit drug use. Whether it's any worse here in our community than anywhere else, I'm in no position to tell, but the stories I hear in our little Centre are probably repeated a hundredfold "out there". One thing is for sure, alcoholism (and drug addiction) is a family disease and EVERYONE is affected, not only the drinker.

Why a family disease you may ask? Not everyone in the family of a problem drinker drinks! In fact, family members may actively discourage alcohol consumption, hide the grog, tip it down the sink, and argue time and time again with the drinker about the negative consequences of drinking. Kids learn to live with shame, embarrassment, secrecy and lies. Partners and extended family often deny the drinking is as bad as it really is so minimising the problem and therefore never truly facing up to the extent of it.

So we look after the person we love, the alcoholic in our family: what's so wrong with that? Sure, we may drive them home from the pub, pay (one way or another) for their grog, take over household and parental tasks, tell the odd "white lie" to the boss when they're too hung

over to get to work, and when it's all a bit too much, make empty threats about leaving (which we couldn't possibly do because we love them too much!)

THIS is why it's a family disease! The rest of the family and especially the partner/spouse takes on the role of enabler and is in fact a co-dependent. As the drinker becomes more irresponsible, the enabler becomes more protective, shielding their loved one from the consequences of their behavior. This then keeps the alcohol dependent person drinking. And the payoff for the enabler? There are many, but the chief one is that they can avoid honestly admitting the truth. The person they love is an alcoholic and they have a part to play in keeping them that way.

So what can be done? It is acknowledged by all those who work in the field that the chief treatment for alcohol dependency is not taking a drink. Whole families including the children can let the problem drinker know how his or her drinking affects them. This is called an intervention. It's the time when the alcoholism is seen for what it is, particularly once the drinker uses alcohol simply to try to feel normal. This is pretty much the end stage. Intervention brings the issue to a head: it creates a crisis in one sense but an enormous sense of relief in another.

There is so much help around these days: families no longer have to suffer generations of maladjustment and trauma because of addiction. No it isn't easy. Changes in attitude, new coping methods, the establishment of supportive relationships and meaningful activity to fill in the time formerly spent drinking are all essential. So is good professional assessment and treatment. You can start today and calling in to the Neighbourhood Centre is as good a place as any to begin. Phone 4093 8933. And finally, KNC will be closed for the Christmas/New Year break from December 22nd 03 to January 2nd 04. May your festive season be joyful! Until next time, stay well and happy.....

Cherry Ferrari ( Centre Co-ordinator)

## KURANDA KOALA GARDENS WINS!

At the annual TTNQ Tourism Awards, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November, Kuranda Koala Gardens won the New Tourism Development category.

For the first time in the history of the awards this New Tourism Development category award was shared by two new attractions on the Tablelands, the other recipient being the Hou Wang Chinese Temple at Atherton.

Kuranda Koala Gardens is part of Wildlife Tropical North Queensland and is locally owned and operated by the Freeman family. The Freeman's also picked up the Eco-Tourism award for the new Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. Wild World - The Tropical Zoo, also part of Wildlife Tropical North Queensland, were finalists in the Major attraction category.

Kuranda Koala Gardens has been operating in the Heritage Markets, next door to Birdworld since May 2002.



## KURANDA PLAYGROUP

The mums and children of Kuranda Playgroup would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and to take the opportunity to thank all those who have helped us throughout the year to provide a special



environment for Kuranda children to get together to play. A reminder that the Playgroup will take a break over the Christmas/New Year holiday period. We will continue to meet up to and including Monday the 8th of December. Our first Playgroup in the New Year will be on Monday 2nd of February 2004. On



Sunday 14th December between 4 pm and 6pm we will hold a Playgroup parent's planning meeting. Hope to see all our regular Playgroup members. Prospective new Playgroup members are also most welcome to come to this meeting. Kuranda Playgroup meets regularly on Mondays between 10 am and 12 noon in the church hall, Barang Street.



Cost is \$1 per child. If you would like more information please contact either: - Faith on 40 938172 or Julie on 40 938433. (Apologies to anyone who attended Playgroup on Monday 3rd November. Due to unforeseen circumstances the Playgroup did not meet that day).







## KURANDA SES NOTES- DECEMBER 2003 THANK YOU KAYE MOULE



At a meeting at the Kuranda SES Head Quarters on Thursday evening 6 November, Group Leader Kaye Moule resigned from her position. I'm Bob Hammond and at the meeting, SES District Manager, Wayne Couatts, and Mareeba Local Controller, Daryl Camp appointed me as Acting Group Leader on three months' probation and Hugh McBride our Deputy Group Leader. Kaye Moule has been a member of the Kuranda SES since September 1986 and became the unit's second Group Leader. When I came to Kuranda in 1991, as Principal of the primary school, Kaye was leading our group in the old Police Station, where the car park is now. We had the most secure storeroom- the old jail cell! When we made the welcome move to our new HQ in 1996, we took some of the old Police Station furniture with us.

In seventeen years, Kaye has lead our group in assisting the community in many emergency situations, including the tragic plane crash at Mt Emerald ; searches at the Barron Gorge, Tinaroo Dam and Russett Park; providing tarpaulin protection to damaged roofs and chain sawing fallen trees after cyclones; traffic control on the Kuranda Range and recently on the Kennedy Highway near Koah and many other instances. On behalf of the community, present and past SES members and other volunteers, thank you Kaye.

I've been a member of the SES since October 1984 and for a short time was Group Leader of Cooktown SES. On occasions I have acted as

Deputy Group Leader in Kuranda SES. My retirement as Principal in 1999 gave me more time for voluntary work and I'm currently Treasurer of the Lions Club, President of the Friendship Force of Cairns and a member of the RSL. I go fishing too infrequently!!

### YOUR KURANDA SES GROUP NEEDS YOU! PLEASE RING ME ON

**4093 9143 OR PREFERABLY EMAIL rshammond@ozemail.com.au** Currently we have nine members who attend training nights when they can. Of those, three are over forty, three over fifty and two sixty or over. There are twenty-seven on our active list and twelve of those are really not available.

We know that during cyclone emergencies many people volunteer to help and we are grateful for that. If you can't attend regular training, but would be willing to assist in emergent situations such as searching for lost people or cleaning up after cyclones, please contact us. We'd like to have a list of people we could call on in the Koah, Speewah, Myola, Russett Park, Top of the Range areas.

However our most efficient helpers are SES members trained in basic subjects and with specific training in more specialised areas. Basic subjects include operation of communication equipment, map reading and GPS use, first aid, welfare provision, basic rescue techniques, chain saw operation, search procedures etc. Specialist Training Activities include vertical rescue, search techniques, team leadership etc. More detailed information is available at the Far North Queensland SES website at [www.fnqses.qld.gov.au](http://www.fnqses.qld.gov.au).

Our meeting nights are generally the first and third Tuesdays in the month, but we will on occasions travel to Mareeba SES HQ on Monday nights when they are doing training appropriate to our needs. This will also contribute to a good working relationship with their members since we often work together in activities. While our training will be based in our HQ building in Fallon Road, you'll also be seeing us in your areas as we simulate emergent situations. This will help familiarise our members with your area, give them practice in moving, setting up and using our equipment and give you the opportunity to see what we do. SES members can also apply for specialized training appropriate to our needs and provided at other centres. Details on this can be found under the calendar of activities on the website.

Since Thursday 6 November, we've spent many hours preparing the HQ for action. We've dumped the two old armchairs, the old police station furniture and U/S refrigerator, taken surplus stacking chairs to the dump or Myola Fire HQ and generally cleared our floor space.

District Office has replaced the refrigerator with a good second-hand one and also provided a filing cabinet, desk and pin board. Thanks to Bob and Kaye Moule's work and the generosity of Liberty Resort in allowing us to sell surplus furniture etc, we have funds to purchase items not provided through SES allocations in Mareeba Shire's budget. Large wheeled, sealed plastic containers have been bought to store just-washed blankets and spare uniforms and provide a home for first aid supplies, catering items and training manuals. Secure storage should minimize cleaning and damage from animals/insects and also facilitate stock take. A few more containers are needed. Also still needed are two folding trestle tables with food safe surfaces and ten folding chairs.

My intention is to maximise use of our concrete working space by having containers we can wheel out of the way and furniture that will take up minimal space when folded.

A second hand sink provided by Cliff Timmins will soon be supported by a cupboard unit we will build to store our catering equipment. Local Controller, Daryl Camp has been asked if a 50L plug-in hot water system could be provided from the shire's SES budget. An existing small hand basin will be installed outside the toilets and an existing washbasin outside under the tap.

Thank you to Kuranda Hash House Harriers for sharing their excellent Chilly Bin. **Installation of existing insulation material under the roof (for cooling and noise reduction during rain) and whirlybirds have a very high priority.** Future building needs include enclosing the toilet area (for very good reasons), extending that area to include a small office and constructing an awning out the front of the HQ. Money for this could come from Gaming Funds. We will build a small shelter to protect our generator from strong winds and rain.

At the moment Hugh McBride's fax is meeting our need but could soon be replaced



# KURANDA AMPHITHEATRE

TOWN CHRISTMAS PICNIC...  
SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER 11am-8pm  
GENERAL MEETING...  
SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 3pm

So, Christmas is nearly upon us! We have been reopened less than four months now, and we would like to thank the town for the tremendous support shown to the Amphitheatre during this time. **We certainly could not have done it without this support.** We also thank Mareeba Shire Council for their ongoing support; we seem to be moving toward better communication, which can only be a good thing for the whole town. We have just commenced "Work For The Dole" at the Amphitheatre, many thanks to the staff of Q1TE for their assistance during this development. Any queries, talk to these guys, they are extremely helpful.

Our most recent event was *The Puppeteer*, a one-act play locally written, directed produced and performed by The Collective. The play was thoroughly enjoyed by all who saw it, and as our first night of theatre back at the Amphitheatre, it proved to be thought provoking and contemporary. Well done, COLLECTIVE, for a successful theatre experience!!

I hope by now you are wondering what is a "Town Christmas Picnic"? Well, it is a Picnic for all of us, and if successful, perhaps it can become an **Annual Christmas Picnic.** **SANTA CLAUS** will be arriving on the **Big Fire Engine**, helped by the **Christmas Fairy** and our **Fantastic local Firies**, between 11 am and 12 pm in a parade through the main street.

Lunch will be available from an Amphitheatre run kitchen, or bring your own picnic lunch with you, **but do not bring your own alcohol.** The Lions Club will have their Merry-Go-Round, stall space will be available (call Rachele 40930301), Music, Games and Races, Tug'O'War, Bar, Facepainting, Dancing and **JUST GOOD FAMILY FUN. Highlights of the day will be:**

Come Ye All for Poets... A Perfect Prize Poetry Performance, All poets welcome. The Xmas Tree decoration... Make something for the tree and make a wish. Cassowary Circus will show us all how to unwind from pre-Xmas tension. Busking Competition: The Festival Comp. became a great jam session. Bring percussion instruments or bring tins, sticks, and make a percussion instrument. **LASTLY**, but most important, Christmas Carols at Dusk.

Of course, all of this can't be possible unless we have loads of help, so call Diana on 40939778 if you have ideas or want to do something to make this a great day for the whole town.

A gold coin donation at the door will be requested to help defray costs.

We also would like to give a Very Big Thank You to the Kuranda Paper for its continuing support throughout 2003.

**Merry Christmas and May the New Year see Peace for all who live on our Planet.**



with one salvaged from Kuranda Transfer Station (thanks Grant) or a new one bought with subsidy.

Mareeba Shire Council met multiple small needs yesterday when we were provided with vehicle cleaning materials, set of tools, plumbing needs, tape measure, extension cords, handtowel dispenser etc.

At the Kuranda District State School Fete on Saturday afternoon 15 Nov, five of us celebrated the end of **SES Week** by setting the SES Troopcarrier up as a recruiting and information stand. We'll be following up the expressions of interest we received and investigating ways of making it easier for you to attend our training nights by taking the training to your area or transporting you to the training.

Thank you to the staff of the Kuranda Railway Refreshment Room whose collection bottle contributed \$63.50 to funds for essential

equipment. We'll be happy to organize donation containers for other businesses willing to support our volunteers.

At our training night on Tuesday 18 Nov, we worked on **Storm Damage Operations**, stocktaking and checking all our equipment and we were pleased to welcome Hugh Crowther, Blaine Richards and Mark Green. We'll continue at our next training night 7.30 to 9.30pm, Tuesday, 2 December.

**CYCLONE SEASON IS CLOSE- PLEASE COME ALONG TO CHECK US OUT.**

**Bob Hammond**  
Acting Group Leader  
4093 9143 or preferably by email  
[rshammond@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rshammond@ozemail.com.au)

# THE BLACKROBATS



## The Blackrobats-

Kuranda's Indigenous Youth Circus Arts troupe will make a dynamic fun & frivolous appearance at this year Woodford Folk Festival!!!

The troupe has performed at Laura Dance Festival, Wallaby Creek Festival, Warramah and at the Big Hoopla of Festival MusiCairns.

The project developed from free workshops facilitated by Kelli Craig (long term Blackrobats co-ordinator and trainer), in response to a need for activities directed towards indigenous youth of outlying areas of Kuranda.

Circus skills and performance-based projects have long proven to be a successful focus and outlet for young people in regional North Queensland.

A collaborative community project The Blackrobats fuses rich local cultural influences with circus and physical theatre, combining traditional Aboriginal



**TOP ROW:-** Maylee Riley, Joshua Deshong, Kristy Williams  
**2nd ROW:-** Tandra Singleton, Anna Riley, Nikita Newbury, Derwent Williams, Kelli  
**3rd ROW:-** Cutie? Ashley Newbury, Sasha Williams, Damika Hobbler  
**BOT:-** Linda Newbury



dance with elements of youth culture such as hiphop and breakdancing, in a performance oriented framework.

The broader focus of the project is to involve training opportunities for the

whole community in all areas of performance arts, tech, design, production, choreography, and workshop facilitation.

Further funding is needed for their ongoing development, however the group is confident that support from the broader community and arts and cultural sector will mean the participation of as many young indigenous people as possible!

For details and donations please contact-  
**Blackrobats Manager-**  
 Mickie Sellton on 0416037275 or  
 Kelli Craig on 0740930 384.

**Freddy Riley**



# VILLAGE GREEN



A very successful Street Stall was held on Friday 7th November, with a good variety of items available. Thank you to everyone who supported us. The profits are needed for the continuous maintenance & the Green.

Without the help of the volunteers willingly giving their valuable time the Club would not be able to run so smoothly. Congratulations to Ray Wintour and Paul Cordell on their wins in the Men's Singles Championship; they will now go on to the next Round.

The next **CHARITY NIGHT** will be held on Thursday 4th December. Game cost is \$7.00 including "spider". Play commences at 7.00 pm, with registration by 6.30 pm. A sausage sizzle will be available from 5.30 pm (cost \$3.00). The Bowls Club is keen to hear from the various Charities who wish to take part in our Charity Nights next year (2004).

Could they please advise the Secretary accordingly at their earliest convenience. The Kuranda Bowls Club will be holding a **Christmas Party on Sunday 14th December** at the Club House, following afternoon bowls. All members past and present, and families, are most welcome, together with casual players. Bowls will be played at 2.00 pm, prior to the party commencing at 5.00. Party cost is \$5.00 per person.

The usual conditions apply to anyone wishing to play bowls before the party. Weather permitting, we will continue to play as usual during the holiday period.

For further information please contact the President on 4093 8057, or the Secretary on 4093 7117 (evenings).

**Happy Bowling,  
 The McBowls.**



After the success of our last sale, we've decided to do it again! So don't miss out this time! (and for those that have been chasing Terry's stars ....there will be some!) Craft Connect is about to gear-up again for our venture to the Sydney Gift Fair in late February.

The last one was postponed due to inavailability of a suitable stand space, but this time we've got what we want! First priority is to members but involvement is open to other local quality crafts. This is being heavily subsidised by the Regional Arts Fund, and there is plenty of advice and guidance on how to do it.

A great opportunity if you want to find other outlets across Australia. This is a trade-only show to get new wholesale customers, not for direct sales, so you just need a professional marketing package rather than a lot of product and the capacity to follow-up and produce for orders.

Enquire at Co-op, for more details and probable costs. We are in the process of revamping our display at the Arts Nexus offices. We hope to have a rotating window exhibit space, as an opportunity for artists in Cairns, with the support of our Craft Connect partners, Arts Nexus. Members who are interested should approach Jana. If you are in Cairns and don't know where the Arts Nexus office is, it's directly opposite the Casino, in the Hilton complex. Enquire about their membership benefits - as well as regular e-bulletins on what's happening across the arts spectrum, you get a great magazine and many reward discounts, including automatic Co-op Loyal Local discount!

Some of you members will be involved in the public art installations at the Tinaroo Dam redevelopment area early next year (another public art project being managed by Arts Nexus!), so look out for that in coming months. And if you're in Townsville, drop in to the Perc Tucker Gallery to see Mollie Bosworth's display case exhibit 'Luminous' representing her fantastic new porcelain work.

That's all for now,  
 See you Sunday the 7th at our sale!

## BROADBAND ACCESS FOR KURANDA AND HOW TO INDICATE YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**TELSTRA POLICY IS TO ENABLE EXCHANGES ONLY FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF ABOUT 150 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - AND IT COSTS NOTHING BUT A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST**

I have been investigating ADSL broadband internet access and have found it can be available to anybody up to nine kilometres by cable from the exchange in lower Coondoo Street (which could be a lot less as the crow flies) from as little as \$43.95 per month. This includes unlimited upload and 2 gigabytes per month download (which is more than 60 megabytes per day every day) at a speed of 256 kilobits per second download and 64 kbps upload, up to 50mb of free web space and even spam filtering. Some providers offer 'shaped' plans (this means if you go over the 2 gigabytes before the end of the month your download speed is reduced rather than you being charged for excess downloads) and some charge as little as \$6 per excess gigabyte. A site that gives you a very good look at all the options is Broadband Choice (there are at least 13 plans to pick from priced at under \$50 per month) see: <http://bc.whirlpool.net.au/>, which is well worth a look. Or, if you want super speed you can sign up for plans with speeds as high as 1.5 megabits per second download, 256 kilobits per second upload.

Another benefit is that with ADSL your line is always open whether your computer is on or not (you never need to dial up) and when you are on the computer you can use the phone or fax at any time whether you are on line or not (no second line rental). If you take into account your saved dial up costs and current ISP bill not to mention the second line rental (if you have one) you should be in front, the higher speed is just a bonus! ADSL is faster and cheaper than either ISDN or Satellite.

The only problem at the moment is the fact that the Kuranda Exchange hasn't been ADSL enabled and will only become so if Telstra has a number of expressions of interest which can be made with no obligation by each of you by going to: <http://www.bigpond.com/broadband/access/adsl/caniget/default.asp> where you can type in your phone number and on the page that pops up register your interest by pressing submit at the bottom of the page and filling in the form that is then presented. If you wish you may also go to:- <http://www.telstra.com.au/demand/index.cfm> to see how many people in Kuranda have registered to date (16 last time I looked).

Please forward this to anybody you know in Kuranda who may be interested.

Hugh Crowther  
 3 Butler Drive  
 Kuranda  
 (07) 4093 8151



TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA  
BUCK'S BACKYARD  
2004 CALENDAR

**Buck's Backyard 2004 Calendar**

Early this year local resident, Buck Richardson, gained access to a new digital camera. In his backyard were subjects dear to the heart of all Kurandans. This combination led Buck to produce a calendar for 2004 using striking images of tropical flowers, green tree frogs and a very quirky view of a pineapple. An ideal, locally produced, Christmas gift for out of town rellies *Buck's Backyard* is widely available at various outlets in the village.

**Kuranda- the Village on the Motorway?**

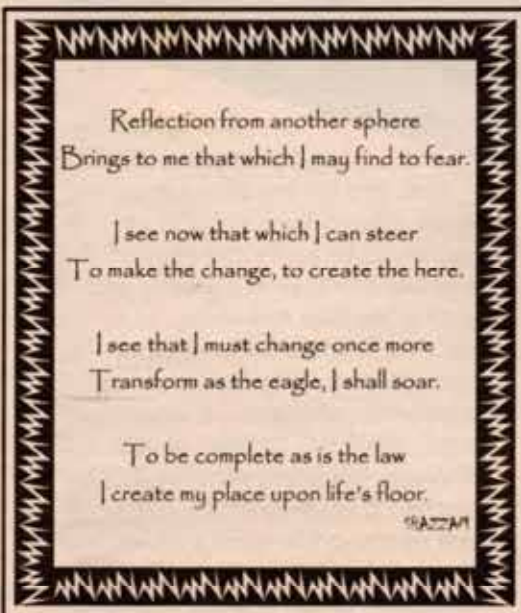
If you missed the EnviroCare information stalls about the Kuranda range road, petitions questioning the need for the proposed large upgrade are still available from the Green House, Kuranda library and from the EnviroCare nursery on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Main Roads are planning a highway that would cut up as high as Monkey's Restaurant in Kuranda which would have to be demolished. Myola and Saddle Mountain Road would be accessed by flyovers and there would be an extra bridge with high-speed traffic across the Barron river.

The 4 lane highway would be a minimum of 21m in width and capable of carrying 40,000 cars a day. This would be at least three times the width of the present road, which carries 6,500 cars a day. All this will cost an estimated \$500 million, 6 to 7 times the budget for the

Peninsula. Cutting edge technology is being developed by Main Roads together with JCU to deal with the environmental impact of this highway on the Wet Tropics. However concerns remain that after ten years construction, the rainforest would be irreparably damaged. Paul Jones of Main Roads said "Noise pollution will be a problem. We're doing tests to assess the level of decibels now and a large sound barrier will probably be needed." He also admitted, "Construction will take an estimated ten years and during this time it will be a mess. It'll take about 100 years for the rainforest to regenerate to what it was."

"If you or your organisation want to help collect signatures for the petition, please contact Sarah Isaacs, tel 40850054 or email:- sarahisaacs@yahoo.com.au <mailto:sarahisaacs@yahoo.com.au>. Please contact Sarah Isaacs, POB 727, Kuranda, 4872 tel 4085 0054 for details.



Reflection from another sphere  
Brings to me that which I may find to fear.  
  
I see now that which I can steer  
To make the change, to create the here.  
  
I see that I must change once more  
To transform as the eagle, I shall soar.  
  
To be complete as is the law  
I create my place upon life's floor.  
RAZAM

**LIBERTY**  
LIBERTY RESORT CAIRNS  
AUSTRALIA

Hello Friends & Neighbours!

I am pleased to announce Liberty has an exciting month of activity ahead with numerous shows and activities, where everyone is welcome.

Other events this month include the Liberty Launch on 28 November, followed by the Mr Gay OZ North Queensland heat. This national competition will see the best of local talent strut their stuff in a night that promises to be hot! Tickets are available from Reception for both events.

Liberty is also proud to support the return of our local Community Theatre Program with the Kuranda Amphitheatre Society and we look forward to their next production.

Don't forget we offer **25% off your food bill** when you dine at Tribe Licensed Restaurant & Bar. Tribe is open daily for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner and is also available for functions. Bookings are essential.

I'm also pleased to announce the new "**Liberty Loyalty Club**". With discounts on food, free nights, invitations to Gallery 7 launches, wine appreciation nights and gourmet tastings – you can't afford to miss out on the privileges that membership offers...and it's **free** to join! Simply call us for a membership kit or email [info@libertyresort.com.au](mailto:info@libertyresort.com.au) with your name, address and telephone number.

Until next month

Best Wishes from the Liberty Resort team.

Paul

**PAUL BRENT**  
General Manager

Liberty Resort  
3 Greenhills Road  
Kuranda Qld 4872  
Phone: 4093 7556

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

**KURANDA GARDEN GROUP.**

Our last meeting for this year will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2pm. Beginning at my place (16 Spear rd-off Black Mountain Rd) followed by a tour of Pat and Lyle Green's beautiful garden. Afternoon tea will be held there. Please bring a plate to share.

Has anyone given any thought to taking over the running of The Garden Group? Please give it some consideration, as there are still many beautiful gardens in Kuranda we haven't seen, it just needs someone to co-ordinate.

I do hope we see a large number of people. I usually have lots of beautiful plants in flower at that time of the year.

**Marjorie Spear.**  
PH:- 4093 7205.

**Special Discount for all our Advertisers**

A 10% Discount is being offered to all Advertisers who pay for 3 months in advance. The only requirement being that they are already up to date with their existing account. New Advertisers are very welcome. Note that the paper is read by at least 1500 Locals.

**BOOK LAUNCH**

High excitement upon the air this eve... Heading up the mountains for this the launching of Ian Whittaker & Michael Quinn's skilfully crafted book of poetry... In fact an archive of the bard's life & yearnings thus far. This idea is sheer delight to the senses when one considers the archaic nature sensitively given birth in antiquated form by Ian. He has merged an ancient past with a modern present to bring into existence an original, imaginative, inventive production... bringing forth a jewel in the crown for any great lover of books. An idea that inspires one to the heights of literary passion. Inspiration just pours from the finely crafted front covers & throughout... just reeking of a new renaissance... Long overdue for one I might add...(any imperfections are part of the charm)! Ignoring what conventional publishers might advise to be salesworthy merchandise, Ian has gone straight for the booklovers' jugular & focussed on design, as the aforementioned works of art attest. Each book has its own personality forged out of that deep pool of human potential. The craftsman/artist has tapped into that source we must all connect to for our personal growth. Each book simply has the power to draw you into its wealth of being. Cloths of many colours, texturally stimulating the upper senses, leaves one with a sense of otherworldliness, of being in another place & time, of déjà vu... The modern, "le plastique space" we call the world nowadays fades in an instant & we are transported to another era, more suitable for the likes of such a masterpiece... I absolutely adore the idea of using textiles for the covers. My personal copy wears my old green Indian

elephant-print wrap- around hippie skirt that I've worn & loved since forever, now preserved in time on my book cover. Tis one of the first items to be born in this new renaissance I dream of coming into being Now... The literary world is way overdue this transformative metamorphosis... Now, anyone can be a publisher, so big publishing companies take heed, eventually the public tires of the same old pumped out crap and desires more, much more to whet the appetites of their upper consciousness. Ever more of the buying public abhor the destruction of the world's natural resources & desire a shift in our beliefs to include more natural, recycled, handmade possessions in our life. This is an idea given birth from such a creative belief that Ian & Michael have brought forth from the annals of their intuitively instinctual minds. The portals of a new existence that is possible have been opened by this one act of Aquarian foresightedness, bring it on... change only comes about as innovative people create a brave new world... The bottom pub (Fanny O'Reillys) graciously allowed the book launch in the charming olde worlde back room, which was packed to the rafters with punters crowding the place out... Forty rich tapestry covered poetry books adorned long tables set out for their viewing. Music filled the air, talk overflowed, the familiar faces of Kurandas artistic intelligentsia, the avant-garde, revolved around this new axis coming into being. The evening is an auspicious one... Tis All Saints Eve/a.k.a. Halloween... The soothsayers are about, the muses are delighted, the ancient scribes' presence are felt in the

undercurrent of the evening... (Moon in Capricorn/Saturn, time for a wake up call). I was pleased to see representatives of the local Djabugay rainforest tribe, traditional owners of the land, welcome Ian, Michael & guests for the evening. Cheers to Janice Starck for her heartfelt performances, also to Michael Quinn & his beloved Jane for their moving, passionate, emotional interpretations of aforesaid bard's poems.

you reside some very Out There artisans, artists/artistes, writers, poets etc... nurture them, recognise them for the jewels they offer... without them the global village would be a dismal chunk of rock floating in space!) So fortified with a couple of Baileys Irish Cream & Cointreaus-(a.k.a. orgasm drinks)... I held my

eight out of forty, limited hand bound edition of "Mirrors", personally signed by Bard Michael & Artist/



Star Thomas and Ian Whittaker

Craftsman Ian against my bosom, filled with starbursts of supernovic inspiration & love, etc etc etc... & departed to party the rest of the evening at Peter H's groovy pad... But that's another anecdote... So this citizens has been a success story for us all to bathe our mortal & aesthetic senses in. "A book in which time itself has become almost visible through the creation of valuable words". I enjoy Mirrors immensely... Am awaiting the next episode to soar to the heights of literary passion once more... Ian & Michael you're fully onto it... FULLY... Om Star.

Mc Monsieur Pierre Cabe performed his usual monumental miracles, with his auctioning off of the first ever copy hot off the presses to Josette, after a full on battle of wills with some of the most fervent bidders trying to wrest her prized possession from her... Peter H arrived with his fab digital movie/camera & recorded this eve as another moment in history... another for the citizens of Kuranda village & environs to be proud of... (remember citizens among

**Machines That Cannot Fail**  
notes from a personal odyssey,  
by Don Cruse

While still a young man, serving with the British army in Egypt, I was put in charge of daytime maintenance at the Fayid transmitter station on the Suez canal. It contained more than 50 medium and high power short-wave radio transmitters, used by the army to keep in contact with its bases in England and in other parts of the world. The reason I was given the job, was that I had demonstrated a certain knack. I knew how to get defective transmitters operating again quickly, and back on the air with minimum delay. For some reason this came naturally to me, but not to quite a few others with similar training, and I remember asking myself why this was the case. What was it that prevented certain technicians from finding defects that seemed to me fairly obvious?

The answer came to me one day while watching someone experiencing this kind of difficulty. It was that the technician in question clearly did not fully understand the function or purpose of parts that he was trying to repair, and so could not go straight to the heart of the problem. Instead he played a game of trial and error, which took a great deal of time and often did more damage than good.

I do not think that I was special in this regard. Every good technician or repairman needs first a thorough grasp of the function that the equipment they are working on was intended to perform by its original designer. Not to have this can be a serious impediment, one can neither repair nor improve upon something that one has not first understood. What was different for me was that in later years I came to formulate this into a kind of philosophic principle, which can be simply stated as follows: *a machine can fail only in relation to its purpose*, i.e. when it no longer do the job for which it was designed.

**Machines that cannot fail**

After my stint in Egypt I returned to England, and then emigrated to Canada. Here I established my own business as a radio, TV and electronics technician, and also took up the part-time study of philosophy at the University of Alberta, where I recall how with growing puzzlement I gradually became aware that what was so obvious to me as a technician, *that a machine can fail only in relation to its purpose*, was for some reason not obvious to the great minds whose works I studied. They wrote, for example, of 'random mutations' occurring in a purposeless but *mechanistic* universe.

At first I was sure that I had missed something important; everyone I talked to about it thought that I was wrong, but no one seemed able to tell me why. As the years went by and my studies continued and deepened, the conviction began to grow on me that something was indeed very seriously wrong in the abstract realm of modern philosophy. Because scientific materialism, that most influential of modern world views, had made use of the word 'mechanism' in a manner that contradicted all that experience had taught me, and had even turned this into a dictionary definition, i.e. that "mechanism = materialism." Materialism denies the possibility that 'ideas' are at work in the natural world (excepting, strangely enough, in human thought), and for *purposes* to exist in nature there would have to be ideas at work there also. Where science is concerned, to attribute purpose to any natural phenomena is to embrace teleology, a theological concept the overcoming of which had been an essential step in its own emancipation from religion. Imagine my state of mind, therefore, when faced with the following conundrum: If natural machines (organisms) have no purpose, then how can they ever be said to malfunction, because failure to function is possible only in relation to a purpose, i.e. in relation to an

Pass Through Me Light	nay, pearls of wisdom ascending forth from Jupiter, God of light, master of my destiny lord of my passions.... ....fate unfolding
Pass through me light pass through me	Pass through me light Pass through me we free spirits laugh with abandon recalling wispy memories from dreams still lingering in our minds....
I need you night and day	pass through me light pass through me your velvet touch of Grace is my desire....
I want the walls of despair within to crumble and flowers to grow amongst the ruins....	Om Star
pass thru me light pass through me will thou illuminate mine way....	
pass through me I need no other to guide me when the ray passes my way	
Pass through me light pass through me send me jewels	

indwelling idea like that undeniably present in any man-made machine? That organisms do fail is self-evident, death and illness are all around us in nature, but I soon discovered that philosophers have explained this consciously, not as a failure in the sense that a machine fails, i.e. when caused by internal defects, but as a kind of cessation, such as we often see in the inorganic realm when the energy source that drives a given natural process becomes exhausted. This means—subject to appeal—that in materialistic philosophy no distinction whatever was being made between what happens when a natural organism develops an internal defect, and when it simply runs out of fuel. This is like failing to observe the essential difference between a car that won't run because its ignition switch is off, or its gas tank empty, and another with a broken crankshaft. In either case a technician who could not quickly discern the difference, would justifiably be fired on the spot. Yet philosophy, which normally thrives upon subtle distinctions, has yet to explore this one—how so? This is the essence of the problem that has troubled me now for many years: How is it possible that so vital a distinction, **Continued Next Page..**

## CHARITY BACKS A WINNER

Even the unexpected rain did not dampen the Melbourne Cup Celebration at Billy's Garden Bar & Barbeque. On arrival guests were greeted with a glass of Champagne by host and tireless organiser, Una Chambers.

the was into horse and lots of a variety to be race.



The staff were dressed in jockey's riding colours while lounge area transformed a hobby race track sparkled with colourful packages of goods donated by suppliers auctioned for charity after the big



The principle host and donor was De Bortolli Wines who donated their fine Champagne and offered an interesting wine tasting. Organiser, Una Chambers, engaged the help of the Kuranda Lions Club and together they raised \$2,200 for the Childrens' Leukaemia Foundation.

The organisers wish to thank the following generous donors:



Distillers, Bundy Rum, Hardy's Wines, Blass, National Liquor, Jim Beam, Amatil,

Castlemaine Carlton Breweries, Yalumba Wines, Independent Berringer Coca Cola

indulged Platter of bugs of

the

the the hobby horse 'funny money' could and climaxed into with bids of thousands dollars'. punter had facilities in bar. Special for hats and were also



The merry revellers in a sumptuous Seafood red claw lobsters, oysters, and prawns, and a medley grilled barramundi with calamari. Throughout day a band of willing and enthusiastic members of Kuranda Lions Club kept show rolling with raffles, races



where special be wagered, an auction hundreds of of 'funny The serious full TAB the main prizes fashion presented.



Kuranda Fruit & Veg, Allans Chemicals, Garozzo Agencies, Mike Eastman, Mona Aroma Coffee, Konami Poker machines, Neutimetrics, Kuranda Food Store, Liberty Resort and Paronella Park.



### From P12

#### Machines that cannot Fail

essential to any true understanding of man-made machinery, has not become the focus of intense interest and scrutiny in the discussion of so-called 'mechanistic' philosophy (materialism)? The reason for this, I have discovered, is as simple as its ramifications are profound. It is that the word 'mechanism' always carries the concept of purpose with it, it cannot help but do this because it is essential to its real meaning; and when left unexamined it helps greatly to make materialist philosophy appear plausible. The claim of 'purposelessness' can only be maintained if we ignore this word's subtle but undeniably powerful role in illegitimately importing the concept of purpose into materialism's explanatory equation, although it does this in an almost entirely unconscious manner. As matters now stand, the concept of purpose, for the reasons described above, is an anathema to materialistic and scientific thought; but because of the non-critical use of the word 'mechanism', it is unconsciously active there, despite its claimed prohibition. To maintain this unconscious error, we must neglect to observe or to consider the evidence that points to the existence in nature of the kind of failure which can only occur in relation to a purpose. So we have uncritically substituted 'cessation.' I am not claiming that this was a deliberate deception. I suspect that at first it was an entirely unconscious one, required perhaps by the forces at work in the background of human understanding, but a mistake it clearly was, and a truly monumental one.

Anyone who has had the opportunity to read my book *Evolution and the New Gnosis* will be aware that this question has opened for me a veritable Pandora's box, filled with consequences of almost unimaginable magnitude for both philosophy and science. If I am right in what I am saying, then the entire philosophic and scientific community has been deceiving itself now

for centuries, and especially since the advent of Darwinism, into believing (1) that such things as purposeless and Designerless organisms can exist; and (2) that we may explain their failure to go on working indefinitely, by unconsciously comparing their malfunctioning to that of a humanly designed and constructed machine, while neglecting to observe that real machines can fail only in relation to their purpose. Starting from the prior and unproven assumption that organisms do not embody either internal or external purposes, materialism then believes them to fail just as man-made machinery fails. Clearly this is a complete impossibility!

In my book, written with the aid of my friend Robert Zimmer, this question is examined and discussed in some detail. The book is respectfully dedicated to Charles Darwin, who unwittingly built his entire theory upon this error, but it is also a tribute to the work of my own mentor, Owen Barfield, who has led the way in uncovering it. To crudely sum up what I am saying, I argue in the book that the word 'mechanism' has been unconsciously hi-jacked and wrongly employed by materialistic thought for centuries now, and that without this step materialism as a critical world view could never have appeared plausible. I also argue that we really needed the stepping-stone of materialism, but for reasons I shall not go into here, this need has come to an end.

Historically speaking, science did away with God the Designer but kept the language of design, and used it in trying to materialistically explain nature's workings. This resulted in an erroneous use of language, an error historically spearheaded by the misapplication of the word 'mechanism.' There is now a growing awareness of the outright contradiction that results from this misapplication, and once this is well established both Darwinism and materialism will be recognized for what they have been all along, i.e. interesting and even necessary but logically false world views.

That is the way that I see it, and so far no one has been able to show me where

my argument goes astray, even though I have appealed to many good and even great minds, asking them repeatedly to correct me if I'm wrong, but none have yet done so.

To my knowledge, Michael Polanyi is virtually alone among modern philosophers of science, in that he has clearly identified the very serious logical error that I am pointing to. However, he does this in language that is just a little bit opaque. He calls the structure or design of a machine "a boundary condition," and states that in understanding machines two factors *must* be taken into account, not just one. Science has long claimed that organisms are single-factor entities, and as such, they would be unable to either to work or stop working, i.e. they would behave like minerals. What Polanyi does not make clear, no doubt because of the academic climate of his time, is that the second-factor is and can only be, an 'idea,' a fact which places Polanyi squarely in the long-neglected tradition of the medieval scholastic Realist, who claimed that ideas, then termed 'universals,' were an essential part of the world's reality—its spiritual part.

Materialism wants to believe, and wants us to believe, that only one creative force is at work in nature, 'natural law,' but natural law as it is now understood is by definition non-mental and immutable, and so completely failure-proof. Alone, therefore, it cannot lead to the internal breakdown of either an organism or a machine—except and unless their functioning is seen to be the result of that vital second factor. It is the clear and conscious recognition in science and philosophy of the existence of that second factor, which has been and still is being thwarted by what Owen Barfield called "the great tabu," which will be the subject of a future work by Robert and myself.

I cannot stress enough, that this problem *only* exists for philosophic or scientific materialism, which assumes, but does not always overtly claim, the existence of a Monism of matter. The moment we add any spiritual dimension whatever to our world picture, we must then choose between

a Cartesian dualism and a Monism of Mind. In either case the second factor becomes logically valid. In dualism, however, it is only seen to be valid within the context of the miraculous. To my mind the Cartesian contradiction causes dualism itself to be a profoundly defective world view, and so we are, as rational beings, left only with a Monism of Mind or thought. A new realm of scientific enquiry then legitimately opens before us, one in which the vast works of Owen Barfield's mentor, Rudolf Steiner, are undeniably paramount.

When I think back, I realize that I have carried this problem now for forty years, since my first meeting with Owen Barfield in his London office in 1962, and perhaps even longer, if I take into account the preparatory experiences mentioned above. It is no doubt highly presumptuous of me, as a complete academic nonentity, to say and write the things I have, both here and in my book; yet in doing so I am also carrying on a respected tradition, that of the 'outsider.' Perhaps because academic philosophy does not have an exacting discipline imposed upon it, as a mechanic does, for example, by the need to make a machine function properly (i.e. an objective way of determining the truth) it can find itself very seriously at odds with the truth. And when that happens, it becomes very difficult for anyone within academia, even if they know the answers, to say the things that need to be said without serious personal consequences. Owen Barfield, a London solicitor, stood within the outsider tradition, which oddly enough may have helped people to take him seriously—for sometimes the impulse for radical change has to come from without. For myself, though I respect the role of academia, I am also certain that what I now do and say is both right and necessary—though doubtless others more knowledgeable than I could have handled it much better.

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**FEB 2004 Paper**

Editorial	Wed 20	JAN
Advertising	Wed 20	JAN
Classifieds	Fri 23	JAN
Paper out	Thur 29	JAN

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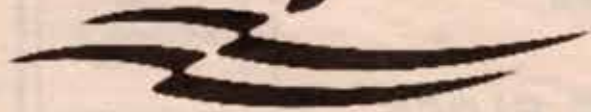


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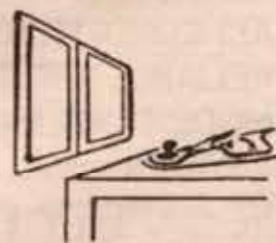
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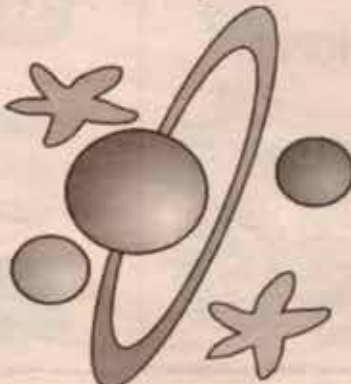
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Also a big thank you to Una for the great effort put in by her, the staff and friends to make the Melbourne Cup Day such a success and raising over \$2,000 for the Leukemia Foundation in Angela Lacey's memory.

Col is away at present, as some may have noticed him not being down town. He is at present in respite at Mareeba Garden Settlement.

But never fear "he'll be back" the first week in December with his joke books, etc. for sale. Lions Christmas Cakes have now arrived so are available from several local stores.

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**Wishing all of you**, from "NEW To You", A Happy Christmas And A Peaceful New Year.

**Amnesty International** Christmas cards and photographic calendars, Wilderness Society calendars, Australian Conservation Foundation diaries - all available now at the Green House, Main Street, Next to St Saviors Church. Ph: 40938 917

**Your Used Stamps**, phonecards and postcards are valuable in the fight for human rights. Amnesty International collects them world wide and uses profits in it's most worthy cause. Truly the pen is mightier than the sword! Drop them into The Green House, 9 Coondoo St. Thanks to all our loyal Amnesty Supporters!

**A Nod is as Good as a Wink** to a Blind Man. Don't rely on hints (or our memories) when you want a very special gift. We now have a Christmas gift register at the Green House, and of course our gift wrapping is free All Year Round! open seven days 9.30am to 5.00pm.

**Will someone tell Fred Gingers** at the Greenhouse! Gorgeous Buderim Ginger body delights-Body Butter, Hand and Body lotions, Foaming Bath Powder. Beautiful Ginger Printed Draw Liners as well. Just Lovely.

**Moon Planting Calendars**, Moon Charts and diaries, Antipodean Bio-dynamic Planting calendar (Very Detailed), Star Watch Starwheels and Mini-Ephemeris (with daily positions of sun, moon and planets). All at the Green House. Cosmic!

**For Sale.** garage roller doors x 3. Colourbond brown, 2.5 m x 2.5m \$60 each or \$150 the lot. ph 4093 0201.

**2003 Has Been A Year** of mountains and valleys- with the odd cliff thrown in! Thank you to all our wonderful customers, friend, fans and fellow travellers from Ann and Steve, Gaile and Sandi at the Green House. Your smiles, support and suggestions make our work a pleasure.

Wishing you all a safe and joyous holiday season and may the road rise to meet you in 2004. Cheers!

Personalised Gift Vouchers available at The Green House.



## WHITECAR COACHES PTY LTD

PO Box 140, ATHERTON 4883 ABN 69 465 540 048 Ph 4091 1855

### ATHERTON TABLELANDS TO CAIRNS

Departs -	Monday to Friday (not Public Holidays)				
Ravenshoe	Herberton	Atherton	Mareeba	Kuranda	Cairns
		6.30am	7.00am	7.30am	8.15am arr
#7.45am	#8.15am	8.45arr / 9.15dep	*9.45am	10.20am	11.15am arr
				2.10pm	2.50pm arr
#2.00pm	#2.30pm	2.50arr / 3.30dep	4.00pm	4.30pm	5.15pm arr

Departs -	Saturday (not Public Holidays)				
Ravenshoe	Herberton	Atherton	Mareeba	Kuranda	Cairns
		6.30am	7.00am	7.30am	8.15am arr
#7.45am	#8.15am	9.15am	9.45am	10.20am	11.15am arr

Departs -	Sunday and Public Holidays				
Atherton	Mareeba	Kuranda	Cairns		
9.15am	9.45am	10.20am	11.15am arr		

### CAIRNS TO ATHERTON TABLELANDS

Departs-	Monday to Friday (not Public Holidays)				
Cairns	Kuranda	Mareeba	Atherton	Herberton	Ravenshoe
*8.30am	*9.05am	9.40am	10.15am/11.00dep	#11.15am	#12.00n arr
10.00am	10.35am				
			3.00pm	#3.30pm	#4.00pm arr
3.15pm	3.55pm	4.30pm	5.00pm	#5.30pm	#6.00pm arr
5.30pm	6.05pm	6.40pm	7.15pm arr		

Departs -	Saturday (not Public Holidays)				
Cairns	Kuranda	Mareeba	Atherton	Herberton	Ravenshoe
9.30am	10.05am	10.40am	11.15am/11.45dep	#12.05pm	#12.45pm
1.00pm	1.40pm	2.15pm	2.45pm arr		

Departs -	Sunday and Public Holidays			
Cairns	Kuranda	Mareeba	Atherton	
1.00pm	1.40pm	2.15pm	2.45pm arr	

(Subject to change without notice) \* Connect with Chillagoe Bus Service (Mon/Wed/Fri) Ph 40947155 (This timetable does not show all routes and/or times)

- AIRPORT/TRINITY WHARF DROP-OFF AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST (Surcharge Applies)
- HOSPITAL & DOCTORS SURGERIES DROP-OFF (Eastern Side of Sheridan St. only) (Surcharge Applies)
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CARDS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR CONCESSION
- NO SERVICES OPERATING CHRISTMAS DAY OR GOOD FRIDAY
- PASSAGE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF SEATS

LOCAL SNOW HOLIDAY IS NORMAL TIMETABLE (Cairns Show please check with driver/office)

ATHERTON	HEAD OFFICE	6 McConaghie St	4091 1855
ATHERTON	PHILLIPS NEWS	48c Main St	4091 1105
CAIRNS	46 Spence St	(Pay driver)	4091 1855
KURANDA	15 Therwine St	(Pay driver)	4091 1855
MAREEBA	MAREEBA NEWS	125 Byrnes St	4092 1030 (Bus stop is at old Railway Station - behind KFC)

**Kuranda Branch Library Council Office**

4-12 Thoorree Street  
 Phone 4093 9185

**OPENING HOURS**

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11 am - 6 pm
Wednesday	11 am - 5 pm
Thursday	11 am - 5 pm
Friday	9 am - 12 noon
Saturday	9 am - 12 noon

No Council Services available Saturday  
 Council Cashier Closes at 4 pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

**DEADLINES**

**FEB 2004 Paper**

Editorial	Wed 20	JAN
Advertising	Wed 20	JAN
Classifieds	Fri 23	JAN
Paper out	Thur 29	JAN

**In Case of Fire or Other Emergency Please Phone 000**

**KURANDA TRANSFER STATION**

**OPENING TIMES**

Monday	7.00 am	to 10.00 am
Wednesday	3.00 pm	to 6.00 pm
Friday	7.00 am	to 10.00 am
Saturday	8.00 am	to 12.00 pm
Sunday	1.00 pm	to 5.00 pm

# Community Calendar

## Regular Meetings in Kuranda.

**Kuranda Garden Group** sat 13th Dec 2pm. at Marjorie Spears, 16 Spear Rd. ph 4093 7205.

**Every Sunday Soft Ball**, Hunter Park, Fallon Road 2.30 pm Ph 4093 7113

**Al-Anon** 10.30 am. Neighbourhood Centre Cnr. Coondoo & Barang Sts. Ph 4093 0462

**Alcoholics Anonymous** 10.30 am. at CWA Hall Ph 4093 0462

**Kuranda Bowls Club** every Sunday social games 3.30 pm (reg 3 pm)

**1st Sunday R.S.L.** 5pm, Sports and Social Club Family Service, Uniting Church St. Christophers.

**2nd Sunday Kuranda Bowls Club** Monthly Meeting 2.30 pm

**3rd Sunday "Potters do your own thing Day" Mud Slingers** 10.30 am. 284 Myola Road next to High School Ph Ian 4093 9652

**Every Monday Life Span** exercise QCWA Hall 9.30 am.

**Every Monday Kuranda Playgroup** Ph: Tonya 4093 9652 or Pam. 4093 8595 or Sharon 4093 8193. (No Meetings in December & January)

**1st Monday Kuranda Horse and Pony Club** 7.30 pm Mantaka

**Tennis Club** 7.30 pm Ambulance Fallon Road

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

**Kuranda Inter-Agency Network Meeting**, 2.30-4.00pm

**Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre**, 7 Rob Veivers Drive Ph 4093 8933

**Kuranda State Primary P & C Assoc** 7.00 pm in school staff room, all parents welcome

**2nd Monday KNC** (was KISC) 7.30 pm Management & 8.00 pm General

**QCWA** 12.30 pm Ph 4093 8933

**High School P & C** 5.00 pm

**2nd & 4th Mon Kuranda Lions** 7.30 pm S & S Club Fallon Road Ph 4093 7187

**3rd Monday KNC Management Committee Meeting** 7.00 pm Rob Veivers Dve. Ph 4093 8933

**Every Tuesday Taekwondo & Self Defence adults** 7.00 pm CWA hall Ph 4093 8682

**8 Ball** 7.15 pm at Speewah Tavern, Fitzies Tavern and Sports & Social Club

**BulgeBlasters**, 6pm, Sports & Social Club.

**First Tuesday Chamber of Commerce** 5.00 pm Billy's Bar Ph 4093 8834

**3rd Tuesday Rangers Soccer Club** 6.30 pm Ph 4093 8803 Norman Guy

**Every Wed Craft classes** at QCWA hall 9.30 am.

**Cub Scouts** 5.00-6.30 pm Contact Clare Hennesy Ph 4093 9038

**Dog Training** 7.00 pm Kuranda Pony Club Ph 4093 8970

**First Wed Kuranda Envirocare**, Primary School 7.00 pm Ph 4093 8834

**2nd Wed QCWA meeting** 12.30 pm at hall Ph 4093 7617

**Every Thurs Joey Scouts meeting** 5.00 to 6.00 pm

**Rotary** 6.00 pm Kuranda Hotel/Motel Ph: 4093 7206

**Kuranda Bowls Club** Night Bowls - Casual 7.00 pm [reg. 6.30 pm]

**Taekwondo & Self Defence** 7.00 pm CWA Hall Ph 4093 8682

**1st Thurs Kuranda Charity Bowls** 7 pm (reg. 6.30 pm)

**2nd Thurs Ambulance** 7.30 pm Ambulance Centre Fallon Road

**Respite Care** QCWA Hall 9.00 am. - 3.00 pm

**3rd Thurs 8 Ball Competition** S & S Club 7.15 pm

**1st Saturday Pottery Workshop MUD SLINGERS** 10.30 am next to High School 284 Myola Road Ian 4093 9652

**2nd Saturday Garden Group** 2 pm Phone David Hulme 4039 0762

**3rd Saturday Ambulance Committee Stall** outside St Saviours Church (bi-monthly)

**Every Sat EnviroCare** 8-9 am. tree planting bees Ph 4093 8834

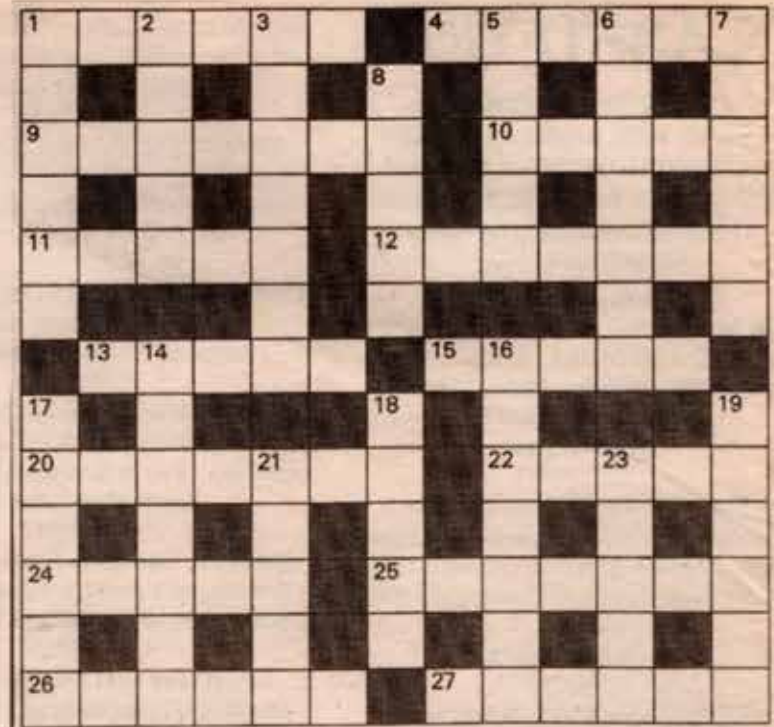
PLEASE CHECK IF THE DAY/TIME AND PHONE NUMBERS ARE CORRECT

## JOHN'S KURANDA BUS

### "THE LOCAL BUS"

	MON	TUES	WEDtoFRI	P/HOL & SAT/SUN
<b>DEPART KURANDA</b>	0730	0730	0730	0830
	1230	1230	0930	1500
			1230	
			1400	
			1600	
<b>DEPARTS CAIRNS</b>	0830	0830	0830	0930
	1515	1515	1015	1600
			1325	
			1515	
			1700	

PH JOHN. 0418 772953. A/HRS 40939278



### Kuranda Kryptic Crossword No. 49

Compiled by John Brooksbank

#### Across

- Local gravel creek in hectic humility
- Biblical writer, on the Kuranda Paper maybe.
- Age pose to reach those highest points
- Like this paper - spring out and be published.
- English chef is unclothed.
- Drive a bird locally!
- Marjories' ace garden tool is black?
- Local waterway makes a noise.
- Emu cousin farmed locally.
- A hickory nut from North cape.
- Pale after a death in Mama's henhouse
- Pure ice he would enjoy eating at Billy's Garden Bar.
- Alas, poor fellow - not yet seen on Amphitheatre stage.
- Used to glue the urban jungle together.

#### Down

- Exercises on Kuranda track?
- Sound of a green tree frog
- Depend on you - drained beer glass at Fitzies.
- Cathay Pacific make a monkey out of him!
- Breathe in to motivate actor.
- Ergon has plenty of it.
- Coconut trees become sacred in St. Christopher's hymn.
- Ball player holds water & is insectivorous!
- Forest goanna is made from perlite?
- Local club always going round doing good works.
- Lamb Range mother...or father.
- Make an impression with this official order.
- Electrically charged in Bottom Pubs' martini on ice
- Unsophisticated oil not found at the Pharmacy.

### Answers to 48

