

POSTAGE  
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KURANDA  
AUSTRALIA

# THE KURANDA PAPER

December 2025 | January 2026

Issue 382

FREE INDEPENDENT MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1991

WWW.KURANDAPAPER.COM

## FAREWELL 2025 AND HELLO 2026

As this edition of *The Kuranda Paper* goes to print we have finally received some light rain after a couple of months of dry weather and increased bushfire incidents. To safeguard your property please remain fire aware. Not only are you safeguarding your assets and family but you are also reducing the risk to our invaluable fire fighters and other emergency service personnel.

However, as was well put by Dorothea Mackellar, Australia is a big country “of droughts and flooding rains” So it is also time to step up preparation for the Wet Season and the possibility of cyclones, without letting it dampen your festive spirits. Check out the Mareeba Shire Get Ready Disaster Fact Sheet on Page 24.

While everyone still has a few weeks of 2025 to enjoy, our volunteers at The Kuranda Paper are looking forward to our annual break between old and new year editions. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a safe, memorable and happy holiday season. We will be back on 29 January, with our first edition for 2026, our 35th year of uninterrupted publication. Thank you to all who contribute to our own independent community newspaper. We are 100% submission based so if you have something you wish to share get in touch and become one of many regular and not so regular contributors.

Thank you to our local advertisers. Please support local businesses, their viability ensures we have a wide range of services and skills available and provides jobs for locals. Add value to your festive spending by buying local, employing local and enjoying local.

The last of the 2025 community markets will be held in the first half of December (Koah Monthly Market Saturday 6 December and Kuranda Community Market at the Amphitheatre Sunday 14 December), before they close down for the Wet Season.

Friday 12 December is set to be a magical time in the Village with the return of Twilight Trading. See Page 3 for

details (at time of going to print ) and follow the Event page on Facebook for all the treats, entertainment, activities and special offers by local eateries, retailers and attractions.

Finally, the festive season can be a challenging time for some in our community so keep in mind those who might be struggling through loneliness or hardship and if you can, extend a hand to help. The Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre always welcomes donations of non perishable foods and toiletries to stock in their Street Pantry. They are also seeking donations of new toys to put a smile on the face of children in need this Christmas. See Page 17 for details of the Toy Drive, as well as their free Holiday Program activities for December.

Wishing all a safe and joyous festive season and holiday break from The Kuranda Paper.

See you in 2026



Local resident Sam and her furry friend Obi, enjoy a sleigh ride with Mister Nelson, owner Kerry Scott at the reins.  
Photo Kerry Scott

### PONY RIDES AT KOAH MARKET

The marvellous Mister Nelson and owner Kerry Scott of Koah, will be again providing “One Horse Open Sleigh” rides at the 2025 Koah Christmas Market on Saturday 6 December.

Mister Nelson is a small Shetland pony, standing just 9 hands tall. Kerry acquired Mister Nelson in 2018 as a 6 year old on the Tablelands. He was bred in Myola according to his previous owners.

Kerry consulted a friend-of-a-friend who taught her how to train him to harness. Kerry drove Mister Nelson to the Koah Market regularly from 2020 as part of his training, then she was asked to do rides at the annual Koah Christmas market and the “One Horse Open Sleigh” rides were born.

Kerry says the sleigh is a basic sulky for which she made the sleigh sides and attached to the cart. This year she is revamping the sleigh for this market.

“Mister Nelson loves driving and I have had children as young as 8 years old drive him under supervision. Mister Nelson loves people and attention. He is a super star in my book.” says Kerry.

SCAN FOR THE  
EVENT DETAILS

FRI 12 DEC | 4PM TO 8PM

SHOP LATE · LIVE MUSIC  
FAMILY FUN · GIVEAWAYS  
FOOD & DRINKS · GIFT IDEAS  
DISCOUNTS · CLAY PLAY  
SCAVENGER HUNT



SHOP LOCAL • EMPLOY LOCAL • ENJOY LOCAL



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mail@kurandapaper.com

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24 Coondoo Street, Kuranda

PO Box 66, Kuranda Q 4881

kurandapaper.com

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mail@kurandapaper.com

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

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

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

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

KMA Management Committee 2025

**President:** Nettie O'Connell

**Vice President:** Kerstin Brown

**Secretary:** Anna Raye

**Treasurer:** Gayle Hannah

**Members Representative:** Toni Rogers

**Paper Production this edition:**

Trish Biggs Graphic Design (layout and  
design). Gayle Hannah (production), Anna  
Raye, Garth Owen, Sarah Arrowsmith  
andrew Stacey (proofreading). Thanks to  
all our volunteers, contributors, advertisers  
and distributors.

## DEADLINES

February

Edition 383/2026

All copy and advertisements  
due by 10am

**Thursday 22 January**

Paper published

**Thursday 29 January 2026**

Management is not responsible for  
any copy missing deadline.



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

### We welcome your letters via email or post

#### SATURDAY OPENING FOR LIBRARY PLEASE

Our Kuranda library is an excellent resource for our community. Unfortunately, it is closed on Saturdays, when school children and people who work outside of Kuranda could access it. Saturday mornings are a great time for kids to attend a 'story time' or become regular borrowers and enthusiastic readers.

Both Cairns and Mareeba libraries are open on Saturday mornings and the Dimbulah library, which is open only 2 days a week is also open on Saturday mornings. Is there a way to juggle the current hours so that Kuranda could open on Saturdays?

**Keila Waksvik, Kuranda**

### TENDER NOTICE

#### Graphic Designer – The Kuranda Paper

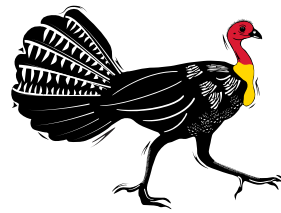
The Kuranda Media Association Inc. is seeking tenders for a suitably qualified graphic designer to join our production team and undertake the position of Graphic Designer for the layout and design of *The Kuranda Paper*.

Applicants must be proficient in the Adobe Creative Cloud applications of InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop and familiar with Mac operating systems. Applicants will be required to work as part of a small team and will report to the KMA Management Committee. The position is contract-based with the successful applicant responsible for the design and layout of the monthly paper for 11 editions per year.

Interested applicants should contact the Kuranda Media Association via

mail@kurandapaper.com for a position description. Tender submissions to be received by the Kuranda Media Association no later than Friday 19 December 2025.

## WE NEED YOU



Were you born on 26 July 1991? If so, you share a birthday with *The Kuranda Paper*. The first edition was published on that day.

It might seem as if *The Kuranda Paper* 'just happens' every month, but that is far from reality. It is only through an enormous amount of time, energy, cost, planning—and most importantly teamwork and volunteering—that this independent, not-

for-profit, 100% submission-based community newspaper continues to buck the trend away from independent, local print newspapers.

Over its 35-year history *The Kuranda Paper* has been in the hands of literally hundreds of people who have contributed in many ways to the continued existence and ongoing evolution of this community endeavour. Over the years there have been some challenges, but the power of volunteers, their skills and support has kept the paper on track.

When you consider that most of the people who started this paper in 1991 were in their 30s (or older) at the time, it becomes obvious that a new generation of vital volunteers is required...and needed NOW. Some of our volunteers have been giving their all to the paper for three decades or more and we seriously need new energy to keep the paper flourishing so we can continue to be available for the sharing of community information causes, concerns and aspirations.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Become a member.** Membership is just \$10 a year. See our AGM notice on page 2 for details.

**Join the Management Committee** – every association must have an elected committee to be responsible to members and for the correct running of the organisation. We are most especially in need of nominations for a President and a Secretary for the upcoming AGM on 13 December. Neither of these jobs is onerous or difficult and only require a few hours a month. Other positions which will be vacated at the AGM are Treasurer, Vice President and Member's Representative and if you are interested in knowing more about any of these positions please email us at mail@kurandapaper.com.

The most difficult part of running *The Kuranda Paper*—not surprisingly—is the production side, which while being very interesting and rewarding, is also quite demanding under time and print pressures. Currently the production team consists of a paid professional graphic designer and an unpaid volunteer production assistant.

This month we are opening a **public tender for the position of Graphic Design and Layout person** for the 2026 year, commencing in January. See our tender notice for more details.

We are also seeking someone to work with our current volunteer production assistant to learn that part of the production process. If you think this might be something you would find interesting (and it is) please email us at mail@kurandapaper.com to arrange a meet up.



**Kuranda Media  
ASSOCIATION**

**Kuranda Media Association Inc**  
(publishers of *The Kuranda Paper*)

## NOTICE OF AGM

**10am Saturday 13 December 2025**

Kuranda Paper Office

Shop 2/24 Coondoo Street Kuranda

Membership \$10 per year

Email mail@kurandapaper.com

for membership form or more information.

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

#### Advertisement sizes and rates

[width x height in mm]

A – 262x380 (full page)	\$640
B – 174x380 (dominant)	\$440
C – 129x380 (1/2 page vertical)	\$350
D – 262x188 (1/2 page horiz)	\$350
E – 85x380 (1/3 page vertical)	\$250
F – 129x188 (1/4 page)	\$190
G – 262x124 (large strip)	\$250
H – 262x60 (small strip)	\$145
I – 129x124	\$145
J – 85x188	\$145
K – 85x124	\$105
L – 85x60 (business card)	\$70

#### Advertisers

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

Acceptable formats: PDF, EPS, JPG or TIFF.

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

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

as of 1 July 2025

**Stockists** – A free copy is delivered to every postal box and street mail delivery in the Kuranda district (postcode 4881). If you don't receive a copy please contact the Kuranda Post Office. The current edition of *The Kuranda Paper* can be viewed online at kurandapaper.com, along with back issues. Hard copy outlets:

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

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

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

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

**TOLGA:** The Humpy

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

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

**CAIRNS & SMITHFIELD:** Libraries



# Kuranda Christmas TWILIGHT TRADING

**Friday 12 December 4pm to 8pm**

Kuranda Twilight Trading Returns This Christmas. Join us in Kuranda for a magical Twilight Trading Night!

Beat the shopping mayhem! Experience the charm of Kuranda Village as local businesses open their doors later into the evening, offering special Christmas themed products, family friendly activities and unique experiences. Enjoy live music, festive decorations and food and drinks while exploring Kuranda's one-of-a-kind shops and galleries!

- Extended Shopping Hours
- Family friendly activities
- Food, drinks, entertainment and more

Bring your friends, enjoy the festive atmosphere and let's celebrate the magic of Christmas together in Kuranda!

Kuranda is lighting up for the festive season with the return of the much loved Twilight Trading event on Friday, 12 December.

The village will come alive as local businesses open their doors later into the evening, offering special Christmas-themed products and unique experiences for visitors and locals alike. Twilight Trading also takes away the stress of shopping at major retailers, giving visitors the chance to support local small businesses while enjoying a festive, community-focused evening.

Coondoo Street will look especially beautiful this year, with the iconic fig trees lit up to create a magical atmosphere: the perfect backdrop for a family photo that is uniquely Kuranda! And the Kuranda Original Rainforest Markets will be opening their doors and decorating the markets with fairy lights galore. It will be a sight to behold!

Every day more retailers are coming on board so be sure to follow the event on Facebook (Kuranda Twilight Trading 2025) and stay tuned for updates and follow the event page for sneak peeks of what's to come and what will be offered: food, music, special activities and offers. Or just plan to come and wander from 4pm on and discover treats and surprises and catch up with friends and take some time out as the year unwinds in style.

This is a community-led initiative supported by Mareeba Shire Tourism (MST), who are funding marketing and promotion to help spread the word. While the event is organised by local traders, MST is helping ensure the campaign reaches as many visitors as possible, both online and in print. If you are a community organisation or a local with something to offer, it's not too late to get involved! For more information, contact the Kuranda Visitor Information Centre or follow the event on Facebook - Kuranda Twilight Trading 2025.

See you under the twinkling lights!



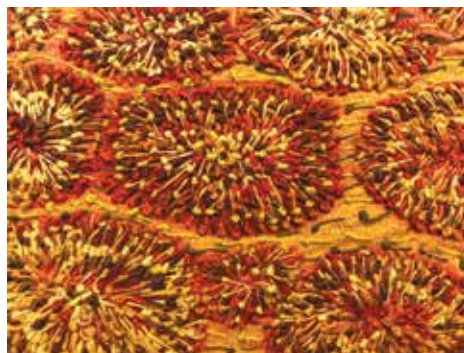
**KURANDA**  
*Twilight*  
**TRADING**



SHOP LATE · LIVE MUSIC  
FAMILY FUN · GIVEAWAYS  
DISCOUNTS · CLAY PLAY  
GIFT IDEAS · SCAVENGER HUNT  
· FOOD & DRINKS ·  
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!

**FRI 12 DEC | 4PM TO 8PM**

## Cover Masthead



This month's masthead features details from *Grevilleas*, a hand-embroidered circle on silk (20cm in diameter) by Gayle Hannah. "I have been participating in a 52 week embroidery challenge. Each week has 'rules' including stitches to use. This piece was my introduction to Pistil Stitch, an elongated version of the French Knot. The history of the Pistil Stitch predates the Arts and Crafts movement though it was used by 18th century embroiderers at William Morris's company. To me it evoked the complexity of Grevillea flowers"



**LA FONDA**  
**LATINA** Cafe & Bar  
9am-2:30pm  
@ Kuranda original markets

**TACO TUESDAY** EVERY MONTH

Bookings: 0410 778 175



**TERRA NOVA**  
gallery.com.au  
Local Picture Framing Shop  
15 Therwine St, Kuranda | 0412 387 557

Thank you for your support

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

1 - 12 December only open Weekends  
24 - 26 December Closed

terranovalgalleries.com.au



Seasons Greetings. Thanks for your Support

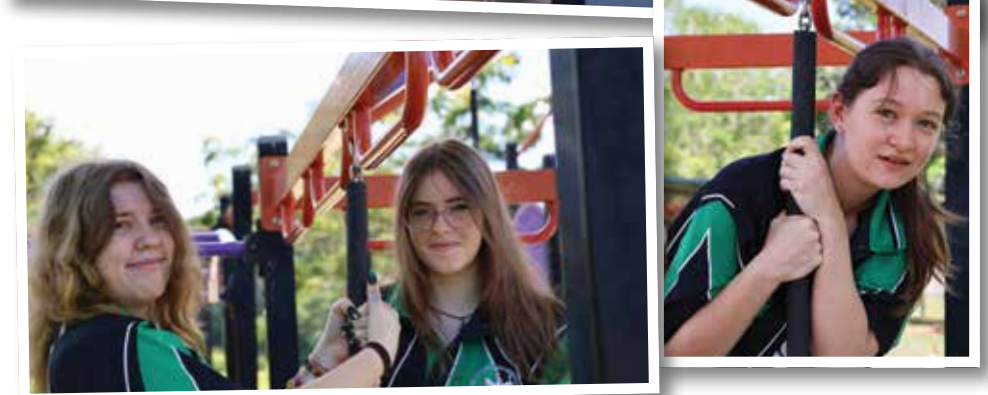
10AM to 3PM EVERY DAY

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# KDSC GRADUATES!



The Year 12 students of Kuranda District State College gathered for a memorable evening at their formal graduation dinner, held last Friday at the Cairns Colonial Club.

The celebration marked the completion of their high school journey and brought together graduates, families and staff for a night filled with reflection, pride and excitement for the future.

At the beginning of the night the arrivals were a cavalcade of mixed sports and retro cars. Each student arrived looking ready to conquer the world.

The Graduation ceremony announced achievements and future goals which were expressed enthusiastically.

The Formal dinner was delicious and a tasty graduation cake was moreish.

For the Class of 2025, the night was a fitting tribute to years of dedication, growth and unforgettable memories. Videos and photos brought the room to tears.

A photobooth encouraged families and friends to gather and build memories of the night.

We wish our 2025 graduates every success in the future and look forward to seeing the incredible paths they will forge. Well done KDSC Graduates.

Photos supplied KDSC



## LEST WE FORGET



Remembrance Day 11 November 2025

Kuranda RSL Sub Branch held this year's Remembrance Day ceremony in Centenary Park, Kuranda. It was well attended by Kuranda residents and visitors. Students and staff from both local educational institutions assisted in this successful event.

A student from the Kuranda District State College performed The Last Post and Reveille (Rouse). Two students from the Cairns Hinterland Steiner School recited The Ode of Remembrance, while other local students raised the flags during the Reveille bugle call.

Our thanks go out to all who made the day a success.

Kuranda RSL SubBranch



Ode of Remembrance: l-r Jalda Cash and Harry Pearson (Cairns Hinterland Steiner School) Mike Ryan, Tawan Campbell Kuranda District State College. Photo Caroline Ryan.



### THE KURANDA PAPER DEADLINES AND PUBLISHING DATES 2026

All contributions to be sent to:  
✉ mail@kurandapaper.com ✉ PO Box 66, Kuranda Q 4881

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



# *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

**RayWhite**

## ***Be Ahead Of The***

## ***Crowd in 2026***

**List and sell now while stock is low, limited availability is creating strong demand.**

The market is favoring sellers right now – strong demand, low stock, rising values. If you're looking to sell and move on, it might be a good time to capitalise.



# *Sonia Poole*

0407 028 388

[sonia.poole@raywhite.com](mailto:sonia.poole@raywhite.com)



## Councillor Column



Christmas is just around the corner and the Mayor's Christmas Appeal is underway. Council partners with local community organisations, including the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre, to provide hampers to residents in need during the festive season. If you would like to donate, please contact Council; all proceeds go directly back into the community.

Works are continuing throughout December on the Kuranda Centenary Park amenities block, including painting and upgrades to the basins and plumbing. Council has also been progressing work on the footpath along Arara Street, linking the library and Barang Street. The upgrades to the bridge across the Barron River on Oak Forest Road were completed in November and I want to extend my sincere thanks to residents for their patience while these important works were underway.

In other news, the Lighting Up Kuranda project was recently recognised by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, receiving an Excellence Award for Projects Under \$2 Million. The Lighting Up Kuranda: Twilight Trading in a Rainforest Village initiative was proudly funded through the Queensland Government's Building Bush Tourism Fund program, which provided \$200,000. The remaining funds were provided by Council and through the Kuranda Infrastructure Agreement, also supported by the Queensland Government. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to continuing to work with the community in the new year.

Cr Mary Graham

Phone number: 07 4092 1030

Postal address: PO Box 154 Mareeba QLD 4880

Email: MaryG@msc.qld.gov.au

## Christmas Closures & Operating Hours

All **Customer Service Centres** and **Libraries** will close from Monday, 22 December 2025 and re-open Monday, 5 January 2026.

**For all urgent enquires, call Council's 24/7 hotline 1300 308 461.**

# OPERATION RUDOLPH

## ACROSS TWO SATURDAYS!



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

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

**Please note:** Following the end of the Speewah to Koah run, everyone is invited to enjoy cold watermelon and soft drinks courtesy of the Speewah, Koah and Mt Molloy Rural Fire Brigade Units at the Koah Rural Fire Brigade Shed, Koah Hall, Koah Road. All participants, parents, youngsters and family dogs (treats will be on offer) are cordially invited.

### SPEEWAH, CARDINIA AND KOAH

#### SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

**Departs Speewah Tavern at 2.30pm then travels via**

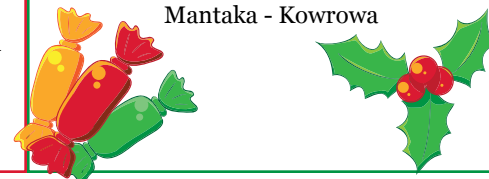
- Speewah Road to Stoney Creek Road
- Stoney Creek Road to Kelly Road
- Up Kelly Road to the Possum Ridge turnoff
- Back the same way to Speewah Road
- Ganyan Drive loop then William Smith Drive
- Right turn into Douglas Track and into Veivers Drive
- Veivers Drive back to the highway, then Cardinia Boulevard
- Koah Road to the end and back
- Finishing at the Koah Hall

### KURANDA AND SURROUNDS

#### SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER

**Departs Kuranda Urban Fire Station at 2.00pm then travels via**

- Coondoo Street - Thongon Street
- Barron Falls Road
- Mason Road - Williamson Drive
- Warril Drive
- Gregory Terrace - Coconut Grove - Saddle Mountain Road
- Myola Road - Oak Forest Road - Mantaka - Kowrowa



# MAREEBA SHIRE COUNCIL - COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Mareeba Shire Christmas Lights Competition

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

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

*Entries Close: Sunday, 7 December 2025*



Submit your entry by visiting Council's website or scan the QR Code. You will be asked to attach a 20 - 30 second video with your entry. Please contact Council if you are unable to enter the competition online and we will be able to assist on 1300 308 461.



### Arara St Footpath

The footpath project is nearly complete along Arara Street from the Kuranda Library to Barang Street. This project was funded by the Australian Government under the Active Transport Fund.



Registration is

# Open Now!



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

**Solo | Duo | Trio | Male | Female | Mixed | Corporate Services**  
**Fitness Club | Over 35s | Over 55s | School | Social**



### Christmas Closures & Operating Hours



All **Customer Service Centres** and **Libraries** will close from Monday, 22 December 2025 and re-open Monday, 5 January 2026.

**For all urgent enquires, call Council's 24/7 hotline 1300 308 461.**

**Garbage Collection:** No disruption - collection as per normal service days - including public holidays.

**Waste Transfer Stations:** Closed Christmas Day - all other days will be normal operating hours.

**Kuranda Aquatic Centre:** 24 Dec (open 7am - 12pm), 25-26 Dec closed, 27-31 Dec regular hours, 1 Jan closed. Contact 4093 7109

### Mayor's Christmas Appeal

The 2025 Mayor's Christmas Appeal has been launched. Each year, generous community members and organisations make donations which Council then distributes to local families in need with the help of community organisations across the Shire, including the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre.

Council would like to encourage residents to get behind the annual cause and donate to the appeal to assist those in need. If you have never donated before, please consider making a small donation to the Mayor's Christmas Appeal for the first time in 2025.

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

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

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

### Discount Green Waste Days in December

#### Kuranda Transfer Station

**Saturday, 6 December and Sunday, 7 December 2025**

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

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



1300 308 461



info@msc.qld.gov.au



www.msc.qld.gov.au



MareebaShireCouncil





# Bree's Barron River BULLETIN

**Ms Bree James MP**

**State Member for Barron River**

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

☎ 07 4229 0100 ✉ [Barron.River@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Barron.River@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
✉ Tenancy 2.2, 2 Chelsea Lane, Redlynch QLD 4870

Last weekend, the Premier David Crisafulli, Terry James MP for Mulgrave and I hosted our first "Thank You For Your Service" volunteers event where we welcomed incredible volunteers across the region to thank them for what they do.

It was great to share the evening with Kuranda Rural Fire Brigade and Speewah Rural Fire Brigade representatives, Barry Childs and Mick Dub. We are hoping to make this an annual event and look forward to welcoming more volunteers next year.

I also want to thank our local SES for their continued support. SES celebrates 50 years this year and our regional FNQ SES team recently competed in the state SES Disaster Rescue Challenge and guess what - they came third! What an amazing achievement!

Our veteran family community also has some fantastic news. Land for a Legacy House in Smithfield has been confirmed, thanks to the Cairns Regional Council and I'm thrilled to share that the Crisafulli Government has committed \$1 million to get this project underway. Earlier this year, I launched a petition calling for funding for the Legacy House and over 1,000 locals added their voices to support it. To everyone who backed the campaign, thank you.

## KURANDA RANGE ROAD

If you're travelling along Kuranda Range Road (Kennedy Highway, Cairns-Mareeba) this holiday season, here's what you need to know:

No night closures from Thursday 18 December 2025 through to the end of January 2026.

Night works will continue with single-lane traffic control starting early January 2026. Some short-term or ad-hoc night closures may occur in 2026 – advance notice will be given.

From 18 December 2025 to 4 January 2026, roadworks will be minimised to make travel safer and smoother. Only one single-lane traffic control area will be in place at Henry Ross Lookout.



*Terry James MP for Mulgrave and Bree James MP for Barron River thanking volunteers Mick Dub (First Officer, Speewah Rural Fire Brigade) and Barry Child (First Officer, Kuranda/Myola Rural Fire Brigade).*

## THANK YOU AND STAY SAFE

As we wrap up the year, I want to thank everyone for their continued support and for sharing issues of concern with me. We have had a lot of success so far, but there are still plenty more issues that need to be addressed and I will continue to work hard for our region.

We will never forget the devastation of the Cyclone Jasper floods two years ago, an event that changed lives, reshaped our region and left a mark on all of us. A powerful reminder to prepare early, stay informed and stay safe, because resilience begins long before the storm arrives.

Until next year, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## Message from Matt Your Member for Leichhardt

07 4051 2220  
200 Mulgrave Road, Westcourt  
[matt.smith.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:matt.smith.mp@aph.gov.au)  
Matt Smith MP on Facebook and Instagram

**Hello residents of the Kuranda region.** I would like to introduce myself. I am your Federal Member of Parliament, Matt Smith and from now on I'll be providing a monthly update in *The Kuranda Paper* as to the work that I'm doing here in the Kuranda region, across the electorate of Leichhardt and down in Canberra.

As I'm sure you're all aware, the Federal Government has provided \$245 million to go towards the construction of the Kuranda Barron River Bridge. The bridge, which will be delivered by the Federal Government alongside the Queensland Government, is currently in planning with works currently estimated to kick off in early 2028.

It's also been a big couple of months in Parliament delivering some important changes including fighting for better environmental protections, making it easier to buy a home and reducing the costs of PBS medicines.

One change many local parents will be focused on will be the under 16s socials ban.

This means from 10 December, social media platforms will be required to ban access to accounts for everyone until they turn 16. To help parents, responsibility will be on the companies - not parents and kids - to comply with the law. If you want any further information, please let me and my team know.

In big news for locals with HECS Debts, the Albanese Labor Government has passed laws that take 20% off HECS and VET Debts. You should get notifications soon as to how much your HECS or VET payments have been reduced by. We've also got legislation going through that brings down the amount you will pay year-on-year on your HECS debt.

If you've got any questions about these issues, or any other federal government services, such as MyAgedCare, Services Australia or the NDIS, reach out to my office at [matt.smith.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:matt.smith.mp@aph.gov.au) or give them a call on 07 4051 2220.

My office is located at 200 Mulgrave Road, Westcourt. And please check out my social media at Matt Smith MP on Facebook and Instagram.



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**Max & Jodie Turner  
MOB: 0418 150 759**

**PH: 4092 1999  
E: [maximumpestman@hotmail.com](mailto:maximumpestman@hotmail.com)  
W: [www.maxpestman.com](http://www.maxpestman.com)**





# THE YEAR THAT WAS @

# THE KURANDA PAPER

# 2025



DEC/JAN

#371

2025 marked the 34th year of uninterrupted publication of Kuranda's own independent community newspaper and with the July 2025 edition, the start of our 35th. A very special thank you to all the fabulous, generous artists, writers and photographers whose creativity graces our pages, adding that bit of Kuranda creative spark to each edition. And of course, as advertising is our sole source of income, we simply could not remain viable without the continued support of our wonderful local advertisers. Thank you. Don't forget that every edition of *The Kuranda Paper* is available on our website if you want to read a past edition that you may have missed at [www.kurandapaper.com](http://www.kurandapaper.com)

Our masthead for the last edition for 2024 featured mural artwork by graffiti artist Jak Lilley (Paradox Creative), commissioned by Council for the long awaited upgrade of the Kuranda Skate Park. News on the front page suggested we should all celebrate having made it through an incredibly challenging year, with Christmas Twilight markets set to end it on a high note. An end of year update from CleanCo detailed the incredible amount of repair works done through the year to the Kuranda Weir and the riverscape of the Barron at Kuranda, following the Cyclone Jasper flooding in December 2023. A Grinter's Tale reminded us that as we look forward to a New Year we can all make small changes and the first step towards that is to shrug off apathy and get involved.

Rainfall for December 2024: 568.7 mm (Total rainfall for 2024: 3278.3 mm). Rainfall January 2025: 510.1 mm



FEB

#372

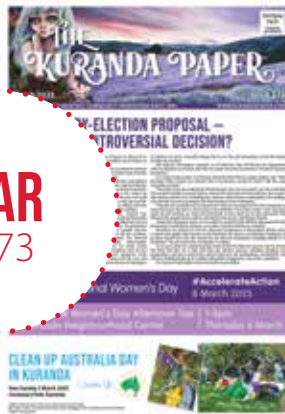
Our masthead for the month featured an original painting *Platypus Wandering* by local artist George Norman Riley. Our front page story was also platypus related, with the good news that Djabugay Bulmba Rangers had discovered Ngunba (platypus) in three different locations around Kuranda, for some the first sighting made in 40 to 50 years. Works continued on the Kuranda Weir Recovery Project and CleanCo reported that works were ahead of schedule.

There was sad and unexpected news of the passing of councillor Kevin Davies, creating a vacancy on Council and raising the issue of whether a by-election needed to be held, the decision ultimately being made by Council and the Minister for Local Government.

Local author Ann Harth gave us the first of eleven columns for 2025, generously sharing her tips for writing fiction. Our resident astrologer, Rob Hart, welcomed us to a new year with a wish that "May your planets align and May you thrive in the year of 2025" (Rob promised no more poetry but we weren't convinced). Speewah Fire Warden Mick Dub was awarded a Highly Commended Community Service Award as part of the Mareeba Shire Australia Day awards.

The Cassowary Art Trail Project welcomed the seventh hand-painted cassowary statue *Bimby-Djaruy* (Father Bird) painted by Yirrganydji artist Corrin Skeene, taking its place at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. More Cassowary Art Trail Project news was the approval by Mareeba Shire Council for the Kuranda Big Cassowary, planned for Centenary Park, to proceed to the detailed planning and fundraising stage. More info at [www.cassowarytrail.com.au](http://www.cassowarytrail.com.au).

Rainfall for the month: 612.5 mm



MAR

#373

Our masthead for March featured an original painting *A Moment's Quiet Contemplation* by local artist Kirty Bell. Meanwhile many residents were contemplating if Council's decision to hold a by-election following the untimely passing of Councillor Kevin Davies was a controversial one, given that Council could have just filled the position by giving it to the March 2024 election runner-up as has been the process previously. Many ratepayers questioned the not insignificant cost of holding a by-election.

Following inspections by Queensland Rail, a number of the railway bridges between Kuranda and Mareeba were found to have damage requiring repairs and were unsafe for the iconic Savannahlander train to travel over. Arrangements were made to truck the Savannahlander to Mareeba so lucky travellers can still experience the Savannahlander journey even if its new starting and ending point was in Mareeba while the bridges are being repaired.

Council continued with Cyclone Jasper flooding disaster recovery works, tackling multiple land slips around Kuranda. February can be muddy, muggy and buggy but it can also be one of the best months for birds and butterflies as Kuranda Conservation reminded us. Minibeast Wildlife gave us a little glimpse into how they have contributed to award winning natural history TV programs. Productions filmed in Kuranda include *Micro Monsters* with David Attenborough, *Life in Colour*, *Planet Insect*, *Earthsounds*, *Tiny World* and many others. In 2024, Minibeast hosted the BBC for a month working on a new invertebrate series called *Hidden Planet*.

Rainfall for the month: 592.6 mm



APR

#374

Our masthead for April featured details from a digitally altered photograph *Fan of Leaves* by award winning local artist and naturalist Buck Richardson ("The Mothman" of Kuranda)

Work was well underway on improvements to Coondoo Street, addressing a number of maintenance issues arising since the major re-development of the Village in 1997-98, including footpath upgrades, repairs to planter boxes, remedial works for the iconic State-heritage-listed Kuranda fig trees, replacement of ageing (some non-functioning) street lights and the addition of fairy lights to the upper Coondoo Street fig trees, bringing a little extra magic to the village after dark, with twilight trading and other events in mind.

It was a sad farewell to Hannah Wattel, known to many as CocoNut Mama, a fixture for many years at the Kuranda Original Rainforest Markets and for many visitors someone who embodied that Kuranda 'hippie spirit' they were hoping to come across.

The Mareeba Shire by-election was scheduled to go ahead on Saturday 5 April. Frustrating news for Kuranda Range Road users was that changes to traffic conditions were set to continue for the rest of the year, including night closures five nights a week. The Kuranda Historical Society presented an overview of the importance of oral history with tips on interviewing, processing and archiving.

Rainfall for the month: 96.1mm



MAY

#375

Our masthead for May featured an aerial photograph of the Kuranda Railway Station and adjacent Barron River by Kevin Explores, a birds-eye view of the iconic buildings and riverside location.

Anzac Day in Kuranda 2025 was held on a rare (for us), wonderfully fine and dry day, marking the 110th anniversary of the ANZAC Corps landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Kuranda RSL Sub Branch again hosted the Dawn Service at the Kuranda Railway Station, followed by a 'Gun Fire' breakfast and the Anzac March up Coondoo Street, culminating with a service and wreath-laying in Centenary Park. And the Anzac Day dinner at the Speewah Tavern was also deemed a great success.

The Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre was pleased a grant through Neighbourhood Centres Queensland would assist in extending their community food program through a community garden, with earthworks to make the site more accessible for community members and the installation of above-ground garden beds.

The Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce was changing, following 10 years of intensive activity which has seen these terrible invasive ants now under control in the current area. The Taskforce having largely achieved its objectives, the new model has Kuranda Envirocare taking over educational activities, while residents in the treatment areas will liaise directly with WTMA rather than through a taskforce coordinator.

Rainfall for the month: 171.5 mm





Our masthead for the month was (we think) a Kuranda Paper first, being an original design *Red Tail* by local tattooist Alex Harris from the Folkhouse Tattoo Studio, located in the Kuranda Original Rainforest Markets.

Impressive funding for important conservation programs through the North Queensland Wildlife Trust was highlighted with news of their annual distribution to worthy wildlife causes. The Trust is operated by Angela and Peter Freeman, better known to many as the owners and operators of the iconic tourist attractions Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, Kuranda Koala Gardens and Birdworld Kuranda, where a number of revenue raising programs operate, including bottle recycling and an automatic donation for every wildlife encounter photo. All of which contributes to causes such as local bat rescue, care and rehabilitation, strategic habitat purchase in the Daintree and the Magnetic Island Koala Hospital, among others.

MP Bree James, Member for Barron River shared information and graphics from the Department of Transport Main Roads (TMR) as part of the business case summary for the Barron River Bridge, Kuranda, Replacement, with a recommendation to build a new bridge on a new alignment, downstream from the existing bridge. The old bridge will stay in place until the new bridge is completed. Provision for a safe pedestrian path would also be included. Still a long way to go with TMR now moving to the next stage of planning.

June was set to be a big month for bats with the annual Cairns Bat Festival, including the Flying Foxtel cocktail-mocktail Trail. Seedsavers made the case for saving and sharing the seeds of the fascinatingly named African Horned Cucumbers and Winged Beans.

**Rainfall for the month: 41.0 mm**



Our masthead for July featured an illustration by Sandi Steffensen from the award-winning book *The Trees*, authored by her brother Victor. *The Trees* won the 2025 DANZ (Diversity in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand ) Children's Book Award.

July was also our 34th anniversary edition, the very first print edition of *The Kuranda Paper* having been published on 26 July 1991.

CleanCo reported on repairs to the Barron River riverbank at Kuranda as part of a multi-year project to address the incredible damage inflicted by flooding post-Cyclone Jasper in December 2023. Repairs were on the homestretch with early works focused on urgent repairs and stabilising key parts of the riverbed. The team was moving into the final and most comprehensive phase of the job. Construction was set to continue throughout the year with work expected to be completed in early 2026, with final infrastructure repairs following in the 2026 dry season. As climate extremes become more frequent, the current recovery project is a reminder of the importance of resilience, preparation and local collaboration.

Locals watching locals: the Kuranda Kooky Film Fair was set to be an entertaining and probably hilarious night at the Kuranda Amphitheatre, featuring works by a number of local filmmakers. A new Mareeba Shire RADF (Regional Arts Development Fund) Advisory Committee was announced with Bianca Velder, Brioni McGrath, Connie Rovina, Kylie Lambert, Melissa Waters and Theodore Tremblay being appointed for a three year term, bringing with them a diverse range of experience and passion for the arts, culture and heritage.

**Rainfall for the month: 21.4 mm**



Our masthead for August was an original watercolour painting *St Saviours Anglican Church*, Kuranda by local artist Ron Clarke.

The Kuranda Amphitheatre's inaugural Kuranda Community Monthly Market was a great success for local vendors, community groups and visitors. The aim is to support locals, growers and makers, as well as fostering a strong sense of community spirit in changeable times.

A major redevelopment project for Skyrail was announced. It will take place between July 2026 and November 2027, with an estimated cost of \$85million. The project includes major upgrades to gondolas, stations and lines and will take place in three stages. Skyrail will have shuttle bus services available between Smithfield and Kuranda when parts of the line are closed during the project.

Locals continued to be treated to world class music concerts at St Saviours Church, always a magical event. This time it was local musician Toshi Sakamoto and Japanese duo Soubugen, visiting from Hokkaido. A wonderful atmospheric venue, especially now that the fairy lights are twinkling outside in the fig trees.

We welcomed back Youthlink with a regular column. Kuranda Conservation recommended a new app produced by QPWS Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service) *QWildlife*, which can be used to record sightings of local cassowaries. It's free and available from your preferred app supplier.

**Rainfall for the month: 22.9 mm**



Our masthead for September featured the historic ceramic tile mural outside the Ngoonbi Office on Coondoo Street, the photo being taken just before the tiles were removed for safekeeping as the site undergoes a major re-development. The mural was designed by Edward Deemera from Yarrabah Pottery and installed in 1975, under instruction from potter Peter Van Der Helder from Kuranda, when the Jilli Binna Information Centre was operating an arts, craft and museum space in the building. The tiles will be re-integrated into the new development.

Front page news for Ngoonbi Community Services Indigenous Corporation (*Looking Forward, Looking Back*) was reaching 50 years of service, originally established as the Ngoonbi Cooperative Society Ltd in January 1975.

With the change of hands for *Frogs Restaurant*, owner Terry Pates shared some fascinating memories from his 40 years running *Frogs*, while musician Brian Clarke recounted how the venue had been pivotal in developing and supporting local live music.

The annual *Speewah to the Hat* Charity Walk attracted almost 60 intrepid trekkers and raised \$6405 for two local community groups and a mother in need of a little help as her child undergoes medical treatment. This year's total means that in the past six years since the *Walk* has become a fundraiser, it has raised over \$30,000.

**Rainfall for the month: 139.5 mm**



Our masthead for October featured a hand-embroidered panel *Sampler #1* by local textile artist Robyn King, one of eleven artists from the Kuranda Arts Cooperative whose works formed the *Gathered* exhibition, running at the Tablelands Regional Gallery in Atherton during October and November. "This work is an expression of my admiration for the resilience and beauty of Australian flora" said Robyn.

Council called for community consultation and input for a planned playground project at the Arara Street Community Precinct (old Kuranda school site).

Mural works by Koah-based artist Violet Shaban were well underway in Centenary Park, bringing new vibrancy to the heart of the village. Here at *The Kuranda Paper* we were happy to be able to get our new newspaper trolley stands installed at several locations in the Village. Thanks to John Carroll for his design of the stands and the Kuranda Men's Shed for help with construction.

Myola residents John and Kathryn Edwards took out the *Champion Garden* award in the 2025 Mareeba and District Lions Garden Awards.

The Buluwai Indigenous Corporation launched the free *Kuranda Talking Trails* app, featuring Traditional Elder Willie Brim and TV presenter Mel Symons, offering personal insights and local knowledge of over 40 tour stops in and around Kuranda.

Senior's Week was celebrated by both the Kuranda CWA and Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre with community morning teas.

**Rainfall for the month: 42.5 mm**



Our masthead for November featured an aerial photograph by Kevin Explores of the Savannahlander train crossing the Surprise Creek bridge on the Cairns-Kuranda railway line in July 2023. Concerns remain that repairs to several railway bridges between Kuranda and Mareeba have not been completed and mean the Savannahlander train has not been able to resume its usual route from the coast westwards since March 2025. Currently it is based in Mareeba but it is hoped that there will be both funding and political will to repair these bridges as soon as possible and keep the full length of this historic railway track open for all users.

Our front page was given over to coverage of the Kuranda District State College 2025 Awards ceremony, which celebrated student excellence on the beautiful grounds of the Myola campus. celebrating student excellence. The Kuranda Media Association, publishers of *The Kuranda Paper*, were pleased to be able to once again donate prizes for both Primary and Secondary Creative Writing Excellence Awards.

Local teenager Hunter Thompson, aged 17, shared some photos from his recent representation for Australia at the 2025 ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships in Jesolo, Italy in October. Hunter wished to express his thanks to everyone who had supported him and made it possible for him to take to the world stage.

The Kuranda Rangers Football club topped off a great year with an awards night celebration at the Kuranda Recreation Centre. A new season begins on Thursday 29 January 2026 with three weeks of Come and Try Days. Go Rangers!

**Rainfall for the month: 37.0 mm to 17/11**





Attendees of the Business Resilience Program held at Kuranda Library on 24 November 2025.

As we head toward the Christmas holidays and the start of the 2026 visitor season, Mareeba Shire Tourism (MST) and the Kuranda Visitor Information Centre (KVIC) have been focused on preparing the village and region for cyclone and wet season readiness. Strong communications, updated operator information and disaster preparation remain priorities to ensure both businesses and visitors are well supported. Volunteers continue to be the backbone of the Centre and with our Christmas gathering on 19 December approaching, we invite locals and operators to consider a small gift or card to thank them for their generous service throughout the year.

Twilight Trading in Kuranda is well underway and promises a relaxed, festive night in the village. Coondoo Street looks spectacular under the illuminated fig trees, creating magical evenings for locals and visitors alike, a perfect backdrop for family photos and festive shopping!

MST has supported the marketing of this event and we welcome community groups or local businesses who would like to sponsor a small festive activation or set up a market stall. Operators are encouraged to notify the KVIC of any special offers or activities they would like promoted so visitors can discover them.

In November, Kuranda was buzzing with business energy thanks to the Business Resilience and Digital Capability workshop run by Tourism Tribe. More than twenty attendees from across Kuranda participated and left with practical tools to strengthen their digital presence and build resilience. Participants also received a free digital health check and two hours of personalised mentoring to help implement recommendations. These workshops are designed to be hands-on and directly useful for operators preparing for the busy season ahead.

If you're thinking about a New Year's resolution for your business, here's a simple one: make sure your Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) listings are live and up to date by 31 December. This is the key to being assessed for the Best of Queensland Experiences Program. Linking your Google Business Profile to ATDW earns you ten points and boosts your visibility—an easy win. And if you'd like a hand, I'm happy to guide you through it.

Now's also a great time to take advantage of Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) That Holiday Feeling campaign. Running across QLD, NSW and VIC, with TV, social and outdoor exposure, it's a perfect moment to align your social media and ATDW listings. Free templates, toolkits and the Drive Campaign 'Australia's Holiday Highway' make it easy to get involved. Free CapCut templates, campaign toolkits and industry resources such as the Drive Campaign 'Australia's Holiday Highway' provide practical ways to leverage the campaign and promote Queensland road trips.

On the adventure front, The Mareeba Mountain Goats Inc. recently launched the Destination Davies MTB Plan and new Destination media material, showcasing mountain biking as a must-do experience for the region. Linking trails, spectacular landscapes and local tourism offerings, this project promises more overnight stays and opportunities for local operators

In other regional news, FNQ Booze has launched as a standalone digital publication celebrating Far North Queensland's craft drink scene. From rainforest gins to small-batch beers and innovative cocktail bars, the magazine highlights local producers, sustainable practices and place-based craft, helping to strengthen the region's reputation as a must-visit destination for food and drink tourism.

At MST's recent AGM, three new Directors were welcomed for 2026: Maree Treadwell, Jacklyn Kiernan and Clare Bees. Their energy and leadership will help MST continue to support regional tourism, local businesses and operators in the coming year.

**Simone Van Der Zwaag**, Manager @ Kuranda Visitor Information Centre.



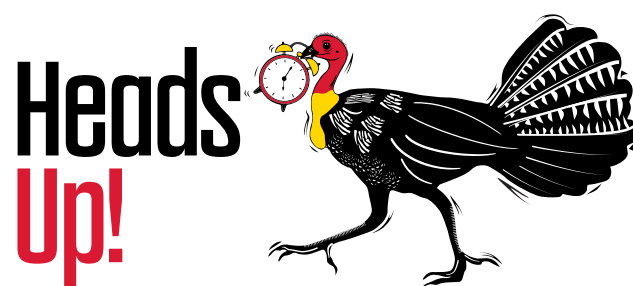
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**Mareeba SHIRE COUNCIL**

Note: Daily editions of *Cairns Post* load in at 11am.

December 2025 Events in Mareeba Shire:		
Date	Event	Location / Notes
6 Dec	Koah Hall Market	Final Koah Hall Market for 2025.
12 Dec	Kuranda Twilight Trading	Twilight Trading lights up Kuranda with late-night shopping, glowing trees and a festive village vibe made for an easy, family-friendly Christmas outing.
14 Dec	Kuranda Community Market	Kuranda Amphitheatre - Final Kuranda Community Market for 2025.
15 Dec	Munch & Learn	3D Printing for Beginners, Kuranda Community Precinct, 15 Dec, 9–11am; Mareeba Library, 1–3pm, 07 4086 4762.



The Kuranda Paper deadline for February 2026 edition #383 is **Thursday 22 January 2026**. Please send all submissions and advertising to [mail@kurandapaper.com](mailto:mail@kurandapaper.com)

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## This month we are delighted to welcome Glynis Lee, mixed media artist, to our Gallery.

**Can you describe your artistic style. What is your preferred medium and why?** My imagery could be described as subtle, often with hidden or elusive messages. I create prints on paper and textiles and am particularly keen to produce three-dimensional forms. I use a variety of printmaking techniques such as etching, photogravure, woodblock, screen print, lithography, drypoint, collagraph and encaustic. However, I like combining my prints with layers of other processes such as plant dyes and prints, felting with silk and wool fibres, photography, watercolour and cyanotype. I like the variety of mark-making effects that can be achieved through different printmaking techniques. I am keen to combine processes to achieve individual artworks using the same imagery in different ways. Sometimes I think I should concentrate on one or two processes, but then I get an idea that involves a technique I haven't used in a while and then I get involved in that process again.

**What motivates you as an artist?** My fellow artist friends often motivate me through sharing their knowledge and experience, encouraging me to join art groups, workshops and exhibitions, or just creating art together. Working to a theme can make you think outside the box and try new things.

My inner creative motivation is to investigate cultural and environmental connections in search for a sense of place. In addition, my recent focus has been on science-inspired creative projects incorporating plants, birds and insects of Northern Australia.

**Describe the best piece of art you have created** It's difficult to choose one artwork that is the best, but I think the installation work *Into the in-between* is a favourite because it contained so many elements such as artist books, two and three-dimensional textile prints, lights and sound. It was a fully immersible experience with works on the walls and floor as well as suspended from the ceiling. I wanted to create a meditative environment for the audience.

**What artists inspire you and where do you find inspiration?** Many artists inspire me, either through working with or meeting them, to seeing their artwork in galleries or on-line. I am amazed by the amount of work and dedication many artists put into their craft and their passion for bringing an idea to fruition.

I am inspired by my surroundings, particularly in the natural environment, from microcosms to colours, patterns, sounds, light and shadow. That's one of the reasons I love living in this area. Travelling to other environments and cultures is also inspiring to me as an artist.

**How do you learn new skills and/or techniques?** I increase my skills and techniques through workshops, learning from fellow artists or through on-line methods. Sometimes I have travelled to other states and countries to learn techniques, but it's great when specialists are brought here to impart their skills to the wider community.

**What has been the most challenging and rewarding part of being an artist?** The most challenging part of being an artist is the marketing and administration involved in exhibiting and selling artworks. For most artists, the enjoyment is in creating art. The most rewarding part is when someone likes your work enough to buy it.



Glynis Lee



Indigo Culicoides 1



Emergence 1 Installation

**What do you like to do when you're not creating art?** I enjoy singing and playing music with others. Like visual art, music is a creative process that brings a lot of joy and fulfilment. I am also a keen bushwalker and traveller.

**Can you describe your studio/workspace and your favourite time of day to create?** My home studio is light and airy and has enough space to allow me to spread out when I'm working. I prefer to work in the mornings when I'm more alert, but sometimes the day disappears before I know it.

**What is your favourite tool that you can't do without?** I couldn't do without my etching press as so many printmaking techniques I use require a heavier pressure than you can produce with hand printing. However, I also couldn't do without my camera to capture all the moments and imagery that inspire me, especially when I don't have time to sit and draw or paint on the spot.

**Do you think art is important in society?** Art, whether visual, performative, auditory or sensory, is essential for society. It documents history, gives voice to the individual and can engage whole communities. Art is a conduit for creative thought and an excellent way to relieve stress.

## Wind-up for 2025

The Co-op has enjoyed another vibrant year on our corner of Coondoo Street. Our membership continues to grow, with inspiring new artworks to freshen our Gallery display. Visitors are delighted to discover locally crafted pieces they can take home as meaningful reminders of their time here. Having an artist on duty offers visitors a deeper, more personal glimpse into the stories behind the artworks.

During October - November, we hosted a highly successful exhibition at the Tableland Regional Gallery, which challenged our artists to create new pieces inspired by the theme *Gathered*. The show was officially opened by Mareeba Shire Mayor Angela Toppin, a long-time regular volunteer at our Gallery, adding a special touch to the occasion.

As part of the *Gathered* exhibition at the Tablelands Regional Gallery, Colin Free provided a two week workshop across the 2nd and 9th of November. The workshops were billed as an Introduction to Abstract Painting and went from 10am-2pm on both days. All participants ended up taking home at least one completed canvas and one paper piece. It seemed to be well received and enjoyed by all.

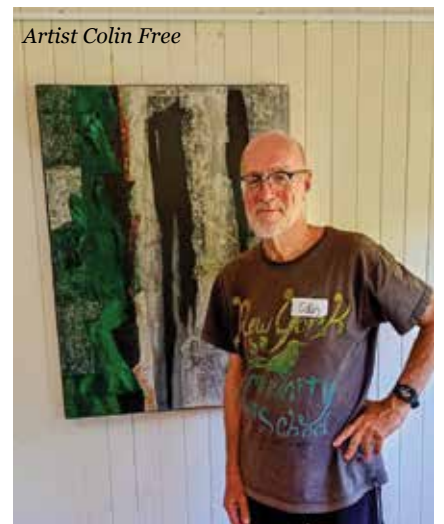
In November we held our AGM with the management committee remaining the same, gallery procedures reviewed and lots of new ideas coming forward. We're looking forward to the Twilight Trading event on 12 December and our special Christmas Dinner being held at Petit Cafe.

**Mollie Bosworth, President**

Wishing all our friends and supporters a very happy and safe holiday season and a creative new year!



Into the in-between (photo Fiona Morrison)



Artist Colin Free

## LIFE DRAWING AT THE KURANDA CWA HALL

The Kuranda Art Cooperative offers Life Drawing at the Kuranda CWA Hall (corner of Thongon and Barang Streets, Kuranda Village) on the first Sunday of each month.

**Next sessions: Sunday 7 December, 1-3pm. Sunday 4 January, 1-3pm.**

A great way to meet other artists. Students, intermediate and advanced artists wishing to draw from the model are welcome to the monthly activity which meets on the first Sunday of each month.

**What to bring, what to expect:**

Arrive 15 minutes early to set up tables, easels and chairs. A series of short warm-up poses starting at 1pm precede longer 10-to-20-minute poses. Two, 10-minute breaks allow artists to mingle and invite critical discussion. Tables and chairs are provided but artists provide their own drawing materials and easels.

**Cost:**

\$15 contributes towards model and rent.

For further information:

Theo Tremblay 0415 127 089



Life Drawing sketch by Theo Tremblay



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**OFFICIAL KURANDA CULTURAL GUIDE & TOURISM INFORMATION**

## Buluwai Indigenous Corporation News



*Buluwai Rangers in the field for 2025 Spectacled Flying-fox Monitoring Program Credit: TERRAIN NRM*

### TERRAIN NRM 2025 Spectacled Flying-fox Program

Facebook, 29 October 2025: A great turnout at these workshops. We are working with Indigenous Rangers to prepare for upcoming Spectacled Flying-fox counts as part of our science monitoring program, so we're effectively bringing two knowledge systems together for better monitoring. Collecting population data is a vital step in helping this endangered species to recover. It tells us how the species is faring over time and whether our management actions are making a difference. Thanks for coming everyone!

This is part of our Spectacled Flying-fox project funded by the Australian Government under the Saving Native Species Program.

**Meetings** 10am – 12pm, Saturdays @ Kuranda Amphitheatre  
**2026 DATES:** 14 February, 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June

**office@buluwai.org**  
**www.buluwai.org**

**BULUWAI**  
 LAND PEOPLE CULTURE WATER FLORA FAUNA ARTEFACTS  
 INDIGENOUS CORPORATION

**Buluwai Indigenous Corporation AGM**

Please be advised the Annual General Meeting will be held at Davies Creek Crossing, Bare Hill turnoff @ 11am on Sunday 14 December. RSVP to office@buluwai.org, or call Dianne on 0459 062 784.

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

**f** **ig**

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 contributors, advertisers and readers  
*a happy, healthy and prosperous 2026*  
 from *The Kuranda Paper* team.



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There are places that feel like they're built of steel and brick. And then there are places like the Kuranda Amphitheatre! Built from memories, sweat, noise, laughter, paint stains, applause and the unstoppable belief that a small town can create something bigger than itself.

This month, the Main Stage opened its arms to The Wizard of Oz. Our community turning up, laughing and feeling right at home together. It carried its weight in heart, sweat and standing ovations. Kids, parents, neighbours, musicians, tech minds, costume wizards, kitchen legends and stage heroes stitched this story together one rehearsal, one painted backdrop, one late-night at a time. As the lights came up on opening night, you could feel the anticipation. Mums with phones ready, grandparents with eyes open, people buzzing with nerves backstage, volunteers stirring sauce and cooking dinner like they were part of the orchestra. Thank you to every person who turned up, held a role, lent a hand, or cheered from their seat; you made this magic happen. And when the emerald dust settled, we were reminded that Kuranda doesn't 'put on shows'. Kuranda creates worlds!



Photo: Fred Starke

It's easy to forget, when a place feels like family, that it still needs to be cared for. If we love something, we keep it running. Buy a ticket, pull some weeds, volunteer in the kitchen, put rubbish in the bin, cheer loudly and back the people who make the magic. When we show up with our hands, our voices, or our wallets, we're saying 'this matters to us'. That's what belonging looks like.

FireFly's weekly pizza nights at The Billabong finishing up has left a hole big enough to feel in your bones: that warm, rowdy, sauce splattered love of music and mateship.

We won't pretend to replace it, but Brackets & Jam might just carry that spark forward. Brackets & Jam is not going anywhere - but it has moved to the first Saturday of every month, including December and January. Bring your voice, your courage, your poem, your guitar, your comedy skit, your half-finished idea, your wild experiment. This stage isn't waiting for perfect. It's waiting for brave! Food and bar tickets available on the door, come hungry, come curious, come ready. Also big thank you to Carmen for letting us borrow your coffee machine! New swanky coffees available from the TopShed during events soon!

#### Sunday 14 December — Community Market (9am–1pm)

The last market before a pause. The next one won't return until April 2026. Come for the stalls and grab a Christmas gift made by locals with love and come to be amongst the vibe! Buskers, food, laughter, drinks and community!

#### Saturday 20 December — On the Green + Members Christmas Party (from 9am)

A spruce up day where gardening gloves become our instruments and weeding becomes the dancing. Stay afterwards for cheer and connection. Follow us on Facebook for updates and details.

#### Meet Bundarra

A cassowary (Bundarra) made of culture, community and artistic excellence. Donated by Shine On Gimuy, created by Jacob McGrath, inspired by Doreen Collins of Wujal Wujal. Not a decoration, a reminder that art carries story and watching this giant ancient creature watch over the Main Stage is something so special! And yes... there's an unveiling coming soon. And we'd love to light this magical work of art with good quality solar lighting. If you or your business wants to help Bundarra glow at night, send us a message at [info@kurandaamphitheatre.org](mailto:info@kurandaamphitheatre.org) - no pressure, just community sparkle.

#### EcoArts in 2026

The Amphitheatre has received a \$5,000 RADF grant from Mareeba Shire Council to seed a Pilot EcoArts Festival in mid 2026. This won't be built by a committee alone, it needs dreamers, makers and doers. If your hands or ideas are itching, email [info@kurandaamphitheatre.org](mailto:info@kurandaamphitheatre.org) and say you want in.

#### KAS AGM ahead - get involved

If you've ever stood in the crowd thinking, 'Someone should put on \_\_\_\_\_ here,' that idea might just be tapping you on the shoulder. The Amphi is listening for collaborators.

The AGM will be held in February. But don't wait for a meeting to get involved, most of the magic here happens long before agendas and minutes ever show up, hit us up! Your strengths are needed, do what you do best for our community space!

The Amphitheatre doesn't belong to us because it is free. It belongs to us because we choose to make it live. Nearly fifty years ago, this place began as a dream under the trees. It's here today for the same reason: people cared enough to build, scrub, paint, argue, organise, rehearse, carry, donate, clap, cheer and believe.

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

AT THE KURANDA AMPHITHEATRE

**KURANDA COMMUNITY MARKET**

2ND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

GET YOUR XMAS GIFTS FROM OUR LOCAL MAKERS!

LAST MARKET TILL APRIL!

party!

SUNDAY 14 DEC

9 AM - 1 PM

FOR STALLS OR VOLUNTEERING  
CONTACT WASANA ON 0402 130 225

## KURANDA COMMUNITY MARKET - 2025 YEARLY WRAP-UP

December 2025 marks six months operation of the new Kuranda Community Market and what a delightful run it has been.

Filled with colour, creativity and community spirit, the markets have achieved our goals of bringing people together to strengthen community, sharing information and promoting sustainable consumption that supports local growers, creators and makers.

From locally made arts and crafts and fresh tropical produce to essential information and fundraising by community groups and sporting clubs, our markets were buzzing with visitors and locals enjoying the best of what local Kuranda has to offer. Live music drifted through the Kuranda Amphitheatre as volunteers served up delicious food, kids chased each other between the stalls and folk caught up with friends they hadn't seen in a while.

Thank you to every shopper, vendor, musician and supporter who helped keep the market thriving. A special shout-out to Far North Queensland Community Arts and Eco Events Inc, JC Rios, Ochitha, Pix, Noreen, Polly, Tim, Brioni, Janet and all the hardworking volunteers in the Amphi kitchen. Your energy is what makes the Kuranda Community Market more than a marketplace—it's a meeting place.

With that in mind we would love to welcome more workshops and activity-based stalls next year. If you have an idea for one, please get in touch. Here's to more creativity, connection and community in 2026!

And we would love to see you at our last market for the year on Sunday 14 December. This is a great opportunity to get some locally-made gorgeous creations or some low-impact pre-loved stocking fillers for Christmas or Solstice or Hanukah presents.

The Kuranda Community Market organising team wishes everyone a safe and splendid Yuletide holiday season and we will see you again in April.

**Warm regards, Wasana, David, Sara-Jane, Rachael, Paul (and Lief).**

Will be Closed!  
FOR THE WET

2026

JANUARY - CLOSED FOR WET

FEBRUARY - CLOSED FOR WET

MARCH - CLOSED FOR WET

APRIL - SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> RESUMES

MAY - SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

JUNE - SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>

**KURANDA COMMUNITY MARKET**

(at) KURANDA AMPHITHEATRE

CONTACT 0402 130 225

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO HELP OUT IN 2026 AT THE KURANDA COMMUNITY MARKET

CONTACT WASANA ON 0402 130 225 TO CHAT





## Speewah Mural Unveiling & NBN Support Event

Residents travelling along Speewah Road or walking through the neighbourhood will have noticed the striking new mural taking shape on the concrete water tank in front of the Speewah Fire Brigade. This vibrant artwork, titled Frontline Fire Management, has been created by local artist Violet Shaban and her team, funded through a successful Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grant application by the Speewah District Residents Association (SDRA) to the Mareeba Shire Council.

The mural is a powerful tribute to the Speewah Rural Fire Brigade's long-standing commitment to sustainable fire management, including the use of cool burning practices since the 1980s. It also honours the collaborative efforts between the Brigade, community groups, government agencies and the Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation (DTAC)—showcasing how shared responsibility strengthens both public safety and environmental care.

Beyond its environmental message, the project provides a meaningful platform for local artists, celebrating regional talent and fostering pride in the creative spirit of the community. By transforming Roscommon Park into a space of storytelling and celebration, the mural invites conversation, connection and appreciation across generations and cultures.

### Community Invitation

The SDRA invites all residents to attend the mural viewing on Monday 1 December at 5:30 pm, followed by the general meeting at 6:00 pm at the fire shed in Roscommon Park, Speewah.

### Acknowledgements

The SDRA extends heartfelt thanks to Mick Dowling (Speewah to the Hat: Walk for a Cause), the Speewah Rural Fire Brigade, Bunnings Atherton and the Mareeba Shire Council for their financial support. Special thanks also go to the Queensland Government and Mareeba Shire Council for the RADF grant initiative that made this project possible.



Some of the mural project 'crew' available for a photo during a pause in works: L-R Margaret Butteling, MSC Mayor Angela Toppin, artist Violet Shaban, Greg Sutton, Fire Warden Mick Dub, Fire Warden Mick Dub, Gerry de Bruyn and Theo Tremblay, front Annie Austin.

### NBN Support Available

In addition to the mural unveiling, Nicole Carrol from NBN Co. will be on site to assist residents with connection issues. Attendees are encouraged to check their address at [nbnco.com.au/checkregional](http://nbnco.com.au/checkregional) to understand their service status and optimise their setup. Nicole will provide service health summaries and help resolve performance issues, particularly where retail providers have been unable to assist. She is also available for follow-up contact if you cannot attend the meeting.

All are welcome—come along to celebrate community, creativity and collaboration.

# HALLOWEEN AT SPEEWAH 2025: BETTER THAN EVER

Halloween at Speewah 2025 was a very successful event with over 300 participants (and everyone was well behaved!). Some great costumes were displayed by both children and adults and it was good to see some real originals. Thanks to Speewah Rural Fire Brigade for participating and the Kuranda Police for their attendance.

Thanks to all the wonderful people who donated additional treats – we did a few refill rounds.

And special mentions for their generous prize donation to Petit Café Kuranda, German Tucker, Tropical Prestige Pools, Country Freeze Dry Candy and Marsh's Butchery. Apologies if I have left anyone out. Everyone's input was important and appreciated.

Special thanks to all the residents who participated and decorated their houses in real Halloween 'spirit'.

**Thomas Verfurth, Speewah.**

*Below: Spooky snaps by Thomas Verfurth*





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**Dr Dave Cuming:** *Dermatology, paediatrics, minor surgery – Monday, Wednesday, Friday*

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

**Dr Steve Salleras:** *Thursday*

**Dr Sarah Smith:** *Family medicine and Indigenous health – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday*

**Dr Lauren Taylor:** *Family medicine and Indigenous health – Monday and Wednesday*

**Dr Charlie Williams:** *Men's health, sexual health and chronic disease*

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# A Grinter's Tale

As a pom some time back in ancient history, I have to admit I preferred freezing my butt off on a hard wooden church pew at midnight than throwing the bedclothes off on another hot night in the Tropics.

There was something magical about driving through deserted streets, carol singers long in bed, sometimes snow falling, with just about every house sporting a colourfully lit Christmas tree in a window facing the road.

Reindeer, snowflakes and snowmen just don't work in the Tropics and I often find myself wondering why children don't ask their parents why Santa would wear such ridiculously warm clothes. It's a right giveaway if you ask me.

Sitting here waiting for the approaching thunderstorm to turn the power off and stifle my creativity, I was wondering how I used to fill two pages of a Christmas letter sent to friends all over the world. I looked back at an old yuletide epistle written in the early 2000s, bordered with an array of Christmas décor including snowmen and I can only think that I must have had an air conditioner on in my city office that day to even consider such extraneous clipart.

There was something special about midnight mass as a kid, especially if it was snowing. Aside from staying up late and of course, the aesthetic aspect, it gave me the rare chance to exact revenge on my big brother. One year, when he had been insufferable in the car, as big brothers can be, I stuffed a handful of snow down his polo neck jumper just before he passed Father Gallagher at the entrance to the church, preventing said brother from swearing or retaliating. My mother, seeing her poor son suffer (I saw it as penance), swore in her own little Irish way. "Jaysus, Mary, Mudder of Gawd", she muttered in exasperation as she dipped her icy cold fingers into the holy water font to thaw before blessing herself and audibly praying for me to grow up.

Father Gallagher was a good sport, a huge man with a ruddy face. His face appeared to grow around the arms of his glasses, which disappeared into his flesh like skis into deep snow, holding the scratched lenses atop a red nose like an all year round Rudolf. His claim to fame was being unbeaten hoopla champion at the summer fete and he would thank the Lord profusely as he successfully hooped the bottle of Irish whiskey every single year. I often wondered how he could even see the table through his dirty glasses and he never aimed for the Heinz spaghetti tins or bottles of ketchup, strangely enough. All the ladies would whoop as he hooped and thought he was the best thing since sliced bread.

Those were the days when black lace mantillas were de rigueur for any woman or girl entering church. I still don't understand why, as there were no mosquitoes in that neck of the woods. But then there's lots of things I didn't understand, like why, after listening to Latin dialogue for well over half an hour (except for the sermon, because that went on "in saecula saeculorum" and he wasn't that good), FG would lapse into English. Just before Holy Communion, he said "Are you staying?" In a loud voice, I asked, "Why does he ask that every time, mummy?". Now this was a very genuine question, as it seemed to me that no-one ever had the guts to leave, even if their baby was screaming or a kid like me was coughing its little heart out. If you were dying for a pee, hard luck.

Mum had the grace to laugh (along with most of the congregation) and explained in a whisper. "He said, 'Agnus Dei', which means Lamb of God." Amazingly, I can recite that whole prayer in Latin now, but I still don't understand the Lamb bit.

Those were the days when all the shopping centres had inert nativity scenes with statues of

the holy family, the three wise men (the magi), miscellaneous shepherds who, it appears, had lost all but a couple of tame or curious sheep and at least one donkey who was quite glad to have borne the expectant mother to a place where there was hay, rather than the local pub. I loved those little settings of figurines, there was something about them that was magical and reminded people exactly why we celebrate Christmas.

Our primary school in the UK put on a nativity play and I always hoped for the lead role, but only ever made it to a regular angel (as opposed to the higher rank of an Archangel, with meant wearing coveted silver wings). Nowadays I aspire to be even a regular angel, sadly without success. This was basically just a crowd part, requiring no skill except the ability to stand still and not fidget or wave at your parents, as that would dislodge your wings and possibly knock your neighbour into the wings of the stage. One could only hope.

Joseph and the shepherds, armed with the ubiquitous walking staffs, used to have swordfights with their tree branches backstage and some poor unsuspecting sheep or donkey would end up in tears or a fight would ensue, depending on the gender or mood of said wee beastie. On reflection, I was probably glad to be a low ranking angel and not a sheep.

I vividly remember the audience of parents and teachers gasping in horror as the Virgin Mary (goody goody Sarah F) dropped the baby Jesus when she tripped on her long dress, while Joseph guffawed amazingly loudly for a skinny little 8 year old. It stopped him picking his nose for a moment though. I am sorry, that is very irreverent, but it's a fact and it was only a doll and was just a boy with a nose that obviously needed picking. Sorry, sorry, too much information.

Unlike her mum, my daughter attained the lead role of the new mother in her school nativity play in Abu Dhabi, but looking back at the photos, Mary looked utterly fed up. All things aside, this was actually very well acted, as who wouldn't be feeling a bit miffed having a baby in a stable, surrounded by male strangers with useless presents and donkey dung. It may even have been the start of post natal depression. In any event, I was proud of my little girl's acting, although it was noted that she maintained the maximum allowable distance from Joseph, as if he had Covid. I was always a little jealous that she had made it to Mary status when I was just a mere lower ranking angel.

In many ways, I enjoyed my early childhood Christmases of yesteryear so much more than our totally commercialised, dereligionised celebration in the 21st Century. For the most part, gone are the days of homemade gifts, decorations and baked goods, even Christmas crackers and real Christmas trees. Fire was always a bit of a worry. Our family developed an aversion to fire at Christmas after my father having to dump the Christmas pudding in the kitchen sink one year after lighting the brandy swamped dessert next to a paper hat and panicking at the height of the ensuing flame. The following year he lit the candle in the heart of a beautiful, gifted Christmas centrepiece, the latter combusting on my mother's treasured Swiss tablecloth. The French doors were opened in a flash by my quick thinking cousin and the fiery missile hurled into the rose bed in a style worthy of Pat Cummins' praise.

Well, only 28 sleeps till Christmas. By the time you read February's edition I will have broken every one of my 10 new year resolutions. I am not going to tell you what they are, as I haven't made them up yet, but one will be to try and become an angel. Destined to fail. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Reach out to those who may be alone on Christmas Day and here's to peace and growing awareness in 2026. Ad Meliora!



## Barry Hodson

FCPA

### Certified Practising Accountant

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Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre

CHRISTMAS  
TOY DRIVE

There are many families in need this Christmas. If you have the means to make sure our Kuranda kids don't miss out, please donate. Pop into the centre and pick a tag off the tree or give us a call and we can match you to a child in need. **New toys only please**

More information call 0740938933 or text 0447 126 283 or email [community@kurandanc.org.au](mailto:community@kurandanc.org.au)

Drop-off location:

6 Rob Veivers Drive, Kuranda

Drop off before:

Friday  
12 December, 2025



**Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (KNC)**  
Operated by Kuranda Information & Support Centre Assoc. Inc.

6 Rob Veivers Drive, Kuranda  
PO Box 170, Kuranda Qld 4881  
**4093 8933**

[manager@kurandanc.org.au](mailto:manager@kurandanc.org.au)

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

During November the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre (KNC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and celebrated its achievements over the past year.

It is with much appreciation that we say goodbye to Ms Jennifer McHugh, who has played an important role on the Management Committee for over ten years and her role more recently as President for the past six. Her enthusiasm, insight and commitment over this time has been very much appreciated by everyone at the Centre and the broader Kuranda community.

New KNC Committee for 2026: Fran Hynes (President), Terry Eager (Vice President), Siale Jenkins (Secretary) Robyn King (Treasurer), Sarah-Jane Hart, Karen Penninga, Cathy Harvey and Colleen Blunt (General Members) were elected and we look forward to working with them as our organisation moves forward over the coming year.

The past year has been a very positive, busy and amazing year at the Centre, supported by our dedicated employees and volunteers. This year volunteers contributed 1500 valuable hours to the Centre's activities, work we couldn't do without them, including Family and Individual Support Programs, food program, furniture exchange, community garden, our weekly Mahjong and weaving groups.

Community Development has been preparing 50 Christmas food hampers for local families and individuals. We extend our sincere thanks to the Mareeba Shire Council Mayor's Christmas Appeal, Anglicare, IGA Kuranda and the Kuranda Pharmacy for their contributions so far. Donations for the hampers will continue to be accepted until 9 December.

Community members wishing to support our Christmas Toy Drive are invited to visit the Centre, select a tag from our Christmas tree and return a new gift by 12 December. Keep an eye out for our Christmas Holiday Program; we encourage all to attend and get involved.

We would also like to welcome Nigel Sullivan who has commenced in his position of Neighbourhood Centre Manager. Nigel will be working with the team in the new year to plan for our ongoing and exciting community development activities for 2026. We would also like to welcome Sam Butters as an additional member to our administration team.

That time of the year is fast approaching and the team at KNC would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family and friends a very happy, cheerful and safe festive season.

#### Christmas/New Year Closure

Closed from Thursday 18 December 2025 – Re-Opening Monday 5 January 2026.

WEEK 1

KNC HOLIDAY PROGRAM

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

FREE

MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

10:30AM-12PM

Christmas Cookie Station

Get ready to create, sprinkle, and giggle your way into the holiday spirit! Our Christmas Cookie Station is the sweetest spot in town. Little cookie artists can decorate their own festive treats with colorful icing, candy toppings, and a snowstorm of sprinkles. From frosty snowmen to sparkly Christmas trees, every cookie is a masterpiece waiting to happen!

TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

1PM-3PM

Christmas Craft Corner

Join us for a merry afternoon filled with creativity, laughter, and festive cheer. This is the perfect place to make something special this Christmas!

- Make-your-own ornaments
- Create sparkling holiday cards

We'll provide all the materials and plenty of inspiration. Come make memories (and maybe a little mess!) as we craft our way into Christmas joy!

THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

9AM-10AM

Community Garden Make and Take

Join us for our Community Garden Make & Take day — a special time for young gardeners to plant, create, and explore the magic of growing things!

THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

10AM-11:30AM

Christmas Movie Marathon

Join us for a relaxed screening of *The Santa Clauses*, a holiday favourite the whole family will enjoy. Don't forget to bring your own pillow, bean bag, or blanket to make yourself comfy and enjoy the movie in style.

WEEK 2

KNC HOLIDAY PROGRAM

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

FREE

MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

1:30PM-3PM

Christmas Cooking Make & Take

Join us for a afternoon filled with sweet treats and holiday cheer! Let's roll up our sleeves and create mouthwatering Christmas Balls — those bite-sized bundles of joy packed with festive flavors and a sprinkle of holiday magic.

TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

11:30-2:30PM

Traditional Weaving Group

Come along and try our fortnightly Traditional Weaving Group, this fortnight we are opening it up to all ages young and old to learn new skills and create a unique gift.

FOR BOOKINGS:

Book your spot now at the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre's School Holiday Program!

- All kids need to bring along an adult and get signed in for a safe and happy time.
- We'll have light refreshments to keep those energy levels up! To jump in on the fun, call and ask for:

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Wyatt**

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## MINIBEAST WILDLIFE



*A trio of Christmas Beetles (Anoplognathus boisduvalii) in a gum tree near Speewah.  
Photos: Alan Henderson, Minibeast Wildlife*

## CHRISTMAS BEETLES COUNT

For the last few years, our December article in *The Kuranda Paper* has focused on the Christmas Beetle Count project and this year is no different – we still want people to get involved in this yearly citizen science project. And this year, beetle season has started early, with observations being made across Australia since October. Since the project started in 2022, there have been over 20,000 observations of 39 different species of Christmas beetle made across Australia. You can head to the project page of the Christmas Beetle Count in the iNaturalist website to see all the beetles that have been observed so far: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/christmas-beetle-count>. Details on how to get involved are below.

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

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

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

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

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





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



Another beautiful local – a green rainforest species from Kuranda (*Anoplognathus smaragdinus*)

**The steps to be involved are simple:**

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

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

For more information about this project, go to the Invertebrates Australia website <https://invertebratesaustralia.org/christmasbeetles> They also have a great video all about the project.

**Deanna Henderson, Minibeast Wildlife Kuranda**



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

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Photo: Gayle Hannah

## STREET TREES OF KURANDA

This month it has been a shrub rather than a street tree which caught the eye. Flowering in a Coondoo Street garden was the hard working and undemanding **Cat's Whiskers** (*Orthosiphon aristatus*). This is the white version; a purple version also exists.

This plant is a medicinal herb found mainly throughout southern China, the Indian subcontinent, South East Asia and tropical Queensland, Australia. As a medical herb, it is used for increasing excretion of urine, lowering uric acid, protecting

kidneys, reducing oxidative stress, reducing inflammation, protecting the liver and stomach, lowering blood pressure, ameliorating diabetes, ameliorating hyperlipidemia, fighting microorganisms and fighting anorexia. It is known as kumis kucing in Indonesia and misai kucing in Malaysia, both of which translate to cat's whiskers.

*Orthosiphon aristatus* is used in landscaping to attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to its nectar. It strikes easily and can form an attractive hedge in short time.

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

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



Photos by Krishna Buhler

## Did you Make a Ceramic Tile at the old Kuranda Primary School?

Did you or your children attend the old Kuranda Primary School where the library is now? Many of you will remember making ceramic tiles in your classes and you may know that these tiles have so far been preserved (or perhaps just overlooked) on murals that were once classroom walls. The buildings have been demolished, but the tiles are still there and many of them have peoples' names on them.

Here at the Kuranda Historical Society (KHS) we noted recently that the Mareeba Shire Council have announced that they have funding for a Kuranda Community Precinct Playground Development. This seems to focus on the creation of a new playground in the "Precinct" - that is the area where the old primary school once was.

Those walls of tiles, made about 30 years ago, are still there in the area we believe is earmarked for the new playground and we at KHS feel they should be preserved and protected as a worthy part of Kuranda's history.

Did you make one of these tiles? Would you like to identify it for posterity? We would like to hear from you if you can identify the creators of each or any of the tiles. We will create a record and add it to the KHS online collection ([www.thecollectingbug.com/kurandahistoricalsociety/](http://www.thecollectingbug.com/kurandahistoricalsociety/)) so that it can be preserved for future generations.

And we hope that the actual murals will also be preserved somehow in the new playground area.

If you can identify any of the tiles please send an email to [kurandahistoricalsocietycollec@gmail.com](mailto:kurandahistoricalsocietycollec@gmail.com) - we'd love to hear from you!

**Jan Weaver**, Collection Officer KHS



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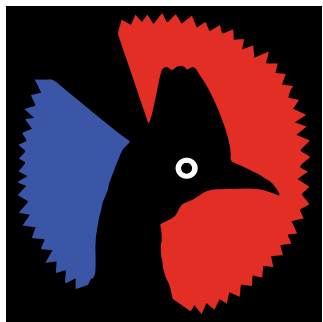
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# KURANDA conservation COMMUNITY NURSERY Inc

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[www.kurandaconservation.org](http://www.kurandaconservation.org)

*The KCons Community Nursery is nearly always open!*

- This community **NATIVE PLANT NURSERY** specialises in plants that belong here. We care.
- You can get **BIN STICKERS** at the nursery or order online at [kurandaconservation.org](http://kurandaconservation.org) or at the Kuranda Visitor Information Centre. They make great gifts.
- **SNAKES:** We're happy to relocate an unwanted snake. We love them.
- We can refer you to **WILDLIFE CARERS** for injured wildlife.
- Want advice on what to plant at your place? Give us a call.
- Let us know if you see a cassowary on the road or in the bush.
- Three **BOX TRAILERS** available to borrow - 0439 899 731.

## CASSOWARIES AND PLANT SALES

As the year rolls on to its end, things seem to become busier and more urgent. The weather becomes more exciting with the possibility of cyclones and heavy rain. We're all set and we'll take what comes.

### CASSOWARY UPDATE

Lots of reports coming in about adult cassowaries with their chicks. Many are seen on the Kuranda Range Road, e.g. Elvis crossing at the bus depot with his chick; a parent bird with 3 tiny chicks and birds seen beside the road near Streets Creek. Also new reports are coming in about Merlin with two chicks in Black Mountain Road and most recently Dad with two chicks in Black Mountain Road. Road sightings are always frightening as we worry about their safety. Please look out on any rural road for a possible, sudden and unexpected appearance of cassowaries - and any wildlife, for that matter.

Please continue to message us with your sightings on our Facebook page or phone in or message us on our mobile number: 0439 899 731. A photo is always most helpful. Our email address is: [kurandaconservation@hotmail.com](mailto:kurandaconservation@hotmail.com). Our website is [kurandaconservation.org](http://kurandaconservation.org).

Researcher Skye Anderson and her team have

returned to Kuranda to collect the cameras she placed across the greater cassowary habitat region, including around Kuranda some two months ago. Skye is undertaking this camera trapping project towards her PhD studies at the University of Queensland for the Ecological Cascades Lab. Her project will contribute data to the Wildlife Observatory of Australia.

What she finds when she's checked out all the cameras, with the many shots of the wildlife that have passed by them, will greatly add to our knowledge of the wildlife around us. The pictures may also reveal feral pigs and dingoes and other things not anticipated. We are honoured to have hosted Skye and her team while they were here in Kuranda.

### BIG ICONIC 4-METRE CASSOWARY PROJECT

We are pleased to announce that we have secured funding for the artists who will paint the 4m high cassowary to grace Kuranda's Centenary Park in due course. This funding has inspired us to proceed with ordering the manufacture of the giant structure. So, with your help the project is on track.

### PLANT SALE

Now is the time to get planting. The rain will make our job easier and guarantees the plants' survival. This is why we've chosen this time to have our sale. It's our Christmas gift to you - and we'll try to give the day a bit of holiday feel.

## \$2 PLANT SALE

We don't do this often, but when we do, it's big!

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

At the community nursery  
1 Pademelon Lane, Kuranda

from 9am till 5pm  
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Tables of native plants to select from just in time for the wet! Restrictions on numbers per person. Bin Stickers and Jules' famous dyed t-shirts also available. Tea and coffee on hand.

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## CASSOWARY ART TRAIL UPDATE

### BIG CASSOWARY FOR KURANDA PROJECT ON TRACK

We are thrilled to announce that Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery Inc has secured funding towards this project from the Regional Art Fund administered by Flying Arts Alliance in Brisbane. The \$20,000 fund goes towards the 'art' part, local artists painting the Big Cassowary planned to be erected in Kuranda's Centenary Park in 2026 transforming Kuranda's village landscape, creating a unique connection to the community, rainforest with a commitment to conservation. A landmark public artwork for residents and visitors alike.

Following careful consideration, the project committee has made the exciting decision to commission this Big Cassowary from Natureworks, a Queensland based business with over 30 years' experience.

#### Local Artists to Bring Vision to Life

In January the project team will form a talented group of 5-6 local artists. These artists will develop creative sketches for the imagery that will adorn the statue, ensuring it reflects the spirit of Kuranda.

#### Your Voice Matters - Share Your Ideas!

This sculpture is for the public. We are calling on

community members of all ages to submit ideas for what could be painted onto the statue. What images, symbols, or scenes best represent our town's relationship with the rainforest? What conservation messages would you like to see celebrated?

Please share your creative suggestions with us and send it before 31 January to [info@cassowarytrail.com.au](mailto:info@cassowarytrail.com.au)

#### Support Needed - Every Contribution Counts

To bring this ambitious project to completion, the Cassowary Trail is seeking your continued generosity and support which will ensure this sculpture becomes a reality and stands as a testament to our community's collaborative spirit.

Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery and Cassowary Art Trail send their deepest gratitude to everyone who has already supported this project. Your enthusiasm and commitment to enhancing our town's public spaces make initiatives like this possible, creating something truly special.

For more information, to submit ideas, or to discuss donation and sponsorship opportunities, please contact us directly on [info@cassowarytrail.com.au](mailto:info@cassowarytrail.com.au)

Let's create something remarkable together!

## Big Cassowary at Centenary Park, Kuranda



This art project component funded by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, provided through Regional Arts Australia, administered in Queensland by Flying Arts Alliance.







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Left: Bealah delivered a captivating performance at the CHSS Strings Concert.



Jaida and Ruby showcased their musical talent at the CHSS Spring Fair & Open Day, a vibrant community event featuring music performances from students of all ages.



Kianni, Jaida and Sarah were among the group of CHSS students who took part in the Gondwana Voices Songfest in Cairns.



## Music is a living art at Steiner

At the Cairns Hinterland Steiner School, music is a living art, thoughtfully woven into the child's development.

Alan Maclean, Music Coordinator, describes the school's specialist music program: "From the morning circle to seasonal festivals, musical experiences are aligned with the curriculum and the needs of the growing child."

"From the youngest children in our Kindergarten to the oldest children in Class 8, practical music-making begins with singing. It is a foundational musical experience that introduces children to the creation of melody as an enjoyable shared activity."

"In Year 1, children learn how to play the recorder. Their breath helps create a shared melody which fosters social harmony and coordination."

"This strong foundation supports children's involvement in the strings program, introduced in Year 3, where children play the violin, viola or the cello. The strings program deepens children's feeling life and cultivates a sensitive ear for pitch as they learn and perform, familiar tunes."

"As students progress they join class orchestras, choirs and elective ensembles—usually from Class 4 and 5 onwards," said Alan.

Through this structured yet soul-nourishing musical journey, every child at the school experiences the benefits of music: inner growth, social awareness and the joy of creating beauty together.

"For children who continue onto Years 7 and 8, our specialist music program extends learning and includes music history, composition and improvisation," said Alan.

"At our school, music is far more than just a subject," concludes Alan, "It is an art form that shapes and gently guides the whole child".

Indeed, the Cairns Hinterland Steiner School's specialist music program not only fosters a lifelong love for music for children, but it also nurtures their emotional and intellectual capacities which supports them in all other areas of their education.

To learn more about the Cairns Hinterland Steiner School and its specialist music program, or to book a school tour visit [chss.qld.edu.au](http://chss.qld.edu.au).

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## Protecting Your Patch – By Cathy Retter

### 2025 Presidents Report – Annie Clarke

It's been a full year - finishing off projects and most aptly described as consolidating, using the time to step back a little to review the direction of the organisation.

We have taken the first step in writing an updated Strategic Plan, sending out a survey asking Members where they would like to see Kuranda EnviroCare head going forward. Responses indicate Members want the nursery and revegetation activities as a priority.

We were successful in gaining yet another Yellow Crazy Ant community engagement contract with WTMA where Rachel Reece (also our Nursery Manager) plans events to make sure the community is kept alert for Invasive Ants. We also celebrated 10 years of the YCA Community Task Force. An amazing achievement.

Our frog surveys have continued with Chloe now leading the surveys. These surveys monitor the endemic Kuranda Tree Frog and inform local conservation efforts in collaboration with JCU. Thank you Bruce Wannan for pulling all the data from the last 12 years together.

We have renewed our working relationship with Djabugay Rangers and have a signed Memorandum of Understanding.

Margaret Zehntner organised the revision of our Welcome to Kuranda booklet for new residents who seek

local information on environment and community. Plans are progressing with the Kuranda District State College to continue the Kuranda Tree Frog corridor along the Barron River.

Our Small World program (interstate students seeking give back to the environment experience) continues.

Our Cain Creek sign was erected next to the very successful Cain Creek re-vegetation demonstration plot along Myola Road.

This waterway re-vegetation project has only been possible with support of the adjacent Cain Creek landholders, NQ Wildlife Trust and dedicated volunteers including TAFE students. The creek's banks are now shady and stable with the watercourse resuming its natural meandering and the water is clear and cool. It would be lovely to see platypus and the Kuranda tree frog back in there again. Thank you Andrew Horn for making this happen. It's a great example of how revegetation can bring a whole suite of benefits. Plans for next year: The Envirocare nursery is in need of a rebuild and we're looking at designs and funding sources to progress this project.

We know that some members of the community continue to be conflicted over Envirocare's use of glyphosate. We are revising policy and Standard Operating Procedures to address these concerns.



WTMA YCA team members



Photo credit: Annie Clarke

## Plant of the Month:

### Blephrocarya involucragera – Rose Butternut

A Queensland rainforest tree up to 10 m tall in garden conditions. It has glossy, dark green leaves and a beautiful rosy pink new leaf flush. It's a great tree for house shading from the western sun. The small seeds, looking like false eyelashes, burst from a brown woody capsule early in the wet season.



Photo credit: Vern Hansen

## • Date Claimers •

**Festive Season greetings to you all**

**6th Dec. Sat 4 - 6 pm. KEC Xmas breakup.**

Bring a plate and BYO drinks. Venue to be advised. Please RSVP info@envirocare.org.au to get update on venue.

**6th Dec 8:30 to 1pm Koah Markets stall**

**14th Dec 9am till 1pm Kuranda Amphitheatre market stall**  
**20-28th Dec 6pm Frog monitoring 2 nights.**

Receive details via group texts and emails. Contact Chloe, volunteer coordinator on 0422 677 283, Facebook - Friends of the Kuranda Tree Frog or email info@envirocare.org.au

Nursery closure - 20 Dec noon to 5 Jan 2026 9am. Last chance to get your plants for the year till Monday 5 January.

**Have a safe and happy festive season**



# KURANDA WASTE-BUSTERS

by Julia Mauro

This Christmas, challenge yourself to gift consumables and experiences instead of "stuff".

Without wanting to be a grinch, I'd like to share some ideas for reducing waste at Christmas by applying the Rs of the waste-reduction hierarchy: rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, repair, recycle, rot.

Rethink the idea that bigger is better: Christmas is a celebration of love and life, not consumerism.

You can choose to refuse Christmas gimmicks and reduce the amount of stuff you buy this festive season. Before you buy a random gift, ask the receiver for gift ideas. You could contribute to a single, more significant gift. Embracing Secret Santa or "KK" (where each person in a group gives a gift to only one other person in the group) results in fewer (and usually better) presents. Support local businesses instead of department stores and choose natural materials to reduce the environmental impact.

I am a fan of gifting consumables (things you use up), like home-made treats and preserves, or gourmet goodies from the health-food shop, local markets or delicatessen. Kuranda has local honey, candy, chocolate and tea. Bottles from local wineries, distilleries and craft breweries make easy gifts. Kids like receiving cash that they can use to practise saving and spending.

Experiences make great gifts too and are another way to avoid contributing to the mountain of unwanted stuff that overwhelms our op shops after every festive season. In the last few years, I've given gift vouchers for ice-creameries, movies, a fairy tea party, water parks, a Santa steam-train ride, massage, family chiropractic care and streaming services.

Reuse at Christmas by sourcing second-hand decorations, gift bags and wrapping paper. Op shops have loads of them! Reuse your tree and decorations, year after year. I have enjoyed making reusable Advent calendars and cotton Christmas bunting to avoid the throwaway plastic

alternatives. Or make your own ornaments from felt or scrap fabric or recycled materials.

This year I decided to repurpose some freebie magnetic calendars from previous years: I peeled the plastic film off them and glued on family photos to create DIY photo magnets! What could you creatively upcycle to bring joy this Christmas?

Judicious regifting is also a form of repurposing.

Or could you offer to repair something for someone this Christmas? The gift of your time is a valuable and thoughtful present. Some do this in the form of a "gift voucher" or IOU for time or services.

Don't forget to recycle this Christmas by taking recyclables to a local recycling station. But note that foil, plastic and glitter embellishments on Christmas wrapping and cards are not recyclable.

Plan Christmas food with your family: who will bring what? How much will be plenty? Choose reusable plates, bowls, cups and cutlery at your Christmas gathering, then make the clean-up a family activity!

The days after Christmas can be catered for by creatively using up leftover meat and veggies in salads, sandwiches, pizzas, fried rice and frittata. Use bones to make broth that you can freeze (to make soups and stews another day).

Rot the rest in the compost.

Merry Christmas, Waste-Busters!

*Kuranda's Possum Corner Op Shop has preloved Christmas goodies galore.*



Home-made Christmas decorations make great gifts or family heirlooms.



# GET READY MAREEBA SHIRE



## Are you disaster ready?

### What are the most common disasters in FNQ?

Bushfires, storms, floods, cyclones and heatwaves



### How do I prepare for disaster season?

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



#### Advice (Yellow):

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



#### Watch and Act (Orange):

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



#### Emergency Warning (Red):

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

### What do I do during an event?

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

### What do I do after an event?

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

## Are you disaster ready? View the factsheet online

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



For emergency alerts, sign up to Early Warning Network.







## KURANDA BRANCH

20 Thongon Street

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

Booking Agent: Krishna Buhler 0427 937 348

President: Carol Jeanes

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

**CWA is about friendship, education, connection & advocacy.**

**CWA SODALITY for Women**, Sunday 14 December 4-6pm. This event will include Christmas weaving. Join in and be inspired. Phone Holly 0494 369 462.

**The CWA Craft group offers a relaxing place to share creativity with morning tea.** Friday 12 December 1.30am-12.30pm. Contact Trish Maude 0417 050 911

**CWA Monthly Members' meeting** – Wednesday 3 December 9am with Christmas Morning Tea.

**CWA DANCE GROUP** – Sandra 0447 737 415

**COUNTRY KITCHENS, interested?** Contact Krishna 0427 937 348

### WHAT'S ON at the CWA Hall?

Contact the following hirers for any enquiries regarding their activities:

**Taekwon-Do** – Jeff Dieben ph. 0437 438 196

**Vinyassa Yoga** Mondays and Yoga Fitness Thursdays 7.30am. Valentina 0439 287 403

**Kuranda Life Drawing** - Theo Tremblay, 1st Sunday each month 0415 127 089

**Full Moon Circles for ALL** 3-5pm Saturday 6 December. Liza Soenario 0413 178 489

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

We currently have availability; Monday 9am-8pm. Tuesdays 12pm-5pm. Wednesdays; mostly free 12-8pm. Thursdays 12pm - 4.00pm. Some; Fridays / Saturdays / Sundays are free. Please enquire via attached email address as bookings can change.



Above: The CWA Qld Seniors Event musical performance. Photo Krishna Buhler.  
Left: A very successful CWA Qld Seniors Event was held in late October at the Kuranda CEWA Hall. L-R: Carol Jeanes CWA President, MSC Cr. Mladen Bosnic and organiser of musical entertainment for the event Liza Soenario. Photo Krishna Buhler.

### ARTISAN SOURDOUGH BREAD

Delivered Fresh Tuesday and Thursday

\$10 per loaf (Seed, Rye, White or Fruit)

**Croissants:** Almond \$8 Plain \$6

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Phone: 0411 490 843

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(The Red Arcade)

OPEN: 8.30am - 2pm Monday to Saturday  
Closed Sunday



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

## PLANT-IFUL PARTY FOOD

by Queenobeans

**FESTIVE FOOD** should not be a source of stress for either cooks or guests. Especially here in the bountiful tropics where we have ready access to such a wonderful range of fresh fruits and vegetables. Special dietary needs can easily be addressed without causing too much effort – especially if options such as vegetarian, vegan or gluten free are just included as delicious parts of the meal which anyone can enjoy. Many dishes, such as salads etc, are already vegan/vego/gluten free until the sauce or topping is added. By keeping the sauce or topping as a separate optional dressing everyone can partake. Similarly, if roasting or BBQ-ing vegetables just keep some or all away from any meat or fish during the cooking process and serve in separate dishes.

Of course it's great to expand one's culinary repertoire to include some tasty plant-based treats – and is always very much appreciated. Here are a few plant-iful party dishes everyone will appreciate. Served alongside more traditional fare as well as fruit platters and salads, they will ensure everyone can enjoy the many social gatherings common at year's end and new year's beginning.

**Thai Green Curry Samosa Pinwheels** via [contentednesscooking.com](http://contentednesscooking.com)

Makes 24

**Ingredients:** 2 sweet potatoes peeled and cut into cubes, 1 425gm can chickpeas (or fresh cooked and cooled), 1/2 cup coconut oil room temp, 5 cloves garlic peeled, pressed, salt, pepper to taste, 1 batch Thai Green Curry Sauce, 4 tortillas (gluten free), optional: 1/2 cup cashews + tandoori spice mix (just mix Cashews with Tandoori Mix, salt, pepper, curry, ginger, turmeric, chili powder), 1/4 cup raisins, fresh coriander, chopped.

**Instructions:** For Curry sauce: 2 tbs Cashew Butter, 1 tbs Green curry paste, 1/3 cup water to thin. Prepare the curry sauce: Combine all the ingredients in a small bowl and whisk until smooth.

Cook sweet potatoes then mash with coconut oil and chickpeas. Mix with garlic, salt and pepper. Allow mix to cool. Assemble your pinwheels: put 2 heaping tbs of the potato mixture in your tortillas, sprinkle with Thai Green Curry sauce, roll. Cut into fingerfood size portions.

**Baked Vegan Spicy Vegetable Samosas** via [eatthehealthyeathappy.com](http://eatthehealthyeathappy.com)

Makes 10

**Ingredients:** 2 tbs olive oil, **Spices:** 1 tsp red or yellow curry powder, 1 tsp garam masala, 1/4 tsp smoked paprika, 1 tsp cumin, 1/2 tsp chili powder, a scant 1/8 tsp-1/4 tsp red pepper flakes, depending on how hot and spicy you like your samosas. **Vegetables:** 1 med onion, 1 med carrot chopped fine, 2 med potatoes, peeled and finely diced, 2 med red bell peppers, diced, optional – 1 or more red or green chili peppers to taste, seeded and chopped fine, about 1 tbs fresh ginger, grated 1 tsp garlic minced, 1 cup water, about 1 1/2 cups green peas, fresh or frozen and thawed, 10 spring roll wrappers.

**Instructions:** Combine the oil and spices in a large skillet over medium low heat. Stir for about 2 minutes. Add the vegetables, raise the heat to medium and stir-fry for about 5 minutes. Stir in ginger, garlic and water. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, turn heat down a bit if needed. Stir in peas and until they're heated through. Take off heat and let come to room temp. When you're ready to fill your samosas, position two racks in the middle of the oven and heat it to 180°C. Grease two cookie sheets or line with baking paper and have a little container of water, a pastry brush and your wrappers ready. As you wrap the samosas, arrange them on the cookie sheets. You should be able to get 5 on each sheet without them overlapping, brush tops with olive oil then pop them into the oven for about 8 minutes. Get them out, turn them over to brown on the other side and return them to the oven, switching rack positions, for another 8 minutes. You can eat them straight out of the oven, let them cool a bit first (which I like), or let them cool completely and then reheat them whenever you like.

**Cranberry Salsa** via [frieddandelions.com](http://frieddandelions.com)

**Ingredients:** 2 cups fresh or frozen whole cranberries, 1 large orange, quartered with peel ON, 1/2 cup shallot, 1/2 cup coriander (or alternate herb), 1 jalapeño, 1/4 cup coconut, salt to taste.

**Instructions:** Place all ingredients in the food processor. Pulse until the ingredients break down, but are not pureed. You are looking for a relish consistency and should be able to see bits of all of the ingredients. Serve with tortilla chips or such.





A 9-step Plotting Path

For my final article, I'd like to touch on structure.

There are countless methods of developing a plot for a story. I've tried dozens. If you don't count cramping in the lotus position and waiting for the muse to strike, most of these have worked to a degree. But not one gave me the consistent technique I wanted. I finally came up with a visualisation that works for me – a plotting path. It's straightforward, simple and makes me laugh, which is desperately needed at the plotting stage of my writing.

The plotting path is based on one specific premise: your relationship with your main character. It will not always be sunny, but love him, respect him and, above all, challenge him. The objective is to make him work for the dubious honour of playing the main role in your story.

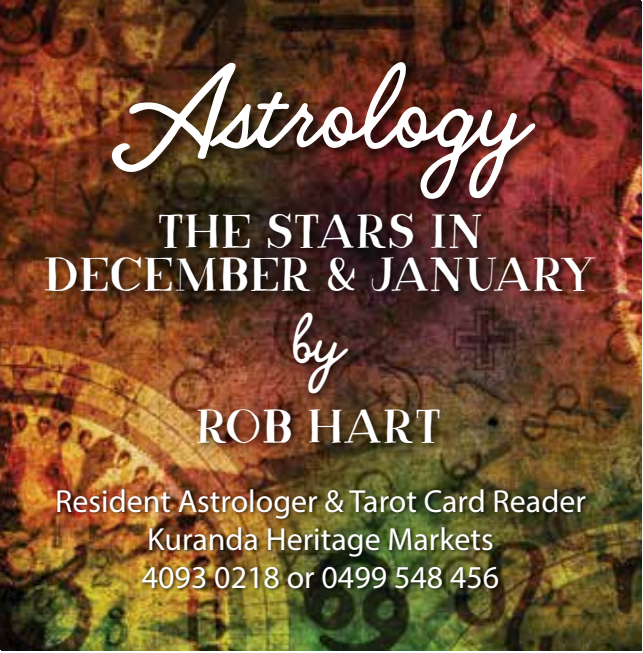
Feel free to adjust this plotting path to make it fit into your own style of creating.

1. Create your main character. As most readers have trouble identifying with perfection (no offense intended), make sure he is three-dimensional, likeable and has some interesting flaws. Many won't truly identify with someone who refuses to swipe a finger through the chocolate frosting. Let's face it; we all swipe the frosting at times.
2. Give him a goal. Often, if you develop your character well enough, one of his less-than-perfect character traits will point you in the right direction. The critical thing here is to give your main character a goal that is personally important and easily defined. Your main character and his goal will change with every story, but your plotting path – your visualisation – is the main character's journey toward this goal. Visualise the goal as something tangible: a star, a soccer ball or a Ferrari if you like.
3. Throw an obstacle at him. Once your character's goal is clear and definable, send him along the wooded path to achieve it. Make sure you perch on a comfortable branch above him with your bag of tricks. As he spots the shining star through the trees and strides toward his goal, toss a banana skin under his feet.
4. Throw him another one. When he regains his footing and catches a glimpse of the star in the distance, race ahead of him and push over a massive tree, blocking his path.
5. Throw him a third (this is optional). The star still beckons. As he's climbing over the trunk or finding another way around the tree, clamber back into the highest branches

and scramble along the canopy. Pull a cleverly situated chain that releases a pack of dogs, trained to block the path. You can now allow your maniacal laughter to escape as he won't hear it over the growling canines.

6. Throw him your biggest and best. After he's distracted the dogs using his courage and ingenuity, the star is brighter than ever. It's time to throw him his final and seemingly insurmountable obstacle. Pull your magic powder from your bag of tricks and sprinkle it on the path. Watch with glee as it sparkles and grows and becomes a large body of water shimmering between your main character and his goal.
7. Allow him to wallow. Your character wants to give up. He shakes a fist at you and nearly turns back. He's tired of you and your sadistic ways.
8. Let him succeed in spite of you. He decides to give it one more try. The star shines like the sun and, after all, success is the best revenge. With pleasant visions of sprinkling itching powder in your underwear and mutiny on his mind, he builds a raft and paddles across the sea. He grabs his star, reaching his goal. At this stage, it's up to you whether you throw a couple of great whites or piranhas into the water, but it may be time to give the guy a break. He had a goal, overcame many obstacles and achieved his aim using unique and unexplored skills. You were no help at all.
9. Allow your character to grow. As your character curses you and struggles to reach his goal, make sure that he is learning. External conflict can be riveting – the ground slippery, the path blocked and the dogs mean. But internal conflict is where your readers will find the satisfaction. Your main character can fight laziness, boredom, fear of failure, lack of confidence or a difficult relationship. If you have the stomach to throw angry Rottweilers at him, you will have no trouble giving him a debilitating character trait.

If the plotting path doesn't strike a chord with you and you'd rather try waiting for inspiration in the lotus position, it can't hurt. (Wrong, it can hurt but your main character will love you for it.) But if you decide to use this plotting path, just remember to challenge your main character and give him enough untapped ingenuity or strength to succeed in spite of your evil ways.



Neptune turns direct for one last glide through the last degree of Pisces and begins its next 165 year journey around the zodiac: entering Aries in the last week of January, like a breaching whale he bursts forth from the deep into open air.

At the same time Sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars all enter the air sign of Aquarius. The new moon also rides through Aquarius and all this movement into the signs of Air and Fire promises a huge bursting through, on all levels, for all of us, into what we might see as an evolutionary leap and a rising of our vibratory level. Inevitably the realisation that we are all on the same journey linked in consciousness, expanding and discovering truth and possibilities, not glimpsed before this shift.

Picture this symbolically: Neptune rising from the ocean, water streaming from his torso and sparks flying from his trident. From above the water-bearer pouring down the life-giving essence through the air. Out of this merging of Water, Air and Fire come revelations: inspiration, visions and pure life force. What may come of this merging? Certainly ideas, inventions and refreshing, invigorating awakening to a wider vista and a sharing of the resources that give life...

So, while, as always there are many, many planetary aspects forming during these two months, as the Aquarian cavalcade approaches and joins with Pluto at 1 degree to 3 degrees Aquarius, it blasts its way through old patterns and structures and opens up vistas: magical, revolutionary, transcendent and very, very creative. So this is the time to renew, to create, to celebrate the oneness of all creation from our own cellular uniqueness. Yes, paradigm shifting and paradox resolving.

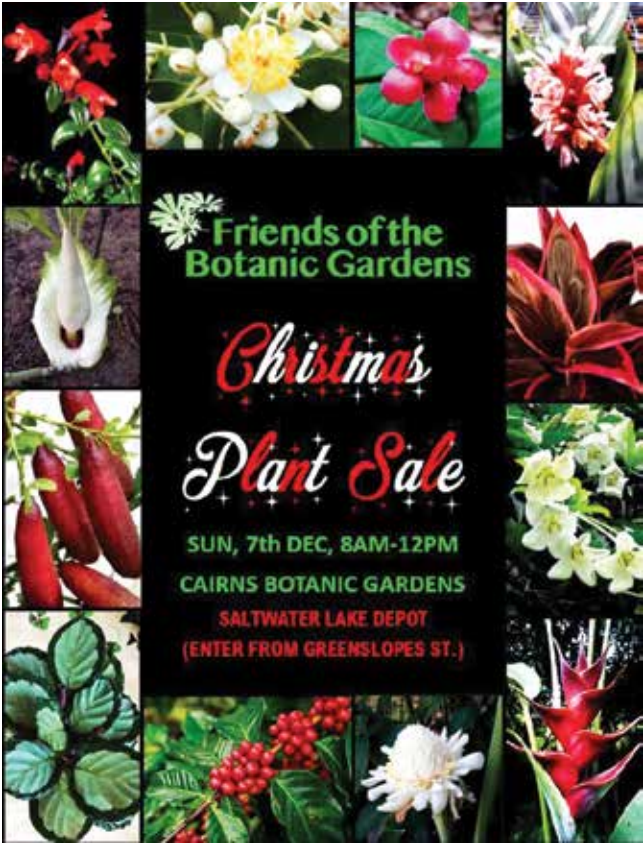
The full moon on 3 January will be very close to Jupiter in Cancer and interestingly the Moon 'rules' Cancer and Jupiter is 'exalted' in Cancer. The light of the full moon may obscure Jupiter, pity, but in the nights preceding and following the full moon they will both be visible up there and the astrological message is abundance, family, tribe and a very protective feeling towards all creatures and an expanding in prosperity and wisdom. Take a chance.

Christmas gifts this year are more likely to be practical and valued for their utility...

Blessings for the festive season, Rob.



ROB HART  
CARDS N' STARS  
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Christmas Plant Sale

The Friends of the Botanic Gardens Christmas Plant Sale will be held on Sunday 7 December from 8am to 12 noon. This sale will be held in the Salt Water Lakes area, the closest parking is on Greenslopes Street, look for signage, access path opposite Little Street, across the road from Cominos House.

On offer will be trees, palms, shrubs, creepers and climbers including Hoyas, hanging baskets and a variety of Goeppertias, indoor and understory plants. Rhizomes and potted plants of gingers and heliconias also available. Prices start at \$8



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# Kuranda Writers Group

Next meet:  
**Monday 8 December - 10am-12 noon**  
at Kuranda Library, Arara Street  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1253010558786902>  
**All welcome!**

Welcome to that time of year when folks start to form ideas for their New Year Resolutions. Turning over a fresh new leaf is a great aspiration and opportunity for renewal, to forge new interests or to take uncharted pathways.

It's surprising how often people tell me they aspire to express themselves and to write more. Some talk of daily jottings or ideas (including drawings) much like a diary. Others talk of journaling to keep track of personal or family events, or simply to enjoy some uninterrupted 'me-time' in touch with one's inner-self in the tactile pleasure of flowing handwriting.

Others tell of a wish to write fun-filled and endearing short stories about quirky family pets, wild animals or the natural environment to share with their grandchildren. Featuring our own local fauna and flora is a subtle form of education about our own special time and place within World Heritage Listed Wet Tropics rainforest.

Another common desire I hear is to write a memoir, or more specifically, small snippets recounting significant moments in one's own life, before they are lost forever. This could be a personal record to pass on to new generations of the family, or it may have epic implications if historic events like world wars or famous cyclones are backdrops that impact on the story.

Of course, one of the best ways to begin a memoir is to just write word-for-word the stories of real events that you have aired repeatedly at gatherings over and over, as based on audience reaction you have already refined these into tightly edited stories for maximum impact.

Be aware that often when starting out you may get nervous, freeze or shrink into more formal or dry language. To circumvent this stasis, you could make it more 'live' by setting up a video camera that you quickly forget is there while someone you trust asks you the key questions to keep you on track. Making a text transcript of this for print later is as easy as a click these days, after which, you can continue to refine it further to your own satisfaction.

The monthly Kuranda Writers Group meetings are there to support all aspiring local authors to take their next steps. So, consider whether it might be a plus in the New Year for you to join the group as a nurturing environment to air your efforts? Containing both experienced and new writers, feedback is optional. It may be more than enough for new writers reading their work aloud for the first time. Others seek specific suggestions for improvement.

The monthly meetings often have a 'prompt' to write to as a stimulus. The current one for the 8 December meeting is 'The Wet'. You can bring along a short piece to share on the topic, or you can simply share your recent writing instead, we are that flexible. We often devote some time to discuss what we have been reading, watching or listening to lately, which inevitably leads to free-wheeling conversations about life.

Newcomers to the group for the December or January meetings, on the second Monday from 10.00am – 12 noon at the Kuranda Library at, will be warmly welcomed. If you wish to meet with me as the current Kuranda Writer's Group convenor beforehand, please text me on 0437 366 651, or just turn up on the day.

Here's to all the stories we will make and recount with loved ones over the festive season and maybe even get time to 'chill' reading a good book.

*Eve Stafford*

**2nd Monday of the month 10am -12 noon**  
at Kuranda Library, Arara Street (old school site).

**DECEMBER 2025: 8 December 2025**  
**JANUARY 2026: 12 January 2026**

## BOOK RELEASE: A RAIL TRAGEDY REMEMBERED

The Steam Train crew members who lost their lives or were seriously injured following a rail accident near the Barron Falls, Kuranda, Queensland on 25 November 1918 have been duly honoured and remembered with a new book titled The Kuranda Range Railway Tragedy of 1918, authored by Mareeba based history enthusiast Michael Musumeci

Michael Musumeci has compiled a book that includes the Coronial Inquest, rare photographs and shares his research findings about the Queensland Rail employees who lost their lives in the tragedy.

The book provides a detailed insight into the locomotive that was returning to Cairns on that morning when it left the rails, crashing into a wall of rock at the head of the Barron Gorge. On board were three employees Thomas Patrick Duignan (Driver), Evan William Whiting (Fireman) who lost their lives and James Patrick Foely (Guard) who was seriously injured.



'The book captures a tragic day Far North Queensland was saddened to learn and experience the loss of these brave men, who went to work, but never came home. It's a tragedy that shouldn't be forgotten, but duly honoured and our local history needs to be told to our younger generations. Steam Train crews back in the early 1900s built the foundations of how so many of our northern communities were born, built and supported and such crews should be remembered for their sacrifices.'

The book is currently available by contacting the author, Michael Musumeci by email : Michael.musumeci85@gmail.com



# LIBRARY LINES

## Christmas Closure Dates

The Kuranda Library and Customer Service Centre would like to advise that we will be closed from 5:00pm Friday 19 December 2025 and will re-open at 10:00am Monday 5 January 2026.

We'd also like this opportunity to take a quick moment to thank the community for your continued use and support of the library and we look forward to all the new and exciting books and events we will get to share with you in 2026. Wishing you all a very merry and safe holiday season!

## Crafty Christmas Fun at your Libraries!

It's the most wonderful time of the year and with school holidays on the horizon, the library elves have been busy putting together FREE activities and Christmas Crafts for your kids to enjoy and get everyone into the holiday spirit.

On Tuesday 16 December from 10:30am, we're going to be decorating some festive reindeer ears and creating some Christmas tree ornaments at the Kuranda Library.

It's not only the Kuranda Library getting in on the Christmas cheer – all our Mareeba Shire Libraries have a bunch of free activities planned to keep the kids busy and smiling over the Christmas break.

Bookings are essential – ring the Kuranda Library on 4093 9185 to book your spot now, or scan the QR code and visit the Featured Events page on our website to book online: Events | Mareeba Shire Council Libraries.

To learn more about any of our school holiday activities, contact your local library, or check out our Events Calendar on our website – it's the best way to keep track of all the special events and regular programs running in our libraries.

## Christmas Books at your Library!

If you're looking for some books to help you get into the festive spirit, look no further than the library.

Want some inspiration for Christmas lunch or dinner? Why not have a look at our range of Christmas cook-books or magazines?

In the mood for some last-minute crafting? Check out one of the Christmas crafting books we have available—they're full of ideas for decorations, gifts and activities to keep the kids busy.

Maybe you just want to dive head-first into a magical Christmas tale? There's plenty of Christmas and holiday themed fiction to be found here too – from picture books right through to adult fiction.

We've got a bunch on display all through December if you'd like to come in and browse, or you can simply visit our website and run a search using the keyword 'Christmas' to see all Christmas related titles in our collection.

And if you run out of time to visit the library in person before we close for the year, you can always visit BorrowBox – the online library that's always open! There's a huge range of Christmas fiction for adults and kids available, as well as a big selection of adult fiction titles that you have immediate access to over the holiday period. BorrowBox is completely FREE with your Mareeba Shire Library membership – simply download the app and join using your membership number and PIN. Contact the library on 4093 9185 for more information.

## New Year, New Skills!

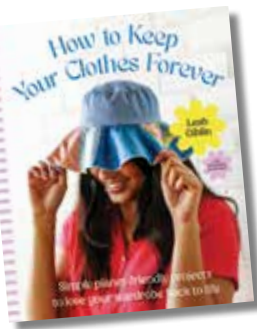
With 2026 just around the corner, it's the perfect time to learn a new skill, or level up an existing one!

Have you ever wanted to learn how to use Photoshop? Or discover the world of Generative AI? Or maybe you'd like to get started on creating your Personal Brand?

Whatever it may be, look no further than LinkedIn Learning – the ultimate resource for online learning, which, as a Mareeba Shire Council Library member, you get access to for FREE.

There are over 16,000 online courses in several different languages to choose from and there's always something new to find too – 60+ new courses are added each week, led by expert instructors with real-world experience.

Start learning today by accessing LinkedIn Learning through the eResources page on the Library website by scanning the QR code here, or visiting: Home | Mareeba Shire Council Libraries. All you need is your Library Membership card number and PIN to get started.



## Book Review: How to Keep Your Clothes Forever by Leah Giblin

Adult Non-Fiction, Harper by Design, 5 March 2025

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5 stars

In this last year, I have been slowly learning how to sew my own clothes and as I have learned more about the process, I have become increasingly aware of how unsustainable the current fast-fashion world we live in is.

So, it was a nice surprise to come across this book in the library! The author, Leah Giblin, a textile and clothing designer, educator, sustainable fashion advocate and dress-up-box enthusiast, has created a book that really focuses on giving us positive solutions that we can

implement straight away, that will help us reduce our fast-fashion footprint, fall back in love with the clothes we already own and how to make the best sustainable and ethical choices possible when we need to buy new.

The book is broken down into three main sections: One about how to assess our buying habits and how to buy less or buy better, one about how to care for your clothes to help them last and one about how to mend or upcycle your clothes, or what to do if you really can't, or don't want to, keep an item.

I appreciated the practical exercises throughout the book – how to go about doing a wardrobe stocktake to figure out what you already have and what you really need in your day-to-day life, the best ways to wash your clothing depending on the fibre content, recipes for spot cleaning and stain removers, how to interpret care labels, simple mending guides for spot-fixes, or how to completely upcycle an item and create something new out of it.

There was also a lot of interesting information and resources talked about throughout to help figure out the best way to make the best sustainable and ethical choices you can and helpfully, further resources are listed at the end of the book if you want more information.

I also liked that Giblin leaned into the 'dress-up-box' mentality throughout to make the practical exercises fun and not too much like a chore. After-all, while we all have our practical reasons for wearing clothing, it's also a great tool of self-expression and for me, I think this book succeeds in helping you feel more inspired and excited about what is already in your wardrobe.

It's also a very pretty book from a graphic design perspective – the photographs used throughout, layout, the heavier paper and the bright colour used for the text make it a feast for the eyes as you read through. If you have an interest in fashion, sewing or sustainability, I think this one is well-worth checking out.

*Happy Reading! Meg*





DIRRDJAL  
DJADJA  
DJAWADJAWA  
DJAWARRAY  
DJIBIN  
DJIGADJIGAYIY  
DJIGUYA  
DJILIBURAY  
DJIRRANYDJI  
DJULBIDJULBI  
GABU  
GADIRRAGA  
GADJU  
GALGARR  
GAGAY  
GAGUWARR  
GALBIRR  
GANAA  
GARRGAL

**DIRRDJAL:** reeds

**GARRGAL:** fishing line



Photo by Joshua Ralph - Unsplash



**Djabugay**  
Tribal Aboriginal Corporation

**LANGUAGE CLASSES**  
**Wednesday evenings 6-8pm**  
**Diabugay Aboriginal Corporation**

## ALL WELCOME

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

***Language classes every Wednesday 6–8pm at Nuwarri Estate (old Nagoonbi farm).***





# RANGERS report

## Kuranda Rangers Football Club - 2026 Kicks Off with Big News!

Kuranda Rangers FC is starting the 2026 season with fresh momentum and some exciting news for the whole community.

We're now officially an independent incorporated club, marking a major step forward in securing a strong future for football in Kuranda. After many years of operating under the umbrella of other organisations, this change gives the club more control over its direction, development and long-term sustainability.

In even better news, KRFC is relocating to Bartley Park, located next to the Kuranda Community Precinct (old Kuranda school site) which will become our new home base moving forward. We are incredibly grateful to the Kuranda Recreation Centre for hosting us over the years and supporting the Club's journey to this point. We'd also like to thank TRACQS for all their work in keeping our playing surfaces looking great, week in and week out.

As part of the transition, we're proud to announce that Bendigo Bank has awarded KRFC a community grant to support our relocation and help us invest in much-needed equipment and facilities. We thank them sincerely for backing grassroots sport in the region.

### A few other exciting changes:

We welcome Sarah as our newly appointed club secretary, following Jodi's decision to step down. Thank you Jodi for everything! We also welcome Jonathan into the role of treasurer, helping strengthen the club's operations. Thank you to Adric for holding the position until now.

The season will kick off soon: training returns Tuesday 22nd January.

Play On vouchers are expected to be announced in January. Keep an eye out for how to apply!

Lastly, we're excited to announce that supporter shirts will soon be available to order, a great way to show your colours and get behind Kuranda Rangers.

## Come & Try Days: 29th Jan, 5th & 12th Feb All ages up to 14 welcome!

To all our families, players, sponsors and supporters, thank you for being part of the journey.

Go Rangers!

Please contact the Club for more information:

- kurandarangersfootball@gmail.com
- Adric 0429 488 214 or Keira 0437 778 849
- For all updates on sign-on, scheduling and events, follow the Kuranda Rangers Football Club Facebook page.



## KURANDA 8 BALL NEWS

On Saturday 22 November the Kuranda 8 Ball Association held the Grand Final between Arse-N-All and Danger Boyz. Arse-N-All were victorious after a hard fought battle.

We wish to thank the Kuranda Recreation Centre for providing such an excellent venue and all the players and supporters for turning up every week.

Kuranda 8 Ball wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday over the Christmas period. We will be back in March 2026.



Arse-N-All 2025 Premiers: L-R Peter Riley, Shane McMahon, Tim Riley (C) Nate Trapnell Photo supplied.



Mural and renovation works continue in Centenary Park. 2026 is set to bring new vibrancy to the heart of the village through public artworks, new landscaping and updated facilities. Koah based artist Violet Shaban with her crew hard at work on her striking murals, Silve Myrteza (kneeling) and Karen Copland. Photo Violet Shaban.

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ITF Taekwon-Do North Queensland

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LESSON  
FREE

Kuranda  
Community  
Garden  
working bee  
group

Join us at Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre  
Thursdays 9.30am to 10.30am

please bring hat,  
gloves, long sleeves,  
covered shoes and  
water

Your local pool man in Kuranda

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**Business**

**GST and BAS Preparation**

**Partnerships, Companies and Trusts**

**Self Managed Superannuation Funds**

**Business Setup Advice (first consultation free)**

**Entity Structure Advice**

**Bookkeeping**

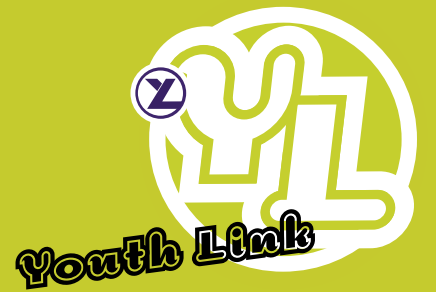
The Tax Team left to right Simone, Amjad, Jena, Shaun and Linda



☎ 4093 8222 ✉ [info@kurandavillageaccountancy.com.au](mailto:info@kurandavillageaccountancy.com.au)

🌐 [kurandavillageaccountancy.com.au](http://kurandavillageaccountancy.com.au)

# YOUTH LINK NEWS



As we come to the end of the school year, I want to take a moment to congratulate every young person in Kuranda and the surrounding region. Whether you're finishing primary school, wrapping up high school or simply getting through a challenging year - you've done something to be proud of.

We often highlight academic achievements at this time of year but I want to broaden that celebration. To the young people who kept showing up, even when it was tough, to those learning life skills, helping family, supporting friends or stepping into part-time work, to the ones pouring energy into sport, art, music, culture, dance, or community activities, to the quiet achievers, the creative thinkers, the socially conscious, the kind-hearted and the resilient...Your efforts matter, your strengths matter and our community sees you.

It has also been inspiring this year to see local organisations, elders, creatives and youth workers come together to strengthen opportunities and support for our young people. The momentum around youth spaces in Kuranda is growing and it's something to celebrate.

Desert Pea Media will also be returning to Kuranda in 2026 and the excitement is already building. Their last program in our community was a huge success, creating powerful music, videos, cultural storytelling and solid skill-building. This time, they'll be on the ground even longer. They've already been connecting with local organisations and community groups to ensure the next program is collaborative, culturally grounded and truly youth-led. They'll be working with targeted groups of young people on some focused outcomes to meet community need. It's shaping up to be something special and a big opportunity for our young people in the creative and media space.

As we wrap up 2025, I want to acknowledge the realities young people have navigated, from cost-of-living pressure to online stress to global uncertainty. Yet despite it all, Kuranda youth continue to show creativity, humour, kindness, strength and heart.

On behalf of all the staff at Youth Link - Thank you for a wonderful year. Our young people are incredible and it's an absolute honour to be part of their journeys. We are so excited for 2026!

Wishing everyone a grounded, restful and joyful end to the year. Whether you're celebrating Christmas, spending time with family, working, travelling or just taking a breather - we hope you have a safe and nourishing break and a bright start to the new year.

## Why Wealth Protection Matters for Every Australian Family

When most people hear the term "wealth protection," they think it only applies to the wealthy. In reality, it's about something much simpler, safeguarding the things you've worked hard to build for yourself and your family. Whether you're just starting out, raising kids, running a small business or planning for retirement, wealth protection is about making sure life's surprises don't undo years of effort and care.

At its core, it's the safety net that keeps your family secure when the unexpected happens. Illness, injury, divorce or financial hardship, none of us can control what life brings, but we can plan for it.

That plan might include having:

- A valid Will, so your wishes are clear and your loved ones are looked after.
- Enduring Powers of Attorney, allowing someone you trust to make decisions if you can't.
- Superannuation nominations, ensuring your savings go where you intend.

- Simple asset-protection measures if you own a business or investment property.

These aren't just documents, they're acts of care and responsibility. They help reduce stress, avoid family conflict and keep your legacy intact. If you haven't reviewed your arrangements in a while, now is a great time to start the conversation. Planning today means peace of mind for tomorrow.

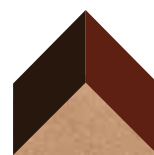
Please call into our office if we can help. You'll find us at 12 Rob Veivers Drive, next to Petit Café. Phone 4093 8222 or email us [info@kurandavillageaccountancy.com.au](mailto:info@kurandavillageaccountancy.com.au)

Calling all local businesses: as part of our new direction, we're also working to grow our digital presence and connect with more people in the region. In the coming months, we hope to be sharing stories about Kuranda's small businesses, creators and community members who make this village such a special place to live, work and visit. If you're a local business, creator or community group interested in being featured, we'd love to hear from you!

*Kuranda Village Accountancy*

## KURANDA MEN'S SHED

*incorporating*  
**KURANDA SHE SHED**



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

### Kuranda Men's Shed – Busy Hands, Strong Community

Well, it's drifting towards the end of another year. Here at the Kuranda Men's Shed, we have had quite a variety of projects. Dougie started carving figurines a while ago and now Ron and Daryl Conn have joined in by carving some snake figurines on bed posts. Greg has been busy helping John rebuild some important machinery as well as getting stuck into some lathe work and cabinet making. Greg and Daryl Douglass have also made some toys for the local kids. Eddy has also kept busy knocking down pallets for us and keeping the place clean and tidy. Other members have been quite busy with their own projects with some rather imaginative projects being carried out.

As previously noted, KMS is helping with emergency radios for the district. The main base station will be in Jarawee Rd with one in the Kuranda Men's Shed and others distributed throughout the Kuranda, Koah and Speewah region. If you want to learn more about this Emergency Radio Network, you can check it out on Facebook. Just look for "Kuranda Area Communications Network" and if you have a radio, don't forget to register it on the Facebook

page, so people know where you are in times of an emergency.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the citizens of Kuranda who have donated to our "Containers for Change" project. Without your generosity, we would have a hard time staying open. Also a big thank you to the Containers for Change operators who help us out each week by picking up our cans and bottles and replacing the yellow bins in our repository (cage).

The Kuranda Men's Shed continues to be a place not just for tools and timber, but for mateship, purpose and giving back to the community. The Shed will be open over the Christmas period, including Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Normal opening times for the Men are on Wednesdays and Saturdays and to Women on Fridays. There is also a mixed workshop day on Tuesdays.

Merry Christmas to all from the lads and lasses of the Kuranda Mens Shed and we hope to see you down our way for a cuppa some time (Smoko is at 10:00am)

*Daryl Douglass, President.*

#### Session Times

Mixed Shed (male and female) • Tuesday 8.30am–12pm

Men's Shed • Wed & Sat 8.30am–11.30am

She Shed • Friday 8.30am–1pm

116 Kuranda Heights Road

**Contact:** Daryl Douglass, President

[mensshedkuranda@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedkuranda@gmail.com)

**f Kuranda Men's Shed**



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA  
ST SAVIOUR'S  
KURANDA

**Invites you to Worship**

**SUNDAY**

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Eucharist

5.00pm Evening Prayer

December 21st Carol Service (6.00pm)

**TUESDAY**

9.00am Holy Communion

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES**

Sunday 21st December

6.00pm Carol Service

**CHRISTMAS EVE – Wednesday 24th**

7.30pm Carols by Candlelight

For Children with Mums and Dads

plus Holy Communion

**CHRISTMAS DAY – Thursday 25th**

8.30am Christmas Family Communion

**Wednesday January 1st 2026**

9.30am New Years Day Service

**ACTIVITIES**

Home Groups

Alpha

A Life Worth Living

Sunday School

**POSSUM CORNER OP SHOP**

Monday to Saturday

8.30am until after 12.30pm

Enquiries to Chris Wright

Phone: **4093 8735**

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



ST CHRISTOPHER'S  
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20 Barang Street, Kuranda

Serviced by the Northern Beaches Parish

Sunday Mass: 5pm  
Wednesday Mass: 6pm

P | 07 4092 1077

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



**Beyond  
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[beyondblue.org.au](https://beyondblue.org.au)

1300 22 4636

@beyondblue @beyondblue

@beyondblueofficial

company/beyondblue



**Seventh-day  
Adventist Church**

Wirramoo Street, Kuranda

Services held every Saturday  
**ALL WELCOME**

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

## St Saviour's Thought for December

### A THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS

We are living in a time when we seem to often feel that we are surrounded by enemies and beset by insecurity. This is in stark contrast to the situation decades ago after the fall of the Berlin Wall when the end of the Cold War was being hailed and everyone looked forward to a safer and more stable world. However, now we are now surrounded by new situations - by the Gaza situation and by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, plus many other different kinds of global conflict which are often brought home in major cities in Australia.

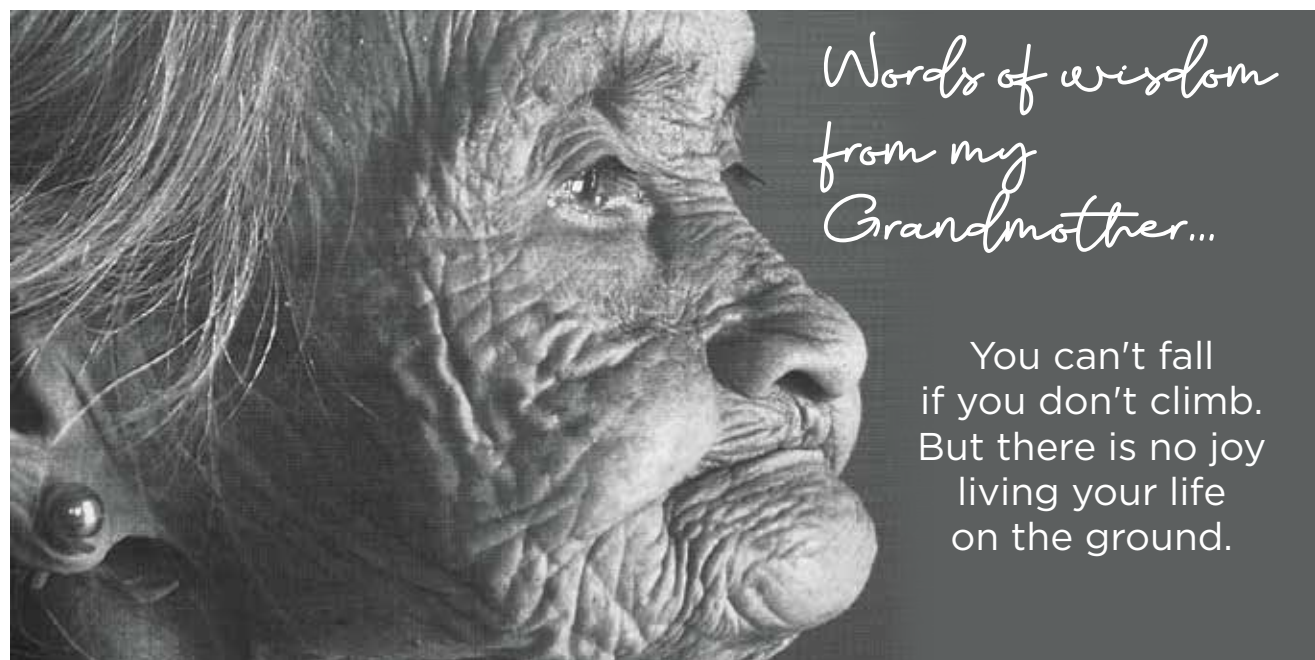
At Christmas we think of the message of the Angels to the shepherds in the fields; the Angel's message is as pertinent to us today as it was to the shepherds on the hills of Judea two thousand years ago. We need to remind ourselves of this message - do not be afraid - as we approach Christmas 2025. Christmas is a celebration of Christ's coming to us where we are - God incarnate as a human in Jesus Christ baby born in time of occupation and uncertainty.

One of the old Christmas carols, O little town of Bethlehem has these words, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight". May you have a Holy, Safe and blessed Christmas.

*Chris Wright*

### News from St Saviour's

Christmas is coming and there are lots of preparations coming on at St Saviour's for the Christmas Services. On Sunday the 15th of December we are holding our Carols Service at 6.00 pm. On Christmas Eve, Tuesday the 24th, there will be Carols by Candlelight for Children with Mums and Dads with Holy Communion at 7.30pm. On Christmas Day, Wednesday the 25th, there will be the Christmas Day family service at 8.30am.



*Words of wisdom  
from my  
Grandmother...*

You can't fall  
if you don't climb.  
But there is no joy  
living your life  
on the ground.

## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH FROM THE BAHAI FAITH

"Be generous in prosperity and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man and show all meekness to all men.

Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring.

Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart,

an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."  
(Baha'u'llah)

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

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

**Study Circles:** by arrangement, please feel free to enquire.

Also regular events in Cairns, Atherton, Mareeba, Malanda, Tolga and other places.

All enquiries welcome.

**4093 9571 | [bahai.org.au](https://bahai.org.au)**

The Baha'i Community of Mareeba/Kuranda



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**Open every second  
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When you come to our centre, you will receive quality personal care at an affordable price.

**Call us today for an appointment  
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Kuranda Dental Clinic  
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- Westfund
- CBHS Health
- HBF
- AAMI
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- Suncorp
- NIB
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- DVA

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We're looking for caring, reliable people to join our Kuranda team. In this hands-on role, you'll collect and process patient specimens, deliver excellent customer service, and help keep our clinics running smoothly.

**What we're looking for:**

- Compassion and professionalism with patients
- Strong time management and attention to detail
- Healthcare or customer service experience (preferred)
- Certificate III in Pathology Collection & First Aid (highly regarded)

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[Susan\\_Fry@snp.com.au](mailto:Susan_Fry@snp.com.au)



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**kuranda.do@ses.qld.gov.au**  
**SES HQ - 9 Fallon road**

## GRATIS CLASSIFIEDS\*

**Christmas is near**, don't forget we are here! Support a local business and get personalised friendly service with free gift wrapping. Just Gorgeous 16 Coondoo St. Kuranda

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

**Just Gorgeous** open til 7:00 for Twilight Trading 12/12 \$20 racks and 20% Off almost Everything! 5 - 7 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

**Street Pantry** is located at the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre on Rob Veivers Drive

(next to Butterfly Sanctuary). Open 24/7 for donations of nonperishable food or for others to take items as needed. Will also receive food items and toiletries to distribute.

**Toy Drive** at the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre. Donate a (new) toy for a child in need. Drop into the centre to pick a tag off the tree and be matched to a child or call the Centre on 07 4093 8933 or email community@kurandanc.org.au Drop off (new) toy by Friday 12 December.

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



**Community Donation Drive**

Support local families struggling with the rising cost of living.

Donations of pantry staples and toiletry items can be dropped off at the Centre.

## Heads Up!

The Kuranda Paper deadline for February 2026 edition is **Thursday 22 January 2025**. Please send all submissions and advertising to...

mail@kurandapaper.com



### \* 30 WORDS MAXIMUM

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



# YOUR COMMUNITY PAGES



## WILDLIFE

**Wildlife Rescue** 4053 4467 (24 hours)  
**Batreach** 4093 8858  
**TigerLodge Wildcare** 4093 0761 (24/7 phone service)  
**Kuranda Vets** 4093 7283  
**DES CASSOWARY HOTLINE** 1300 130 372 (24/7)  
**SNAKE & ANIMAL REMOVAL**  
Jax Bergersen (non-venomous snakes only) 4093 8834  
Miss Hiss Reptiles (all reptiles) 0447 888 872  
Steve Larkin (all reptiles, mammals, birds, feral pigs, dogs) 0412 263 279

## DEFIBRILLATORS



Defibrillator locations in Kuranda region.

**Kuranda Men's Shed** end of Kuranda Heights Road  
**Kuranda Pharmacy** cnr Coondoo and Thongon Sts  
**Kuranda Medical Centre** cnr Thongon and Barang Sts  
**Kuranda Ambulance Station**, Fallon Road  
**Kuranda Swimming Pool**, Myola Road  
**Steiner School**, Boyles Road  
**Kuranda SES** on board vehicle  
**Envirocare Nursery** 284 Myola Road

## WATER AND SEPTIC

**Water Delivery:**  
**Grego's Raw Materials** 0419 705 005  
**Septic Tank Emptying:**  
**Paul Jennings** 0417 632 688

## LAUNDROMATS

**Gurii Gambi** 5C Coondoo Street

## FNQ Wildlife Rescue Assoc. Inc.

(Established 1994)



**Caring for the region's native wildlife.**  
**Wildlife carers are all volunteers.**  
**Tax deductible donations appreciated.**  
**New members welcome.**

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

**Email: [fnqwr@bigpond.com](mailto:fnqwr@bigpond.com)**



## Tree Roo Rescue and Conservation Centre Ltd

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

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

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

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

Donate now and help us care for tree roos today

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

Visit us on



## RECYCLE

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

**RECYCLE**

Donate your aluminium cans to **COUCH** (Committee for Oncology Unit at Cairns Hospital).

Recycle bin located at the Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Road.



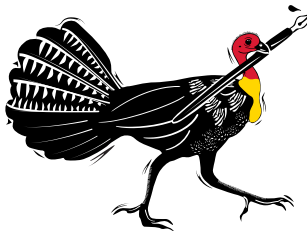
**COUCH**  
Locals helping people affected by cancer



## ROAD REPORTS

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

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



## HELPFUL KURANDA COMMUNITY FACEBOOK GROUPS

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

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

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

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

Information sharing, discussion, advertising.

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

Information sharing and support.

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

Information sharing and support.

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

Discussion group for Kuranda district residents only.

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

Discussion group for issues affecting Kuranda ratepayers and residents.

**Upcycling Kuranda** (250+ members)

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

## KURANDA MEN'S SHED RECYCLING

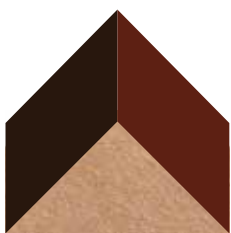
C10055234

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

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

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

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



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

## HELP GROUPS



**kidshelpline**  
Anytime Any Reason

**Kids Helpline**  
**1800 55 1800**

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

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



**Need help with a drinking problem?**

**1300 222 222**

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



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

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

**Al-Anon can help you!**

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





**Mareeba**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

## Community Services

### KURANDA LIBRARY and COUNCIL OFFICE

**Monday to Friday: 10am–5pm**

(No Council business after 4pm weekdays)

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

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

SERVICES NOT OPEN PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

### KURANDA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

**Open 7 days from 10am**

4093 9311

kurandavic@msc.qld.gov.au

### KURANDA TRANSFER STATION

#### OPERATING HOURS

**Tuesday & Thursday: 9am–4pm,**

**Saturday & Sunday: 9am–5pm**

2186 Kennedy Highway, Koah  
1300 308 461

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

65 Rankin Street, Mareeba  
PO Box 154, Mareeba Qld 4880  
1300 308 461

info@msc.qld.gov.au  
msc.qld.gov.au

## Emergency Contacts



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

## RURAL FIRE BRIGADE WARDENS



First Officer Kuranda	Baz Child 0437 746 601
First Officer Speewah	Mick Dub 0428 820 631
Warden Kuranda/Myola	Duncan Blakey 0408 151 199
Warden Speewah	Mick Dub 0428 820 631
Davies Creek	4093 3181
Koah	4093 7738
Speewah	0428 820 631

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

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DASHBOARD

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

## Join your local SES

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

Contact Caitlin **0476 772 500**



## TRANSPORT & ALERTS

**Kuranda Transfers** 0497 159 385

**Rideshare** 1300 743 374

**Trans North** 3036 2070



**Call/SMS 0497 159 385**

**Private Driver | Local & Airport Transfers**

Kuranda locals—mention this ad for a discount!

### Traffic Alerts Far North Region Roads

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

### Live Kuranda Range Traffic Updates

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

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

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

## NEW TIMETABLE

### Atherton Tablelands to Cairns

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

### Cairns to Atherton Tablelands

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

### No Services Operate on the Following Days

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

For more information visit

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

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**Trans North** Bus & Coach

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

Cairns Airport (\$5), Cairns Hospitals (\$3), Greyhound Terminal (\$3),

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

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

#### Bus stops are located at:

Cairns – Platform 1, Cairns Central Railway Station, Cairns  
Cairns T.A.F.E – Newton Street (7.15am & 3.00pm Services from and to Kuranda)  
Smithfield – Bus shelter near the traffic lights on Kennedy Highway at bottom of the Kuranda Range  
Kuranda – 15 Therwine Street – opposite Visitor Information Centre  
Speewah – Speewah Road bus shelter in front of tavern  
Mareeba – Arnold Park, 171-179 Walsh Street (next door to Police Station)  
Atherton – 54 Main Street

#### Ticket Sales:

**Purchase tickets from the driver as you board the bus** or from Piagnos News at  
142 Byrnes Street Mareeba. Phone 3036 2070 (office hours)  
Email: [atherton@transnorthbus.com.au](mailto:atherton@transnorthbus.com.au) [www.transnorthbus.com.au](http://www.transnorthbus.com.au)



### WHAT'S ON IN DEC/JAN?

As 2025 draws to a close, the Kuranda Recreation Centre committee wishes everyone in our community and beyond a happy and safe festive season. We'd also like to thank our hirers for their continued support this year and all of those who attended the wide range of classes and events hosted at our centre. Please contact our hirers directly if you have any queries about their classes, times & dates over the Christmas and New Year season.

#### EVENTS:

**SATURDAY 13 December:** 3 - 4:30pm - Made with Stillness - Kuranda Workshop with Gemma "Create calming, heartfelt essential-oil gifts for christmas, then sink into deep rest with a guided yoga nidra and gentle crystal bowl sound bath. A soothing afternoon of creativity, stillness and renewal". Bookings essential 0435 085 503  
6:30 - 7:30pm - Sacred Kirtan with Satya Living "Feel a sense of calm and peacefulness in the core of your being". Free event, no booking required - contact Jordan 0479 071 088

**SUNDAY 14 December:** 10-11am - Yin & Yarns with Gemma "30min optional stretching and 30min tea & snacks for people to connect" - a donation event to support the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre and their Christmas. No booking required.

\*\*\* All events are current as of 2 December \*\*\*

#### OTHER:

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

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

## CONTACT US

 Kuranda Recreation Centre  
 krc4881@gmail.com

## WHAT'S ON

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

### KURANDA 8 BALL

Finished for 2025.  
Restarts in March 2026.

### KURANDA RANGERS

December Training on Tuesdays  
Keira 0437 778 849

### PILATES

Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30 - 10:30am, Thursdays 9 - 10am with Davini (no classes 19th December to 4 January).  
Saturdays 8:15 - 9:15am with Jaide (no classes 13 December to 3 January).  
Davini 0414 994 123 and Jaide 0488 229 700

### TAI CHI

Mondays 6 - 7pm with Les 0400 938 276

### YIN YOGA

Mondays 7:15 - 8.15pm with Gemma (no classes 29 December to 12 January).  
Bookings essential. 0435 085 503



## What's On at Koah Hall

### MONDAY 1st, 8th and 15th December

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

### TUESDAY 2nd, 9th, 16th December

**QUINTESSENCE YOGA** with Katelyn 5:15 - 6:15pm 0428 865 636

### WEDNESDAY 3rd December

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

### THURSDAY 11th December

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

### SUNDAY 7th December

**DRUM CIRCLE** 10:30am -12:30pm  
Jeff Cotter 0449 889 503



### HIRE FEES

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

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

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

 Koah Hall

### KOAH MONTHLY MARKET

**Saturday 6th December**  
(last market until MARCH 2026)

#### 8am till Midday

- Featuring market musician extraordinaire - **'Mr. Lunar' and One-Pony Open-Sleigh rides with beloved pony Mr. Nelson**
- New stallholders and regulars are invited to join us for all the fun!
- SMS/Voicemail Nicky 0488 961 660 or FB messenger via Koah Monthly Markets Facebook page.

*Mr. Nelson One-Pony Open-Sleigh with Yannick Hensen. Photo Kerry Scott.*



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**For events at the Kuranda Recreation Centre or the Koah Hall please see details in their columns above. See page 25 for CWA listings for this month.**

### EVERY MONDAY

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

### EVERY SECOND MONDAY OF MONTH

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

### EVERY TUESDAY

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



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

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

### SECOND TUESDAY

Kuranda SES Training 7pm sharp at Fallon Road. Paul 0448 008 087  
She Shed Kuranda 1-5pm. mensshedkuranda@gmail.com

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

### EVERY THURSDAY

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

Kuranda Rangers soccer  
Keira 0437 778 849 for any queries.

### EVERY SECOND THURSDAY OF MONTH

Kuranda Library Book Club 10am, Kuranda Library. Cheryl 0407 670 954 or cheryl.tonkin@gmail.com  
New members/readers are always welcome.

### EVERY FRIDAY

Ashtanga Yoga 6am. Biannka 0407 634 116  
Kuranda Story Time 10am-12pm, Kuranda Library. Every Friday, during school term.  
She Shed Kuranda 8.30am-1pm. mensshedkuranda@gmail.com

### EVERY SATURDAY

Men's Shed Kuranda 8.30am-11.30am mensshedkuranda@gmail.com

### EVERY SUNDAY

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

### EVERY SECOND SUNDAY

Kuranda Amphitheatre Working Bee 9am-1pm. Email [volunteers@kurandaamphitheatre.org](mailto:volunteers@kurandaamphitheatre.org)