



**Kuranda
Garden
Club Inc.**

On Sunday 29 April six members of the Kuranda Garden Club attended a meeting of the Combined Garden Clubs of Far North Queensland in Innisfail. These meetings are held twice a year, attended by representatives of Garden Clubs from Cairns and the Tablelands to Townsville. Clubs take it in turn to host these meetings, and in October it will be Kuranda's turn to host the meeting.

At the meeting each Club presented a report of its activities over the last six months, as is usual on these occasions. David Sturge, President of the Kuranda Garden Club, presented the following report:

Since our report at the Combined Clubs Meeting last October, the Kuranda Garden Club has continued to hold meetings on the first Saturday of each month. 25 to 30 members now regularly come to our meetings, a number which we feel is as many as we want when visiting private gardens. Our membership has increased steadily to about 60.

In November the club visited the garden of Kuranda residents Garry and Colin, where we saw what a pleasing result can be achieved in a small space with little expense and a good imagination.

In December each year we depart from the usual pattern of meetings by having a pot-luck lunch in a member's home, this year at the home of Rita Squire in Speewah.

In February local resident Garry Wilson, who is Patron of Friends of Cairns Botanic Garden, gave us a detailed talk on Cycads and their origins and relations to other plants. His enthusiasm for the subject makes him an informative as well as entertaining speaker.

In March Frank Zich, Curator of the Herbarium at JCU, stepped in at the last moment to replace our scheduled speaker, who was ill. Frank described the vital work of the herbarium in conserving samples of plants for serious researchers to access, as well as helping the public with identification of plants. He also described the origin and use of the Rainforest Key, an online database to use for identification of tropical rainforest plants. Simply Google Rainforest Key in order to find it.

In April the club again visited Kuranda resident Peter North, who has a considerable collection of aroids climbing on almost every tree in his extensive garden. His infectious enthusiasm and generosity in giving cuttings inspired our members to try growing some of these unusual plants for themselves.

On Sunday 13 May, the Kuranda Garden Club defended their win of the Golden Gumboot Toss at the Tropical Garden Fair in Woree on the south side of Cairns. We encouraged all clubs to enter a team for this trophy, as entry was free and there was a generous prize consisting of a wheelbarrow filled with goodies.

We narrowly lost the Gumboot Toss to Cairns Garden Club, despite the boot slipping out of some people's hands and falling short in both teams. We hope to regain the trophy next year.



kuranda.
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Mustering all Old mobiles

For those of you who have watched the plantings from Warril Creek upstream grow over the last year in height and in distance, creeping along the riparian zone towards Mantaka, you'll be proud to know that any kilogram of mobile phones or accessories recycled in the month leading up to World Environment Day could have contributed a tree towards this planting of 5,500 trees.. Through the Landcare Australia – Mobile Muster partnership the 'Old Phones, More Trees' campaign contributed to 4 projects including Envirocare's project here at Warril Creek.



Thanks to the generosity of other Landcare sponsorship, these trees will be maintained by Envirocare for two more years to canopy closure. Since 2007 the 'Old phones, More trees' campaign has enabled Landcare groups to plant more than 255,000 trees across Australia and recycle more than 149,000 kilograms of mobile phones and accessories.

Mobile phones are not biodegradable, but are 90 per cent recyclable. According to the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association, there are an estimated 16 million mobile phones lying unused or broken in drawers across Australia that could be recycled. So check out those drawers and cupboards and get those phones recycled! You can hand them in at the Kuranda Post Office.

Tree of the month: Maniltoa lenticellata

Some of you may have seen the very handsome tree outside the Kuranda library with its new leaves cascading in streamers of pale salmon or white. It always has people talking in Sept-Oct when it's covered in fruity scented flowers. Even the first seed leaves, as shown at right, display the characteristic long drooping pale new leaves. Native to rainforest in northern Queensland and New Guinea, its common names include: Silk Handkerchief Tree and Cascading Bean Tree. It commonly reaches 10-12m so give it space and pride of place. We've only propagated a few of these trees so don't hesitate to call in.



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Date Claimer

**ART explains Science Competition exhibition
Sat. June 9th - Centenary Park, Kuranda**

to celebrate World Environment Day
Welcome to Country followed by
Individual and group prize announcement from 11am
Sausage sizzle by Kuranda High School students

Date Claimer—Thursday 7 June 7:10 till 9pm

General meeting – all welcome

**Planning out our next few years
incorporating the Biodiversity Fund grant
followed by light supper - at Kuranda Recreation Centre.**

SATURDAY morning Tree Planting 8 till 9:30am

Current planting site from nursery to Warril Creek bridge
Park at the nursery, 284 Myola Road and walk from there
And a yummy morning tea to follow. Or ring Margaret for details 4093 8393

Give a gift that keeps growing through our local Grow Project
www.envirocare.org.au info@envirocare.org.au

