

PO Box 494, Kuranda 4881
Nursery : 19 Kullaroo Close, Kuranda

www.envirocare.org.au
Phone: 40 93 9926 or 4093 8989

WHAT'S HAPPENED

Now a Plant Smart Nursery

You may have noticed that Ergon contractors are in the Kuranda area again and will be pruning the vegetation under powerlines. After the savage pruning last year and many complaints from residents, we have established in conjunction with Ergon, a list of native plants suited to this area and suitable for under powerlines. We're now propagating these species, many of which are very suitable for your home garden block. So if in need of plants for round your home or under powerlines, please feel free to drop in to the nursery and take a look at what we have.

And a shaded nursery

With help from Mission Australia participants and our own volunteers we've been able to construct a very useful under shade area to grow plants on plus a shade wind break to reduce the effects of wind on our nursery irrigation. Many thanks to Mission Australia for the funding to enable this latest project. Visitors are commenting on how solid and professional the nursery is looking with healthy, well rooted plants.



2031 Plan Announced

The 2025 Plan is finally complete, but not before a last minute change of name. It is now the 2031 Plan, and it will control all development in Far North Queensland for the next 20 years, unless amended or abolished. Hard copies will be available soon from FNQRegionalPlan@dip.qld.gov.au (Ph 1300 721194) or from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Level 2, Orchid Plaza, Abbott St., Cairns. The maps are believed to be quite expensive.

While it is too soon to make comments on the overall plan, it appears to be quite similar to the draft released a year or so ago. Kuranda Envirocare will be looking carefully at the final form of the plan over coming weeks.

Kuranda residents will be interested to know that the general situation of Myola remains unchanged (That is, that it will not be required for urban development during the life of the plan). However there is included in the long term strategy (15 or more years hence) a review of the Kuranda Range Road upgrade and Myola proposals. It is unlikely that dormitory suburbs will be any more sensible than they are now, so hopefully this will be just a final review. There is, however, a change to the urban footprint at Myola to allow the Welcome Pocket aged care facility to proceed.

Thanks are due to the many hundreds of Kuranda and Myola residents who signed the petition opposing urban development at Myola, and to Steve Wettenhall for listening to our views and representing us in meetings where his input has made a difference.

Plant of the Month (possible photos attached)

Fruiting this Month **Vomit Vine**

This vine is fruiting well in the Kuranda area at present. The fruits are orange, look a bit like miniature flying saucers, and have a disgusting smell. However the ants love them, and quickly devour the fruits if they are left lying around. The vine is a twiner or scrambler, usually growing over low vegetation. The leaves often have small pits known as domatia where the side veins meet the mid vein. Sometimes these are visible on the top of the leaf, but the pits are actually on the underside.

Vomit Vine has the scientific name *Morinda umbellata*. The *Morinda* genus includes a few other smelly members, including the Rotten Cheese Fruit (*Morinda citrifolia*) which grows a juicy fruit from which a health tonic called Noni juice is derived. Thankfully no one seems to be drinking the extract from Vomit Vine. The species name *umbellata* refers to the way the flowers are arranged in flat heads, or umbels. The fruits are eaten by Golden Bowerbirds and Yellow Orioles, and the vine can be found between the McIlwraith Range east of Coen to SE Queensland, as well as in Asia.



WHAT'S COMING UP



**Plant
1000**



***Greencorp community planting day
Saturday 07 March 7am.***

Next Community planting is planned for March 07 at the Kuranda District school. This time its on the farm side, so best to park in the school car park and follow

the signs from there past the swimming pool to the school farm entrance. We'll ferry you to the site or you can walk there.

Bring your hat, water bottle and gloves, and a trowel if possible. We'll start at 7am, no holes to dig, they'll be done already. Just tap the seedling from its pot, place in the hole, backfill with soil, firm in and move to the next one. The Envirocare team will do the watering in.

We hope to have another 1000 trees planted in plenty of time for a scrumptious morning tea at 8:30am . Park at the Kuranda School carpark and follow the signs from there.

Meeting , 4 March 7pm

"Seed dispersal in the Wet Tropics forest"

Speaker David Westcott , CSIRO

David will speak on animals and birds who disperse seeds in the Wet Tropics, the cassowary being of major importance. We'll also get an update on his latest project on cassowary scat DNA analysis

followed by ***AGM at 8pm***

Sports and Social club , Fallon Road

All welcome, light supper provided.