

## WHAT'S HAPPENED

### *Special planting with vision*

A special planting of 250 trees, including some bush tucker ones, was placed at Bottom Kowrowa two weekends ago, as part of a project inspired by an ex local. Not only has funding been provided for these trees but also for on-going maintenance. This shows an in-depth understanding of the after care needed in this area that not even our State or Federal Natural Resource Management organisations have been able to support financially, up front. We'll be doing a special monitoring of the planting and record how the plants increase in height and breadth as part of our progress reporting. Long may your project grow!



*"Our youngest planter proudly shows off her handiwork"*

### **Plant of the month**

*by John Beasley*

LACEWING VINE - *Adenia heterophylla*



*Photo courtesy of John Beasley*

This month's plant is a vine, *Adenia heterophylla*, commonly known as the Lacewing Vine. It is currently fruiting in the area, and can be seen above

the Kuranda Range Road just below the big bend, where there are a number of vines in tall trees.

This vine belongs to the Passionfruit family (Passifloraceae) and can be found across SE Asia. It occurs in West Australia, the Northern Territory and in Queensland, where it grows in lowland rainforest between Cape York and Mackay. Vines can reach 30 metres in length, and have tendrils to attach to the trees they climb over. The leaves have two prominent glands at their base.

The Lacewing Vine gets its common name from the Red Lace-wing Butterfly, the larvae of which feed on the leaves before pupating. The hairy caterpillars are quite striking, with contrasting black and yellow stripes. The adult butterfly has a large red area near the centre of the wings, and a white stripe crossing the black border near the tips. It is one of the area's most attractive butterflies.

The fruits of the vine are bright red and shiny when ripe, but the whitish seeds inside are not edible. Unlike passionfruits, these fruits split into three segments when ripe. This plant makes a great butterfly host plant and an attractive addition in a larger garden.

Lacewing Vine plants will be available in the nursery very shortly. Phone 40 93 8989 to check.

## WHAT'S COMING UP



### **Plant identification Walkway**



The plant i.d. walkway from the Kuranda lights to the Kuranda Resort and Spa will be officially opened next month.

This walkway was originally planted by local residents as part of the Wet Tropics Tree Planting scheme around 1990 at the request of the former Mareeba Shire council to remove guinea grass and beautify the area. It displays more than 50 species of trees and shrubs, most of which grow in the surrounding Kuranda rainforest.

Two plant lists are downloadable from our website and paper copies available at the Kuranda Information centre and Kuranda Resort and Spa. These lists contains information to assist with recognising these trees with similar "family"

characteristics and contain interesting information about the individual species.

Our regular plant i.d. courses in July and August will make use of the walkway. So if you're interested and not yet booked, could you please contact Margaret on 40 938393.

### ***Compact Composting***

While living on a suburban house block and moving house a number of times over 15 years, I discovered what I think is the "perfect" neat composting unit for one or two people. It's called a Can O Worms and I like it because it's compact, has several layers of trays through which worms and worm juice can travel so that the juice is captured neatly in a reservoir at the bottom and castings can easily be removed by trays, without removing worms and half composted material. It's small enough to fit neatly under the eaves by the kitchen door. By moving veggie waste into the next layer above the one that's full the worms are encouraged to move upwards and the full tray can easily be removed with its load of "black

gold". The worm "juice" needs to be used within a few days as the live microorganisms will tend to die off. Available from various hardware and gardening places, including Enviromart, Cairns where it retails for around \$135.

### ***Hay and trailers***

Mulching hay small bales available (Rhodes grass) and Trailer Hire – member discounts applies. Call 40 93 9926 to arrange pickup. You can even borrow the trailer to get your bales home!

### ***Saturday morning plantings – 8am***

This month we'll finish Bottom Kowrowa, next to the housing and then move to the river bank at Top Kowrowa, planting downstream to join up with Big Sands plantings. Watch for signs on Oakforest Road or ring Paul Morris on 0429859144 to confirm.

### ***General Meeting, 3rd June 7pm Recreation centre, Fallon Road***

Review of budget and direction  
All welcome, light supper provided.