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## WHAT'S HAPPENED

### **Thanks to new locals for old locals**

Many thanks to the new proprietors of Fronds nursery, Ben and Cassie, who have donated us a collection of the local fan palm, *Licuala ramsyii*. These particular specimens have a clumping habit, not suitable for sale, rather a curiosity, and so Cassie and Ben have very generously donated them. Slow growing, they'll make lovely potted specimens until large enough to plant out, if you have a moist shady spot.

### **Our disappearing frogs**

Frogs remained the topic of the month with a special talk by frog researcher Dr. Conrad Hoskins last Monday night. He spoke on frogs of the rainforest, their special place in the ecosystem and of the local Myola frog. Conrad mentioned that rainforest frogs have specific water quality requirements to ensure their survival. He pointed to the development in the Redlynch valley where he has found rainforest frogs have not survived that development. Only open forest species exist there now, where there was once rainforest species. A sobering thought for any future development of the Myola area. We have a few copies of Conrad's new book on frogs, available for those who missed the opportunity to get one (\$16).

### **A successful launch – 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

The Kuranda Greencorp team invited various community members and councillors to their official launch and morning tea at the riverside on Jum Run Creek walkway. It was a glorious day, a beautiful setting and a great deal of hope and support was offered to the young team members. It was good to see how well they worked together in organising the celebration. Thanks to those individuals who spoke encouragingly to the team members, it really does make a difference.



### **A celebration on the way to restoring ecosystems**

A very successful bbq and field walk and talk was held at the Myola planting site to celebrate the BRICMA Green Corridor project success over the past 3 years. To date - 65,000 trees planted and 55 Ha under maintenance. The Myola site is looking great with maintenance by CVA and was planted out by many volunteers including CVA, Greencorp, Better Earth international teams and Kuranda community

members. A credit to all involved and we wish the sponsors and the project continued success in their aim to revegetate the length of the Barron River and ultimately restore the river to a healthy ecosystem.

### **Volunteer for a special rainforest experience**

Giant white tailed rats are important as predator and prey. Their ability to disperse large seeds in the rainforest, which are too big for other animals to carry, make them a key player in the functioning of our rainforests. Gabrielle Eiris, Phd student from Sth America is here studying them. There are several sites that she visits regularly to inspect her traps and has developed a very special relationship with the surrounding rainforest and its inhabitants. She gets to see the forest in a way very few people do. "I see its daily and seasonal cycles, I get to know those who live there and experience the true beauty of the rainforest". She'd love to share this experience with others and you would also be assisting in the research.

Please call (07) 4093 9119 or 0448 695 550 if you would like to join her on a trapping session or if you would simply like more information.



### **Flowering this Month**

Black Bean (*Castanospermum australe*)

The bright yellow, turning to red, flowers of the Black Bean tree are clustered on the larger branches, partly hidden amongst the dense foliage of this attractive North Queensland tree. Ranging from Iron Range to near Lismore in Northern NSW, and also found in Vanuatu, the Black Bean is well known as a shade and ornamental tree. Some have been planted beside the pensioners cottages on the way in to Kuranda. The large seeds were eaten by Aboriginal Australians after roasting and leaching, as they are poisonous prior to treatment, and have been known to kill livestock. Today the alkaloids they contain are researched for their anti-cancer and HIV properties. The flowers attract many insects and birds, and at least four species of flying fox which are the tree's main pollinators.

## WHAT'S COMING UP



**Community Tropical Tree Planting day.  
Sat. Dec 13<sup>th</sup> - Lets plant 1000 seedlings !**

Come and join our Kuranda Greencorp team for a community tree planting Sat. morning behind the Kuranda State school oval, a good end to the year. This site is part of the BRICMA Green Corridor project and will be maintained by the Greencorp team and Kuranda Envirocare after it's been planted out.

Bring your hat, water bottle and gloves, and a trowel if possible. We'll start at 8am, 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 Greencorp team will do the watering in.

We'll have a 1000 trees planted in plenty of time for a scrumptious morning tea at 9:30am. Access via roadway between Primary and secondary campus. Watch for signs in school carpark.



***Envirocare Xmas Picnic 6 April 5pm  
Big Sands***

Celebrate with us another year well planted. We've put 6500 trees in 2 Ha, sequestering around 20 tonnes of carbon per year (1 car emits about 4 ton per year), and maintained another 5 Ha from previous years.

Bring gear for a relaxing river swim, a folding chair and a plate to share. We'll have some drinks available.

RSVP Marg 40 93 8393.