



KURANDA

EnviroCare

INC.

EnviroNews

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What's been happening at Envirocare

The first half of 2007 has been an exciting and very busy time.

What's been achieved? Well, the nursery has moved to a temporary site in Kullaroo Close, thanks to the hard working rain soaked volunteers. We've trebled the number of seedlings on racks.

We're working with Mareeba Shire Council to establish a permanent location for the Envirocare nursery and office.

A draft plan and next years timetable is being prepared for the Envirolink Corridor revegetation. As well as our regular Saturday plantings we've assisted with 3 community plantings for the Barron River Green Corridor project.

We've upgraded the website to allow members and interested individuals to find out more easily what's happening in the organisation.

We've applied for and received funding for the next 12 months from our regional natural resource management group, Terrain (formerly FNQNRM - Far North Queensland Natural Resource Management Ltd).

We've held two 3 day workshops and almost completed a self- teach plant identification walk. Our funders have recognised our education focus and we'll be able to run several more workshops later this year. We're extending the learning with a self teach plant identification walkway.

Feral pigs are becoming a real threat around Myola and Speewah especially and we've supported an Envirofund grant application to make traps more cheaply available to residents.

NURSERY NOTES

by Marg Zehntner

Our thanks to all those members who assisted in establishing the nursery infrastructure (the supports, benches and pathways) and moving approximately half the tree seedlings to the temporary nursery location at 19 Kullaroo Close. Whilst negotiations for our move to a permanent location on public land progress steadily, nursery volunteers have focused on building up the numbers and appropriate species of trees needed for our own revegetation projects and also for our commitment of sales to the Green Corridor project. After 6 months in our temporary home it is time to review our progress. Thanks to a dedicated and enthusiastic group of volunteers we were able to announce at the July general meeting, that 10,166 seedlings have been

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potted on since January. The growing on benches, shade house and seed house are now fully stocked. Major efficiencies and better ergonomics have been gained with the arrival of a stainless steel potting table and a strong, stable trolley for moving plants. The watering system is programmed to deliver the required amount of water for each stage of the seedlings' growth and is working reliably.

We will again be calling upon the skills of our members as we deliberate, design and draft the plans for our new, permanent site. If you have skills or experience to assist in drawing up plans for submission to council for building approval please contact us.

WHAT TREE IS THAT?

Rainforest Revegetation Workshop Report by Marg Zehntner

What could tempt 23 people, young and not so young, to return to a classroom for 3 days? Sponsored by Kuranda EnviroCare and funded by the Australia Post/Landcare Community Development program, Druce Horton presented 2 -three day courses on *Introduction to Tropical Rainforest Revegetation* during March & April. The weekday course suited our regular nursery volunteers and a Green Corps team. The April course, run on Sundays, suited weekend volunteers and community enthusiasts.

Druce led us through *Introductory botany, Nursery practices, Nursery operation, Plant identification, Seed collection and Revegetation planning & preparation*. We took away with us a useful folder

of notes, a plant identification key, the challenge to practice our newfound identification skills on the forest around us, heads spinning with unfamiliar terms and the satisfaction of having deepened our understanding of the secrets and science of tropical rainforest revegetation. All those involved expressed interest in a half day follow up session to consolidate use of the identification key.

The latest round of funding from Terrain (formerly FNQ NRM) includes a component for continuing these educational activities. It's proposed to offer the course in ½ day modules throughout the coming 12 months. Watch the column in the Kuranda Paper for details or call 40 938393 to register your interest.

EnviroLink Corridor

revegetation and funding by Cathy Retter

We've continued enthusiastically in our program of planting for the 2006/2007 wet season. The wet season was in full swing by February and we had sufficient rain in the following months so that plants have established well. We assisted the Green Corridor project with 3 community plantings, supplying trees, planting manpower and morning teas. So far this year we've planted over 6500, not a bad effort so far. We've moved to fortnightly plantings as we move to more difficult terrain for planting. Preparation of next wet season

planting areas is well underway and we'll have easier access this wet. Requirements for more scientific monitoring of revegetation plots means we'll be trained in a new method in late September. Please contact us if you're interested in joining in. Our main funder Terrain (formerly FNQ Natural Resource management) have accepted our plan for the 2007/2008 year and funded our continued revegetation of the EnviroLink corridor as well as several initiatives to record and distribute our collective learning to others. More on those in coming newsletters.



GREEN CORRIDOR PROJECT – REJUVENATING THE BARRON RIVER

Abridged Project Update: Early JUN 2007
Project Manager Kim Forde : 0448939009

Under the coordination of Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA), the project has been soaring ahead to take advantage of the weather and maximize the planting opportunities over the 2007 Wet Season.

As you drive past the **Jim Chapman Bridge** between Atherton and Yungaburra, you cannot help but see how rapidly the trees are growing on Bonadio's and Dalip's properties on either side of the river. The assistance of volunteers from all over the Tablelands, and TREAT's assistance to coordinate and cater has meant that the two community plantings so far have been very successful, with thousands of trees being planted in record time.

Myola has seen 2 community planting days in the last three months, with Kuranda Envirocare's assistance to CVA to prepare and maintain the sites, the variety of the site has been significantly enhanced. The under-plantings at the western end are thriving. Work commenced at Freeman's property on the other side of the River. A community planting day held on Saturday 21st April saw members of Kuranda Envirocare joined by volunteers from CVA, Kuranda Conservation, TREAT and BRICMA assist to plant more than 1200 trees. CVA's Green Corp team watered in and supplemented the planting over the next two weeks.

The original plantings at **Freshwater** in June 06 are now 2 to 3 metres high and the canopy is starting to spread. All the sites still need regular maintenance, with the guinea grass on the approaches to the Freshwater site growing 3 metres in the 6 weeks in ideal growing conditions, showing how quickly that it can get away from you if not

kept up. The CVA and our partners, Cairns City and Atherton Council teams access the sites and undertake regular inspections and maintenance as part of their regular routine.

A presentation on the potential for **Carbon sequestration** for landholders was coordinated by Colin Hunt of the School for Field Studies in association with the Green Corridor project on March 9 at Bonadio's. More than 60 people attended to hear the excellent presentation.

As we approach the anniversary on 19th June of the first plantings, thanks goes out to the Cairns Port Authority, Conservation Volunteers Australia, all our sponsors, partners and volunteers without whom this would not be happening. The scope and longevity of this project is gaining momentum...

Landholders who consider that they are willing to join the project, and are prepared to assist by the exclusion of cattle from the river bank or site preparation or maintenance and long-term protection of the plantings are invited to call the project manager, Kim Forde to discuss their options.

Potential sponsors of the project, who feel that protecting and enhancing the Barron meets their business objectives are also invited to call to discuss how and where they might like to be involved. The project will be conducting Barron River Fridays throughout 2007 in which any interested member of the community is invited to come along and join the planting teams at one of the sites. Contact Conservation Volunteers Australia on 40320844 to find out where the planting will be on, the weather and the numbers involved.

Keeping us updated

We'd like to improve our communication with you. We've upgraded our website for those who have computers and it's a while since we've checked that we have your correct contact information. The phone numbers and email addresses we have may be out of date. For those who'd like to receive our

newsletter electronically we definitely need to have your email address. For those who'd like it by post that's fine too, Just let us know your preferences and interests on the enclosed My Contact details sheet. Post it back or hand it in at the temporary Envirocare nursery at 19 Kullaroo Close, Kuranda

Planning Issues impact on Kuranda

by John Beasley

2007 may well be remembered for the changes made to Kuranda by at least three plans.

The **2025 plan** is the biggest of these. It will set new rules for the way development occurs across the whole region, and these new rules will become part of the law that controls local Councils when they consider development applications. A whole team of planners will draw up these rules by the end of this year. Kuranda Envirocare is working with other environment groups in a process organised by CAFNEC (Cairns and Far North Environment Centre) to try to get a good outcome for the environment in our area. John Beasley, Margaret Zehntner and Cathy Retter have attended a number of meetings on our behalf. John is trying to get a local planning authority set up, which could be more responsive to the local community in the future. Already a CAFNEC submission has led the minister to agree to producing a plan that is considered 'best practice'. CAFNEC wants to see 'sustainability' defined to actually lead to outcomes that will influence future planning decisions. If we succeed this will truly change the way development occurs in the future.

The **Myola Plan** has been prepared by the department of Local Government, other government departments, and Mareeba Shire Council over the last year or two.

The public has not been allowed input into this plan, which will deal with urban development near Myola. However there will be a 30 day period of public consultation once the plan is accepted by the minister, which could be at any time now.

Kuranda Envirocare will be closely examining this plan, and will consult with the community if there are problems with what is being proposed. The Shire appears not to be planning any public meetings, but we will definitely call meetings if that is required. An earlier plan with community input recommended about 8000 people be allowed to live at Myola, but there are rumours that this number has been increased in the new plan. We'll keep you posted.

The **Mareeba Shire Plan** is not due for review for a couple more years, but the Council has announced a full review this year. It is not known why this is happening now, and Kuranda Envirocare will be monitoring any changes very closely. The previous plan was amended to show the Kuranda Envirolink Corridor and the Fairyland Link, both important to wildlife, only because of persistent input from Kuranda Envirocare in the past.

If you have any concerns about changes due to these plans, or would like to be informed or involved in Kuranda Envirocare's response to these schemes, please contact John (Ph 40930303) or Cathy (Ph 40939926).

FERAL PIG ALERT

Envirocare member Steve Larkin has reported large numbers of pigs being seen in the Myola and Speewah areas. Steve is still active in placing traps, trapping and disposing of pigs. Steve has asked for his contact information to be included in the newsletter and will happily provide a discount to Envirocare members using his services :
ENVIRONMENTAL MENTAL, ABN 714 136 472 98
(W) 07 4031 6046 (M) 0412 263 279
(E) slarkin@ozemail.com.au

FEE Per Visit: Install Trap \$50, Remove Trap \$50,
Remove Contents of Trap \$50
All other pest species also removed humanely

Meeting Times and Speakers

In March it was decided to review the purpose of the monthly meetings with the intention of providing more of interest to members and the community .

We have been trialling a scheme of two monthly formal meetings, with short presentations when available. Alternate months we have invited more high profile or high interest speakers/ topics for members and the community. These seem to have been well received to date.

Executive meetings are held every month. These deal with details of invoice approval, current and future project planning and logistics of our main revegetation project. All members are welcome to attend the exec meetings. Please contact Cathy on 40 939926 for dates/times.

Frog Hospital to remain in Cairns till 2008

Cathy Retter

You may have read in the Kuranda paper the request for land by the curator of the Frog Hospital. Due to difficulties with funding and other arrangements they are now unable to move to the Tablelands until mid next year at the earliest. The Frog Decline Reversal project has provided valuable information in the fight to reverse the decline of

frogs in our area, a decline which is occurring all around the world (and not just because they appear on certain menus!) We will be inviting the curator to present their work to us so watch our column in the Kuranda paper for details or provide your email address for reminders

ENVIROCARE ONLINE

by John Beasley

The new Kuranda Envirocare website is on line. Check it out at envirocare.org.au. The old website had become increasingly dysfunctional, and was not really geared to the needs of members. The planning meetings of 2005/6 identified the need for Envirocare to better use the technology available on the internet, both in communicating with members (please send us your email address if we do not yet have it) and spreading the word of our plans and achievements to a worldwide audience. John Beasley took on the website rewrite, and with Cathy Retter and Steve Sessions, who provided the technical expertise the job was completed in a few months. The home page offers two main menus. On the right is the members menu. This allows our members to

easily access current information on such matters as working bees, nursery requirements, and meeting agendas and dates. Courses and guest speakers are also advertised here. On the left of the home page is the general menu, with all sorts of information about Envirocare, and general information on the Kuranda area, its special animals, birds and plants, and the significance of the work Envirocare is doing, especially in the Envirolink corridor. Members wishing to renew their membership can now do so through the website, and we also cater for new members applying on line. Membership fees can be paid electronically if you choose. Bookmark us now and keep in touch with what's happening. www.envirocare.org.au

Plant identification walk

by Cathy Retter

Ever taken a local walk and thought "What tree is that?" but can't find anyone who knows. Here's a chance to increase your knowledge of local trees.

The Kuranda Landcare group, now merged with Envirocare, did a roadside planting along the pathway between the Kuranda Resort and the Kuranda lights, on the Kennedy Highway a number of years ago. Now it's "coming of age". Trees are flowering and seeding. Some we can now collect to propagate in the nursery.

There are over 60 different rainforest species so here's a chance to make a start on learning some of the 1,800 odd species or test your existing knowledge!

Along the paved walkway we're constructing a self guided plant identification walk. We'll have a

laminated guide sheet available, listing trees which are common locally. The trees on this walkway are just teenagers compared to the granddaddies we might see in a mature rainforest but that makes it easier to view the identifying characteristics of leaves, fruit and flowers.

Unfortunately this walkway has been delayed several times, most recently due to vandalism. So watch the Envirocare column in the Kuranda paper for details of when this will be ready and where to access the guide sheets.

A Community Vision for the Future of Mission Beach's Unique Environment

by Tony O'Malley, FNQNRM

FNQ-NRM Ltd and CSIRO have begun developing a new Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Plan (MBHNAP). The aim of the Action Plan is to prioritise actions for habitat protection, restoration and management in Mission Beach based on an agreed community vision. The Action Plan's primary focus will be on incentive-based approaches and negotiating with local land-holders and developers for delivery of outcomes.

Mission Beach is well known for its outstanding biodiversity and its significance for cassowary conservation. The area also has very important Aboriginal cultural values associated with the living traditions and practices of the Djiru Traditional Owners, and is valued by many people for its lifestyle and beauty.

The outstanding natural and cultural values of Mission Beach are under increasing pressure from rapid development—both “sea change” and “tree change”. Unfortunately, past nature conservation and restoration efforts in Mission Beach have been marred by obstacles such as limited resources; the divergent goals of local, state and federal agencies; and a lack of coordination and collaboration among participating institutions.

For this reason, Far North Queensland Natural Resource Management Limited (FNQ-NRM Ltd) is working with the CSIRO to develop and implement a new Mission Beach Habitat Network Action Plan (MBHNAP). FNQNRM Ltd is a non-government organisation established to coordinate natural resource management in far north Queensland. The need for a MBHNAP was

identified in the FNQ Regional Natural Resource Management Plan in 2005.

The aim of the Action Plan is to prioritise actions for habitat protection, restoration and management by 2012, based on an agreed community vision. The Action Plan's primary focus will be on incentive-based approaches and negotiating with local land-holders and developers for delivery of outcomes. It will also broker information between relevant State, Federal, Local Government and Traditional Owners plans, to facilitate coordination of the conservation effort in Mission Beach. The Action Plan is voluntary, not legislative or regulatory.

Initial exploratory work on the Habitat Action Plan commenced in 2006, and the first draft will be completed by the end of 2007. Implementation of on-the-ground works has commenced with the first round of funding opportunities being advertised in April 2007.

A Committee has been established to guide the process of developing the MBHNAP. Membership includes representatives from the Mission Beach Community Association, Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4), Johnstone and Cardwell Shires, WTMA/EPA, DLGPSR, DEW, the tourism industry, Djiru Traditional Owners, agriculturalists, the development industry, and the Australian Rainforest Foundation.

Note FNQNRM Ltd. has now changed name to Terrain NRM Ltd.

Contact: Tony O'Malley Ph: 4043 8026
Email:tonyo@fnqnrn.com.au

Cassowaries in Kuranda

It has been a lean time for seed and fruit over several months but cassowaries are on the move again as fruit and seed begin to fall. For those of you who missed Peter Latch's excellent talk on cassowary studies and his scat DNA project, there's still an opportunity to become informed and involved in a project proposal including a community survey, cassowary track logging and scat collection project. Please contact 40 93 9926 for more details or to register your interest in being involved. One of our members was lucky enough to snap the cassowary that's being reported on the Range Rd near Saddle Mountain.



Fruiting and Seeding Diary

The last few months have been low on native seeds and fruit. People will have noticed birds searching around for ripening fruit and especially if you're in cassowary territory. Over the next few months there'll be a burst of seeds and fruit. We'd like you to watch out for any native trees you may have fruiting on your property.

Bring them in for identification if you're not sure what you've got or we can come out to you (its so much easier to identify trees with fruit and leaves, leaves on their own can leave you undecided between 40 or 50 species, fruit and flowers are the clinchers).

We're especially interested in the following species but are happy to accept and swap plants for any native seeds.

Summary of Flowering / Seeding months for seed trees around Kuranda

1=Flower bud, 2=Full flowering, 3=seed set, 4=immature seed, 5=seed to collect, X = possible according to Cooper				Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Target	Genus	Species	Common Name						
Pioneer									
Y	<i>Acacia</i>	<i>celsa</i>	Brown Salwood		4		5		
Y	<i>Acacia</i>	<i>mangium</i>	Brown Salwood		4		5		
Y	<i>Aleurites</i>	<i>rockinghamensis</i>	Candlenut		4	5			
Y	<i>Glochidion</i>	<i>harveyanum</i>	Buttonwood		5				
Y	<i>Glochidion</i>	<i>philippicum</i>	Buttonwood			5	5		
Y	<i>Glochidion</i>	<i>sumatranum</i>	Buttonwood	4	5	5			
Y	<i>Grevillea</i>	<i>baileyana</i>	Findlay's Silky Oak						5
Y	<i>Macaranga</i>	<i>involucrata</i>	Brown Macaranga		3		5		
Y	<i>Macaranga</i>	<i>tanarius</i>	Blush Macaranga		2			5	
Y	<i>Mallotus</i>	<i>philippensis</i>	Red Kamala		1			5	5
Riparian									
Y	<i>Aphananthe</i>	<i>philippinensis</i>	Native Elm			1			
Y	<i>Buchanania</i>	<i>aborescens</i>	Buchanania					X	X
Y	<i>Castanospermum</i>	<i>australe</i>	Black Bean	5	5				
Y	<i>Carallia</i>	<i>brachiata</i>	Carallia			X	X	X	
Y	<i>Casuarina</i>	<i>cunninghamiana</i>	River She- Oak	X	X	X	X	X	X
Y	<i>Chionanthus</i>	<i>ramiflorus</i>	Native Olive	4	4		5	5	
Y	<i>Cordia</i>	<i>dichotoma</i>	Cordia			X	X	X	X
Y	<i>Dysoxylum</i>	<i>gaudichaudianum</i>	Ivory Mahogany				X	X	X
Y	<i>Elaeocarpus</i>	<i>grandis (augustifolius)</i>	Blue Quandong	4	5	5			
Y	<i>Ficus</i>	<i>racemosa</i>	Cluster Fig		4				
Y	<i>Ficus</i>	<i>virens</i>	White Fig	X	X	X	X	X	X
Y	<i>Terminalia</i>	<i>sericocarpa</i>	Damson					X	X
General				Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Y	<i>Alstonia</i>	<i>scholaris</i>	Milky Pine						
Y	<i>Adenanthera</i>	<i>pavonina</i>	Red Bead Tree	5				5?	
Y	<i>Antidesma</i>	<i>bunius</i>	Herbert River Cherry		5				
Y	<i>Beilschmiedia</i>	<i>obtusifolia</i>	Blush Walnut	X	X	X	X	X	
Y	<i>Cananga</i>	<i>odorata</i>	Ylang Ylang	X	X	X	X	X	
Y	<i>Castanospora</i>	<i>alphanthii</i>	Brown Tamarind	2	3			5	

Y	<i>Cryptocarya</i>	<i>globosa</i>			5				
Y	<i>Cryptocarya</i>	<i>hypospodia</i>	Northern Laurel						
Y	<i>Cryptocarya</i>	<i>Mackiniana</i>		2	3	4		5	
Y	<i>Diploglottis</i>	<i>diphylostegia</i>	Northern Tamarind	2	3		5		
Y	<i>Dysoxylum</i>	<i>Oppositifolia</i>							5
Y	<i>Dysoxylum</i>	<i>pettigrewianum</i>	Spur Mahogany				X	X	X
Y	<i>Elattostachys</i>	<i>Microcarpa</i>	Scrub Tamarind					5	
Y	<i>Eleaocarpus</i>	<i>bancroftii</i>	Kuranda Quandong			5			
Y	<i>Ficus</i>	<i>fraseri</i>	Sandpaper Fig			5	5	5	5
Y	<i>Ficus</i>	<i>hispida</i>							
Y	<i>Ficus</i>	<i>obliqua</i>	Small Leafed Fig	5	4				
Y	<i>Ficus</i>	<i>septica</i>	Septic Fig			5	5	5	5
Y	<i>Flindersia</i>	<i>lffiana</i>			5				5
Y	<i>Flindersia</i>	<i>pimmentaliana</i>							5
Y	<i>Flindersia</i>	<i>schottiana</i>	Northern Silver Ash			2			5
Y	<i>Gioua</i>	<i>acutifolia</i>	Glossy Tamarind	2	3				5
Y	<i>Harpullia</i>	<i>pendula</i>	Tulip wood	5	5				
Y	<i>Melicope</i>	<i>elleryana</i>	Evodia	5	5				
Y	<i>Paraserianthes</i>	<i>toona</i>	Mackay Cedar				5		
Y	<i>Pleiogynium</i>	<i>timoriense</i>	Burdekin Plum	5			5	5	5
Y	<i>Pouteria</i>	<i>Chartacii</i>				5			
Y	<i>Randia</i>	<i>fitzalani</i>	Brown Gardenia	5			5		
Y	<i>Syzigium</i>	<i>cormiflorum</i>	Bumpy Satinash	2					5
Y	<i>Syzigium</i>	<i>kuranda</i>	Kuranda Satinash			5			
Y	<i>Toona</i>	<i>ciliata</i>	Red Cedar	4					5
Shrub									
Y	<i>Eugenia</i>	<i>reinwardtiana</i>	Cedar Bay Cherry					5	5
Y	<i>Phaleria</i>	<i>clerodendron</i>	Scented Daphne	5	5				