



KURANDA

EnviroCare *EnviroNews*
INC.

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Review 2007

In the words of a famous song :
"Another year over and what have we done".

In December Kuranda Envirocare celebrated 10 years since incorporation and more especially since the first funding arrived for the Envirolink Corridor . Kuranda was a much different looking place back then.

As well as the Envirolink corridor plantings, residents have had their blocks planted, roadsides around Kuranda village were vegetated and after ten years it's much more as I remember it twenty years ago but still there's more to do!

With tens of thousands of volunteer hours over the years , in both the nursery and the planting sites, clearing and maintaining, improving species selection and techniques we're achieving canopy closure within 2 to 3 years. So a very big thank you to all who have been involved and especially to Jax who stuck with it through success and setback.

With a sustained effort we can now see a couple more seasons plantings will complete the northern edge of the corridor plantings.

This year as well as working bees to set up and move to a new temporary nursery, we've increased our nursery seedlings from 5,000 to 13,000, planted over 5,000 seedlings in the Envirolink corridor and assisted with planting over 2,400 seedlings at Myola and Freemans on 3 community plantings day for the Barron River Care Green Corridor project.

This year, with your assistance , we hope to plant 10,000 seedlings in the Envirolink corridor, supply and assist with planting over 2500 plants for the Green Corridor project and produce a guide on collecting and propagating seeds for revegetation in the Kuranda area.

Myola zone update

The most significant event in the development of this area has been the Mareeba Shire council's release of the Myola zone amendments in late September 2007 for public submission. This is probably the most important change which this council has presided over in its current term.

With no public consultation planned by the council, Envirocare called a public meeting, concerned at the environmental impact this proposed amendment will have on the Myola area. A second public meeting was called for and Steve Wettenhall our State MP, attended to hear the community concerns.

The meeting asked Steve Wettenhall to speak with the Deputy Premier regarding Myola, which he has done. There are indications that the minister might not approve the plan even if it is passed by Mareeba Shire. Desley Boyle has also spoken with him along similar lines.

John Beasley and Cathy Retter spoke with the new head of the Wet Tropics Management Authority. He was seemingly responsive to our request for WTMA to support removal of the urban node from Myola. John spoke later that day to the Community Sector Liaison Group at WTMA, chaired by Tom Gilmore. Tom was surprisingly supportive, readily accepting that the Shire was the wrong body to which to hand control over such an important area. He acknowledged the new plan was not what the Board had hoped for.

John and Cathy then met with Alan Dale, the head of Terrain, who has a seat on the body which is in charge of the new 2025 plan (RPAC). He too was supportive. John phoned the mayor of Eacham Shire, who while not on the RPAC, does have some input into the 2025 plan.

Myola update (cont.)

Sarah Rizvi arranged for John to attend the RPAC meeting in Cairns, as a proxy for the environment rep. John prepared a handout for that meeting, which was distributed. Steve Wettenhall, who is on the RPAC, spoke quite strongly against future urban development at Myola, and also pressed the lady in charge of planning in Cairns to express her views. While less emphatic than Steve, she also recognised the need to change from an urban node. Nobody at the meeting spoke for development of an urban node at Myola, which is in itself significant. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Premier who reportedly spoke on radio later that day indicating that Myola would not proceed.

John attended the Ministerial meeting in Kuranda, where he spoke to Desley Boyle, who confirmed that nobody is arguing for the Myola development. She raised the issue of what should happen in Myola once the plan is halted, and how this might be dealt with under 2025. John also spoke constructively with the Minister for Sustainability at the meeting.

John and Cathy attended a council meeting as Envirocare reps and presented the concerns of residents opposed to the Myola zone amendments. Mayor Borzi and councilors asked pertinent questions and asked specifically about the concerns of Myola residents.

Council sent out a survey to Myola land owners providing two options for the Myola zone plan – the new amendments (2007) or the current plan (2004). After fielding a number of calls from confused and concerned residents the Save Myola group decided to send out another survey form with a third option, suggesting residents could send this to council instead or as well as the council form. This seemed to be welcomed by most residents spoken to. Many thanks to those who helped with the formatting and distribution of this survey form at very short notice before Xmas. Council plans to review the changes arising from the October submissions on the 15 January. We expect council to approve these changes and send them to the Minister for Infrastructure and planning Paul Lucas for sign off.

The petition raised at the second Myola meeting, requesting a third option for the Myola zoning changes has been signed by over 700 people, of which over 90% are from the Kuranda, Myola, Speewah, Koah, Monamona area. We expect to present this petition to Lucas, once the outcome of the council meeting is known.

Many thanks to all those who signed the petition, helped out on polling day or have generally supported the work of getting information out to people in the district.

If you want to be added to our contact list for Myola zone updates, please email t secretary@envirocare.org.au or contact Marg on 40 938393

AGM 2008

Our next AGM will be held on Wed 12th March at the Sport and Social Club, Fallon Road. Nomination forms can be obtained by emailing to secretary@envirocare.org.au or contacting Margaret on 40 93 83 93.

Community planting Australia day 26 Jan. Barron River Care Green Corridor planting

At the Horse and Pony Club grounds
, Mantaka
At 8am.

Holes are already dug, we have 1500 plants and a team will be standing by to water them in.

You just plant the seedlings and enjoy a morning tea/ bbq after the plantings done.

Bring your enthusiasm, a trowel, hat, gloves and your water bottle.

Many hands make light work. Lets see if we can do it in an hour.

A showy native garden plant to take home as a reminder for each person who participates.