



PLANTS ON THE FOREST FLOOR are few and far between. At Skyrail's Red Peak Station the two most obvious are native wishbone fern and robber fern. Both of these ferns prefer moist areas and can tolerate as little as one per cent sunlight for their growth.

The leaves contain lots of extra pigments which allow them to absorb more from the light spectrum than many other plants. Growth is rather slow in the

dim conditions. These ferns grow on rocks and tree trunks.

Native wishbone fern is very similar to Boston wishbone fern which is a popular indoor plant around the world. Native wishbone fern is a lot more tolerant of low humidity levels than its better known relative and as such, is more suited as an indoor plant.

Red Peak seems to be this fern's most southerly distribution in Australia. They also are found in the Kimberley district of Western Australia where they are known as Kimberley queen fern.

The robber fern also grows on rocks and tree trunks. The ones that grow on tree trunks are noticeably much smaller than those that grow on rocks, possibly due to the lack of moisture.

When exposed to light, like the specimens next to the king orchid at Red Peak, the leaves grow quite large and take on a bleached appearance. To find out what you can see in the rainforest sub-canopy, the canopy and the forest edge, go to <http://www.skyrail.com.au/rainforests/skyrail-nature-diary>.



The Candlenut Steiner School has recently been accredited to offer the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden programme, which will further develop their already very successful and extensive food gardening programme. Students learn how to grow healthy organic food, but also learn how to prepare it too.

A DOCTOR was addressing a large audience. 'The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. However, there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten, or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?' After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, 'Wedding Cake.'

BOB, A 70-YEAR-OLD, extremely wealthy widower, shows up at the Boat club with a breathtakingly beautiful and very sexy 25-year-old blonde-haired woman who knocks everyone's socks off with her youthful sex appeal and charm and who hangs over Bob's arm and listens intently to his every word. His mates at the club are all aghast. At the very first chance, they corner him and ask, 'Bob, how'd you get the trophy girlfriend?' Bob replies, 'Girlfriend? She's my wife!'

They are knocked over, but continue to ask. So, how'd you persuade her to marry you?' 'I lied about my age', Bob replies.

'What, did you tell her you were only 50?' Bob smiles and says, 'No, I told her I was 90.'



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The paper is delivered by Australia Post to PO Boxes and residences in the general Kuranda district, and bundles are delivered to strategic distribution points across the Atherton Tableland and Cairns.

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kuranda envirocare inc.

Caring for Kuranda's Environment

"by standing on the shoulders of those who've gone before"

Nursery: 284 Myola Rd, Mon & Thu 9am-1pm, Sat 10-noon, ph: 4093 8989 / 4093 8393

Frenetic Frog Fancies

All this rain has really brought out the frog fraternity and the males are frantically calling for a mate. The bigger the sound the larger (and sexier?) they are. Sound familiar? Well, one species that's at the forefront of the fraternising, come rainy night or clear, is the Litoria

myola, or Kuranda tree frog. Our small, dedicated, crew of volunteers are not hearing L.myolas at all the sites we're monitoring, but our hope is to record them when they do reappear after an absence.



Left: L. myola at Warril creek, Feb 2014

Below: L. xanthomera (Orange thighed tree frog) at Kullaroo Close Feb 2014

There is much excitement this month, as the calling has finally started at a site that previously had no flowing water. L. myola breed in flowing water and are only found in the lower reaches of streams close to the Barron. If you'd like to confirm if you have L. myola on your place, please email info@envirocare.org.au and we can send you a sound file. Better still come out one night with one of the site owners to learn the call and help with that night's monitoring. It only takes 12 minutes of listening and recording what you hear.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Terminalia sericocarpa (Damson plum)

A medium-sized, semi-deciduous tree, of northern and western Australia up to 30 m and a diameter of up to 1m. at elevations between sea level and 750m. Mainly found along watercourses, in foothills, on lowlands and alluvial plains, fruit can be made into jam and the young indigenous kids call the fruit "native Bubble gum".



If you would like to come in and check out our great selection of native plants don't hesitate to drop in for a chat. See below for opening hours.

Our trees are all a \$2 donation

Date Climbers

General meeting – Thu 6th March 7pm,
Guest speaker: Sylvia Conway on
Tangaroa Blue Marine Debris Foundation

Kuranda Rec. Centre on Fallon Road. All welcome

Community Planting – Saturday 15 March from 7:30am

Our last community planting for this wet season at Mantaka. Come join us– holes will all be dug and fertilized – all it needs is you to plant, with your hat, gloves, trowel and water bottle (and we'll organise the water.)

Morning tea to follow. All welcome

Nursery opening

Box trailer for hire 10 - noon Sat. *ring nursery on*
 ring Garth on 4093 9926 or Hans 4093 8989 *or by appointment*
 on 4093 8393 4093 8393

Sat. morning Plantings 7:30 am-9:30am Meet at the nursery.
Email info@envirocare.org.au for reminder or call Sylvia on 0409647714

Give a gift that keeps growing, through our local Grow Project.
www.envirocare.org.au info@envirocare.org.au

