

Community Nursery and Landcare

Caring for Kuranda's environment
"by standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before"

Box trailers for hire. Members discount. All plugs catered for
Contact Hans on 0459 978 842 to book.

National Tree Day – 2nd August

As COVID-19 continues to disrupt our lives through another cancelled set of events, this month's was for National Tree Day on 2nd August. Don't be deterred, you can still do your bit to increase habitat for birds and butterflies and other wildlife. Plant a cassowary, bird or butterfly food tree on the rainforest edge of your block. We have some very suitable plants in our nursery at present.

Or join in our latest project plantings to start the restoration of Cain Creek with our first community planting on Saturday 22nd August 3–4.30pm followed by speaker and BBQ—thanks to Qld government CSA grant funding. What better way to celebrate the marvellous environment than to be part of a local creek restoration as a corridor for our critically endangered Kuranda tree frogs and threatened Southern cassowaries? More in the next Kuranda Paper.

• Date Claimers •

6th August Speaker – Cape York Herps. Kuranda Recreation Centre 7-9pm. All welcome. Contact Denise on 0457 583 311

8th and 15th August. Saturday mornings 8am. Join our Weed Warrior team for removal of Turbina, now flowering white in the tree tops around Kuranda, a vine that smothers and kills trees. Meet at nursery, 284 Myola Road at 8am. Call Cathy on 0419 624 940

22nd August – 3-5pm Community planting, BBQ and speaker at Cain Creek, Monaro Close. Holes are already dug and fertilised. Bring a hat and closed in shoes. Bring the kids to join in.

Our Plant of the month – Bush tucker *Glycosmis trifoliata* (Pink Fruited Lime Berry)

As mentioned on Gardening Australia earlier this year.

- Use for screening, accent and filler – attractive small hardy and evergreen ornamental shrub. Height 2-4m.
- Bird and butterfly attracting – host tree for the Canopus Swallowtail butterfly.
- Fragrant flowers – tiny white, most of the year.
- Edible fruit – most of year, fruit in 4-5 years, pink, juicy, sweet honey flavoured translucent fruits. Make delicious jam, can be dried like sultanas.
- Drought hardy, 80% sun, neutral PH.

Nursery has a few left at \$3 each.



Above: Canopus Swallowtail butterfly.
Below: *Glycosmis trifoliata* –Mareeba, Jack Bethel Park



International Connection to Australian Ocean Plastic Crisis Uncovered

The need for better recycling systems has been highlighted following the discovery of a strong connection between Australia and Indonesia's ocean plastic problems by researchers at The University of Western Australia, Australian Institute of Marine Science and The Ocean Cleanup Foundation.

The findings, published today in international journal *Frontiers*, reveal Indonesia is the main source of overseas ocean plastic waste washing up on Australia's shores while also being a major destination for Australian plastic waste exports. Senior author Dr Julia Reisser, from UWA's Oceans Institute, said predictive modelling estimated more than 70 per cent of overseas ocean plastics reaching Australia originated from Indonesia.

"In 2018 Australia exported more than 127,000 tonnes of plastic waste to lower-income nations including Malaysia (35 per cent), Indonesia (22 per cent) and Thailand (18 per cent)," Dr Reisser said. "The international plastic recycling trade is commonly associated with export of contaminated waste, and illegal practices for processing imported materials including labour exploitation, plastic burning and illegal dumping into rivers and oceans."

"In addition to impacting oceans, plastics also contribute to our ongoing climate crisis as well as human exposure to synthetic particles and additives linked to cancer, obesity, diabetes and endocrine system disorders."

Following a review of existing national and global initiatives that deal with plastic issues, the study concluded additional global action to rectify plastic pollution is urgently required.

"We need more worldwide action both downstream, by improving waste management systems, and upstream, by decreasing production of fossil fuel-based plastics," Dr Reisser said.

"I'd like to see a new global 'plastics convention' focused on ridding our water, food, air, land and oceans of plastic."

The study also recommended stronger bilateral approaches between Australia and Indonesia for reducing plastic pollution in Australian waters and surrounding seas.

"Investing in better waste collection, segregation and recycling systems in both Australia and Indonesia would not only benefit our own national interests but also induce a knock-on effect by encouraging other high-income countries to show greater global responsibility," Dr Reisser said.

"I think there is a big opportunity here for Australia and Indonesia to lead by example when it comes to co-creating a bilateral recycling system with significant social and economic returns to both nations."

Mareeba Shire Council joins Reef Guardians

Mareeba Shire Council will join local governments across Queensland banding together to turn around the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

This week Mareeba became the first far northern Council to sign up for another term as a Reef Guardian Council.

Mayor Angela Toppin said the Council was committed to taking practical, on-ground action to help the Reef. "While we do not live right beside the Reef, this global icon still plays a very important role in the lives of our residents," Mayor Toppin said.

"Many of our residents live in the Barron River catchment, and what we do on land can have a direct impact on the Reef.

"It is important that we build Reef health so it is in the best possible condition to cope with impacts like the mass coral bleaching events we have witnessed in recent years."

Reef Guardian activities achieved by the Council in the past year include a Waste Management Services Strategy which addresses littering and illegal dumping. The Council also adopted a masterplan to revitalise the Bicentennial Lakes, and upgraded a sewer pump station in Kuranda to reduce the risk of pollution entering the Great Barrier Reef.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Assistant Director for Regional Engagement Doon McColl was delighted the Council had signed up to the stewardship program for another four years. "Over the previous term we built a strong relationship and delivered some great initiatives that help both the Reef and our catchment communities," Ms McColl said.

"By working together we harness the power of collective action. We expect at least 18 local governments in the Reef catchment will sign up to be Reef Guardians for the next four years.

"These councils are keen to empower their communities to make a difference. It's a very important and powerful message to send to the rest of the Australia and to world."

More information on the Reef Guardian Council program can be found on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority website www.gbrmpa.gov.au/our-work/our-programs-and-projects/reef-guardians/reef-guardian-councils.

