

Community Nursery and Landcare

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

Box trailers for hire.
Pick up and return, 19 Kullaroo Close, Kuranda. All plugs catered for.
Text or call Cathy 0419 624 940 to book.

The Role of Genetic Research in Conservation – by Lance Neville

When I lived in Tasmania twenty years ago, it was not at all unusual to speak to people on the land and hear how their grandad had trapped or shot Thylacines (Tasmanian Tigers) around the farm prior to the thirties. Only a few thousand years ago they were found in grasslands, forest, and semi-arid rangelands right across Australia. I'm sure many of us are aware of controversial plans to bring the animals back from extinction, but the only reason this is scientifically feasible for the Thylacine is that specimens had their DNA preserved in alcohol, not formaldehyde, which destroys the DNA sequencing. There is also a fully mummified and intact Thylacine specimen from a cave in Western Australia with intact DNA.

Also in Tasmania, Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) management has largely employed the use of genetic research to identify the cause of the disease as well as to identify conservation options for Tasmanian devils as a species.

Suitable DNA from long extinct species can also be found in cooler regions of the world, not just extinct megafauna like mammoths but also birds such as the large, flightless Moa from New Zealand, whose bones have been found with largely intact DNA in cold caves. In our own backyard, Cassowaries have had their numbers estimated in the Wet Tropics by methods based on genetic sampling of droppings to help determine the species current conservation status.

The genetic makeup of our very own critically endangered frog, the Kuranda Tree frog has had its DNA researched, work that has been led by Dr Conrad Hoskin to see how genetically different the animals are across the streams that they live in,

and importantly, to what extent the animals breed between the creeks. The more diverse their genetics the more resistant individuals may be to disease and impacts of climate change and habitat disturbance.

We are, of course, much more than just the DNA in our cells, and conservation of species around the planet will take much more than DNA technological breakthroughs alone. Genetic research has been a source of contention, inspiration and hope for agriculture, medicine, understanding our own origins as well as for conservation of animals and plants all over the planet.

Ancient indigenous cultures the world over have described in their own different ways how living things are related to each other and their environment. But importantly, maybe all this science and ancient wisdom should remind us of how connected every living thing is in the environment, including ourselves.

• **Date Claimers** •

Monthly Frog monitoring – is scheduled for the third week each month. Check Facebook for dates or text Sylvia 0409 647 714 to join the group texts and emails.

Don't forget to check Facebook for upcoming events in late April for the **What's in the Creek** project.



Ivory Curl tree. Photo: Mallee Design

Plant of the Month
Ivory Curl Tree – *Buckinghamia celsissima*

You may have noticed Ivory Curl trees flowering spectacularly over the last month, both around town and in the forests surrounding us. Native to the rainforests of North Queensland, it is a hardy, fast growing, small tree now grown widely in gardens throughout Eastern Australia. It will flower within a couple of years in a full sun position. The foliage is also very beautiful, young plants showing shiny, red new growth and deeply lobed leaves.

PROTECT YOUR PATCH

Centenary Park, Kuranda
Saturday 6 July 2024
10am - 3pm

LEARN TO SAFEGUARD YOUR PROPERTY FROM INVASIVE SPECIES


FACE PAINTING | SEED BALL WORKSHOP

CREATE A NATIVE ECOSYSTEM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTOS WITH NATIVE WILDLIFE

FREE FAIRY FLOSS




SIDEWALK SURVEY

Join the monthly survey adventure luring for yellow crazy ants and electric ants on Kuranda's streets.

Upcoming survey:
Sat 27 April- Kuranda Village
8am - 12pm
Kuranda Envirocare Nursery
284 Myola Rd, Kuranda

Average level of fitness required
Ant recognition training,
morning tea and lunch provided on the day.



Contact Ciara: coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au or 0474 560 700

We are the invasive resist-ants