



KURANDA

conservation

COMMUNITY NURSERY Inc

The KCons community nursery is nearly always open at 1 Pademelon Lane (cnr Fallon Rd and Kennedy Hwy).

Cyclone Trevor has given us good rain but spared us the destructive winds. You can hear the plants growing! We're going to have to move some of the advanced plants out to make way for the bumper crop of rainforest tree seedlings coming up. It's a good time to pick up some bargains and the perfect time to plant them out.

**** Box trailers for hire: 4093 8834 ****
Two sturdy trailers ready to go

1 Pademelon Lane, Kuranda 4881

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Email: kurandaconservation@hotmail.com Website: www.kurandaconservation.org

A SNAKE STORY

Jax gets called out to rescue a small snake in a bedroom drawer. She's told it is not looking very well, just lying in the bottom of the drawer after rolling over once. Jax goes in armed with snake hook and 2m long special bag and, in the dim light, identifies the snake as a red-bellied black. It certainly was listless and its colour was dull. Red-bellied blacks are usually shiny black on the top and sharply red on the underside. You can still get a nasty bite from a sick snake so Jax pins its head with the hook and lifts it from the drawer by its tail. It is about 400mm long. It writhes weakly and is dropped to the bottom of the snake-catching bag and the opening firmly tied.

On arriving back at the nursery, she tips the small, thin snake out on to the lawn. It twists over a couple of times then lies still on its back. Jax peers more closely and notes the unusual markings on its underside. Very orderly, almost too formal. She gingerly reaches down to pick it up and reads "Made in China". She says she didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

The rubber snake now lies on the KCons morning tea table and Jax gets to tell her story again and again, each time with the snake getting larger and longer.



The snake above is about the biggest we've moved out of a chook house. The chap holding the tail called us and is not keen on getting too close. Jax, Lorraine and Di are the brave ones about to feed the snake into the bin, tail first and lastly the head, before firmly tying the lid on. While we released it in the forest along Black Mountain Road, there's a lot we don't know about the impact of relocating snakes, both on the snake and the habitat into which it is put.

CASSOWARIES

A NEW BIRD ADDED TO THE DATABASE.

Seen by Tina on her property at the end of Mason Road. Initially dubbed Chloe but then changed to Clyde. Time will tell which name will stick. This is the first reporting of this young adult in the area between Mason Road and the Barron Gorge National Park boundary, not far from previous sightings of Di. This could well be one of her offspring. This is good, extensive habitat.

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Karl and his chick on the Kuranda Range Road are still seen regularly. We have suggested that the fencing be extended from the end of the one length of steel barrier to the next to ensure the birds can't get on to the road. The wheels move slowly. We hope it'll happen before a tragedy.