



KURANDA

conservation

COMMUNITY NURSERY Inc

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

With the cooler weather, the plants in the nursery are looking fresher and are responding with new growth. Now is a good time to plant. It's also a good time to refresh your garden by loosening up the soil with a fork and applying mulch. Leave space around your plants so that water can get to the roots.

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

1 Pademelon Lane, Kuranda 4881

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CONTROLLING WEEDS

There's a reason chemicals like glyphosate (brand name RoundUp) are so widely used. The weeds came first, then the chemicals to control them. If we want to reduce our use of herbicides and pesticides, then we first have to reduce the weeds we allow into the country and other regions for agriculture and gardens.

You have a role to play here. If you wish to have exotic plants, such as Agave, Monstera, Philodendron and Syngonium, then you are guilty of bringing in plants of such weed capacity that only toxic chemicals can control them when they are tossed into the garden or dumped as rubbish.

Think twice before you complain about the use of chemicals as to the role you might have played in giving us no alternatives. The agricultural industry also has a lot to answer for with regard to the weeds that infest our natural areas. Did you know that coffee is a pest plant that can still be found in wild areas because of plantations in Kuranda a century (and less) ago?

If you have chosen to live here, you have a responsibility to protect the natural environment and not bring your favourite weeds with you.

Love where you live – don't try to change it.



NAVUA SEDGE

Ten years ago we noticed this plant appearing along mowed road verges in Kuranda. We alerted Council about the rate this weed was spreading, but we were ignored because it wasn't a threat to pasture and the natural environment was not considered important enough. Now, it has become a threat to pasture and the only way to get rid of it is with high-powered chemicals, and the weed can only be treated in dry weather to minimize the toxic chemical being washed into the soil.

If you mow over one plant with seed heads in your lawn, you will soon have a mass of Navua Sedge throughout. You can dig out a few plants, being careful not to shake off any seeds, but that is not an option if your whole property is covered in it.

CASSOWARIES

We're being invaded!

As sure as the planet is round and rotating, the annual cycle of the cassowaries continues. The birds we've been missing for some months, are returning to the places we saw them this time last year. And there are some new faces and likely to be some territorial battles between rivals. This is not pleasant viewing.

Mating time is coming around again. This means last years youngsters will be aggressively sent away to find their own home ranges. More ugly moments.

Our database is growing steadily with new birds with new names and new family trees being created.

If you see an unfamiliar cassowary, let's know. If it's new to our records, you get to name it.