

Save Anzac Park (Nature Reserve) from Encroaching Carparks

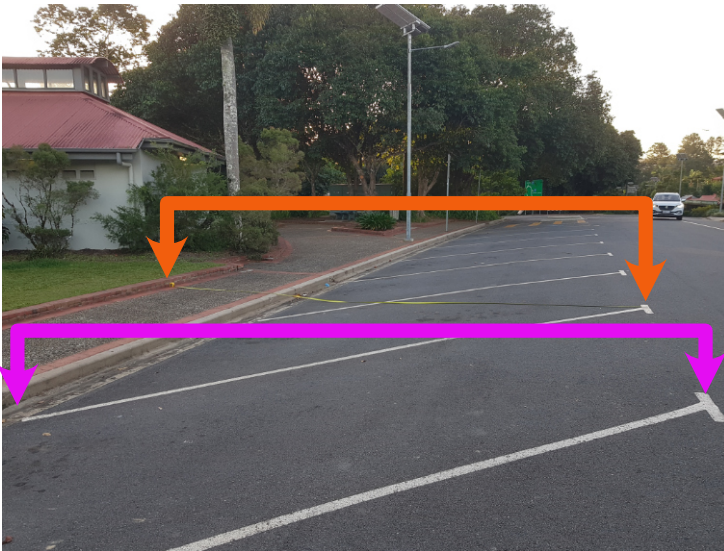
Therwine St,
Kuranda Village
July 2023

*Photos taken in the park yesterday
10 July, fallen leaf, fruits and flowers*



Concern that 5.5m angle carpark depth plus footpath will encroach on trees and the root bases of front row of park trees

Current configuration = 8 parallel carparks
New configuration = 12 angle carparks
Additional = 4 carparks



Therwine Street carpark bank depth

= 5.5m

+ footpath [2.1m]

= [7.6]m



Design illustration shows a new pathway running along the front of new angle carpark bank

= 5.5m

+ footpath [2.1m]

= [7.6]m



Width of the existing parallel carpark bank

= 2.4m

Extra depth needed for angle carpark bank

+ 3.1m

= 5.5m

+ footpath [2.1m]

= [7.6]m

OBJECTIONS:

The removal of the park is opposed for the following reasons:

a. Kuranda is marketed as the "Village in the Rainforest" – this park is the only green space in the village proper

As quoted in KIA final report, visitors are looking for green spaces that augment the rainforest feel of the village. Surveys suggest that this 'feel' is not achieved due to the proliferation of shops and lack of green space. Therefore, to remove the only green space in the village would be in direct contrast to the results published in the KIA report. (Further evidence from KIA report below)

b. The park was intentionally planted exclusively with native flora when the existing car park was built

As part of the 'trade-off' to remove the grassed area and build the current car park in Lower Therwine Street, the existing park was planted out. All flora in this park is endemic to North Queensland – this was an intentional decision to ensure the area (previously bushland) remained viable for many animal and insect species and also to showcase the great variety of flora in this tropical rainforest area.

c. The park is used daily by tourists and locals (indigenous and non-indigenous) all year round.

Daily use has been noted from tourists:

- using the BBQ;
- using the picnic tables to consume their packed lunches;
- resting in the cool of the trees' shade
- wandering the park examining the flora and fauna – especially interesting at flowering times
- cooling their feet in the water fountain

d. It provides the only natural shade in the village

- Centenary park has shade trees only over the children's playground area – there are no shaded areas for seating
- All other shade in the village is provided by man made structures
- The limited shade provided by the figs in Coondoo Street do not offer any rest areas associated with this shade
- Once the new VIC is completed, there will be less green space available – this park has the potential to become a beautiful, tranquil green cool space in the middle of the village

e. It is home to a variety of animals and insects that are dependent on the specific flora growing here

➢ Insects observed in the park include:

- Five species of butterfly
- Up to 8 species of ant
- Three species of native bee
- Cicadas

➢ Animal species observed in the park include:

- Possums
- Frogs
- Water dragons
- Goannas
- Tree snakes
- Pythons
-

➢ Bird species observed in the park include (but not restricted to):

- Yellow footed scrub hens
- Brush turkeys
- Bee eaters
- Kookaburras
- Cockatoos
- Honey eaters – Lewin's, Macleay's, & Yellow
- Emerald doves
- Wompoo pigeon
- Kingfishers – azure, rainforest & buff-breasted
- Whipbirds
- Bowerbirds
- Various finches

f. The park is classified as Heritage Site according to TRC maps

Refer to: www.maps.trc.qld.gov.au

EXCERPTS FROM

2013/15 Therwine St Redevelopment Plan, Bitzios

1. Removal of park to facilitate car parking bays,

OBJECTIONS and Alternative Proposal, Patricia Anne Green

Alternative Proposal:

a. Accommodate the thirty car park spaces at the far (cul-de-sac) end of Therwine Street on the vacant Main Roads land – on big event days in the village, this parcel of land has comfortably accommodated up to 45 cars comfortably.

b. Upgrade the park to make it a feature of the walking tracks ^{and green spaces} ~~and green spaces~~.

Include botanical signage

- plaques could be erected to educate the public about the special flora present here.
- plaques could include information such as:
 - common names
 - botanical names;
 - indigenous names;
 - traditional and modern uses;
 - animal and insect habitat.
 - Images of flowers and seeds

Many of these trees and shrubs are bush tucker plants.

· No loss of existing established trees (other than for safety reasons) and maximise opportunities to introduce additional planting.

· Plan works to optimise visual and physical connections to the landscape.

· Incorporate interpretive signage and public art in all works that tells the story of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous history of Kuranda. (KIA report)

c. Add one or two potable water bubblers for users of park and those continuing on to River Walk or Jungle Walk

"Drink Fountains"

Selective placement of fountains at up to six key nodes and ideally incorporated in conjunction with other projects.
(p3) KIA report"

Other than Anzac Park, is there somewhere else in the village to add another **4 carparks** to exclude:

1. **cutting any trees** - now or in the future “for safety reasons” ie. Existing trees then hanging over the new angle carpark bank now encroaching on their root systems
2. Cutting, covering with hard surfaces or at all **interfering with tree root systems**

Did you know?

In [2001] when the Heritage Markets was built and the adjacent carpark was developed the residual part of the council lot, ie. Anzac Park was reserved by the community for an intentional revegetation / presentation of our spectacular native Wet Tropics (WHA) tree species.

The project remains incomplete, ie. there are no markings or interpretive signage in the park and a proper species catalogue does not seem to exist?

Visitors come to Kuranda to immerse themselves in our natural rainforest environment!

What we could do

Take the fountain out, refurb picnic tables, clean and fix existing cobble pathways and install a drink bubbler.

Divert some of the new carpark funds to engage an ecologist to:

1. Formerly identify each tree species in the park
2. Develop the “story” for each tree species, each intentionally planted in [2001] for their value as:
 - a. Heritage timber tree - European history
 - b. Wildlife habitat - food or host plant for which Wet Tropics (WHA) species?
 - c. Bushfood - Indigenous knowledge, ie. Food, fibre, medicine
3. Include newly signed park as a ‘Nature Reserve’ with interpretative signage for visitors to engage and enjoy this natural ‘tourism asset’.
4. Invest in a new reveg section at the back of the park to install small loop path and plant out Wet Tropics orchids, herbs, bird and butterfly plants, etc to enrich the habitat and provide additional interest for visitors
5. Incorporate the ‘Nature Reserve’ into the village tourism maps, add to suggested village walking loops, etc.

By Jo Martin, info@kurandaregion.org

Kuranda Region Planning Group - *Proper planning in line with recognised ecological values*

The Sights & Sounds of Nature

Finishing / creating this “Tourism Asset” for “Kuranda Village in the Rainforest”

Having “free” things for visitors to do in Kuranda is an important part of the tourism mix. “Free” and then “accessible”, as Anzac Park clearly is to the CBD, will, once finished become a tourism asset for the village.

Imagine how amazing this park will be in 50 years when these young rainforest trees start hitting their straps!

Accessibility

Why is a ‘natural park’ important for Kuranda? We have a lot of visitors to Kuranda village whose fitness may not allow them to do the Barron Falls walk, Jumrum walk, River Walk, etc so this park will provide the only opportunity for less able people to walk through the ‘natural’ park with rainforest trees flowering and fruiting all around them! This is a “micro bushwalk”!