

# KURANDA YCA COMMUNITY TASKFORCE

## Keen Eye for Invasive Ants

Keep an eye out for suspicious ants in your backyard.

In Kuranda we have two areas now with yellow crazy ants and numerous locations where electric ants are still found. The time is now to make sure you keep your yard safe.

Invasive ants can be transported in a number of ways, commonly moved in gardening material such as pot plants, soil and rocks. By being aware of your local ant fauna, you may notice strange ants and be in a position to report them. If you are concerned that there may be yellow crazy ants or electric ants on your property, please get in contact with Ciara (Kuranda YCA coordinator) on 0411 193 720.

Thank you to those who have already inspected your yards and provided suspect ant samples. The reported samples we've had so far have been negative for YCA, which is great news.

The Wet Tropics Management Team is working to determine the extent of the new find of ants on Green Forest Road and they may need to check your yard. Keep a look out for the YCA field teams who will be about on Green Forest road with their white labelled 4WD vehicles and yellow high visibility work wear. Please make them feel welcome. We believe the site will be approximately 16 ha in size. More info to come.

## Sticky Trap Update

Since 2nd February the YCA Kuranda task force were given their second target, to make 1000 sticky ant traps. On 16th March this target was achieved with a total of 1101 traps made. WELL DONE task force volunteers!

Sticky trap workshops will be different from now on, future workshops will be taking the sticky traps made by the Kuranda task force and using them on the field at the Russett Park infestation site. This involves trap set up, deployment on the field, GPS marking and pick up of traps from the field to be later identified for presence or absence of YCA. A recent survey using sticky traps in an area adjacent to the Russett Park infestation site returned a negative result of YCA.

## Funding

The current round of funding for the YCA Eradication Program is due to end 30th June. As part of a ten-year program the eradication program needs the other seven years to finish the job and it's on track to do just that. We are preparing for the best: fully funded; and planning for the worst: reduced funding. Our lifestyle is at risk if we don't eradicate YCA. You can support the YCA eradication program by signing up to be a task force volunteer on the [envirocare.org.au](http://envirocare.org.au) website and following our Kuranda Community Taskforce Facebook page. If volunteering isn't an option for you, sign up and be informed. We will be calling on our community task force to help with the surveillance and treatment of YCA in our area. Our way of life will be at risk if we don't support the effective and successful work of the YCA Eradication Program thus far. We need your support.



**Kuranda Task Force cutting foam to be used in the sticky traps  
(Workshop # 8)**

***Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.***

*- Margaret Mead -*

## Date Claimers – Upcoming Activities

- No activities scheduled. Task force volunteers will be emailed with updates for the next workshop. Want to be updated? Sign up to be a YCA task force volunteer by visiting [www.envirocare.org.au/yellow-crazy-ant-taskforce.html](http://www.envirocare.org.au/yellow-crazy-ant-taskforce.html)

**For more information or to get a free YCA check on your property,  
email [yca@envirocare.org.au](mailto:yca@envirocare.org.au)**



## Community Nursery and Landcare

### Caring for Kuranda's Environment

*"by standing on the shoulders of those who've gone before"*

Nursery: 284 Myola Road, Mon & Thur 9.00–1.00pm; Sat 10.00–noon; Phone: 4093 8989/4093 8393

### Fascination with Fungi Last Sunday



Fungi expert Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fischer's enthusiasm carried the fascination with fungi to the audience at the workshop. For those of you who couldn't attend the workshop (poor you!) the Australian Tropical field guides are available at the Envirocare nursery and at the Kuranda Visitors Information Centre. Envirocare nursery volunteers can give you a quick overview of how to use the guide so give Cathy a call on 0419 624 940 to arrange a time.

### Endangered Gouldian Finches Right on Our Doorstep

**Dr Ray Pierce Thursday 4th April 7.30pm, Kuranda Rec. Centre**

Local resident Dr Ray Pierce will be giving us an update on research on the endangered Queensland bird, the Gouldian Finch. Ray and colleague Patrick De Geest got the shock of their lives early last year when they discovered a significant population of Gouldians on our doorstep. Since then they have been leading a team of citizen scientists to carry out research aimed at understanding just how these iconic birds continue to survive in our hinterland.



### Want Butterflies in Your Garden?

**Try Lime Berry *Micromelum minutum***

Lime berries change from lime to lemon then red to orange. Flowers attract the Orchard Swallowtail (pictured below), Fuscous Swallowtail and Ambrax Swallowtail. In a garden setting, grows usually to 3m.



Height:  
2-8m



Grows  
in Full  
Sun



Grows  
in Part  
Shade



Bee  
Attracting  
Plant



Bird  
Attracting  
Plant



Butterfly  
Host  
Plant



Edible  
Fruit

## Congratulations

**to Barry Hunter Jnr and all those involved in the official Bama Plan for the Barron Gorge National Park, launched by Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Council.**

## Great Planting Time

Visit our collection of garden sized natives at 284 Myola Road. \$2 donation per plant, Musk mallow flowering strongly, a few Lemon myrtle available. There are shade lovers and basket ferns.

## Date Claimers

- 30th March (Saturday) Note New tree planting start time of 8.00am opp. McKenzie Street.
- 4th April (Thursday) 7.30pm Speaker meeting – Dr Ray Pierce on local Gouldian finches see notice above, Kuranda Rec Centre
- 6th April (Saturday) 8.00am to 9.30am Tree Planting Cadagi Drive, Russett Park
- 13th & 20th & 27th April (Saturday) 8.00am to 9.30am Planting Cadagi Drive
- Frog Monitoring week 21st–26th April. To confirm text Cathy 0419 624 940 or Simone on 0432 216 816
- Every Saturday morning conservation activities – Meet at nursery 284 Myola Road at 8.00am or call Cathy on 0419 624 940 for details. Email [info@envirocare.org.au](mailto:info@envirocare.org.au) to be placed on the regular email list.

**Become a member, borrow the Box Trailer. All plugs catered for.  
Ring Hans on 0459 978 842 to book**

[www.envirocare.org.au](http://www.envirocare.org.au)

[info@envirocare.org.au](mailto:info@envirocare.org.au)

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

[yca@envirocare.org.au](mailto:yca@envirocare.org.au) [www.envirocare.org.au](http://www.envirocare.org.au)

[Kuranda-Yellow-Crazy-Ant-Community-Taskforce](https://www.facebook.com/Kuranda-Yellow-Crazy-Ant-Community-Taskforce)

