kuranda envirocare inc.

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

Kowrowa YCA Infestation Update

A delimitation survey map of yellow crazy ants at Green Forest Rd, Kowrowa

Another Yellow Crazy Ant site was detected in February 2019 by a resident in Kowrowa. A delimitation survey of the infestation site has been completed; delimitation is the action of fixing the boundary or limits of something (Dictionary.com, 2019). The infestation is approx 16 ha, adjacent and south of Green Forest Road. The red line—the roads, the green dots—absence of YCA, the red dots—presence of YCA. The purple circle—likely boundary, giving a buffer to the infestation. Inside the circle of red dots has YCA present as they spread out in a roughly circular pattern. Treatment of the site will be from the 27th May by hand. At least three treatments will be needed before another survey to determine the decline after treatment.

We are the problem and the solution

YCA and electric ants are spread by human contact: swapping pot plants, moving soil and raw materials. To be absolutely sure you are not importing any potential ants in pots, soil and raw materials, ask if the property has been checked by Biosecurity. All local raw materials depots, local nurseries and the Kuranda Transfer Station are checked several times a year by Biosecurity using detector dogs and YCA ant lures. Or create a small "biosecurity" cleared check area on your property, easy to access. Perhaps lay out a plastic sheet or tarp. Submerge your pot plant in a bucket of water to cause any ants to float to the surface or spray the bottom of your pot with insecticide. Check the plants, pile of soil or rocks for ants moving onto the cleared area. Or remove all soil from plants before bringing to your property.

Early vigilance catches the YCA and electric ant

Finding this Kowrowa infestation is a win for the eradication program. Earlier detection ensures eradication under the WTMA program. Late detection may find us as the community on our own, with no funding for treatment as Biosecurity is now a personal responsibility under the Act. If you think you might have a suspect ant, call 0411 193 720 for a sample pick up. To get your free yard check, call Biosecurity Queensland 13 25 23. The earlier we get yard checks and take precautions when moving plants, soil and rocks, the sooner we will be rid of these ants.

If you'd like to support the efforts of the Kuranda YCA Community Taskforce see the adjoining article.

STOP PRESS
A free Ant identification and celebration workshop
Kuranda Recreation Centre, 7th July 2.00 till 6.00pm, then BBQ and beer
Contact Ciara 0411 193 720 to book

Butterflies for your garden

Try *Brachychiton acerifolius* – Flame tree. Flowers are scarlet bells with 5 partially fused petals. The pod-like 10cm fruit are dark brown, wide and boat-shaped. They contain masses of yellow seeds with thin bristles that irritate some people. These are nutritious and are bush tucker traditionally eaten after roasting.

Helentia Blue (left) Tailed Emperor (right)

Date Claimers

- **1st June** (Saturday) 8.00am to 12.00 noon. Sticky traps Field layout. Meet at Cadagi Drive, Russett Park
- **8th June** (Saturday) 8.00am to 11.00am. Sticky traps pickup. Meet at Cadagi Drive, Russett Park
- **8th June** (Saturday) Build your own Native Bee hotel 11.00am to 1.00pm at Envirocare Nursery, 284 Myola Road. Ring Margaret on 0478 676 122 for details on materials needed to BYO
- Frog Monitoring week **17–24th June**. To confirm meet up points text Cathy 0419 624 940 or Simone on 0432 216 816
- **8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th** (Saturday) 8.00am to 9.30am Tree Planting Cadagi Drive, Russett Park. Meet at nursery 284 Myola Road at 8am or call Cathy on 0419 624 940 for details. Email 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 info@envirocare.org.au

KURANDA YCA COMMUNITY TASKFORCE

The Ant Hunt has begun — more volunteers needed

The taskforce setting sticky ant traps with bait and sticky cards on the 18th May.

The sticky ant hunt has begun. On the 18th May, nine volunteers showed up to set up sticky ant traps for the field deployment on the 1st June. The taskforce completed 300 traps for their first attempt which was a great effort. The second workshop on the 25th the taskforce aimed for 500 and completed 455. Amazing!

If you are interested in being part of the ant hunt, the 1st and 8th of June will be deployment and trap collection in the open areas in Russet Park. The WTMA eradication team will give us "on the task" training and will inspect the collected traps for YCA after 8th June. Any remaining YCA detected will be spot treated with bait by the WTMA eradication team.

- Field activity: Deploy the Traps – 1st June, 8.00am to 12.00pm at Russett Park infestation zone. Large morning tea provided.
- Field activity: Collect the Traps 8th June, 8.00am to 11.00am at Russett Park infestation zone. Morning tea provided.

To claim your spot, please contact Ciara at yca.ciara@gmail.com or 0411 193 720.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

yca@envirocare.org.au www.envirocare.org.au

Kuranda-Yellow-Crazy-Ant-Community-Taskforce