

Community Nursery and Landcare

Caring for Kuranda's environment
"by standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before"

Box trailers for hire. Members discount. All plugs catered for
Contact Hans on 0459 978 842 to book.

More help on the way



Left: Monitoring water quality with precision equipment. High tech water monitoring equipment and low tech observation – we use both.

Above: Mayfly nymphs are very sensitive to poor quality water

More help is on the way for the critically endangered Kuranda Tree frog. Kuranda Envirocare is launching a new project, surveying more creeks and training volunteers. A part-time paid coordinator will lead and extend the existing frog monitoring and water quality programs, train new volunteers, run the new project, and hold free 'expert' talks and seminars on biodiversity and citizen science across the broader Wet Tropics region.

It's really important to recognise that the survival of our endangered species comes down to the actions of the communities they occur in.

To become a volunteer citizen scientist with Kuranda Envirocare, contact our new coordinator, Edward Bell, via our website, learn more at www.envirocare.org.au/kuranda-tree-frog and our Facebook page.

Guest Speaker: **John Hodgson – Threatened Species Management DES**, Thursday 3 February @ 7pm, Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Road.

Support for private landholders

There is support for private landholders, who are putting themselves forward, applying for voluntary declaration covenants on land they want to see protected until it reaches remnant status (remnant forest is afforded different protection levels). For those wishing to apply, a free professional botanical survey report will be provided to include in the application. If you are not sure about this step of covenanting, please contact us at info@envirocare.org.au to discuss further. If you'd just like to declare—with a lovely sign—just how much you love your block, its forest and wildlife, you can register your property with 780 other Wildlife Land Trust (WLT) sanctuaries across Australia at www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au. WLT are a sub-project within Humane Society International.



Example of WLT sign for your property.
Photo: Somewhere Unique, Hunter Valley

Plant of the month – Bat Wing Coral tree (*Erythrina vespertilio*)

Small spectacular red flowering deciduous tree with bat-winged shaped leaves. A showy ornamental useful for screening, accent and feature planting on rural and urban properties. Very hardy. 5–8m. In our nursery stock now, plus many other bird and butterfly attracting shrubs.



• Date Claimers •

Saturdays throughout February – Planting at Cain Creek 7.30am. Meet at Envirocare nursery and carpool to site. Bring closed in shoes, hat, water bottle. Gloves provided. Call Cathy on 0419 624 940.

18–25 February Frog monitoring. Monitoring fun starts after 7pm. Check Facebook page for dates and sites or call Edward on 0459 107 397 for site meet-up info.

We are the invasive resist-ants



Report yellow crazy ants

Have you noticed the new yellow crazy ant banner in Kuranda on the Kennedy Highway?



Banner on Kennedy Highway near Kuranda

Yellow crazy ants are a huge threat to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. They are listed as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Due to human-assisted movements, they have been making themselves a home in Kuranda and the Wet Tropics Management Authority would like to hear from anyone who may have spotted a yellow crazy ant.

Yellow crazy ants were first discovered in Cairns in 2001. They are thought to have arrived in the Cairns port and later in 2014, they were discovered in Russett Park near Kuranda by a local resident. Community support is vital and greatly appreciated in stopping the spread of invasive ants.

To report suspected yellow crazy ant sightings, call **1800 CRAZY ANT**.

Upcoming Surveys

In early December 2021, the Wet Tropic Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program field team treated the Myola infestation and with the support of NQ Land Management Services, conducted surveys of the surrounding area which confirmed no presence of yellow crazy ants outside of the infestation area.

With much more terrain to survey, the Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce is calling for volunteers to support the Program by assisting with ant surveys around the Kuranda area. Yellow crazy ants have been known to wash down waterways and establish colonies further downstream so it is important to survey these potential areas. Yellow crazy ants pose a risk to native wildlife including the endemic and critically endangered Kuranda tree frog. Due to this threat, surveys of known frog habitats will be conducted.



A swarm of yellow crazy ants float on the surface of a creek
Photo: Wet Tropics Images – Alan Henderson

Tropical Tree Day

The annual Tropical Tree Day event held by Cairns Regional Council and Skyrail attracted 150 volunteer tree planters with just over 1,100 native trees planted in less than two hours. The Wet Tropics Management Authority's live yellow crazy ants survived the heat, with many tree planters stopping by to learn how to identify the ant. Biosecurity Queensland were also there with



Yellow crazy ant kids at Tropical Tree Day

their live electric ant display, allowing observers to identify and compare the two invasive ant species. The yellow crazy ant mask giveaways were popular, along with the car bumper stickers and brochures that were aimed at raising awareness about yellow crazy ants and the threats they pose to the environment, lifestyle and the economy.

Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce

The Community Taskforce is a community-run organisation which assists the Wet Tropics Management Authority in managing the yellow crazy ant infestations in Kuranda. Volunteers are involved in all aspects of the program, including undertaking regular monitoring activities, completing surveys of known infestation areas, and assisting in hand baiting.

Volunteer with the Kuranda Yellow Crazy Ant Taskforce by calling (07) 4093 8989 or by joining the Kuranda Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce Facebook page.

If you would like to get involved, please contact coordinator@communitytaskforce.com

Sylvia

Join the invasive resist-ants

Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce
envirocare.org.au/yellow-crazy-ants-taskforce
coordinator@communitytaskforce.com

