

Community Nursery and Landcare

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

Box trailers for hire.
Contactless pick up and return. All plugs catered for.
Text or call Sarah on 0499 588 145 to book.

Grant funding received!

We are excited to announce that we have received an 'Engaging Science Grant' from the Queensland Government. Offered by the Office of the Chief Scientist we are extremely grateful for this opportunity. The grants are given to support and develop ways to get communities engaged with science and we have already started to deliver on our program by hosting a Frog Call ID workshop last Sunday. Don't worry if you missed it there will be more to come!

Citizen science is the term given to most of this and we don't think it quite conveys the enormity or reality of some projects. Here in Kuranda our community has been working to monitor the Kuranda tree frog for nine years, and we're sure readers are aware of its endangered status, but it's thanks to volunteers that are able to keep track of where it's calling on a monthly basis and this data is then submitted to Wildnet, the Queensland Biodiversity Record system.

We wouldn't be able to do this without you! And we have a lot more planned for this year – check the date claimers for next month and keep an eye on the Friends of the Kuranda Tree Frog Facebook page or email us at kuranda.envirocare.science@gmail.com and we'll add you to the mailing list.



Fairyland and Owen Creek

Waiting on the Rains...

Water quality monitoring is suffering from a bit of a hiatus with the lack of rain we have been having. Never fear though, as we can use this time to train more people in water quality monitoring. The first sessions will be a short 1-1.5 hours at the nursery, and they will be an opportunity to meet our coordinator Ed, hear more about the project, and get a chance to see the equipment we use and to have a go as well.

The creeks are the first point of call for rainwater washing off the land before they hit our rivers, and they are each unique and vital to the health of our local ecosystems. It's with this in mind that we hope to better understand our local creeks, and we can then hopefully use the data gathered to monitor for changes and potentially improve water quality in the Kuranda area.

If a frog calls in the forest and no one's there to hear it, does it call? – we'll find out!

As part of our new grant funding, we will be looking to train people in the deployment of long-term acoustic monitoring devices. These devices can be left out for long periods of time and programmed to record at set intervals – this enables us to record in locations and at times where it's not always possible to be there in person. To learn more come along to an introductory session!

• Date Claimers •

Saturdays throughout March – Planting at Cain Creek 8am. Meet at Envirocare nursery and carpool to site. Bring closed in shoes, hat, water bottle. Call Cathy 0419 624 940.

5 March Acoustic Monitoring Introduction – 10.30am. Email to confirm attendance. We will be visiting a local creek so bring sturdy shoes, sun hat and water.

12 & 19 March Water Quality Training – 10.30am. Email to confirm attendance, we will be visiting a local creek so bring sturdy shoes, sun hat and water.

19–27 March Frog monitoring. Monitoring fun starts after 7pm. Check FB or email for details.

27 March Acoustic Analysis Introduction – 2pm. Email for more details.

For all training enquiries email
Kuranda.envirocare.science@gmail.com



Green Forest Road update

Yellow crazy ants were first detected at Green Forest Road near Kuranda by a resident in 2019. The Wet Tropics Management Authority's field team annually survey and treat the 16ha infestation area with the aim of eradicating the ants. The latest 2022 survey by the Authority's field team which included two odour detection dogs and NQ Land Management Services, found the presence of yellow crazy ants—this has recently been treated.

A resident had contacted us prior to the survey to report suspected yellow crazy ants around their house. This really drives home the importance of our community members being able to recognise the ants. Keeping yellow crazy ants out of our irreplaceable Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is extremely important in protecting the incredible biodiversity that exists here.

Working together

In 2014, a committed group of community members joined forces in Russett Park to create what is now the Kuranda Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce and consists of over 270 volunteers. This was in response to a resident finding yellow crazy ants on her property and reporting them to the Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority). In June 2015, Kuranda Envirocare received a Wet Tropics Community Grant from Terrain Natural Resource Management to coordinate volunteers to survey and treat the infestation area. The community also raised \$20,000, half of which



Community Taskforce volunteers worked alongside field staff at Biosecurity Queensland's Bio Blitz in 2020

was donated by *The Kuranda Paper*, for research by James Cook University into the biology of yellow crazy ants.

Today the Taskforce works alongside the Authority to help find and eradicate yellow crazy ants in and adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Biosecurity Queensland's Electric Ant Eradication Program have also given ongoing support to the Authority by reporting yellow crazy ants if they are found on their routine electric ant yard checks and share community engagement opportunities.



Community Taskforce volunteers, Authority field staff and Bulmba Rangers in the early days working together to treat the Russett Park infestation in September 2017

Raising awareness

Community awareness continues to grow as we find more ways to get the important message out there about yellow crazy ants and the great threat they pose to our environment and lifestyle. Keep an eye out for our 'Report yellow crazy ants' message on the electronic sign at the top of the Kuranda Range on the Kennedy Highway. Two other locations in the Cairns region are also showing this important message. If you suspect, you have seen a yellow crazy ant please contact **1800 CRAZY ANT**.



The electronic sign on the Kennedy Highway near Kuranda will read 'Report yellow crazy ants'

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 monitoring, surveys and treatment.

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

