

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.

Volunteers and local employment

No doubt you already know Kuranda Envirocare provides opportunities for volunteering in our nursery, tree planting and our monitoring projects – frogs and creek water quality. In fact we have only volunteers working in our nursery, tree planting and monitoring endeavours and our management committee.

But did you know we also provide part-time employment for Kuranda locals where grants provide funding? We have Andrew Horn doing site preparation and maintenance in order to achieve canopy closure by three years in our tree plantings (no more need for intensive maintenance), Sylvia Conway is our YCA Community Taskforce coordinator for Kuranda, with Ciara Bridgland assisting her, and Edward Bell is our latest coordinator for citizen science. These part-time positions are funded through various programs with the State Department of Environment and Science and the Federal government.

So indirect social benefits flow from direct government expenditure on environmental projects when volunteers put in effort to apply for grants and are accountable for making a difference on the ground.



Edward Bell with water quality monitoring trainees. Photo: Cathy Retter

Plant of the month – "Little Ginger"



Palmerston Highway
Photos: Vern Hansen

Looking for a low growing, shade tolerant native plant as a filler for your garden? Here's just the one for you.

A small ginger to 1m wide, with reddish green leaves and deep red below. It grows well in moist shade and containers to form thick clumps 50cm to 1m high. Prefers well drained soil and flowers in summer.

Available now at the nursery \$3 each, along with a range of smaller plants for your garden.



Great Barrier Reef Catchments Water Quality Project – David Orr

David Orr, Acting Senior Scientist (Water Quality) from Queensland Dept of Environment and Science will speak on this long running project with a focus on all aspects of the water quality within the Barron River catchment. Please come along with your water quality questions. All welcome

Thursday 4 August 7–8pm, Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Road, Kuranda.



Sarah Gibson and Sylvia Conway at the Little Road causeway with water sampling equipment – part of the water quality project with David Orr.

• Date Claimers •

18–25 July Frog monitoring. Monitoring fun starts after 6.30pm *new time*. Check FB or email Ed at kuranda.envirocare.science@gmail.com

Wednesday 27 July Science Bites – 9.30–10.30am. Talks from citizen science project leaders. Frogs Restaurant at Heritage Markets. Bookings through Frogs Restaurant 4093 8952. See poster opposite.

Thursday 4 August Guest Speaker – 7–8 pm. Speaker meeting presented by David Orr of GBR Catchments Water Quality. Kuranda Recreation Centre. Light supper. All welcome.

We are the invasive resist-ants



Community Taskforce volunteer Tim Brown and Ciara Bridgland enjoying sharing yellow crazy ant information at Cairns Ecofiesta.

Ecofiesta fun

At the Cairns Ecofiesta on Sunday 29 May, the Community Taskforce shared a space with the Wet Tropics Management Authority to help showcase the great work being done by the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.

Over 600 people visited the stall and learned about yellow crazy ants and the threats they pose on environment, lifestyle, agriculture and economy. On display were maps showing infestation areas near Kuranda, one from when the yellow crazy ants were first discovered and the other more recently showing a huge decrease in yellow crazy ants—this highlights the ongoing successes of the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.



Friends of the Community Taskforce stop for a chat and catch up on the programs progress.

The Community Taskforce recently launched an educational video called 'Protect Your Patch' which demonstrates methods of quarantining a pot plant—we demonstrated these methods on the day, sending out an important message for gardeners to water bath or bare root their pot plants and check plant material for invasive ants before selling, swapping or sharing.

We spoke to a Daintree family who were concerned about electric ants recently discovered in their area. They went away inspired by the efforts of the Community Taskforce and want to start something similar in their community. We gave them our information brochure, shared some electric ant information and referred them to Biosecurity Queensland Electric Ant Eradication Program. Community support is vital in eradicating invasive ants and by encouraging the local community to get involved we can all help to stop the spread of invasive ants.

Goodbye yellow crazy ants

Back in 2014, Russett Park residents' homes were crawling with yellow crazy ants. In May 2022, the survey has found no yellow crazy ants in this area. This is great news for everyone, but also a reminder to stay vigilant—just because yellow crazy ants have not been found doesn't mean they are not there. The odour-detection dogs will be filling in a few gaps in the coming weeks. Please keep up the great work of reporting suspect ants.

Let's hope the continuing annual surveys show the same results. A huge thanks to the Wet Tropics Management Authority and NQLMS field staff for their incredible efforts. To report yellow crazy ants or book a toolbox talk for your business call 42410525 or 1800 CRAZY ANT.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Surveys in Kuranda Tree frog habitat

Invasive ants have been found in critical frog habitat and the Kuranda Tree frog is under threat from yellow crazy ants. Checking for invasive ants will ensure protection of this endemic and critically endangered species.

We need your help so please get in touch if you would like to assist with the survey. A medium level of fitness will be required due to some steep terrain. Morning tea and lunch provided.

WHERE: Contact Sylvia 0409 647 714 or email coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au for location details.

WHEN: 8am–12.30pm 30 July and 20 August 2022

VEXPO—FNQ Volunteer Expo

Volunteering opportunities available to help at our information stall.

WHERE: Tanks Art Centre, Collins Avenue, Cairns
WHEN: Sunday 24 July 2022

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.

Sylvia

Join the invasive resist-ants

Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce
communitytaskforce.org.au
coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au

