

Community Nursery and Landcare

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

Box trailers for hire.
Pick up and return, 19 Kullaroo Close, Kuranda. All plugs catered for.
Text or call Cathy 0419 624 940 to book.

One of our key aims – Education

One of Kuranda Envirocare's key aims is education. As part of our contribution in this area, we host school and university groups from around Australia and the world. Typically a group of between 17 and 25 students will spend half a day in Kuranda. In this time they'll walk through some rainforest areas learning about our rainforest ecosystems and how they work. We like to include some sites that were revegetated by Kuranda Envirocare, some now over 20 years old.

During their visit they plant two or three rainforest trees on a prepared site. They learn why the site was chosen and the particular species. For example it may be habitat for our critically endangered Kuranda Tree frog or food plants for cassowaries. The students come from all walks of life, some



Students getting their hands dirty and learning about revegetation.

having a very different lifestyle to our one here in Kuranda.

We recently hosted an American group from New York. They live in high rise apartment blocks and their school is on the sixth floor, with a playground on the roof. Many of the students have never dug a hole or touched freshly turned soil before. Some were surprised to see earthworms and insects. With increasing urbanisation around the world this has become commonplace. The older Kuranda Envirocare plantings are now young rainforests and the students can see how their planting, of a couple of trees each, combine to create a forest and future wildlife habitat. Hopefully they leave Kuranda having enjoyed themselves, learning something new and see that positive outcomes can be achieved. Thanks to all the organisations who help facilitate these experiences.



• Date Claimers •

Saturday 20–27 June – Monthly frog monitoring fun starts at new time 6.45pm. Check Facebook or text Cathy 0419 624 940 to join the group texts and emails.

Nursery volunteering – Mondays and Thursdays 9am till noon and Saturdays 10am till noon. New volunteer roles available including Plant Production coordinator plus seed gathering and propagation roles.

We are the invasive resist-ants



Bulmba Rangers support Youth studies

The Djabugay Bulmba Rangers invited the Community Taskforce to deliver an invasive ant presentation to Kuranda District State College students. The students are currently studying Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management with a pest management subject.

Wet Tropics Management Authority delivered an information session on yellow crazy ants and Biosecurity Queensland delivered on electric ants. The students now have a better understanding of the impacts invasive ants have on our local ecosystems and why it is so important to eradicate these pests and keep them out of our Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.



Students studying Certificate II in Conservation and Ecology take a closer look at invasive ants under a magnifying glass.

The students will also do a practical component and learn about the stages of eradication, how to survey for yellow crazy ants, GPS usage and treatment.

Collaborations with Government, Community, Schools and Traditional Owners is so important to work together and a great reminder that yellow crazy ant eradication would not be possible without community support.



L-R: Speewah Gardens staff, Bec, Andrew (Wet Tropics Management Authority), Jason, Clayton and Dave

Speewah Gardens visit

Staff at Speewah Gardens learned how to recognise the differences between invasive yellow crazy ants and electric ants with live ant samples to look at under a magnifying glass.

The staff were grateful to come away with a better understanding of the threats that invasive ants pose to our precious Wet Tropics biodiversity.

Recognising and reporting suspect ants is an easy way we can all help to stop the spread and work towards yellow crazy ant eradication.

If your workplace or group would like a FREE Toolbox talk, please do get in touch.

Queens Creek not in the flow

Queens Creek was once a flowing creek, however, in more recent years it has become seasonal.

From 2000-2002 Dr Conrad Hoskins discovered the Kuranda Tree frog (*Litoria myola*), with Queens Creek having the second-highest population. By 2015 the creek had dried up and the population dramatically decreased. Any historical information from the last 40 years would

be greatly appreciated. If anyone has any information, please do get in touch.

This is our 10th survey looking for yellow crazy ants in the lower reaches of creeks that are home to the endemic and critically endangered Kuranda Tree frog.

The good news is that no yellow crazy ants or electric ants have been found in any of the five creeks we have surveyed.

Upcoming survey – Saturday 24 June. Average level of fitness required due to terrain. Ant recognition and training on the day. Lunch provided.

Contact Sylvia: coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au or 0409 647 714



The Kuranda tree frog is found in many local creeks. Checking for invasive ants will ensure the protection of this endemic and critically endangered species.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FREE Toolbox talk

Learn about the risks and impacts invasive ants have in your community.

WHERE: In your workplace or school

WHEN: Get in touch to make a time

Ecofiesta

Volunteers wanted, lunch included.

WHERE: Munro Martin Parklands, Cairns

WHEN: Sunday 4 June 2023 – 10am-6pm

Join the invasive resist-ants

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

 communitytaskforce.org.au

 coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au

