

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.

Water's Wonders in our Creeks

Our second survey in November was highly organised and we had a great set of creatures showing up in a site on Jumrum Creek. Thank you Russ and Kate Slater for the use of your place. We hauled out silt, pebbles and leaf litter from the riffles and captured over a hundred specimens. Some had



Identifying waterbugs at Jumrum Creek. Photo: Lance Neville

their photo taken and all were returned to the creek.

It's a fascinating insight into the world of freshwater creatures and several of the sharp-eyed kids, like Pascal and Eden, are going to be great ecologists in the future. Our identification skills and techniques were much more honed with the use of the Waterbug app, books and cards with bright colourful photos. Reon did a sterling job capturing images of the creatures with the digital microscope and Glenn did a great job with his overnight light trap capture of 40 caddis flies at the site, with 12 or more species, indicating that we hadn't quite managed to find all the various larvae stages.

We'll be running more surveys next year from April, but watch out for the occasional email or Facebook post between now and then asking for several volunteers, if we get access to creeks above the breeding zone.

This project is made possible through Engaging Science program funding from the Office of the Chief Scientist, Department of Environment and Science and provides local employment.

Frog Friendly property signs?

The endemic and critically endangered Kuranda Tree frog lives here and needs your help to ensure its protection. You can show your support with a FFP sign.

We are offering: a simple assessment form, receiving a site visit from Sylvia Conway to discuss any support, reveg etc. Email info@envirocare.org.au.



Plants over the Christmas break

A few native Christmas trees are still available. The nursery will be closed from 22 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024.

Shout out for any spare buckets

Has anyone got any unwanted old plaster buckets or paint pails. We need them for hand watering plants so they can be a bit rough and ready. We can come pick them up and tidy them up.

To our special friends – thank you for your donations

A big shout out to the Australian Bush Store and Small World Journeys for their generous donations to restoring wildlife habitat. And also to all those who round their tree purchases up by a few dollars. Every dollar counts! Please support those businesses that support us.

• Date Claimers •

Sunday 3 December – 4–8pm – Kuranda Envirocare Xmas break up BBQ – 19 Kullaroo Close. Cooked BBQ provided, vegetarian and gluten free options. Bring a plate of salad or a dessert to share. RSVP to 0419 624 940 for BBQ catering.

Monday 18–23 December – Monthly frog monitoring fun starts at new time 6.30pm. Check Facebook or text Sylvia on 0409 647 714 to join the group texts and emails.

We are the invasive resist-ants



Career Talk for Kuranda's Youth

Senior students who completed their Cert II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management from Kuranda District State College, attended a Career Pathways Talk Panel discussion on 4 October, which the Taskforce was invited to join, thanks to the Djabugay Bulmba Rangers.

Students have worked with us during some of their course modules learning about yellow crazy ant survey techniques, identification, and the stages of yellow crazy ant eradication. The Taskforce shared knowledge and information with the students about potential future pathways in this line of employment.

Also attending were speakers representing Djabugay Rangers, Queensland Parks and Wildlife, Biosecurity Queensland, Kuranda Envirocare, and Mareeba Shire Council.

Congratulations to the students who completed their course, keep up the clever work and we hope to see some of you in the field soon.



The Panel sharing our stories of the pathways we made and the best and worst things about our jobs.

Kuranda got blitzed for invasive ants

On 21–22 October weekend, Biosecurity Queensland's National Electric Ant Eradication Program joined forces with Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program, Djabugay Bulmba Rangers, Kuranda Envirocare and the Taskforce to survey and yard check for both electric and yellow crazy ants in the Kuranda area.

Teams walked multiple kilometres on Kuranda's streets luring with sausage, cat food and jam to entice ants. A total of 32 yard checks were completed over the weekend and more were done on Monday. We had 25 participants on Saturday and 22 on Sunday. Six of which were Taskforce volunteers.

A big THANK YOU to the volunteers for coming out to protect our environment.

All the magnificent work completed on the weekend blitz found no new yellow crazy ant infestations and four new electric ant infestations. Two of which, were from yard checks that were registered from the publicity around the blitz and completed in the following days.

A great result from a great collaboration. See more on page 4 of this paper.

It is not too late to be a part of this blitz. Anyone can have their yard checked at any time, call 13 25 23 to book your free yard check.

Last Kuranda Tree frog Habitat Survey for 2023

Good news for the Kuranda Tree frog and all our other rainforest frogs of the Wet Tropics – no yellow crazy ants or electric ants were detected on the invasive ant survey last Saturday 11 November, and for that matter, in any of the KTF surveys from 2022–2023. We took various suspect invasive ant samples along the way, but they all fortunately came back negative.

We certainly had yet another fun and adventurous year of surveys with impressive results. This is our second year of monthly surveys with a total of 14 surveys complete and seven local creeks surveyed for both electric ants and yellow crazy ants.

Thank you to all the Taskforce volunteers who have given your time and energy, also a big shout out to the

Survey crew at Dismal Creek ready for the last survey of 2023.



wonderful property owners who have given permission for us to come out and look for invasive ants in your backyard. And Dei for looking after us with your delicious lunches from Sprout Café.

This was our last survey for 2023 as we take a few wet season months off. Splendid work everyone and I look forward to surveying with you again starting back in March 2024.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Koah Christmas Market

WHERE: Koah Hall, 322 Koah Rd, Koah
WHEN: Saturday 2 December — 8am–12pm

Kuranda Envirocare Christmas Party

WHERE: 19 Kullaroo Close, Kuranda
WHEN: Sunday 3 December — 4–8pm

Mareeba Christmas Market

WHERE: 1 Fenwick St, Mareeba
WHEN: Saturday 9 December — 9am–12pm

An Ants World – a look in the life of an ant

WHERE: Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Rd, Kuranda
WHEN: February 2024. Date TBC.

Merry Christmas and see you in the new year.

Join the invasive resist-ants

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

