

## 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.

### Frog Frenzy survey completed

A big shout out to all the volunteers who joined us in doing the frog survey and those who accompanied Conrad and Lorenzo. Also to the Bulmba Rangers and QPWS Rangers for joining in at Flaggy Creek, and to the landowners who generously allowed us access to their creek line. It's quite special to have a species like this at the bottom of your garden.

We noticed a decline in water quality in some creeks so investigations are needed. A successful frog survey over the past 10 days for the Kuranda Tree frog, but not much else was calling unfortunately, given the promised storms that didn't eventuate. We'll survey again in March next year for International Frog Day when there'll be more frogs around here. We'll have a comprehensive report from Lorenzo Bertola and Dr Conrad Hoskin on their population genetics health survey next year too.

Out frogging with Steph and Nic (QPWS Rangers), Cathy Retter and Dr Conrad Hoskin. Photo: Lorenzo Bertola.



Amy and Donald at planting 2022. Photo: Cathy Retter

### Planting starts again

We've been taking a break from planting since the abrupt end when it dried off in June. The nursery is bulging and we have a target in the next six months of 2,000 trees. Come and give us a hand to reach our collective target to provide more habitat for wildlife around the Owen Creek mouth.

In January to June 2023 join our community plantings to reach our 2,000 tree target and celebrate with BBQs and drinks. Register by texting "Join the target" to 0419 624 940 or emailing to info@envirocare.org.au

### End of Year celebration

Join us in the afternoon of 3 December from 4pm till late at Little Road by the Barron River for a swim, a few drinks and bring a food plate to share.

### Have a safe and happy festive season

Wishing all our community a safe and happy festive season wherever you may be.

Visit our stall at the CWA on Saturday 3 December to buy your native Christmas tree or visit our nursery on Myola Road. Don't forget we can re-home your Christmas tree too when it outgrows you.



Native cypress pine (Callitris intratropica). Photo: Denise Donald

### • Date Claimers •

**1 December 7pm** – Chalumbin Wind Farm environmental statement analysis. Steven Nowakowski and Rainforest Reserves will give a talk on the adverse impacts of some the wind farms along the Great Dividing Range. Submissions are due by 16 December.

**3 December 4pm till late** – End of year social. All welcome, bring a chair, drinks and a plate to share.

**19–24 December** – Monthly Frog monitoring fun starts at new time 6.45pm. Check Facebook or text Cathy 0419 624 940.

## We are the invasive resist-ants



Taskforce volunteers ready to treat Russett Park in 2016.

### Who are the Taskforce?

In April 2015 Mikhaila Jacoby officially formed the Kuranda Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce after an infestation of yellow crazy ants swarmed in her backyard at Russett Park near Kuranda. She believed the success of treating the infestation required a community led approach.

In June 2015, Kuranda Envirocare obtained a Wet Tropics Community Grant from Terrain NRM to coordinate volunteers and activities for the Taskforce. Soon there were more than 100 active local volunteers to survey and treat the infestation area.

At the time, ongoing funding to eradicate yellow crazy ants from the Wet Tropics was uncertain, the community mobilised and raised \$20,000, half of which was donated by *The Kuranda Paper*, for research into the biology of yellow crazy ants and collection of ant colonies for set up in a laboratory.

Today, the Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce works alongside the Wet Tropics Management Authority to help find and eradicate yellow crazy ants in and adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Recently we shared our story with staff at the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program operations base.

### Winning for the frogs

The most recent Warril Creek survey showed no invasive ants. This is the sixth survey we have completed in the lower reaches of creeks in Kuranda Tree frog habitat.

The search continues for both electric ants and yellow crazy ants as part of our monthly survey activity. You are invited to join in on the fun. No experience necessary, however an average level of fitness is required due to some steep terrain.



Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program field staff supports the Taskforce. L-R: Taskforce volunteer Paul with Authority staff Lukasz and Adam.

Right: At Warril Creek, a pink flag is placed next to the lure every 5 metres for ease of relocating an hour later to check for invasive ants.



Andrew Vakaci from the Authority, sharing important information about yellow crazy ants with the Djabugay Bulmba Rangers. Photo: Wet Tropics Management Authority

### Bulmba Rangers skilling up

The Wet Tropics Management Authority has teamed up with Biosecurity Queensland to deliver specific invasive ant training on country, and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Djabugay Bulmba Rangers recently received this training and conducted a practical survey on country at the Barron Falls. In the long-term it would be advantageous to incorporate this work into pest and weed prevention plans. This will also serve as a legacy project of the program for when the current program concludes.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### Tropical Tree Day

**WHERE:** Disney Street Reserve, White Rock  
**WHEN:** Saturday 4 December, 8–10am

#### Invasive Ant ID Workshop

**WHERE:** Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Rd, Kuranda  
**WHEN:** Saturday 10 December, 10am–1pm

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

