

# WATER, WATER ... IS NOT EVERYWHERE!!!

## KUR-World water demands – Tell us what you know

**THE TOWNSHIP OF MYOLA** is 3.5kms from the Kuranda traffic lights. Myola has no town water supply and all residents are dependent on underground bore water, creeks or rainwater tanks. This is not unusual for the Kuranda, Speewah and Koah areas. What is unusual is that the proposed KUR-World development with 4,000 new residents and 1,000 day tourists wants to share the very limited Myola water supply. This will have a huge impact on hundreds of established residents who can't expect the Mareeba Shire Council to step in and provide an alternate supply. There just won't be water for them if the impacts of the proposed KUR-World development are not honestly assessed in the current environmental impact statement.

This is the worry. The impacts are assessed by KUR-World. They will most probably be biased in the favour of the developer (Nott, 2013).

The June issue of *The Kuranda Paper* carried a small invitation to water users to contact KUR-World to have their bores included in a monitoring program. "Ground water pump tests will commence in the second week of June and if possible we would like to include monitoring of selected bores in the neighbourhood. Please contact us." KW.

Thirty-nine residences in Myola registered an interest. That is thirty-nine families, worried about the impacts of the KUR-World proposal on their on-going water supply. There is also much flora and fauna dependent on the environmental water flows too.

*The Kuranda Paper* would like to help Myola residents

Many people in the Kuranda, Speewah, Koah areas have had water supply issues over the years. Can you tell us what you remember about bores drying up, getting salty or becoming unreliable for household supply. Do you know about creeks or springs that have reduced or stopped their flow? Please phone/email the paper and give us your contact details. One of the community reference group members will be in touch to document your experiences with water supply over the past 20-30 years. Let us know. We need to get a picture of the past impacts on water supply so we can submit this to the EIS approval process with state government. Individual information will be de-identified and kept private. It is the collective information that will form the best picture of impacts for all residents.



Caring for Kuranda's Environment

"by standing on the shoulders of those who've gone before"

Nursery: 284 Myola Road, Mon & Thur 9.00-1.00pm; Sat 10.00-noon; Phone: 4093 8989/4093 8393

### A Win for Frogs Breeding Habitat

With the Biodiversity Project wrapping up on June 30, volunteers are looking forward to continuing weed control and revegetation work along the banks of the Barron River. It's now time to clean up the Kuranda creek mouths with EnviroCare's success in securing some funding from Landcare Australia. The grant is for 'Restoring breeding habitat for Kuranda's endemic and endangered frogs' project. If you'd like a look at this little frog, join us for frog monitoring 3rd week of the month, contact Sylvia, 0409 647 714



Above: Critically endangered and endemic *Litoria myola*. Photo Rhys Sharry

### Yellow Crazy Ants on the run

#### Extract from Invasive Species council - Feral Herald

Yellow crazy ants (YCA) had denuded this tropical rainforest of its most vibrant lifeforms. The ants, most likely introduced through the careless movement of soil, had infested the area of rainforest bordering the Barron River and from there these rafting ants spread downstream to take over new sites.

Monitoring YCA last month with the Bulmba Rangers, we are seeing plenty of evidence that the yellow crazy ant eradication program is hitting its straps. Native green ants are returning, as are azure kingfishers, and the number of yellow crazy ants being attracted to jam and cat food lures has fallen dramatically since the last baiting round.

#### How did this happen?

The volunteer, community-based Kuranda Envirocare, working with funding from Terrain NRM, mobilised an extraordinary and highly effective response to this serious environmental invader.

Coordinating volunteers, green army teams, indigenous rangers, in-kind contributions from council, and advice from the Wet Tropics Management Authority and James Cook University, the YCA community taskforce has contained and reduced the local infestation.

The key to the community taskforce's success has been letting community volunteers and local property owners lead on-ground surveillance and control work backed up by professional scientific advice. It's a model that has great application elsewhere.

The program continually fine tunes its awareness efforts, to aid both surveillance and improve quarantine measures. It is this openness of the community taskforce to review its own processes and its ability to deliver a creative community-led response that means their model deserves replication.

#### Part of the solution

The Kuranda experience, which mobilises community and science-based forces as part of a broad-reaching pincer movement against dangerous new invasive species like YCAs, is clearly a model that could be taken up across Queensland and the rest of Australia.

Property owners, community groups and volunteer teams working together with the support of local governments, natural resource management groups and scientific experts can create a highly effective force in the fight against invasive species.

The Kuranda Envirocare team are continuing their work in the rainforest. What they are doing should be an inspiration for us all.

— By **Reece Pinata**

*Invasive Species Council outreach officer*

**NEXT BAITING ROUND**  
**29 & 30 July**  
**For more information**  
**ring Sylvia on 0409 647 714**



### Tree Sale continues

All trees \$1.50 and further discount for purchases over 50 trees. We also have boxes from our germination shed not potted, free to a good home.

### Date Claimers

- Thursday 6 July, General Meeting – 7.00pm @ KRC, Fallon Road.
- Saturday/Sunday 29/30 July Yellow Crazy Ant baiting – 8:30 am @ Cagadi Drive, Russet Park
- nearly EVERY Saturday: Tree Planting 7.30 am – Meet KEC Nursery, Myola Rd
- Frog Monitoring: 3rd week of every month. Check Kuranda's-Frog-Friendly-Neighbourhood FB page

**BOX TRAILER HIRE: Contact Hans 4093 8393**

**Give a gift that keeps growing, through our local Grow Project.**  
[www.envirocare.org.au](http://www.envirocare.org.au) [www.facebook.com/KurandaEnvirocare/info](https://www.facebook.com/KurandaEnvirocare/info)

Below is an extract of the statement from the membership of Kuranda Envirocare who attended a general meeting in March 2017, provided input and commented on several emailed drafts. The full statement containing concerns and desires can be read at [www.envirocare.org.au](http://www.envirocare.org.au) under Land Development.

### KURANDA ENVIROCARE VISION STATEMENT

**Our Vision:** Kuranda Environs is a place where the natural environment is valued and protected

**Our Aims:** To study, conserve and repair biodiversity.  
To educate the community to value and protect biodiversity

### POSITION ON THE PROPOSED KUR-World DEVELOPMENT

The Kuranda community continues to support the values of their natural environment. These values describe our deepest sense of place and identity.

We will consider all opportunities to protect and enhance the sustainability of our social, economic and natural environment.

Kuranda EnviroCare recognises that the KUR-World Development is a major challenge to the ecological sustainability and life style of this area. As currently configured the proposed development is not appropriate for this community due to its large scale and the sensitivity of its Myola location.

The Myola area is habitat for two locally endemic and endangered species (Myola palm & Myola frog) and is part of a critical corridor that links the northern and southern parts of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The proposed development threatens these local endemics as well as a large number of the threatened species and the ecological function within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

We recognise that the existing rural farming enterprise KUR-Cow may be a permissible use of the land as currently zoned. However, we believe that some development activities that have occurred on the property are, in fact, related to the proposed KUR-World development which is not yet approved by Qld State government or Mareeba Shire Council.

#### Executive summary

KEC membership responded with the following desires and concerns (for more details: [www.envirocare.org.au/land-development](http://www.envirocare.org.au/land-development))

