

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE IN 10 YEARS TIME:

Community Planning for Frog Survival

A community-led Action Plan is being developed to help protect the critically endangered Kuranda Tree Frog (*Litoria myola*). This is one of the actions made possible via a Landcare Australia Workplace Giving Program grant received by Kuranda Envirocare in June this year.

More than 40 community members, Local and State Government representatives, research institutions and Natural Resource Management staff all came together to put their ideas on the table at a workshop hosted by Kuranda Envirocare and facilitated by Terrain NRM on Friday 1st September.

A working group was formed at the meeting and will use the workshop to prepare a draft community-led Action Plan.

This is great news for the endemic amphibian, which needs all the help it can get. It's only found in our rainforest near flowing streams in the Kuranda and Myola area. It occupies an area estimated to be about 3.5km² – that's not much bigger than Fitzroy Island.

Threats to the Kuranda Tree Frog's survival include habitat loss and changes in water flow, both due to land clearing for development. It may also be affected by species hybridisation and is living with an exotic froggy fungus called Chytridiomycosis which invades the surface layers of the frog's skin.

Conservation efforts undertaken to date have included habitat restoration and riparian corridor linkage of breeding habitat areas. Envirocare has also increased awareness of the Kuranda Tree Frog through brochures, bookmarks, and a Frog friendly property registration similar to Land for Wildlife. Workshop participants developed goals and priority actions for four different activity areas that will contribute to the frog's protection: knowledge and science, planning and policy, community engagement and on-ground habitat works.

Kuranda Envirocare's Cathy Retter said she was delighted to have so many people attend. "Some solid goals and action statements were developed. This isn't an overnight fix, though. We'll be working towards 10-year goals like entire habitat restoration for the Kuranda Tree Frog, with fully connected 100m-wide riparian corridors along all creeks".

Alastair Freeman from Aquatic Species group of Department of Environment and Heritage Protection commented that he thought "that a community-led Action Plan such as this one being developed has a good chance of producing positive results for the Kuranda Tree Frog because of the enthusiastic and committed local community behind its development". The development of such a plan is also helped considerably by the support of frog scientist, Dr Conrad Hoskin.

The community-led Action Plan for the Kuranda Tree Frog will be further developed by the working group and a final draft will be available before June next year, downloadable from the Kuranda Envirocare website.

Photo below: *Litoria myola* (or Kuranda Tree Frog) female



This month we managed to have our Craft and Bake stall outside Foodworks. "Thank you" to them for letting us have it there. Thank you also to the community who supported us.

A coming event to keep in mind: a Melbourne Cup luncheon at our CWA Hall. More information will be in the next *Kuranda Paper*.

Thanking you, *Carol Jeanes, President*



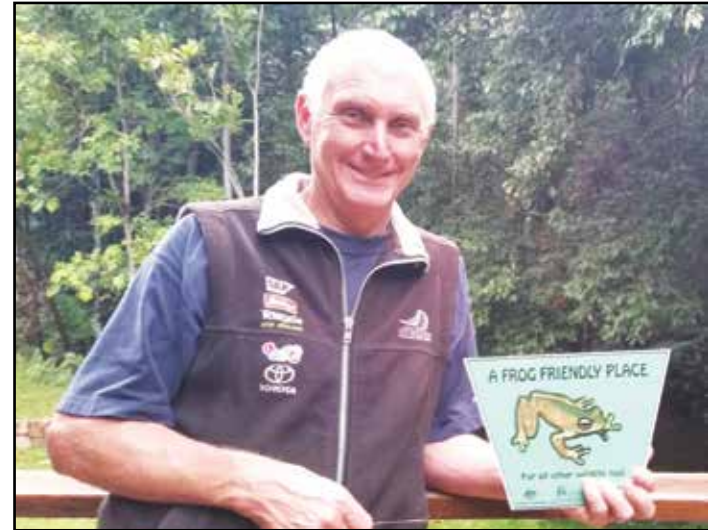
Nursery: 284 Myola Road, Mon & Thur 9.00–1.00pm; Sat 10.00–noon; Phone: 4093 8989/4093 8393

Kuranda's Frog Friendly Neighbourhood

Do you plant native trees to ensure wildlife forage for their own food, and manage your place so wildlife thrives? (Even if you do harbour bad feelings towards brush turkeys destroying your banana plants and echidnas tearing up your tomato plants.)

If you'd like to proudly show that you care about the wildlife that travels across and forages where you live, if you are on a rural block with a creek or even a small residential block with no creek, then maybe you'd like to be a part of Kuranda area's Frog Friendly Neighbourhood and display this sign, below.

The sign is for you and how you manage the place you live in, so this is for renters too. Contact us and we will book you in for a visit and walk about your place.



Russell Slater, Frog Friendly Neighbourhood, Barron Falls Road

Yellow Crazy Ants – infestation limit check

Saturday 14th October

Call out to all YCA community task force members who can join in

Monitoring continues to show almost no YCAs. We are due for our yearly check on the limits of the infestation. It's an easy activity with jam and cat food, both of which ants love at different times. It's really easy if we have loads of people participating.

For more information, ring Kuranda YCA community task force coordinator Sylvia Conway on 0409 647 714.

Speaker meeting – Thursday 5th October

Paul Fisk – Migratory birds on our Cairns foreshore

Cairns Esplanade is an internationally known site for observing migratory shorebirds—a group of birds that are now suffering a catastrophic decline in numbers. This presentation will provide an introduction to these birds and the East Asian Australasian Flyway and their use of the Trinity Inlet habitat.

Observers have been monitoring population numbers in Cairns for many years and a comparison of data from the late 1980s and recent years reflects this global decline in numbers. Current threats to the birds in Trinity Inlet and efforts to mitigate impacts here will be discussed.

Red Necked Stints fatten 30% in Cairns to weigh 40gm before a journey of 4000 kms, more than just a Weetbix breakfast needed for this little bird.



Date Claimers

- Tuesday 3rd & 24th October Yellow Crazy Ant monitoring – See Kuranda Yellow Crazy Ant community task force FB page for details
- Thursday 5th October, Speaker Meeting, 7.00pm @ KRC, Fallon Road
- Saturday 14th October Yellow Crazy Ant infestation limit checking
- Monday 16th to 23rd October Frog Monitoring – monitoring days vary. See Kuranda's-Frog-Friendly-Neighbourhood FB page
- Saturday morning Plantings 7:30 am - 9:00am. Meet at the nursery. Email info@envirocare.org.au for reminder or call Cathy on 0419 624 940

Become a member, borrow the Box Trailer: Ring Hans 4093 8393

Give a gift that keeps growing, through our local Grow Project.

www.envirocare.org.au www.facebook.com/KurandaEnvirocare/info

