

Good Foundations

With our seedlings growth it's all about a healthy root system. What better way for a seedling to get a good start in life than with this strong foundation. And for that we need a good potting mix, one that suits our rainforest seedlings and the artificial growing environment that is a nursery. Time and effort, with a good measure of scientific monitoring and measuring, was put in many years ago to develop a soil mix that best suits the growth of most of our rainforest trees. And we have that recipe still. A good network of white coloured roots is what we're aiming for! Then you'll see your seedling growth leap upwards, reaching for the sun.



Celebrating Ants Protecting what we love

Join the BonANTza workshop being held on Sunday 7th July, 2.00pm till 5.00pm at the Kuranda Recreation Centre. Members from the Electric Ant and Yellow Crazy Ants teams will put on a fun afternoon of investigating ants, learning the difference between ones that are in balance with where we live, and those ones that would harm what we love.

We'll have a BBQ and beer at the end of the workshop from 5.00pm, celebrating the great effort by hundreds of volunteers over the past five years towards eradication of Yellow Crazy Ants from Russet Park. We have moved into transition (yeh!) and towards two years of surveillance to prove eradication. So, more checking on ground to do, but time to take a break and celebrate! Hope to see you there. Please RSVP to Ciara Brigland, 0411 193 720 for workshop and/or BBQ



Focus on Frogs

Calling all those with artistic aspirations

Here's another opportunity to show your talents — design a logo and T-shirt presenting our endemic Kuranda Tree Frog. This logo and T-shirt design will be worn with pride by those who are "Friends of the Kuranda Tree Frog", those happy to assist to ensure the survival of our very own local frog.



By being a frog monitor, by being a tree planter to repair habitat (helping Cassowary and other wildlife too), by being a water quality sampler or being a resident showing your support with our Frog Friendly Neighbourhood sign.

By sponsoring the work of our volunteers, businesses can also show their support through use of this new logo. But it needs

to be designed yet. And that's where you come in! There will be a prize for every entrant, senior and junior categories and a special prize for the logo and T-shirt design winners. Competition closes early September.

We'd like to be able to say "Kuranda shows how it can be done, how a community can protect their own special endangered species, ensuring it survives in the face of the current faunal extinction period". Call Cathy on 0419 624 940 if you'd like an entry form for our logo and T-shirt competition. (Photo above: Male Kuranda Tree Frog by Rhys Sharry)

Date Claimers

- **7th July (Sunday)** 2.00–6pm BonANTza workshop, BBQ and beer celebration. Kuranda Recreation centre RSVP to Ciara on 0411 193 720 for catering
- Frog Monitoring week **15th–21st July**. To confirm meet up points text Cathy 0419 624 940 or Simone on 0432 216 816
- **6th, 13th, 20th, 27th (Saturday)** 8.00am to 9.30am: Keeping tracks open for YCA monitoring—Tree Planting Cadagi Drive, Russet Park. Meet at nursery 284 Myola Road at 8.00am or call Cathy on 0419 624 940 for details. Email info@envirocare.org.au to be placed on the regular email list.

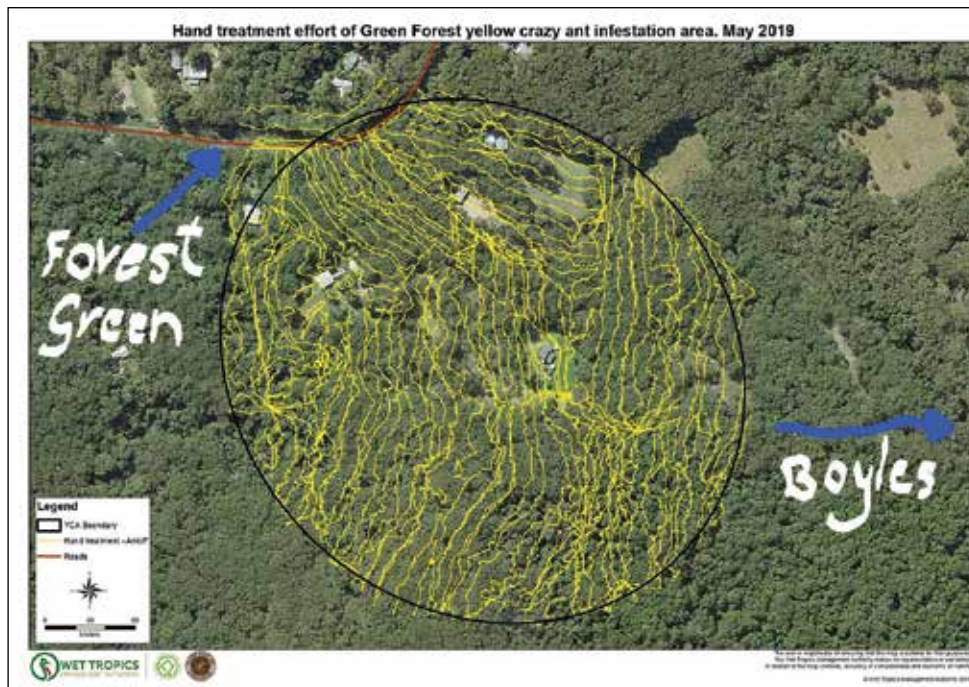
Become a member, borrow the Box Trailer. All plugs catered for. Ring Hans on 0459 978 842 to book

KURANDA YCA COMMUNITY TASKFORCE
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

✉ yca@envirocare.org.au 🌐 www.envirocare.org.au

📘 Kuranda-Yellow-Crazy-Ant-Community-Taskforce

Kowrowa site Update
First Treatment at Kowrowa YCA Infestation Site



In May, the recently discovered YCA infestation site at Kowrowa on Green Forest Road was baited for the first time after it was surveyed to detect the boundary of the infestation. Bait was spread by hand using a fish meal pellet laced with a small amount of fipronil insecticide. The small concentration of fipronil in the pellet is picked up by foraging ants who feed it to the Queen, where the toxin accumulates and kills her and the workers. The Queen ant is the reproductive agent within the colony.

The yellow lines in the map are the tracks of where bait was distributed. There will be several more treatments done then another surveyed. After treatment, we would expect the Yellow Crazy Ant population to reduce in size and redistribute itself into smaller colonies.

Russet Park site update

Thank you to all the volunteers involved in our first round of "Transition to Post Treatment monitoring". Those of you in the stick ant trap setup workshops, field deploy and pickup – job well done. Only a few ants found, which will be spot treated. Only these few found in a 10m by 10m grid survey of 44Ha where 5 years ago you couldn't stand for a minute without ants up to knees and beyond.

A great effort from the WTMA staff and all the volunteers involved. The residents at Russet Park can sleep easier and the residents of Forest Green road will be pleased to know treatments are effective and the persistence of the community volunteer taskforce is critical.

State matches \$9 million for the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program

The Queensland Government today announced \$9 million over the next 3 years to support Yellow Crazy Ant eradication in the Wet Tropics region.

Chair of the Wet Tropics Management Authority, Leslie Shirreffs, welcomed the commitment, which matches that of the Australian Government, announced in the Federal budget in April.

"The Queensland Government is a valued partner in the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Eradication Program," she said.

"This demonstrates their continuing dedication to the protection of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and the ongoing success of the Eradication Program."

The Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program was established in 2013 in response to community demand for a solution to an outbreak of the ants in the Cairns region.

This announcement secures the future of the highly successful program and represents a substantial funding increase to the eradication of Yellow Crazy Ants over the next 3 years.

Yellow Crazy Ants pose a significant threat to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, local agricultural industries, tourism, housing development and the quality of life for local residents.

They have invaded 1,722 hectares of land in the Cairns region, including more than 90 hectares of World Heritage listed rainforest.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority has successfully lowered the numbers of Yellow Crazy Ants in these areas, with eradication achieved at three sites.

Ms Shirreffs said the program would not have achieved its success without a dedicated and expert team and the support of local residents and industries.

"The passionate and active participation of the community remains essential to ensure we can eradicate Yellow Crazy Ants from the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and surrounds.

"Thanks to the commitments of the Australian and Queensland governments, and with our community's ongoing support, we can maintain our treatment and monitoring and stay on the path to eradication from the region."

Anyone who suspects they have seen Yellow Crazy Ants are encouraged to contact the Wet Tropics Management Authority at YCA@wtma.qld.gov.au or call 4241 0525.

