

**A big THANK YOU from Kuranda Tree Frogs**



Sarah and Simone at pop up stall at Koah markets with People's Choice voting for the Kuranda Tree Frog logo and T-shirt competition

A big thank you to all who entered the Kuranda Tree Frog logo and T-shirt competition. What a great effort you all put in with your wonderful ideas and beautiful execution. We had a great range of ideas and entries. The judging panel will have a difficult job this week but we expect to contact winners early next week. We'd also like to send a great shout out to all who visited our pop up stalls at Foodworks and Koah Markets and voted in the People's Choice categories. With well over 100 voters I'm sure we will have some clear winners when we tally up the two stalls. Entries will be featured next month. The T-shirts are intended to raise awareness of this critically endangered frog and its special place: only in Kuranda.

**A Few Native Swamp Orchids still**

Very spectacular, at 1.5m - 2m high, multiple stems, flowering over 6 weeks August through to late September. Doesn't mind wet feet, loves the shade. 2 yo. Flowering next year. \$25. Comes with a fact sheet. Call 0419 624 940 if you'd like one delivered.



Photo: *Phaius tankervilleae* var. *australis*, great garden plant, can't overwater!

**AGM Speaker – Golo Mauer, Birdlife Australia**

Thursday 3rd October 7.00pm, Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Road

Golo Mauer lives in Cairns and is Key Biodiversity Area Program Leader for Birdlife Australia. The Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) program is the successor and extension of BirdLife Australia's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

Key Biodiversity Areas expand the IBA success story to include all biodiversity. This Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas was launched with ten leading conservation NGOs in September 2016. The KBA Standard provides consistency between areas across the globe, to assist governments to meet their conservation obligations under various international treaties. Golo will speak more on the Global network of KBAs and what it means for our local area.

**Celebrating Nature, Cassowaries at Mission Beach**

Photo Right: Mission Beach Cassowary girls meet Kuranda's Casper, Celebrating nature for Cassowary Day



**Date Claimers**

- Frog Monitoring week 20th-27th October. To confirm meet up points text Cathy 0419 624 940 or Simone on 0432 216 816
- Saturday Conservation activities – 28th September, 5th, 19th and 26th October. Tree Planting or watering. Meet at nursery 284 Myola Road at 8.00am. Check our facebook page for details or call Cathy on 0419 624 940. Email [info@envirocare.org.au](mailto:info@envirocare.org.au) to be placed on the regular email list.
- October 3rd (Thursday) 7.00pm Kuranda Envirocare AGM. Speaker Golo Mauer on Key Biodiversity areas.

**Become a Member, Borrow the Box Trailer. All plugs catered for. Ring Hans on 0459 978 842 to book**

[www.envirocare.org.au](http://www.envirocare.org.au)

[info@envirocare.org.au](mailto:info@envirocare.org.au)



**Russett Park and Green Forest Comparison Surveys**

Surveys are being conducted at Green Forest and Russett Park to compare the viability of sticky traps versus lure surveys. Sticky traps are small metal boxes with small holes containing a sticky card with cat food and jam bait inside to lure yellow crazy ants into the trap to get stuck (Photo Below Left). These traps are left out for seven days sampling ants in the area. Lure surveys are cat food and jam bait placed on the ground to the size of 10c piece and left for an hour and checked for yellow crazy ants (Photo Below Right).



Both of survey methods are being used simultaneously to test the probability of detecting yellow crazy ants in small numbers. The results of the comparative surveys will be analysed by James Cook University and will inform the best survey method for detecting yellow crazy ants in low numbers. This the latest research being done to further our knowledge and confidence in eradicating yellow crazy ants from in and around the Wet Tropic World Heritage Area. The Wet Tropics Management Authority's monitoring team are visiting both Russett Park and Green Forest every week to check traps, check for yellow crazy ants, lure survey and collect the results. Yellow crazy ants are being detected at both sites, using both methods and seen visually.

The comparison surveys started in early September and are expected to finish in late November. Until then if you see the monitoring team in their white 4WD vehicles, say hello and feel free to ask them questions.

**New Taskforce Mission**

Due to successful treatments, yellow crazy ant numbers have dramatically reduced at Russett Park and with limited volunteer opportunities at Green Forest, the need for large numbers of taskforce members to support survey efforts for yellow crazy ants in known areas is less required. Consequently, we anticipate the future of the taskforce is to lead the search for yellow crazy ants in areas not yet explored, specifically in the Kuranda region. It is also planned that the skills in the taskforce be used to prompt community awareness and activities searching for ants in the wider Cairns region.

Searching for yellow crazy ants outside known areas is where the community taskforce can bring their skills and knowledge to educate and train other volunteer groups about yellow crazy ants and how to find them.

Last month, the Holloways Beach Community Garden invited us to their garden, to upskill them with our knowledge and survey methods, so they can recognise and report yellow crazy ants if they see one. This activity was a first for the taskforce and it was a great success. We're hoping this new activity will be a start of many more to come in building awareness of yellow crazy ants with other volunteer groups to expand our reach in detecting any new infestations.

Taskforce members Bernd Seidl and Tim Brown joined Ciara Bridgland in visiting the Holloways Beach Community Garden and they both did a great job sharing their knowledge and experience. There will be more opportunities for other taskforce members if they would like to join.

Photo Below: From left, Beth from Wet Tropics Management Authority, Taskforce member Tim Brown, Taskforce Coordinator Ciara Bridgland, Taskforce member Bernd Seidl and the Holloways Beach Community Gardeners



**Join the Resist-ants**  
**Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce**  
[envirocare.org.au/yellow-crazy-ants-taskforce.html](http://envirocare.org.au/yellow-crazy-ants-taskforce.html)  
[yca.ciara@gmail.com](mailto:yca.ciara@gmail.com)

