

Community Nursery and Landcare

"Kuranda – a place where the environment is valued and protected"

Nursery: 284 Myola Rd, Mon & Thu 9am–12 noon Sat 10–12 noon • 4093 8989 or 0419 624 940

Interesting times with coronavirus

No doubt we all scrambling to get our heads around how this coronavirus will affect us and our wider community, as the situation changes from day to day. We are planning how to continue to support habitat restoration for wildlife and that's where you all come in.

Our nursery will continue to be open so native plants are available for your gardens and your revegetation projects. We've been propagating a new range of smaller garden sized shrubs and they're coming out into the nursery racks now.

Our plants are all outdoors so plenty of "social distancing" and payments can be made by internet banking or tap and go with EFTPOS if you don't want to handle cash. And our hand wash station will be well supplied.

We're working on how we might continue our planting days over the next 6 months – all of which needs to be done while keeping our "social distancing". We think that as we all start to keep to our homes more, we might need some physical activities in the great outdoors to keep us from the effects of "cabin fever". Stand by for emails and facebook posts on this one.



Garden sized Habitat for Birds and Butterflies

Tube stock of Lime Berry and other butterfly plants now available at the Kuranda EnviroCare nursery.

*Australian Green triangle butterfly go wild for Lime berry flowers.
Photo: Wendy Moore*

New Butterfly App – Australian National University

Marjorie Spear, a very well known local identity, very generously left some land in trust, to be named the Spear Animal Reserve, for the study of flora and fauna for the benefit of the public of Australia. Surveys will start this year at the reserve, corner of Kennedy Highway and Black Mountain Road, after a successful Federal grant commended by Hon. Warren Entsch. There'll be community workshops on various topics and a chance to learn more specifics about rainforest, weeds and revegetation, including hands on techniques for your own block.

Search for this app picture on your iPhone or Android app store.



Seeds needed

Currently we need seeds from trees which are flowering and fruiting now for our revegetation projects which will start in earnest later this year. So get those eagle eyes focused and we're happy to exchange seeds for plants.



Borrow the Box trailer

Trailers for hire. Members discount. All plugs catered for
Contact Hans on 0459 978 842 to book.

• Date Claimers •

Planting Russett Park through – April/May

Call Margaret on 0478 676 122 or Cathy on 0419 624 940. Email info@envirocare.org.au for regular email notice. If we are planting, meet at nursery 284 Myola Road at 8am.

www.envirocare.org.au

info@envirocare.org.au

We are the invasive resist-ants



Yellow Crazy Ant Lure survey at Russett Park

A lure survey began on Tuesday 17 March at Russett Park's yellow crazy ant infestation zone. Field officers from Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and the Djabugay Bulmba Rangers worked together to survey the area with cat food and jam lures to detect yellow crazy ants.

The results of the last survey in July 2019 found yellow crazy ants were reduced to one property at the end of Cadagi Drive. A smaller boundary was formed around the last known positive detection, and the Authority's monitoring team made weekly visits conducting research in an effort to improve survey methods for detecting extremely low numbers of yellow crazy ants. Their last positive detection of yellow crazy ants was in December 2019.

New evidence from other survey sites have shown increased detection of yellow crazy ants after a wet season. Field officers are hoping the timing of this year's survey will improve the detection rate.

New yellow crazy ant infestation found in Earlville park

A new infestation of yellow crazy ants was found at Henleys Hill Park in Earlville on Friday 21 February. Fury, the apprentice odour detection dog, was training in the park and indicated there were yellow crazy ants outside her exercise area.

Teams from the WTMA Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication

Program and Cairns Regional Council are working together to find the extent of the infestation and determine a boundary.

Invasive Species and Climate Change Seminar

Our taskforce partnered with JCU TESS Seminars to deliver talks about invasive species and climate change. We had three main speakers who each spoke about their role in managing the risks of invasive species in a changing climate, followed by a Q&A discussion panel.

Our keynote speaker, Dr Cath Moran, specialises in climate change adaptation approaches in the Wet Tropics region and shared her recommendations for managing biosecurity risk.

JCU Associate Professor Lori Lach spoke about invasive ants in our region – her findings from research and what we need to know to understand the future threats of climate change.

Our last speaker, tech entrepreneur Mr Andrew Robinson, spoke about the role of citizen science in monitoring and recording species. He co-founded the gaming App "QuestaGame", where participants go out in nature capturing biodiversity from their smart phones in exchange for rewards. Images become verified data that can later be used for biodiversity advocacy, research and conservation.

Two additional guests contributed to the discussion panel — Dr David Westcott, a zoologist from CSIRO and Mr Gary Morton from Biosecurity Queensland leading the National Electric Ant Eradication Program.

It was a fantastic evening, lots of new information and 101 people attended the event in Cairns and by video link from Townsville. Five lucky door prizes were drawn for native trees donated by Kuranda Envirocare and a 'Join the invasive resist-ants' t-shirt donated by the Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce.

Organising the seminar was a joint effort, so I'd like to thank, JCU TESS Seminars for hosting the venue, The Climate Media Centre for media support, Nettie O Design for marketing products, and the support of the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

If you would like to watch the seminar online visit www.jcu.edu.au/tess/seminar-series



Above: Cath Moran, Andrew Robinson, Ciara Bridgland, Cathy Retter, Gary Morton, David Westcott and Lori Lach.
Right: Jeff Jackson (WTMA) with live yellow crazy ants, Ciara Bridgland, and Gary Morton with live electric ants.

T-shirt raffle fundraiser drawn

The t-shirt fundraiser raffle was drawn on 11 March at James Cook University after the invasive species and climate change seminar. The raffle raised over \$800 which will go towards buying t-shirts for taskforce volunteers. A big thank you to those who supported us by buying raffle tickets and sponsoring prizes.

The winners

1st prize: Lucy Karger won trip for two adults to the Great Barrier Reef from Reef Magic's Marine World pontoon and experience SNUBA.

2nd prize: Nicolette Lum, Campbell Clarke, Julie Dutoit, Carolyn Pomeroy and Andree Malpass all won a trip for two adults to the GBR with Compass Cruises.

3rd prize: Will Melville-Rea won Mad Fish wine package

Join the invasive resist-ants

Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce
envirocare.org.au/yellow-crazy-ants-taskforce
yca.ciara@gmail.com

