

Community Nursery and Landcare

Caring for Kuranda's environment
"by standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before"

Borrow the Box trailer

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

World Environment Day 5th June

As we grapple with the changes caused by responses to the coronavirus pandemic, it's worth reflecting on both the state of the world's environment this week and our local one. It seems unlikely governments, on their own, will give it the attention needed for it to support us through the next few decades, let alone the next century, unless we keep up our focus on their lack of the same. To strengthen our resolve, let's celebrate what we have and consider what we can learn from conservation efforts elsewhere in the world.

Why Lions? While visiting the last reserve for wild Asiatic lions (yes lions) in Gujarat province, India in 2006, I learned they were thriving there, of the change in conservation management and how it might apply here. A maharaja's game reserve became the last wild habitat for Asiatic lions, as they were killed or driven out in the face of expanding Asian and Indian populations. A common story. But the game reserve provided sanctuary (except the frequent private hunting parties up to the early 1900s). The maharaja was convinced to stop hunting and let numbers build up for better sport! An estimate of less than 20 then, 100 years on (and a National Park) the yearly counts revealed over 400. The reserve is surrounded – wall to wall people in towns and small farms. Male lions need their own territory and with increasing numbers, they were spilling out of the reserve and killing farmed buffalo, once more facing conflict with human activities. And no other park to which they could be moved. Conservation issues change but the problem remains the same – habitat areas limited by human activity and when all the habitat is full, where to then? Is there enough public and



Lion cubs - Gir National Park, Gujarat, India, Nov 2006

private protected area to ensure that population numbers are stable and is it well connected to other habitat, to ensure sufficient genetic diversity? And at some stage the inevitable "killing zone" arises. Is that what we are facing locally?

Plant of the month – *Flacourtia ssp.* Shiptons Flat



A few tube stock available. Photos: Vern Hansen

- Attractive glossy foliage, medium sun or semi-shade, dense habit suitable for screen and wind-breaks
- Max. 3–4m, spread 2–3m
- Vivid bronze-red new growth, visible much of the year, small cream flowers, dark red to black, cherry sized fruit
- Very attractive to birds, host to butterflies and moths
- Edible and when completely ripe, makes good jam

• Date Claimers •

4th June – Exec. meeting 7-9pm. All welcome. Contact Cathy 0419 624 940 for details

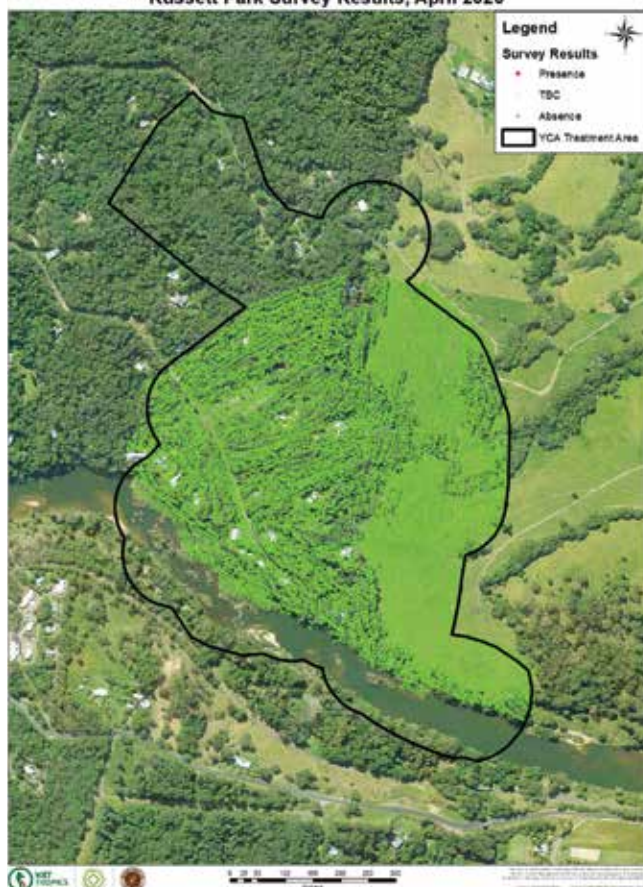
6th June – Saturday mornings 8am. Join our Weed Warrior team. Meet at nursery, 284 Myola Road at 8am. Call Margaret 0478 676 122

Speaker meetings – on hold until increased gatherings, hopefully in July with interesting local speakers.

We are the invasive resist-ants



Russett Park Survey Results, April 2020



Russett Park Lure Survey 2020

Wet Tropics Management Authority's field officers surveyed the Russett Park infestation for the first time in 2020. The survey started on 17 March and finished in mid-April. The survey took longer than expected to complete because of disruption by COVID-19 but I thank the Russett Park residents for their patience and understanding.

The survey used a cat food and jam lure in a 5m grid to attract ants, after an hour the lures are checked for presence or absence of yellow crazy ants.

The results have shown no presence of yellow crazy ants and it's the first survey to show complete absence since surveying began in 2014. This is a great result and a cause to celebrate but we need to validate the absence with a second survey after six months or more that also results in the complete absence of yellow crazy ants.

Currently, Russett Park has now transitioned from broadscale treatment to surveillance and spot treatment of any remaining ants. There must be at least two more surveys showing absence of yellow crazy ants before the treatment area can go to post-treatment validation. Fury and her handler, Stuart Biggs, will be helping to make sure that the area is free of yellow crazy ants.

Green Forest Treatment

Yellow crazy ants were treated on 30 April by field officers from the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.

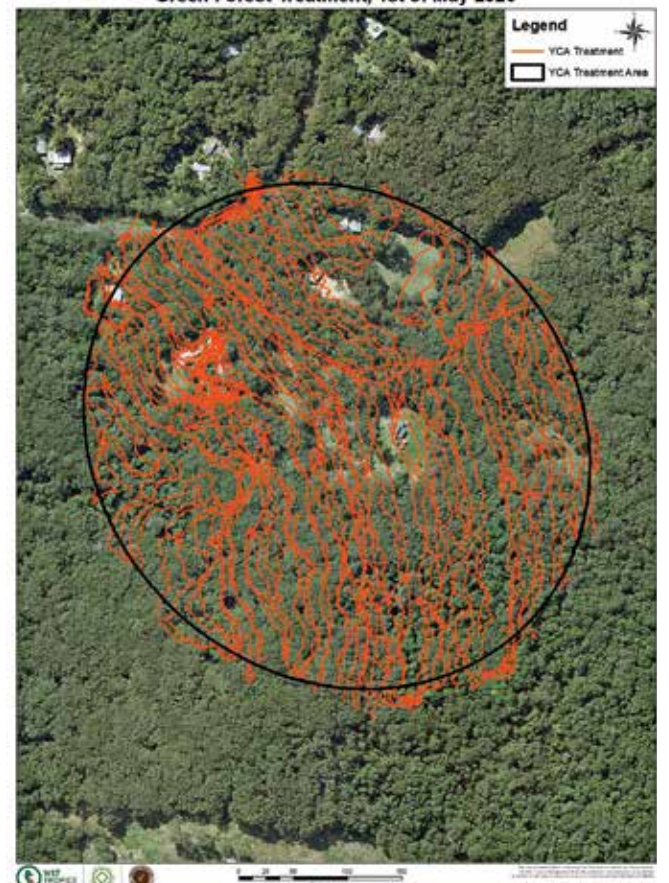
The treatment is the fourth since it was delimited (boundary survey) in February/March 2019 and was the second treatment for the year. The entire infestation area was treated except for a horse paddock at the request of the owner.

The treatment uses the pesticide AntOff with the active ingredient fipronil at 0.1g/kg in a fishmeal matrix and was dispersed by hand under strict permit conditions. The treatment poses no threat to humans or pets.

The treatment went well and took two days to complete with good weather on the day. The field officers expect good results from the treatment.

The next treatment is scheduled for the end of June.

Green Forest Treatment, 1st of May 2020



Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with our latest surveys and events. Our first post-COVID-19 event is on 14 June at Russett Park for a Yellow Crazy Pants Party to celebrate our first survey at Russett Park that detected no ants! More details will become available on Facebook and email.

Ciara

Join the invasive resist-ants

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

