

Community Nursery and Landcare

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

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

What's that bird – birding surveys

Interested in helping with rainforest bird surveys? Over the next few months Dr Ray Pierce will be carrying out a series of bird surveys across the Barron River revegetation areas and is calling for a few local volunteers to assist him. The project started in 2014 and is measuring changes in rainforest bird use of the KEC-planted areas over time and stand-age, some of which are now 25 years old. Of particular interest are the many rainforest-dependent bird species, such as Noisy Pitta, Eastern Whipbird, Victoria's Riflebird and the various Monarch Flycatchers.

Ray's work normally involves threatened bird and invasive species projects across tropical Pacific nations. Action out there is largely on hold at present which has in turn benefitted the local community projects he coordinates. As well as the KEC Barron birds project, it includes measuring the recovery of birds at Russett Park following the removal of yellow crazy ants, and the NE Queensland studies of endangered finches, including the Gouldian Finch.

If you would like to join Ray for morning bird surveys locally, please email him on raypierce@bigpond.com for further details.

Gouldian Finch Photo: David Clode



Plant of the month – *Deplanchea tetraphylla*

Known commonly as a Golden bouquet tree, mature trees have spectacular large bouquets of many yellow flowers. Naturally native and available at the nursery. Remove your African tulip trees and plant this instead.

Deplanchea tetraphylla, plants at Smithfield roundabout towards Cairns



• Date Claimers •

8 October – Thursday 7pm AGM. Kuranda Rec Centre 7-9pm. All welcome.

17 October – Saturday 8am, Trial plot plantings. Meet at nursery, 284 Myola Road at 8am. For more details call Cathy 0419 624 940

19–25 October – Frog monitoring. Check our Facebook page or call Cathy 0419 624 940

Speakers – "Mini Beasts" Deanna and Alan Henderson 7pm Thursday 8 October at the Kuranda Recreation Centre

Deanna has been working with wildlife for over 20 years, studied zoology at Melbourne University and developed a fascination for small wildlife, namely invertebrates. Alan has held a fascination for invertebrates his whole life, along with macro photography. Together they are the 'mini beast' experts.

First planting for restoration of degraded Cain Creek



Lena Taylor with Soren and Pascal.

A sunny, relaxed, fun August afternoon for adults and kids where our first 400 stems were planted. Allan Dale spoke on protecting forest habitat and we finished with a sausage sizzle, the last planters not leaving till sundown. This project is funded through a Queensland Government Community Sustainability Action grant.

We are the invasive resist-ants



A sticky trap survey by the Taskforce



Taskforce volunteers from left Sophie Courtney, Jules Seabright, Bernd Seidl, Tim Brown, Mandy Hales (front) and Sally Troy.

There was a great turnout for the recent sticky trap survey for yellow crazy ants near Russett Park, with volunteers travelling from as far south as Mount Sheridan.

On 19 September the Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce (the Taskforce) went on the hunt to make sure that there were no yellow crazy ants along the Barron River opposite Russett Park. The survey area is on the edge of the Russett Park treatment area, within the 100 metre buffer of the infestation.

The day started with a sticky trap workshop of 14 volunteers at Kuranda Envirocare nursery. We had more



Above: Taskforce volunteers and Jeff Jackson (second from right) at the entrance of the survey site on Oak Forest Road.

Right: Taskforce volunteers Jules Seabright (left) capturing the GPS coordinate from Sophie Courtney placing the trap.

people than expected thanks to volunteers travelling up from Cairns.

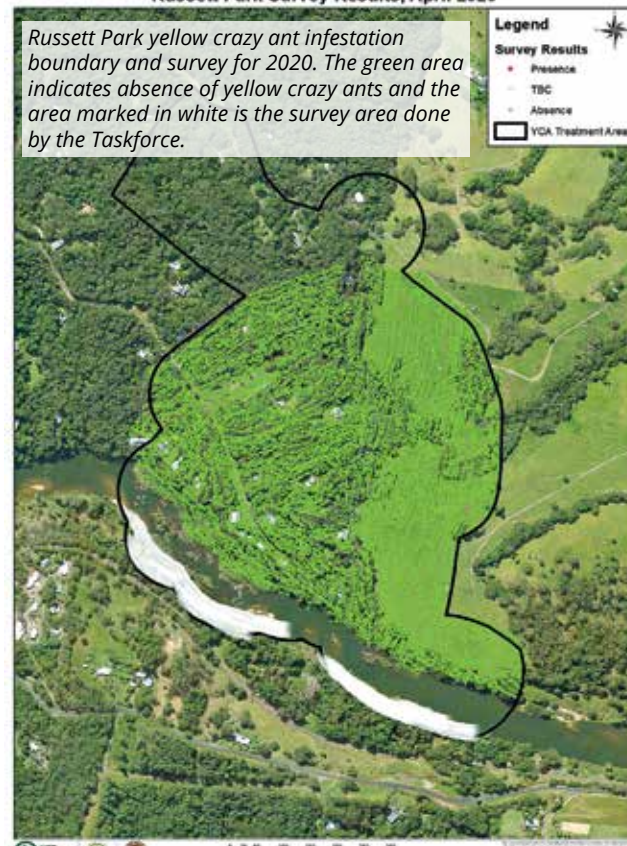
With the assistance of Jeff Jackson from the Wet Tropics Management Authority, the volunteers baited 140 sticky traps. Once they were ready, we assembled on the side of Oak Forest Road between Owen Creek and High Chapparal Road to access the survey site and put out the sticky traps.

Volunteers left the beaten track and explored a beautiful part of the rainforest that featured mature figs and large trees – characteristic of the diverse vegetation along the Barron River. They placed the traps 10 metres apart in two lines parallel to the river. Each trap was given a GPS coordinate and flagged. The traps were left for a week and picked up the following Saturday by the Taskforce.

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers for coming along and contributing to the eradication of yellow crazy ants in Kuranda. It was a longer day than expected due to a later start but they got the job done and didn't give up. We are fortunate to have a strong community spirit here in Kuranda. The volunteers certainly earned their lunch and a long morning tea of homemade scones and passionfruit butter.

The results of September's survey will be reported in the November edition.

Russett Park Survey Results, April 2020



Taskforce activity for October

This month the Taskforce will engage in yellow crazy ant education and awareness, targeting residents on Green Forest Road near a yellow crazy ant infestation. For those who may be interested in contributing to the Taskforce in this way or would like to gain skills in community engagement, please contact Ciara at coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au **Ciara**

Join the invasive resist-ants

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

