

## 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.



Happy planters - 300 trees in the ground in little over one hour

### Community plants 300 trees

Thank you to the wonderful folk who came out to help get 300 trees into the ground beside Cain Creek on World Environment Day on 5 June.

The female Kuranda Tree Frog lives in the forest canopy surrounding a creek, only coming down to the water to breed. Our critically endangered populations, need both clean water over shallow riffles and surrounding forest cover. Revegetation projects such as this will extend their habitat, improve water quality and reduce sedimentation. Linking up corridors along the creeks facilitates movement of populations, ensuring genetic diversity.

With the majority of Kuranda Tree Frog breeding creeks on private property, the survival of the species depends on what we each do on our own properties. How wide is the strip of vegetation along your creek? Would you consider extending the forest cover? (Maybe it would reduce your hours of mowing.) Could you infill with a diverse range of food plants for all our frogs, birds and mammals? Have you

checked which frogs are in residence in your creek? How clean is the water? Is sedimentation a problem in your creek? Maybe we can help you with your hopes and plans. Please come and talk to us.

If you would like to learn more about these special Kuranda residents and to recognise their call, you could join us when we go out frog monitoring. This project, in consultation with Dr Conrad Hoskin of JCU, has been running for 10 years already and has collected useful data. It aims to track population trends and to establish the extent of the Kuranda Tree Frog range. Check the Facebook page for monitoring dates and times. You will be enthralled by our nocturnal wildlife.

### Bio Blitz

What an exciting day this was. Thanks to the inspiring presenters, each so generous with their expertise.

We were taken out on an early morning walk introducing our local birdlife which was heard more than seen. The amazing world of insects (mini-beasts) were introduced to wide-eyed participants. Did you know that Kuranda has a scorpion that fluoresces under UV light?

Sadly for the Red Lacewing butterfly, the majority of its host plant has been lost to development on the coast north of Cairns. We can go some way to supplementing food sources for caterpillars by providing host plants in our gardens then watching the caterpillars munch through the foliage

The secret world of fungi was revealed with tantalising glimpses of their hitherto unrecognised functions in our forests and soils. We were introduced to the mammals that secretly visit our gardens in the night. Then we ventured forth, standing by a creek in pitch dark, to learn to recognise frogs by their calls, even sighting some.

### • Date Claimers •

**Every Saturday. Tree planting.** Meet at the nursery at 8am to collect trees and tools then carpool to site. Morning tea at the nursery to follow.

**1 July. General Meeting** – 7pm at the Recreation Centre Fallon Road. John Brisbin to consult with the Kuranda community on Barron River whole of catchment local issues.

**6 July. Launch of Spear Animal Reserve Management Plan.** 5.30pm at Spear Rd, Kuranda. Hon. Warren Antsch to launch the Management Plan for the "The Spear Animal Reserve".

**25–31 July. Frog monitoring fun starts after 7pm.** Check our Facebook page for dates and sites, call 0437 109 653 or email info@envirocare.org.au

### Butterfly host plants now in stock

**Aristolochia vine** – Cairns Birdwing, the Greasy butterfly and some Swallowtails.

**Little evodia, Melicope rubra** – Ulysses

**Adenia heterophylla** – Red Lacewing (available August)

**Flame tree, Brachychiton acerifolius** – Common Aeroplane, Tailed Emperor

**Corky bark, Carallia bractiata** – Four o'clock moth

**Buttonwood/Cheese tree,**

**Glochidion ssp.** – Common

Oakblue, Hercules moth

**Gunstock wood/**

**Flintwood, Scolopia**

**braunii** – Australian Rustic,

Zebra moth

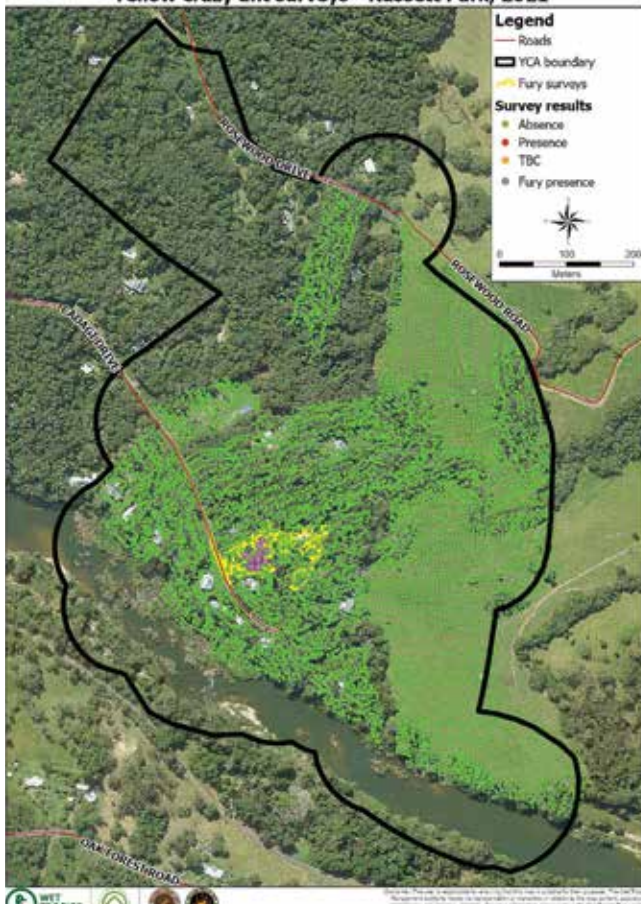


Left: A young environmentalist enthralled by a fluorescing scorpion.

## We are the invasive resist-ants



Yellow crazy ant surveys - Russett Park, 2021



### Russett Park infestation survey

Wet Tropics Management Authority field teams are surveying properties for yellow crazy ants at the Russett Park infestation area. Eighteen properties have been surveyed so far with a small patch of yellow crazy ants detected on one property. The patch was first detected by lure surveys in an area of 104m<sup>2</sup>. A follow up survey by the Authority's odour detection dog, Fury, found more yellow crazy ants and expanded the patch to 1141m<sup>2</sup>, with a total of 16 positive survey points detected within the patch.

Surveys for yellow crazy ants will continue until the whole infestation area has been covered. Any positive detections will be spot treated with the ant insecticide AntOff. After spot treatment is complete, surveys will continue until no yellow crazy ants in the area are found.

### Bio Blitz: What's in your backyard

Kuranda Envirocare hosted an information event on 29 May 2021 at Kuranda Recreation Centre for locals interested in learning about the critters and creatures in their backyard. Guest speakers with an expertise in our local wildlife presented 10 different seminars from bird watching and minibeasts to spotlighting possums and frogs.

The Taskforce contributed to the "Ant troubles" seminar with a presentation on yellow crazy ants alongside Mike Greasley from Biosecurity Queensland's National Electric Ant Eradication Program. We had 15 local residents from Kuranda attend the seminar.

### Russett Park field survey

The Taskforce will host a field survey event on the morning of 3 July 2021 in Kuranda surveying the edge of the Russett Park infestation area along the Barron River. Foraging ants will be lured by a mixture of cat food and jam, which will later be checked for yellow crazy ants. Invasive ant recognition and GPS training will be provided beforehand with a delicious brunch of homemade scones and sandwiches afterwards. No experience necessary just a love for the outdoors and adventure. Spaces are limited so let me know if you're in – email coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au to join.



Taskforce volunteer Bernd Seidl, Ciara Bridgland and nominee Tim Brown at the Cassowary Awards

### The Taskforce attends the Cassowary Awards!

Taskforce volunteers Tim Brown and Nader Peard were nominated at the Wet Tropics Management Authority's 18th Cassowary Awards on 19 June at TANK 3 in the Cairns Botanic Gardens. It was a prestigious night for recognising locals contributing to the preservation and presentation of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Tim was nominated for the Peter Hitchcock Community Champion category and Nader Peard for the Young Cassowary Award. Their nominations were in recognition of their passion in protecting the values of the Wet Tropics, particularly the work they do in supporting the eradication of yellow crazy ants from the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and surrounds.

Congratulations Tim and Nader for your nominations. The Taskforce is extremely proud of you both for your passion to make our region a better place for all.

And congratulations to all the winners from each of the 10 categories. To see the full list of winners, visit www.wettropics.gov.au

Ciara

## Join the invasive resist-ants

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

