

## Community Nursery and Landcare

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

Box trailers for hire.  
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Text or call Sarah on 0499 588 145 to book.

### "A view from inside"

by Judy Andrews  
resident of Boyles Road, Kuranda

I had decided to buy my block before I got there, enchanted by the forest canopy joining over the dirt road. My rash decision was justified by finding a habitable house with electricity connected. By 1971 the forested half was starting to recover from logging in the 1940s with pioneer wattles on its fringes. My partner Don and I were soon delighted by the resident echidnas, bandicoots, quolls, pademelons, agile wallabies and the occasional cassowary running across the road, feathers bouncing like Victorian petticoats.

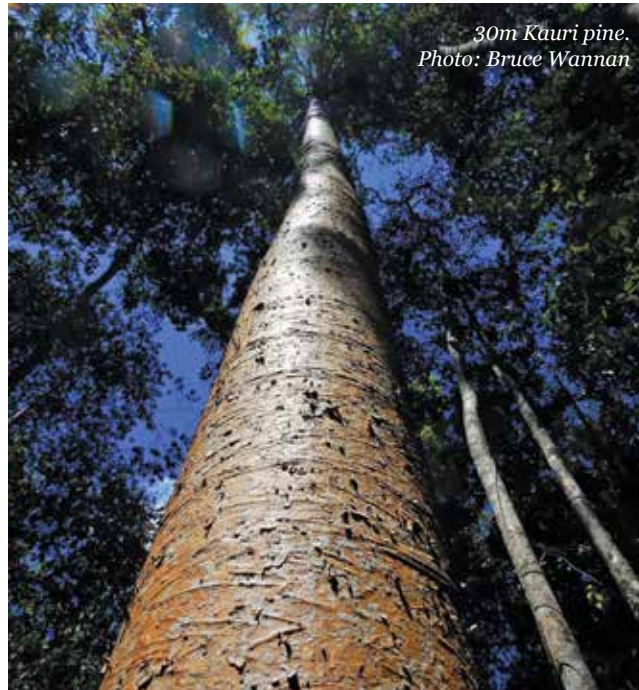
Years passed, Kuranda grew, rampant clearing reduced large swathes of rainforest to isolated pockets sheltering surviving wildlife. It took quite a while for my distress at this destruction to make me wonder how I could protect my patch of forest. It seemed it was too small to be a Nature Refuge, but could possibly fit the criteria for a voluntary declaration under the Vegetation Management Act 1997. After an initial effort, the half filled-in forms languished in the filing cabinet, sporadic attempts soon overcome by my procrastination.

What I needed was fresh motivation which was provided by Kuranda Envirocare. With Cathy Retter's assistance the [now] digital forms were filled in, a management plan drafted and with funding gained for the purpose a botanist's report was commissioned. Bruce Wannan and friends slogged through the forest and found all sorts of wonders including a towering Kauri. Thanks to their efforts my forest has been declared as 'as an area of high nature conservation value' and is protected in perpetuity. Thanks again Cathy and Bruce.

**Notes from the botanist:** The vegetation of this block

is a very good example of the Kauri dominated Complex Notophyll Vine Forest on drier sites with metamorphic soils. Two plant species of conservation significance were recorded

It was great to assist Judy in taking up the opportunity to protect her patch with a voluntary declaration. Thanks to Terrain NRM for funding through their Building Rainforest Resilience grant. Possible round of funding later this year if you'd like assistance.



30m Kauri pine.  
Photo: Bruce Wannan

### Plant of the month – "Little Penda" *Xanthostemon verticillatus*

A very slow growing shrub, roughly 1m by 1m, takes many years to reach a possible maximum 5m. Common in Daintree and Bloomfield, it tolerates wet feet but not frosts. Suitable for a patio or courtyard container plant. It has very showy, cream flowers and beautiful dark green foliage. The flowers also have an attractive fragrance. Growing in garden beds at the Bunnings roundabout outside BCF. Available now in our nursery.

Photo: Vern Hansen



### • Date Claimers •

**Saturday 4 June Celebrate World Environment Day** – 3pm afternoon tea at Cain Creek site, plant out the last few trees and check the growth from last years W.E.D. Follow the signs on Oakforest Road. Call Cathy 0419 624 940

**20–26 June Frog monitoring.** Monitoring fun starts after 6.30pm \*new time\*. Check FB or email Ed at kuranda.envirocare.science@gmail.com

## We are the invasive resist-ants



### Invasive ant hunt

A team of Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce volunteers and Wet Tropics Management Authority staff joined forces to survey a section of Jumrum Creek in Kuranda. We split into two teams, and each took one side of the creek. The vegetation was thick, the creek bank was slippery and the terrain steep in some areas. We laid out a lure of jam and cat food mixed together every 5m and marked with a pink flag. We also laid out two lines of sausage lure to check for electric ants. After a morning tea break of yummy treats from Sprout Café, we went back to check the lures. No invasive ants were found on this section of creek, however electric ants have been found by Biosecurity Queensland further upstream prior to our survey. The endemic and critically endangered Kuranda Tree frog is found in many creeks that run into the Barron River and yellow crazy ants threaten to wipe out these frog populations if not found early. Ongoing surveys will continue in Kuranda Tree frog habitat. Stay tuned for upcoming dates.



Wet Tropics Management Authority staff training volunteers in how to survey for invasive ants.



Hydrologists recognise live yellow crazy ants for the first time  
Photo: Wet Tropics Management Authority

### Toolbox tales

Hydrologists from Mareeba, who maintain a water quality monitoring site at Myola, have learned how to recognise yellow crazy ants after attending an identification and information presentation delivered by the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

Toolbox talks are an efficient way of providing a better understanding of the devastation these invaders can cause. Authority staff can provide knowledge and best practice advice on methods to reduce the possibility of an infestation being transported into, or from, your work areas. Uncontrolled spread of yellow crazy ants will result in major environmental damage, economic impacts on tourism and agricultural industries, property development and residents' lifestyles. When Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery held their AGM in March, they also invited the Authority's yellow crazy ant team along to conduct an information session on these invasive pests. Monitoring staff members provided an informative presentation, complete with a live ant display for an up close and personal experience.

To report yellow crazy ants or book a toolbox talk for your business call 42410525 or 1800 CRAZY ANT.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### Protect Your Patch—short film screening

Kuranda Envirocare's speaker meeting will start with an update on the Kuranda Tree frog plan followed by a short film showing methods of how to quarantine a pot plant.

**WHERE:** Kuranda Recreation Centre

**WHEN:** Thursday 2 June 7pm

#### Surveys in Kuranda Tree frog habitat

Invasive ants have been found in critical frog habitat and the Kuranda Tree frog is under threat from yellow crazy ants. Checking for invasive ants will ensure protection of this endemic and critically endangered species. We need your help so please get in touch if you would like to assist with the survey. A medium level of fitness will be required due to some steep terrain. Morning tea and lunch provided.

**WHERE:** Jumrum Creek, Kuranda

**WHEN:** 18 June Jumrum Creek & 16 July Fairyland Creek



Jumrum Creek – home to the endemic Kuranda Tree frog

#### Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce

The Community Taskforce is a community-run organisation which assists the Wet Tropics Management Authority in managing the yellow crazy ant infestations in Kuranda. Volunteers are involved in all aspects of the program, including undertaking regular monitoring activities, completing surveys of known infestation areas, and assisting in hand baiting.

Volunteer with the Kuranda Yellow Crazy Ant Taskforce by calling (07) 4093 8989 or by joining the Kuranda Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce Facebook page.

### Join the invasive resist-ants

**Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce**  
envirocare.org.au/yellow-crazy-ants-taskforce  
coordinator@communitytaskforce.com

