

Community Nursery and Landcare

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

Box trailers for hire.
Contactless pick up and return. All plugs catered for.
Text or call Sarah on 0499 588 145 to book.

Queensland's Chief Scientist

Last week Queensland's chief scientist, Hugh Possingham, paid a visit to Kuranda, went out frogging, spotted a Kuranda Tree frog, stayed overnight and gave a talk at Kuranda District State College the next morning. The role of the Office of Chief Scientist is an interesting one, sitting within the Dept of Environment and Science and providing strategic advice to State government on the role of science, research and innovation to meet Queensland's challenges.

As Hugh explained, by example of crocodiles here in the north, they have to balance the views of the "let's kill 'em all" with the "let's not touch them, it's their place". Not the easiest, and the current answer is to remove the biggest ones. The Office leads science strategy across government, increases engagement and participation in the community-science based activities and promotes science.



Edward Bell, our Citizen Science Coordinator, out frogging with Chief Scientist, Hugh Possingham(right). Photo: Gaby S.

Plant of the month – "Phaius australis"



Phaius australis Photo: Denise Donald – Kuranda



Our largest ground orchids with flower spikes to 1m containing 14-15 blooms, each are perfumed as well! Come along in the next two weeks or so to see the two display orchids with 30 plus stems bursting into blooms. These photos are from a local garden.

Available now at the nursery \$25 each, along with a range of smaller plants for your garden \$3 each.

Calling all wildlife enthusiasts

In last month's article we reported that frogs were in trouble across Australia. Not only frogs, but our email addresses were also in trouble last month! We apologise if you emailed us and didn't get a reply. If you'd like to register to learn more about the frog survey blitz we're holding in November, please email info@envirocare.org.au or Kuranda.envirocare.science@gmail.com

Science Bites

Relax with a coffee at Frogs Restaurant while Paul Fisk speaks about Beach Stone curlews around Cairns. Paul, a local ecologist, has been monitoring migratory shore birds along the Cairns shoreline for many years.

Wednesday 14 September
9.30–10.30am at Frogs Restaurant, Heritage Markets. All welcome.



Photo: Paul Fisk

• Date Claimers •

Sunday 4 September Water Monitoring Field Training – 9.30–11.30am. Meet at Envirocare nursery. If interested email Kuranda.envirocare.science@gmail.com

Wednesday 14 September Science Bites – 9.30am. Paul Fisk on Beach Stone curlews at Frogs Restaurant, Heritage Markets.

Saturday 24 September Educational planting – Please book through info@envirocare.org.au

20–27 September Frog monitoring. – Monitoring fun starts after 6.30pm *new time*. Check Facebook or email Ed at kuranda.envirocare.science@gmail.com. Late September Zoom webinar with Conrad Hoskin – update on Kuranda Tree frog. Register through info@envirocare.org.au

26–30 September Water Q Annual Baseline Survey – Get in touch if interested via email Kuranda.envirocare.science@gmail.com.

We are the invasive resist-ants



Fantastic fungi sighted along the creek while luring for invasive ants.

Fairyland adventures

In late July, five community taskforce volunteers ventured into the forest in the Fairyland area, near Kuranda to undertake a yellow crazy ant survey. This was the third survey and fortunately no invasive ants have yet been detected. A lure of jam (sugar) and cat food (protein), mixed together is placed on the ground 5 metres apart and left for up to an hour before returning to check the lure for

invasive ants. If there are any suspect ants, a sample is taken for identification by the Wet Tropics Management Authority's yellow crazy ant monitoring team.

The lower reaches of creeks that flow into the Barron River are prime habitat for many frogs of the Wet Tropics including the iconic, endemic and critically endangered Kuranda Tree frog (*Litoria myola*). Other endangered frog species found here in the rainforest are the Lace lid (*Litoria dayi*) and Mist frog (*Litoria rheocola*).

We will continue to check these frog habitats for yellow crazy ants and electric ants which are both a huge threat to our Wet Tropics World Heritage biodiversity. A shout out to the Wet Tropics Management Authority for their ongoing support and collaboration with the Taskforce.



Volunteer Expo

The Cairns Regional Council hosted the VEXPO (volunteer expo) in late July at the Tanks Art Centre. It was a great day with over 100 people visiting our stall to learn more about why yellow crazy ants are such a huge threat to our environment, lifestyle and economy. The live yellow crazy ants attracted many attendees and after seeing the ants they expressed feeling more confident about recognising them and knowing the difference between native and invasive ants. The free brochures, stickers, kids yellow crazy ant masks and magnets were popular.

A huge thanks to our wonderful Community Taskforce volunteer, Tim Brown for his time and effort, and to all the wonderful people who dropped in to learn more about yellow crazy ants.

Cairns kids enjoyed their visit to learn more about invasive ants at the VEXPO.

We can all help to stop the spread

Help stop the spread of invasive ants by responsibly disposing of your green waste. If you live in an infestation area you can dispose of your green waste at the Kuranda Transfer Station on Kennedy Highway near Speewah. If you live in Green Forest or Russett Park, it is likely you live in or near an infestation area. You can check out the Biosecurity Queensland website for electric ants and get in touch with the Community Taskforce or the Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority) to find out if you live in a yellow crazy ant infestation area.

If you live in an infestation area and would like to move any materials from your property, we can have one of the odour detection dogs from the Authority come and check it over before removal.



Local transfer stations have a specific area for dumping green waste that comes from invasive ant infestation areas. This helps decrease the risk of spreading yellow crazy ants and electric ants.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Surveys in Kuranda Tree frog habitat

Invasive ants have been found in critical frog habitat and the Kuranda Tree frog is under threat from the yellow crazy ant. 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. Lunch provided.

WHERE: Lower reaches of Kuranda creeks.

WHEN: Monthly survey 8am–12.30pm

Saturday 24 September – Warril Creek

Saturday 21 October – TBC

Carnival on Collins

Volunteering opportunities available to help at our information stall.

WHERE: The Tanks Art Centre, Collins Avenue, Edge Hill

WHEN: Sunday 4 September

Sylvia

Join the invasive resist-ants

Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce
communitytaskforce.org.au
coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au

