

Community Nursery and Landcare

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

Box trailers for hire.

Pick up and return, 19 Kullaroo Close, Kuranda. All plugs catered for.
Text or call Cathy 0419 624 940 to book.



Rainfall on native pine.
Photo: Jude Redinsky

A lush green after rain, but why?

The reason plants look healthier after rainfall has to do with air being rich in nitrogen. Some nitrogen, in its ammonium and nitrate forms, descends to the earth when rain falls, and immediately, the leaves and roots of plants takes it in. Drops of rain are also rich in oxygen, which serves as a safety net in case soil is heavily saturated after heavy rain.

Each drop of rain also absorbs carbon dioxide. When carbon dioxide in rain combines with other atmospheric minerals, the drops become slightly acidic. As soon as these slightly acidic raindrops reach the soil, they facilitate the release of micro-nutrients like copper, manganese, iron, and zinc (which are important in plant growth) from the soil. So our watering and fertilising keeps plants alive during the dry, but there's just nothing like rainfall to give that spurt of growth.

Planting has started

Spare a couple of hours for a more liveable planet in this the UN decade of ecological restoration 2022 to 2032. Our target for this wet season is 2000 stems – and we've started! Join us opposite the corner of High Chapparral and Oak Forest Roads where we're providing more habitat for the frogs, especially the females at Owen Creek where the Kuranda Tree frog population has lifted from two (at the time of the new bridge construction) to a healthier 14 to 16.

Register by texting "Join the target" to 0419 624 940 or email info@envirocare.org.au or just turn up on Saturday morning 8am at the nursery at 284 Myola Road.



Planting with the "Join the target" team.
Photo: Leah Leeds

Plant of the month – Scented daphne *Phaleria Clerodendron*

A plant that has it all. We had several spectacular flowerings of this beauty last year and this one was snapped at a neighbour's gate. The incredible perfume, a mix of peaches and pineapple, gives them away. They're a small tree to 4 metres and can be pruned lower. The fruit is a bright red, not as abundant as flowering, but quite spectacular along the trunk and branches. There are a few available at nursery.



Phaleria clerodendron, Kuranda.
Photo: Cathy Retter

• Date Claimers •

Saturdays 8am – "Join the target" tree planting. Meet at the KEC nursery 284 Myola Road or at site 8.10am High Chapparral and Oak Forest Roads. Watch for the sign.

Sunday 20–27 February – Monthly frog monitoring fun starts at new time 6.45pm. We'll have a film crew with us next month. Check Facebook or text Cathy 0419 624 940 to join the group texts and emails.

Nursery volunteering – Mondays and Thursdays 9am till noon and Saturdays 10am till noon.

Volunteer receives employment

One of our wonderful Taskforce volunteers has been successful in finding paid work in the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.

Ellin Christie has been volunteering with the Community Taskforce on the survey team for some months now and due to her experience and passion in the field has secured herself a job on the Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program field team.

She is one of many staff who started out volunteering with the Taskforce and has led to employment with the Authority.

This connection highlights the importance of strong relationships between the Government and community groups. The eradication of yellow crazy ants would not be possible without the support of so many dedicated partners and the Wet Tropics community.

We are the invasive resist-ants



Wet Tropics Management Authority staff and odour detection dogs with acting Executive Director Tim Wong, Senator Nita Green and Taskforce coordinator Sylvia Conway

Funding news

On 8 December Senator for Queensland, Nita Green, was proud to announce the Australian Government's \$24.8m investment into the eradication of yellow crazy ants.

Yellow crazy ants are among the most serious global invasive pests. They kill native animals by spraying formic acid into their preys' eyes which impacts heavily on the Wet Tropics biodiversity.

This funding is great news for the Wet Tropics Management Authority and its project partners who will continue the fight to keep yellow crazy ants out of our Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

A huge thanks to Australian and Queensland governments for their continued support of the program.



Below: Taskforce volunteer Ellin now working with the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program.



Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program field staff supports the Taskforce volunteers (from left, Taskforce coordinator Sylvia, staff Lukasz and Adam, Taskforce volunteers Paul and Ellin).

Upcoming Ant-ics for 2023

Last year the Taskforce completed seven yellow crazy ant and electric ant survey events in Kuranda Tree frog habitat, attended 10 community events, engaged with the Djabugay Bulmba Rangers, collaborated with Biosecurity Queensland to help spread the message about electric ants and contributed 11 articles to *The Kuranda Paper* and Taskforce website.

The plan for 2023 is to continue informing and educating the community about the threat of yellow crazy ants and electric ants to our Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, lifestyle and industry.

The Community Taskforce relies on volunteers to undertake the activities mentioned above so if you have an interest in caring for Country or getting involved in a community organisation doing wonderful things for our local environment then please get in touch.

We would love to meet you and have you on our team. There are a range of activities and events that cater to varying levels of fitness and skill. No experience is necessary, and all training will be provided.

We offer free lunch or morning tea at each event and returning volunteers receive a free t-shirt. I hope to see you soon for more yellow crazy Ant-ics!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

KTF Survey – Looking for invasive ants in Kuranda Tree frog habitat

WHERE: Owen Creek, Kuranda
WHEN: Saturday 18 March

Invasive Ant ID Workshop

WHERE: Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Rd, Kuranda
WHEN: Saturday 18 February 2023, 10am–1pm

The Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce is a community-run organisation which assists the Wet Tropics Management Authority in managing the yellow crazy ant infestations in Kuranda.

If you would like to get involved, please call 4093 8989, email coordinator@communitytaskforce.com or join the Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce Facebook page.

Sylvia

Join the invasive resist-ants

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

