

## 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.

### Why won't this grow?

Ever wonder why you can't grow the plants that your friend who lives in other parts of the Kuranda such as Speewah or Koah? There's quite a difference in rainfall and then there's the ground! Soils around Kuranda are either mostly clay soils weathered from the underlying metamorphic rocks (i.e. Hodgkinson Formation), or alluvial soils washed down from higher in the catchment along the Barron River and sometimes larger creeks. The vast majority of the Kuranda area contains clay soils weathered from metamorphosed sediments which are 360–420 million years old. These old rocks include a wide range of materials including arenite, mudstone, phyllite, and slate. Consequently, there is a wide range of soils in the Kuranda area. However, most have the following characteristics:

- Red, brown or yellow and high in clay and usually acidic (pH 5-6)
- Poorly structured and highly weathered
- Low fertility and often deficient in minerals

The small areas of alluvial soils are generally more fertile due to the addition of sandy and often basaltic material from the Tablelands along the Barron River.

All of the Kuranda soils are effectively improved by the addition of mulch and natural fertilisers. The addition of mulch can help modify the pH and restore an effective environment for micro-organisms. So the bottom line is your garden plants and trees are mining the nutrient from your soil. If you have river sandy loam then nutrients are good, but you need more mulching for water retention. The rest of us need to add nutrients with compost and mulch, with additional elements for specific plants e.g. quickly leached zinc due to high rainfall means citrus needs addition to grow

well. Upside is that clay soils hold moisture for longer! For more info on Kuranda soils go to [www.eisdocs.dsdip.qld.gov.au/KUR-World%20Integrated%20Eco-resort/EIS/appendices/appendix-1-soils-and-geology.pdf](http://www.eisdocs.dsdip.qld.gov.au/KUR-World%20Integrated%20Eco-resort/EIS/appendices/appendix-1-soils-and-geology.pdf)

### Plant of the month – Cardwell lilly *Proiphys ambionensis*

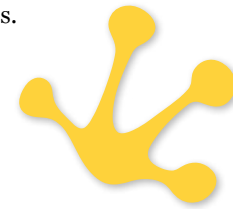
A plant that grows well in shady positions with its large glossy kidney shaped leaves and abundant attractively scented white flowers, held on stalks above the leaves. It's a great gift for a new Kuranda area resident. It's very tolerant of soil types, dies down in the dry and looks spectacular once the rains start. The leaves unfurl rapidly from the ground. Be careful to mark where they are so you don't dig them up accidentally during the dry.



Cardwell lilly

### International Frog Day 20 March and Tropical Frog survey week

Let's get Kuranda on the frog map of Australia with a week-long frog survey from Monday 20 March. Join in by getting out at night and recording your frog calls with the FrogID app. If you need help, would like to volunteer to survey, or like us to survey your place, please text to 0419 624 940 or email [info@envirocare.org.au](mailto:info@envirocare.org.au) – see Friends of Kuranda Tree frog (KTF) facebook page for more details.



### • Date Claimers •

**Monday 20–26 March** – 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.

**Saturday 25 March – Community Planting Celebration** (see advert on page 16) – 1.30 pm Guest speakers at the Envirocare nursery. 3–5pm Community Planting "Join the target". 5.30pm Talk and BBQ.

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

### We are the invasive resist-ants



#### Free invasive ant identification workshop

Looking for some weekend ant-spiration?

The Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce is hosting an invasive ant identification workshop to teach people how to spot yellow crazy ants and electric ants.

These invasive ants outcompete native ants and takeover an ecosystem through spreading and decimating local critters and small wildlife. Infestations occur in natural areas and can also spread into residential areas and farms, impacting our lifestyle and industry.

As a community we need to be aware of these pests so that we can report any possible sightings.

This free workshop will have you looking under a microscope to identify the unique features that set these invasive species apart from the native ones.

**The event is on Saturday 4 March 2023 – 10am to 1pm at the Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Road, Kuranda.**

Speakers from Biosecurity Queensland and Wet Tropics Management Authority will be there to deliver an update on how their eradication programs are progressing and answer any questions about how they survey, treat and eliminate these invasive species from backyards, farms and natural areas.

Meet one of the canine team, an odour detection dog will be on site to demonstrate how powerful her nose is at finding yellow crazy ants.

There will be fun and games to up your ANTy on

## Invasive ANTics Identification Workshop

### Can you recognise a yellow crazy ant or electric ant?

- This FREE workshop will help you identify these two invasive ants
- Look through a microscope and learn how to spot the differences between native and invasive ants
- Get a program update from Biosecurity Queensland and Wet Tropics Management Authority on the eradication of these ants
- Meet an odour-detection dog
- More fun and games followed by a FREE lunch

All welcome

Saturday 4 March 2023, 10am- 1pm  
Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Rd Kuranda



identifying the distinguishable features of these invasive pests, followed by a free lunch.



Please RSVP for catering by visiting the Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce Facebook page event or contact the coordinator on 0409 647 714 or [coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au](mailto:coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au)

*Invasive ant identification workshop 2019. L-R: Jeff Jackson (WTMA), Ciara Bridgland (Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce) and Gary Morton (Biosecurity Queensland).*

### Join the invasive resist-ants

Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce  
[communitytaskforce.org.au](http://communitytaskforce.org.au)  
[coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au](mailto:coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au)

