

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.

Macroinvertebrate Magic – Unearth water's tiny wonders in our creeks

Ever gazed at a serene pond or babbling stream and pondered its hidden life? Beneath those waters lies an enchanting world of macroinvertebrates, just waiting to be unveiled! With a net scoop, you can uncover a myriad of fascinating critters. There's the swift water strider, skating gracefully, and the crafty caddisfly larvae, building protective homes from nature's trinkets.



Netting macroinvertebrates.
Photo: Stroud university

But this isn't mere fun—it's scientific sleuthing! These tiny beings reveal secrets about water health. Pristine waters might boast dancing mayflies, while murkier spots could house resilient worms and snails.

The best part? Identification! Lay out your catch, grab magnifying glasses and charts, and delve into a delightful detective game, classifying each macroinvertebrate. It's like piecing together nature's jigsaw.

Macroinvertebrate study isn't just about splashing in water. It's a captivating quest into nature's microcosm, offering tales of discovery and awe.

Ready for your watery expedition? We're investigating water bug life in our Myola Valley streams. Book into our training sessions on **Sunday 15 & 19 October** from 1–5pm – email info@envirocare.org.au to book a spot. Spaces are limited. Kids welcome.

Update on African Tulip – pest tree

For those who missed the article last month, we are forming a register of exotic African Tulips around Kuranda which people would like help with removal. Thank you to those who responded with their details. We'll be contacting you soon. African Tulip flowers are toxic to bees and the trees are spreading and will take over any disturbed ground, displacing native trees. We can't really afford to have them around due to their impact although people do like the flowers.

There are other spectacular flowering natives that you could plant instead, Black bean (*Castanospermum australe*), Wheel of Fire (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*) and Flame tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*). All available at KEC nursery.

You should try to manage the impacts of the African Tulip tree on your land by removing small seedlings and cutting down trees, though without stump removal, the plant will sucker. If there are more people who need assistance please email your details for the register to info@envirocare.org.au.

Plant of the Month

Golden Bouquet – *Deplanchea tetraphylla*

This tall attractive tree with its large golden flowers is perfect for rainforest margins. A humorous name is Wallaby Wireless Tree alluding to wallabies being fond of the fallen flowers and news seems to spread quickly throughout the wallaby population, who assemble to partake of the apparently tasty fare.



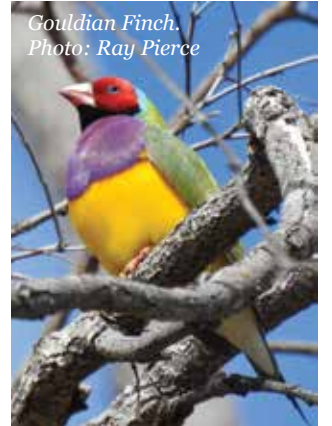
Deplanchea tetraphylla.
Photo: Vern Hansen

Meet the Scientist – Dr Ray Pierce Thursday 26 October

The annual cycle of Gouldian Finches in north-east Queensland

Dr Ray Pierce, a local ecologist, will present the findings of his studies over a number of years on the Gouldian Finches in north-east Queensland.

Email info@envirocare.org.au for more details especially to confirm the venue and time.



Gouldian Finch.
Photo: Ray Pierce

• Date Claimers •

Sunday 15 & 29 October – Macroinvertebrate Magic 1–5pm. Book your spot and bring your kids for a sleuthing adventure into our local waterways.

Email info@envirocare.org.au

Thursday 26 October – Dr Ray Pierce will present his findings to date on the Gouldian Finches in NE Qld. Please email for details confirming venue and time.

Friday 20–29 October – Monthly frog monitoring fun starts at new time 6.30pm. Check Facebook or text Cathy 0419 624 940 to join the group texts and emails.

We are the invasive resist-ants



Taskforce volunteer Karman Lane at the Taskforce display stall.

Kuranda Cornett's IGA

The Taskforce and the Kuranda Men's Shed were side by side outside Kuranda Cornett's IGA sharing our message to the locals, to recognise and report yellow crazy ants and book a free yard check. We had live electric and yellow crazy ants on display and maps to show where the infestations are.

The Kuranda Men's shed were selling brisket and gravy rolls while showcasing their woodwork and presence in the Kuranda community.

The event proved to be beneficial with information provided on various dump piles in the Kuranda area which are now being checked for invasive ants.

Spring is in the Fair

The Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce returned to the annual Cairns and Hinterland Steiner Spring Fair to share a stall with Biosecurity Queensland's National Electric Ant Eradication Program. The live ant displays were exceedingly popular, and we shared valuable information with the community about both invasive ants found in the Cairns and Kuranda community.

What is the difference between yellow crazy ants and electric ants, we hear?

This is a common question and having two species of invasive ants and two separate eradication programs in our community can be confusing.

Yellow crazy ants are from South-east Asia and spray formic acid in their preys' eyes and are 4-5mm long and a golden-brown colour.

Electric ants are from South America, have a painful sting and are 1-2 mm long and a brown colour. Both ants threaten and impact our environment, lifestyle and agriculture.

Children enjoyed colouring in, giveaways of yellow crazy ant face masks and a selection of stickers and brochures were also popular. The Djabugay people beautifully welcomed us to Country and were followed by many Spring delights. Maypole dancing, food stalls, live music and flower crown creations were just some of the wonderful sights to see.

A huge thank you to the Cairns and Hinterland Steiner School for having us and we hope to be back next year for some more fun and festivities.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Mareeba Markets Stall

Come and volunteer at our stall to share information about invasive ants.

WHERE: Mareeba Turf Club, 1 Fenwick St Mareeba
WHEN: Saturday 7 October — 7am-12pm

Kuranda Colour Fest & Kuranda Carnival

WHERE: Kuranda District State College, Myola Rd Kuranda
WHEN: Friday 13 October 4.30-9pm

Kuranda Bio-Blitz Weekend - Volunteers wanted

A collaboration with Biosecurity Queensland's National Electric Ant Eradication Program to survey the sidewalks of Kuranda's suburban areas searching for electric and yellow crazy ants.

WHERE: Kuranda Envirocare nursery, 284 Myola Road Kuranda
WHEN: 21-22 October

FREE Toolbox talk

Learn about the risks and impacts invasive ants have in your community.

WHERE: In your workplace or school
WHEN: Get in touch to make a time

Kuranda Tree frog habitat (KTF) monthly survey

Volunteers wanted for our survey crew.

WHERE: Kuranda creeks
WHEN: Saturday 30 September — 8am-12pm
Saturday 21 October — 8am-12pm

Moderate level of fitness required. No experience necessary. Training provided on the day. Lunch included.

Final note – Report illegal dumping to Mareeba Shire Council on 1300 308 461. Report yellow crazy ants call 1800 CRAZY ANT.

To volunteer with the Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce call (07) 4093 8989.

Join the invasive resist-ants

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

