FINIA
THE NATURAL INTEGRITY ALLIANCE FOR K'GARI

Newsletter

Sustaining the natural integrity of K'gari together — *June 2023*

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Thanks to everyone for granting me a 1-month delay on FINIA's newsletter production to get married!

As you will read, FINIA's important onground work has continued on K'gari – including the May field trip, this year organised by FIDO's Chamaine Foley and Peter Shooter.

I'm packing my bag for a very important celebration next week, with K'gari finally getting her Butchulla name back. It's moments like this that we all get to reflect on the history of this very special place.

The Editor

FINIA Field Trip 2023

May 4th and 5th were the dates of this year's FINIA annual tour of K'gari. Each year FINIA aims to have one two-day meeting on K'gari. FINIA is a community-based partnership dedicated to the protection of the K'gari World Heritage Area's natural integrity and ecological assets to help ensure that all stakeholders are successfully cooperating in caring for K'gari. This year we missed our unfailingly enthusiastic chair, Sue Sargent. We await her return with Matthew. Congratulations to the newly-weds from all the FINIA family.

After an early morning barge crossing from Hervey Bay Boat Harbour, participants disembarked at Wanggoolba Creek. There we met up for carpooling and set off for the first stop of the tour, the former forestry headquarters, Central Station. Two local ABC radio staff, Lucy and Patrick, accompanied the group for both days.

Butchulla custodian Travis performs a smoking ceremony as part of the welcome to the island (Photo: FIDO)

At Central Station the group met up with Shantel Ah Kit, one of the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers who has attended several Bioblitzes at Rainbow Beach. She introduced her colleague Travis 'Dinka Dinka' Page who performed a Welcome to Country and a cleansing smoking ceremony using the smoke of selected native leaves. Travis also performed on the yidaki (didgeridoo) and delivered an insightful talk about the three Butchulla laws:

What is good for country must come first.
Do not touch or take whatever does not belong to you.
If you have plenty you must share.

An important aspect of the tour was to see threats to biosecurity and the measures being taken to control them. After sharing morning tea at Central Station, the group travelled on to the settlement of Eurong. There they investigated a site badly infested with a weed called Coral Creeper which escaped from residents' gardens years before. Local resident David Anderson and FIDO led by Sue Dawson has been battling this invasive species for years, but it is proving very difficult to eradicate.

Further south at Happy Valley, FIDO Acting Chairman Peter Shooter showed a weed that has spread out from the settlement there. Crab's Eye Creeper, *(Abrus precatorius subsp. Africanus)* has brightly coloured red and black seeds which are extremely toxic. Recent volunteering trips have removed over 130 kilos of toxic seed from areas adjacent to the Happy Valley settlement. Groups gathered for lunch at Happy Valley where a lot of productive discussion took place. Happy Valley Community Association's Scott Bell shared a report from Red Ash Consulting, which documented progress in reducing the prevalence of Abrus and Easter cassia in areas around the settlement since FIDO took over. Aerial maps showed very significant reduction in infestations of both weeds in the targeted areas.

FIDO leader Peter Shooter shows the coral creeper, an invasive weed around Eurong (Photo: FIDO)

During the afternoon the convoy travelled North to a coastal site where Pandanus trees have been infested with the Pandanus leafhopper *(Jamella australiae).* Some healthy seedlings were planted on the site in the hope that they will grow and recolonise the area.

After lurching all day over sandy tracks, participants spent a comfortable night at Dilli Village, a former sandmining accommodation centre now retrofitted and leased by the University of the Sunshine Coast. Chef Graham served some delicious meals, and everyone enjoyed a warm shower and an informative presentation by Sandy Cape volunteer Don Bradley. Don showed some recent work involving tagging male turtles and the resultant maps that describe the turtles' travels, giving valuable insight for scientists into where they travel and feed.

On day 2 after breakfast, a round table discussion took place chaired by Eurong resident David Anderson. This allowed each person to introduce themselves and explain their connection with K'gari.

Jenna Tapply from QPWS joined the group for a presentation and Butchulla ranger Shantel Ah Kit took everyone outside for a demonstration of how a cultural burn should be conducted. She stressed the need for a slow and low flame which enables those attending it to avoid damaging culturally important artefacts such as scar trees. Orchid Beach fire chief Winston Williams was present and some wonderful sharing of ancient and modern fire control emerged.

On the second afternoon the group crossed back to the mainland side of the island to wait at Kingfisher Bay for the return barge. Most visited the Discovery Centre, a partnership between Kingfisher Resort, the

Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation, and the University of the Sunshine Coast. It was designed to help visitors appreciate the unique features of the island and behave safely and appropriately, with colourful displays explaining the significance of World Heritage status, special features and safe behaviours around *wongari* (dingoes).

The whole experience gave a strong overall picture of the varied beauty of K'gari, the threats to her well-being as well as the determined efforts of those who work to keep her safe and beautiful.

Article contributed by Zela Bissett and Article contributed by Peter Shooter, K'gari (Fraser Island) Defenders Organisation (FIDO)

Volunteers planted a hillside with pandanus seedings as part of the tour (Photo: FIDO)

Sandy Cape Turtle Program

Nest Relocation Review – 2022-23

During the 2022-23 nesting season between 24 November 2022 and 15 February 2023, 61 loggerhead and 2 green clutches were relocated to the 5 cages. All emerged clutches had been dug out and counted by April 18 with the results that 8,212 eggs were relocated, and 6,351 hatchlings were produced (a hatching rate of all clutches was 77.3%). The average for the five clutches that were relocated within 48 to 72 hours after nesting was higher at 86.3% demonstrating again that the group's careful handling techniques are effective. Sadly, two clutches partly predated by Wongari (dingoes) had a very poor success rate (23.6%) this season.

Evidence of visitors in 4x4 vehicles breaching the night curfew on beach driving in the rookery and camping outside or the Carree Camp Zone was again seen this season. Turtles were disturbed in their nesting attempts by lights and movement, with footprints and vehicle tracks seen around abandoned nesting attempts. Carree Campground was so badly eroded that the fallen trees made passage difficult even at low tides, and nest collection on the Eastern Beach was severely hampered with many nests lost to Wongari. The fisherman's tractor that was 50 metres into the campground in 1992, and on the edge of the bank around 2010, is now only visible at low tide – indicating erosion of ~100 metres in 30 years.

Satellite Telemetry Program

Satellite tags currently deployed for Sandy Cape turtles (Image: Aub Strydom)

The Sandy Cape Satellite Telemetry Program supports GSMP zoning, with tracking commencing in 2015. Since that time, 47 satellite trackers have been attached to: 21 green males, 1 loggerhead male, 11 green females and 14 loggerhead females. Habitat use data collected has been used to support the go-slow and trawl-free protection for the turtles provided by the Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan.

In the 2022-23 season, five nesting loggerheads, and three foraging male greens were given satellite trackers, partly funded by $20,000 from the MRCCC (Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee). One has a foraging home to the south, near the Tweed River where one of our previously tracked turtles, Olga Wandi went 3 years ago. Olga Wandi was also here nesting again this season.

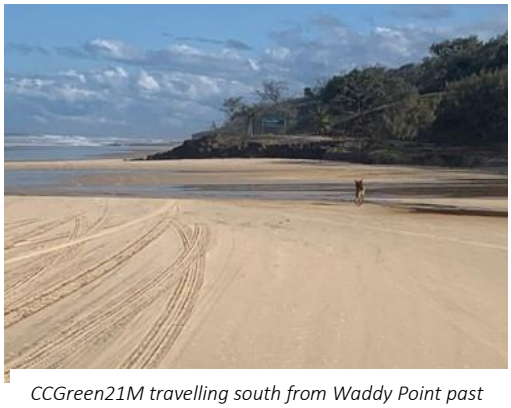
Three of the nesting loggerheads went north settled on reefs - one off eastern Cape York, the second near Yeppoon in Rodds Bay, south of Gladstone, the last one is still migrating northwards and is currently north of Port Douglas, after first visiting the Gold Coast. Her track to there, via the deep ocean, is visible on the map.

Article contributed by Don and Lesley Bradley, Sandy Cape Turtle Monitoring Program

Adaptive Management for Wongari Conservation and Safety

Recent media attention highlighted the wongari breeding season and high risk wongari-human interactions in the Waddy Point and Eli Creek visitor areas on K'gari.

A collaborative education and monitoring campaign by QPWS and BAC community rangers saw increased patrolling across these areas. Working extended hours, patrolling rangers provided visitor education on dingo-safe behaviour, addressed high risk behaviours, and monitored wongari activity and movements. The focused and united front presented between QPWS and Butchulla demonstrated a greater emphasis on collaborative wongari conservation and risk mitigation required during this high-risk period. Unfortunately, some people persist in ignoring the 'Be dingo-safe!' messages, increasing the risk for all visitors and the wild wongari population.

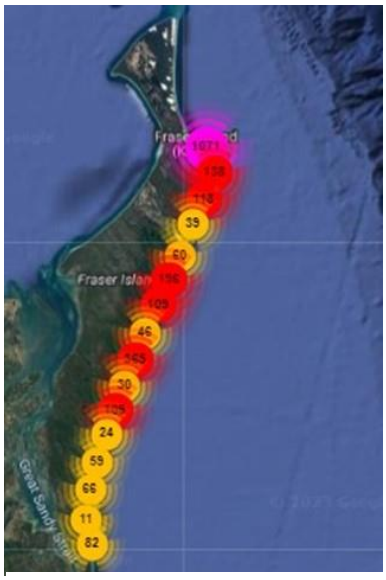


CCGreen21M travelling south from Waddy Point past Happy Valley (Photo: QPWS)

To assist in this challenging situation, the K'gari Wongari Management Team utilised GPS tracking collars on select individual wongari as part of risk mitigation. The tracking activity was enacted with collaborative approvals after one child was bitten leading into the busy Easter holiday period, and another person was nipped in the Eli Creek day use area. Wongari involved continued to display threatening behaviour over the days following these high-risk interactions.

The tracking activity saw identified wongari safely captured, ear-tagged and fitted with a GPS collar to assist management actions as per the FIDCRMS (strategy). The collar regularly detects a GPS location, automatically uploaded to a linked webservice, allowing the wongari's movements to be tracked. Information indicating interaction with visitor use areas informs appropriate management responses such as increased site surveillance, visitor education and compliance activities. Visitor messages provided remind people to:

- Never feed dingoes.
- Always stay within arm's reach of children, even small teenagers.
- Do not run. Running can trigger a negative dingo interaction.
- Walk in groups and carry a stick.
- Secure all food, rubbish, fish, and bait.



GPS points 13/4 – 11/5/2023 (Image: QPWS)

Since collaring, CCGreen21M has travelled a large portion of K'gari's east coast between Waddy Point and Hook Point. The GPS points show he is spending most of his time around Waddy Point and Poyungan Rocks and even managed to utilise an open gate at Eurong and spend about 12hours inside the fence. The collar proved invaluable to tracking his movements inside the fence and identify when he had made his way back out again.

These collars are a valuable tool to assist the collaborative managers in keeping people and the wongari safe. Members of the public are also assisting by reporting wongari sightings, interactions, and inappropriate human behaviour to dingo.ranger@des.qld.gov.au.

Article contributed by A/Ranger in Charge NRM, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)

Polar bear vs Wongari – similarities in conservation risk management

The K'gari NRM wongari management team were approached by animal behaviouralist expert Nikita Ovsyanikov and daughter Katya to meet the team and discuss non-lethal risk mitigation and animal behaviour in the human/wildlife interface.

Nikita Ovsyanikov is a world leading Polar Bear researcher/scientist and animal behaviour expert visiting Australia. He also has years of experience and knowledge about arctic foxes. His interest and passion in animal behaviour has led him to develop protocols and training courses relating to the non-lethal management of large predator/human interactions. He was very interested to learn about the management (and visitor management) of wongari on K'gari.

Nikita and Katya (recently graduated with a PhD at UQ studying dolphin communication) were invited to present to staff and invited guests. Katya presented her extensive career highlights focusing on marine mammals and her amazing life working as a research assistant from a very young age with her parents observing arctic foxes and snowy owls in remote conditions.

Visiting animal behavioralist Nikita Ovsyanikov presenting wildlife conflict management (Photo: QPWS)

Nikita presented his work on arctic foxes and polar bears including their current plights adapting to climate change and global warming. Interestingly, he was able to navigate his way through Polar bear areas carrying a stick for protection without bears approaching him. Like wongari – a stick acts as a visual cue to avoid approach.

Nikita and Katya Ovsyanikov observing 22Pink22M on eastern beach with QPWS staff (Photo: QPWS)

The pair were invited to see some of the situations K'gari wongari face on the eastern beach. We were keen to hear the perspectives of Nikita as he witnessed Eli Creek visitation and a response to a high-risk interaction between a wongari and a family group at the Maheno.

Thank you, Nakita and Katya, for sharing your knowledge and experiences with us. Maybe if wongari were the size of a polar bear, people would be less keen to approach them.

Article contributed by K'gari Senior Ranger - NRM, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)

Collaborative Fire Workshop at Dilli Village

A three-day fire workshop was held in April by the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) at Dilli Village. The workshop included field visits to several post-burn and unburnt sites with representatives from a cross section of K'gari stakeholders including the BAC, UniSC, QPWS, QFES, FIDO, FINIA and K'gari residents.

Participants in the UniSC-BAC Collaborative Fire Management Workshop (Photo: UniSC)

The project, funded by the *Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Funding* (QRRRF), aims to reduce risk, and limit the impact of fire on the environment as a natural hazard on the Great Sandy and K'gari World Heritage Area, through the following objectives:

1. Improve understanding of increasing fire risk to the unique natural – ecological and cultural landscape.
2. Share stakeholder perspectives, practice, and experience with prescribed burning practices (including cultural burns) to inform response strategies to climate induced changes, including proactive (planned burning) and reactive (bushfire/wildfire) fire management.
3. Develop consensus among stakeholders about fire management approaches, recognising Butchulla perspectives, identified as a priority in the IGEM *K'gari Bushfire Review 2020-21,* held following the 2020 fire, and at the K'gari Symposium held in December 2022 in Hervey Bay.

4. Strengthen partnership-based collaboration on fire management among K'gari land managers and stakeholders including Butchulla people, QPWS, QFES, Fraser Coast Regional Council, K'gari community and businesses, and academic advisors.

Questions considered at the workshop included:

- How is prescribed burning undertaken in the region?
    - What is its purpose?
    - How do we measure its effectiveness?
- How are unplanned (wild) fires managed in the greater landscape?
    - How are impacts measured?
- What are some limitations of current fire management?
    - How can fire management be more effective to meet a range of purposes including protecting cultural, biodiversity and World Heritage values?
- What are the current knowledge gaps?
    - What are the priorities for research, monitoring, and management?

A report is currently being compiled and will be circulated amongst stakeholders. Key reflections from the workshop include **Collegiality:** The participants came with a sense of working together on an issue of such importance that they gave their time to attend the workshop. **Representation:** the BAC, QPWS and QFES all sent staff who make a significant contribution to fire management on K'gari. **Learning from the past:** Much was learned from the recent wildfire and these learnings form the basis of a fire management plan going forward. **Learning from each other:** Everyone had the opportunity to share their story, learn and contribute to improved fire management on K'gari.

Article contributed by Dr Kim Walker, University of the Sunshine Coast

K'gari Collaborative Planned Burning Season 2023

The K'gari collaborative fire program is well underway with twenty-three QPWS planned burns approved for this season. These include small-block asset protection burns, mitigation burns, larger land management (conservation) burns and several Butchulla cultural burns to return traditional burning practices to areas of K'gari.

Targeted planned burning is a key management tool conducted seasonally with the aims of reducing fuel loads to protect infrastructure and residential areas, achieving fire regimes that are appropriate to the ecosystems and mitigating risk of severe bushfires.

The QPWS K'gari Fire Enhancement Team, consisting of four staff specialising in fire management, are responsible for the implementation and collaboration of the fire program, to ensure planned burn program objectives are met. On-ground fire application is supported by strategic aerial incendiary for selected large-burn areas.

K'gari Fire Enhancement Team member Rachel Killer inspecting an insulated cultural tree after prescribed fire activities on K'gari (Photo: QPWS)

Fire block preparation is an important part of the burn program and is essential to preserve habitat trees, infrastructure, and assets (including cultural assets).

Collaborative fire management is important, and we acknowledge and thank stakeholders and other fire practitioners who apply appropriate fire regimes on K'gari.

Article contributed Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)
K'gari Natural Resource Management – Fire Enhancement Team

Monitoring Abrus Management in Happy Valley

There has been a lot of discussion and correspondence regarding the issue of weed management in the Unallocated State Land and other State controlled land within the Happy Valley Town Reserve.

Whilst the existence of all weeds has been of concern to the Happy Valley community, two weeds have been of greatest focus namely Abrus (because of the associated significant health risk) and Easter Cassia (subject of Easter Cassia Blitz across the Island as a whole)

The Department of Resources (formerly DNRME) had given Deeds of Agreement to undertake weeding to two separate groups using a system of self-assessment to monitor the performance of the two groups. When the Happy Valley Community Association (HVCA or the Association) was established in June 2019, the committee were aware of the historical aspect of the weed management and the divergence of methods.

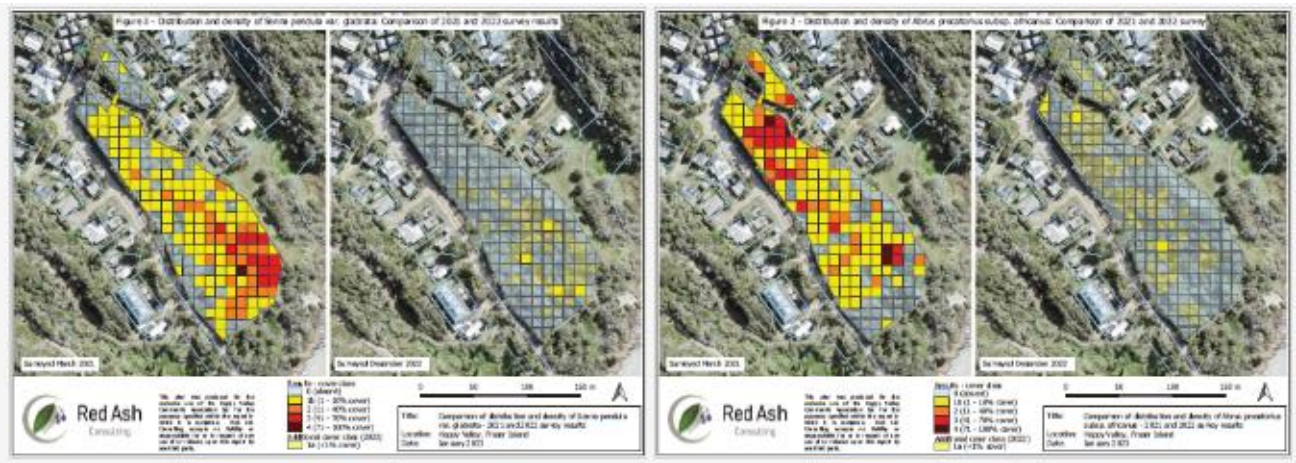
HVCA was particularly concerned about Abrus which was increasing its presence, particularly in and around the central areas between the two valleys. The Association took the precaution to issue Health Alerts to residents to display in their properties to warn all visitors about the risk associated with Abrus.

The Association together with the Fraser Island Association felt that the appropriate course of action was to focus on the science and associated facts. Red Ash Consulting, an independent consultant with no knowledge, experience, or affiliations with any group in Happy Valley were engaged to undertake an independent weed assessment of key areas within the town reserve.

This was done for the first time in January 2020 to set a baseline and revisited and reassessed in March 2021, with the intention to assess and compare the performance of areas under the control of the two separate groups. These reports highlighted that one group was significantly outperforming the other.

In May 2021, the FINIA field trip included a walkthrough of the central area of Happy Valley, representations to the FINIA field trip group by Council representatives and a local, and an onsite inspection of two areas that had undergone past rehabilitation by FIDO. We were fortunate that members of Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) team were able to assess and compare the health of the country in the central area together with an inspection of two areas worked on by FIDO.

As a result, FIDO was given responsibility for the central area. FIDO volunteers in conjunction with BAC's Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers and Happy Valley representatives commenced an aggressive weeding programme of the central area of Happy Valley being identified from the Red Ash reports as the most at risk area. The initial field work was undertaken in August 2021.



Red Ash Consulting's Report (2023) highlights changes in the percentage cover of Easter cassia (Left) and Abrus (Right) between March 2021 and December 2022 in Happy Valley (Figures supplied by Happy Valley Community Association).

In December 2022, Red Ash undertook their third assessment of the weed impact, and which is now available in the report released late February 2023. The most recent report by Red Ash shows significant reductions of both Abrus and Easter Cassia. Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the report outlined the comparisons and importantly Red Ash noted the natural rejuvenation of native species throughout the treated area.

Congratulations and appreciation must go to the FIDO leadership team, the FIDO volunteers, BAC's Butchulla Land & Sea Rangers and Happy Valley representatives. All done on what is currently USL, community land. We look forward to the continuing collective effort, cooperation, and collaboration to deal with new germinations that unfortunately will still grow from the legacy of the seed bank that has built up in the ground during the past years.

Article contributed by Russell Postle, Happy Valley Community Association

Knowledge Sharing – increasing awareness of exotic pests and pathogens threatening the health of Country and our forests

A project developed with NSW (Aj Perkins, Tilly Davis and Angus Carnegie) and DAF (Geoff Pegg and Louise Shuey), *"Developing partnerships to protect Country from forest biosecurity threats"*, aims to collaboratively develop and deliver culturally appropriate environmental biosecurity training programs to increase the capacity of Indigenous Rangers, Natural Resource Management agencies (NRM) and other land managers across Australia to prepare for, detect and respond to plant pests and diseases threatening Australia's forests.

By engaging with different Indigenous Ranger groups, we are looking to increase awareness of exotic pests and pathogens that threaten the health of Country, tangible and intangible cultural values, and Indigenous peoples' ability to practise culture.

Knowledge was shared about culturally modified trees (Photo: DAF)

The project has also extended Internationally, with funding allowing for Māori groups working on myrtle rust in New Zealand to visit the Butchulla people on K'gari and Gumbaynggirr people in Coffs Harbour. The trip started on K'gari on the 8th of May with Butchulla (Butchulla rangers and knowledge holders, including Butchulla Elder and community linguist, Aunty Josey (Joyce) Bonner) warmly welcoming our New Zealand visitors. All were welcomed to K'gari with language, song, dance, story and cleansing smoking ceremony.

The group was joined by researchers from DAF, DPE NSW and SCION in New Zealand. Lasting friendships were developed quickly as we visited culturally and spiritually significant sites on K'gari. One of the favourite spots was the iconic Boorangoora (Lake McKenzie). Much was learned about culturally modified trees (arrow and scarred trees), edible, medicinal and resource plants, cultural custodianship, and traditional sciences informed by knowledge systems embedded in stories. Through endless yarns, storytelling and mutual gift giving, similarities in cultures, Lore/Law, experiences, and ways of being were identified. Parting ways was an emotional experience, but it was not goodbye as plans are in place for a reciprocal visit. From K'gari we set off to have a look at the impact of myrtle rust in the Gold Coast Hinterland and then to Gumbaynggirr wajaarr Country (Coffs Harbour).

This exchange gave groups an opportunity to learn about each other's cultures and share knowledge and processes of caring for Country in the face of these new challenges. A regional approach to environmental biosecurity is a must, along with culturally appropriate ways of managing threats like myrtle rust.

Article submitted by Dr Geoff Pegg, DAF and Tilly Davis and Aj Perkins DPE NSW

K'gari's iconic Pandanus under threat, but help has arrived!

From left to right – a healthy pandanus, sick pandanus, dead pandanus (killed by Jamella) along with FIDO Treasurer, John Cruickshank inspecting a planted pandanus. (Photos: FIDO)

The plant Pandanus is often called a Pandanus Palm. But it is not a true palm. There are many species of Pandanus across tropical and subtropical regions of the world. They vary from small shrubs not more than a meter high to 30 metre trees. They frequently have distinctive prop roots.

The Pandanus Palms of K'gari have had a tough time over the ages. In the main, but not exclusively, they live on coastal sand dunes. However, they pop up all over the island in unexpected places, probably spread by fruit bats, that chew on the soft flesh at the base of the ripe seed.

Horses: In the early days when brumbies ranged over the island, they did a lot of damage to the Pandanus population. They knocked trees over and eat the soft fleshy growing tips.

Cyclones: Pandanus frequently establish on the very frontal dunes on the East Coast. This is a very dangerous location as tropical cyclones periodically wash frontal dunes away, Pandanus and all.

Jamella: It was the arrival of a small insect that has done the greatest damage of recent times. A leaf hopper called *Jamella australiae*, less than 10mm long arrived in Southeast Queensland from North Queensland in nursery stock. FIDO's late John Sinclair reported an infestation at Happy Valley in 2011. It is now island wide.

Jamella suck sap from the growing tip of the plant, then secretes out a sweet liquid that provides the perfect habitat for many microorganisms to grow, resulting in the slow death of the growing tips caused by rot. This is referred to as Pandanus die back.

Large numbers of K'gari's Pandanus are dead or dying as a result.

Fire: Wildfires raged on K'gari in late 2020. Many of the East Coast dunes were badly affected by very hot fire. The Pandanus, already suffering from Jamella induced die back took another serious hit.

Help is on the way. FIDO wrote to the Queensland Government after the fire and proposed that we conduct a Pandanus rehabilitation Program on K'gari. The suggestion was taken up and a team of volunteers is now in the process of propagating and planting new seedlings on the East Coast of K'gari. The project is funded for a year with a provision for a one-year extension.

Article contributed by Peter Shooter, K'gari (Fraser Island) Defenders Organisation (FIDO)

Weed Spotters: Watch Out for Bitou Bush

Although largely eradicated on the island, it's always good to be on the watch for bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. Rotundata)*

The bright yellow flower of bitou (Photo: DAF)

Native to southern Africa, bitou bush is an attractive, bright green perennial shrub that grows up to 5m high. It occurs in all Australian states and territories except the Northern Territory, and is the dominant vegetation along much of the New South Wales coastline. Bitou bush out-competes and, in many cases, eliminates, native flora on coastal dunes destroying the habitat of many native birds and animals.

Bitou bush was originally planted in New South Wales and parts of Queensland (including K'gari) to revegetate coastal dunes following sand mining. It can still be found in the Wide Bay and in isolated spots on Noosa headland; on North and South Stradbroke Island, Moreton Island, and southern Moreton Bay Islands; and scattered along the Gold Coast beach strip.

The plant has yellow, chrysanthemum-like flowers, up to 20mm in diameter, on short stalks, clustered on ends of branches. It flowers intermittently, but mainly between May and July, with the plant flowering within 6 months pf germination.

The stems are much branched with woody upper stems, often purple. Leaves are 20–80mm long, teardrop shape, irregularly serrated on edges, practically hairless except for cottony down on young leaves. They grow on short stalks and alternate along stems.

Bitou is found on coastal dunes (Photo: DAF)

Bitou fruit is spherical with a green fleshy skin that changes from brown to black on maturity. Each fruit has one seed, which is hard and bone-like in colour and texture when ripe. Each plant can produce up to 50,000 seeds per year. Seeds are spread rapidly by birds and remain viable for at least 2 years. They germinate at any time of the year, particularly after good rain.

Methods of control include hand-pulling seedlings and plants up to 1m high. Pulling bushes is practical treatment because bitou bush has shallow root system with no distinct taproot, unlike many other woody weeds. Fire can also be used to destroy bitou but stimulates seed germination requiring follow-up.

Bitou bush is a category 2, 3 ,4 and 5 restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. You must not keep, move, give away, sell, or released into the environment. Penalties may apply. All sightings of bitou bush must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland within 24 hours of the sighting. For more information, please read the bitou bush fact sheet.

Article adapted from Weed Spotters Network Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Dates for the Diary

What: **Bush Regeneration and Monitoring**
Where: Eurong, K'gari
When: 30 July to 6 August and 22 to 28 October 2023 (Sunday to Saturday).
For: FIDO has been conducting weeklong weeding–bush regeneration programs in Eurong since 2005. These have progressively transformed Eurong and dramatically reduced the weed threats there. Based at Tallinga, the former Sinclair family home in Eurong Village, work will focus on weeding, bush regeneration, building the Eurong nursery's capacity, and continuing FIDO's ongoing environmental monitoring programs. The program is supported by Eurong Resort, providing dinner for the volunteers each night.
Cost: $300 ($200 for concessions) to subsidise costs.
More info: Please send any questions to weeding@fido.org.au.

What: **Queensland Water and Land Carers Webinar Series: My Governance Journey**
Where: Online
When: 12pm, Friday 16 June
For: Volunteering Queensland recently launched a new online tool to help volunteers understand and learn more about taking on roles of your volunteer boards and committees. My Governance Journey is a plain English guide to what you need to know when you join a committee or Board and points people to the best available resources depending on where they are on their journey as a Governance member. Join Ross Tutin from Volunteering Queensland, as he guides you through the tool and the many resources it has on offer.
Cost: Free
More info: https://qwalc.org.au/naturally-together-2/

What: **2023 Environmental Biosecurity Series: Highly skilled workforce**
Where: Online
When: 12:30-2:00pm, Thursday 27 July
For: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foresty's (DAFF) environmental biosecurity webinar series provides a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration amongst government, Landcare and NRM organisations, researchers, conservation groups and leading plant and animal health bodies. The 2023 webinar series – *Connected. Resilient. Shared.* provides perspectives on the National Biosecurity Strategy's priority areas.
Cost: Free
More info: To register or check out recordings from previous webinars, please click here

What: **Weed Management**
Where: Happy Valley, K'gari
When: ALL DATES ARE FULLY BOOKED FOR 2023
For: Peter Shooter leads these trips to help tackle the heavy weed infestation around Happy Valley. A group of up to eight will share "Kurrawa", a comfortable holiday house in the Centre of Happy Valley. The group will work to contain a particularly aggressive weed with poisonous seeds, *Abrus prectorius Var. Africanus*. This weed heavily impacts the vegetation but isn't found anywhere else on Fraser Island. As the *Abrus* comes under control, the team will increasingly eliminate large woody weeds, Easter Cassia and Lantana. Again, fitness is needed to carry heavy chemical backpack sprays across steep terrain.
Cost: $300 ($200 for concessions) to subsidise costs.
More info: Please send any questions to weeding@fido.org.au.

What: **IGEM Bushfire Recovery Project**
Where: East Coast, K'gari
When: ALL PLACES FILLED FOR 2023
For: FIDO's bushfire recovery project 2022-25 is being conducted on the east coast of K'gari. Volunteers are restoring the low coastal vegetation complex on the foreshore and undertaking Pandanus recovery works by monitoring, establishing a seed collection and restoration protocol and on-ground works, including restoration training. FIDO is also interested in hearing from other groups interested in partnering on the project.
More info: For more information or to register your group's interest in this activity, please get in touch with Mark Dwyer at mdwy.dbq@gmail.com

Funding Opportunities

What: **Gambling Community Benefit Fund**
For: Provide one-off grants for not-for-profit organisations to help provide community services or activities that benefit the Queensland community. The next funding round is a $100,000 super round for all priorities.
When: Round 118 will open in mid-July and closes at midnight on 31 August 2023.
Email: cbf@treasury.qld.gov.au
Phone: (07) 3247 4284
Website: https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/community-grants

What: **Wettenhall Environment Trust —Small Environmental Grant Scheme**
For: Projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment. Objectives of the Small Environmental Grants Scheme (up to $10K) are flora and fauna conservation and threatened mammal conservation with one or more of the following: monitoring/recording data, community education, community capacity building (training), and research/science.
When: Next round opens on 1 July 2023 (funding released August 2023)
Phone: (03) 5472 1316 or 0431 219 980 - Elizabeth (Beth) Mellick, Executive Officer
Email: beth@wettenhall.org.au
Website: https://wettenhall.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/

What: **Australian Geographic Society Sponsorship**
For: Founded by Dick Smith, up to $5,000 is available for Australian Geographic Society Project Grants. Project Sponsorship funding targets all four Project Categories: Science, Community, Adventure and Environment.
When: Applications close in November 2023.
Phone: (02) 9263 9825
Email: society@ausgeo.com.au
Website: https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/society/sponsorship/2019/12/apply-for-sponsorship/

We need your help with a survey…

K’gari (Fraser Island) tourism impacts on local people and communities

This survey is a part of a UQ PhD research project that aims to investigate K’gari tourism impacts on local people and communities (rather than tourists). The research targets three groups of residents: townships on K’gari; residents of River Heads, and Butchulla people. The survey closes on **8th July 2023**.

If you belong to any of these groups or consider yourself as a local to K’gari, and would like to participate in this research, please find the research information and survey at the link:

https://shorturl.at/mBTU1 or scan the QR Code.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

FINIA – the Natural Integrity Alliance for K'gari is a non-incorporated, not-for-profit umbrella organisation for its partners. As a non-incorporated organisation with no dedicated funding to support our meetings, administration, barge transfers, or accommodation, we rely on our partners to support activities on the K'gari (Fraser Island) World Heritage site.

We acknowledge Fraser Coast Regional Council, Sealink – Kingfisher Bay Resort & K’gari Explorer Tours, the University of the Sunshine Coast and our outstanding contributors, volunteers and donors for their generous support. Without this generosity, FINIA's activities would not be possible.

Dingo Safe is Wang’ari Wise