

Inside this edition:

	Page
➤ K'gari Cleans Up After Flood	1
➤ A Recipe for a Disaster	2
➤ Tackling Litter & Marine Debris on K'gari	4
➤ K'gari Fish Health	5
➤ Frog Team Surveys K'gari	6
➤ Post Fire Recovery Action Plan	6
➤ K'gari Seed Collection	7
➤ IGEM Women's Day Award.....	7
➤ Sustainable Visitor Capacity Study.....	8
➤ Orchid Beach Shaves for a Cure	9
➤ Weed Spotter Alert – Autograph Tree	9

Autumn is upon us, but the changing season doesn't seem to have changed momentum on K'gari. If anything, things seem to be busier than ever.

The summer threw up another management challenge with flooding from the Mary to northern New South Wales sending up a prolonged wave of marine debris onto K'gari's east coast. A big thank you to everyone that stepped in to help with the clean-up. With more frequent flood events predicted with climate change, this could be an increasing problem. So, what did we learn?

Collaboration is essential, but preparation & leadership are also vital ingredients for successful outcomes.

The Editor

K'gari Cleans Up After the Flood



In March, over 40 cubic metres of flood debris washed up on K'gari (Fraser Island) beaches as a result of flooding from northern NSW and South East Queensland.

For the next two weeks, tide after tide brought in a new assortment of items. The debris included a large number of trees, plastic and even pontoons.

Plastic items included Lime e-scooter helmets from Brisbane, rainwater tanks, kayaks, and skip bins swept in from the southeast. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is using machinery to clear large pieces of debris.

Polystyrene pontoons were relocated above the high tide mark by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service while Maritime Safety Queensland attempted to identify owners and insurers.

It was all-hands-on-deck as QPWS and BAC's Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers joined locals and tourism operators in the clean-up.

Hana Robinson from K'gari (Fraser Island) Adventures, which runs annual clean-ups with help from not-for-profit group Ocean Crusaders, said she had seen Ipswich City Council bins and air compressors washed up on K'gari's usually pristine shores.

Hana had initially planned to count the rubbish pieces collected by their volunteers to highlight the scale of the situation, which she described as the worst she had seen. In the first three days alone, 780,000 pieces were collected by about 30 volunteers, totalling over two tonnes.



Scenes from K'gari following the February-March 2022 flood event in SEQ - as everyone pitched in to clean-up (Photos: contributed).

On 15 March 2022, the Premier announced the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management will conduct a review of the South East Queensland (SEQ) Rainfall and Flooding Event of February-March 2022. As part of the review, the Office will assess the effectiveness of preparedness activities and the response to the SEQ Rainfall and Flooding Event.

The Inspector-General of Emergency Management, Alistair Dawson APM said, "It is an important opportunity for the community to have their say about their experience from this event, and how they were affected by it. Submissions provide an opportunity for the community to tell us what they think worked well in preparing for and responding to the event, and to make suggestions for enhancement."

Submissions closed on 22 April, but the K'gari clean-up continues with the annual Four-Wheel Drive Queensland (QLD 4x4) clean up event scheduled for 20-23 May. A huge thank you to all the amazing staff, volunteers and supporters that helped clean up K'gari.

Article compiled by Sue Sargent, FINIA – the Natural Integrity Alliance for K'gari

A Recipe for a Disaster

Ingredients

- One large sand island with internationally significant natural values
- Multiple tenures (and competing values)
- Multiple landholders
- Multiple stakeholders

Optional: one or more internal or external disasters (bushfire, flood, cyclone, oil spill)

Method

Combine ingredients, bake for a suitable time, and watch what happens!

Sadly, with these ingredients, the results will at best be a well-intentioned, uncoordinated effort that will result in misplaced resources, frustration, and less favourable outcomes.

The bushfires highlighted the best (and worst) of K'gari's disaster preparation and effort and demonstrated that a well-organised community could enhance the efforts of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Key learning from the bushfires was that preparation and planning could enhance resilience on the ground.

The recent flood event in NSW and South East Queensland has once again demonstrated that K'gari landholders and stakeholders need to collaborate more to enhance our disaster management.

So, what was good and what was less so?

Positives	Negatives
<p>Engaged community and stakeholders willing to help (some were even offering incentives like accommodation and food to volunteer participants).</p> <p>Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) immediately focused on moving pontoons and vessels to above HW in partnership with Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ). The BAC's Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers, tourism and community groups, focused on general marine debris.</p> <p>The Queensland Government made additional funding available to groups that undertake marine debris clean-up activities to undertake additional activities.</p>	<p>There was no apparent immediate/coordinated assessment and prioritisation. This could have been undertaken by drone or vehicle to highlight where the initial effort should be focussed and by whom.</p>
<p>Communication – people talked to each other, and on-the-ground communication between partners occurred.</p> <p>Some groups reached out to the broader community via social media to increase awareness of the event and the need for more assistance.</p>	<p>No clear overall leadership – participants would have benefitted from more direction and coordination, such as allocating target locations/zones, a daily briefing (even if via Facebook) to highlight safety issues, and monitoring and disposal points. Who should be in charge and why?</p>
<p>The tourism industry came onboard – visitors were handed a bag and encouraged to participate.</p>	<p>Deployment was largely ad hoc (see leadership above) with issues relating to skip locations/disposal etc.</p>
<p>Salvaging materials – K'gari (Fraser Island) Adventures reported that ~50% of materials recovered could be recycled or repurposed (e.g., ZeroCo), and there were some beneficial beachcombing and salvaging of materials. Some articles were even able to be tracked to their original owners and returned.</p>	<p>There are ongoing issues with the loss and recovery of pontoons and vessels, which Maritime Safety Queensland manages. This was a repeat of previous flood events (e.g., the 2011 and 2013 Burnett flood events).</p> <p>While MSQ attempts to identify owners and negotiate with insurers, damaged vessels continue to break up, shedding harmful materials like polystyrene into the marine environment.</p> <p>In March 2014, there were revisions to the Prescribed Tidal Works code, including a requirement for pontoon restraints, that new pontoons be identifiable and certification of new structures. Who is enforcing this to reduce future impacts? Why are we still allowing the use of polystyrene for pontoons which are contiguous with the marine environment?</p>
<p>Collaboration - people offered to help and get the job done – putting their own lives on hold to assist with the clean-up.</p> <p>Overall, the cleanup response was a fantastic achievement.</p>	<p>More hands-on-deck are needed. Despite several volunteer groups and multiple tourism providers operating on K'gari, the island needs a larger pool of volunteers with more volunteer opportunities and fewer barriers for people to participate. To achieve this, we need at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More partnerships • Access to funds for paid, skilled volunteer coordinators (that can operate in a remote World Heritage area) • Options for accommodation and transport (4WD are needed for the island)
<p>Some groups undertook monitoring of materials from the clean-up, e.g., Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers (using the Australian Marine Debris Initiative method) and</p>	<p>Without coordinated monitoring, evaluation and reporting, will we ever know the actual impacts of the disaster? What parameters do we need to monitor and</p>

K'gari (Fraser Island) Adventures. But this may have been abandoned given the scale of the event.	for how long (depending on the size and scale of the disaster)? What happens to the data? Reporting back to advisory groups – like the newly formed K'gari World Heritage Advisory Committee should enable us to apply continuous improvement to management and advise on options such as source reduction to reduce the scale of disasters in the future.
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With climate change predictions suggesting that we can expect less rainfall but more intense rainfall events in South East Queensland, there will likely be more flood events in the future.

Collaborative planning, preparation (for example, reducing potential marine debris at the source), leadership, and response will certainly reduce future impacts on the K'gari World Heritage Area.

So, what are we going to do next time?

Article submitted by Sue Sargent

Tackling Litter and Marine Debris on K'gari

In 2021, funded through a Queensland Community Sustainability Action Grant, The Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers (BLSR) commenced the Butchulla Country - Marine Debris Clean-Up Project. The project aims to increase community stewardship and raise awareness of marine debris impacts on Butchulla country; places like World Heritage-listed K'gari (Fraser Island) and Korrawinga (the Great Sandy Strait) Ramsar Wetland and upholds the Butchulla first lore – what's good for country must come first.

Littering on the Fraser Coast impacts amenity (social), tourism (economic), habitats and wildlife (environmental), and cultural values (Butchulla heritage and cultural connection). Plastics from marine debris and discarded fishing lines, pots and nets impact seabirds, shorebirds, fisheries resources and endangered species, including milbi (turtle), buthu (dolphin) and yuwang'kan (dugong).



BLS Rangers worked alongside QPWS Rangers on the K'gari flood clean-up (Photo: BLSR)



BAC's Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers deliver the Junior Ranger module on marine debris to local students (Photo: BLSR)

The BLSR were already conducting clean-up activities through their 'Creek for a Week' program, and following training received through Conservation Volunteers Australia and Tangaroa Blue, started to contribute data to the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDI). Rangers also work collaboratively with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to conduct crab-pot clean-ups in the Great Sandy Strait and deliver a Junior Ranger program with a marine debris module to local schools.

Working with schools, community groups and volunteer participants to clean up Butchulla country, a series of events will be coordinated by the newly appointed Project Officer (Marine Debris), Tessa Waia (also one of the BAC's first Ranger Trainees). Activities will take place on the Fraser Coast mainland, K'gari

(Fraser Island) and on the islands and waters of the Great Sandy Strait, including mangroves and tidal wetlands with both land and boat-based activities.

Recent efforts included a series of clean-ups alongside Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on K'gari's Eastern Beach following the February-March 2022 flood event. Additional clean-ups are also planned for Rainbow Beach/Inskip and Maryborough (River Heads, Susan River, Mary River and Saltwater Creek).

Article submitted by the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation's Land and Sea Rangers

K'gari Fish Health

In April 2021, as part of the federal government's Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program, rapid on-ground ecological surveys of the distribution and abundance of priority threatened species were undertaken to determine the extent and severity of threats to habitats and populations.



BAC's Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers assist with fish sampling in K'gari's wetlands (Photo: ARI)

The field team consisted of staff from the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC), Griffith University's Australian Rivers Institute (ARI), Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) and the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG).

Field sampling focussed on the acid wetlands (freshwater streams, lakes and swamps) in coastal wallum and dune systems of south-eastern Queensland and northern New South Wales. Wetland sampling was conducted within known fire-affected and neighbouring areas within Great Sandy Strait Ramsar Wetland, Noosa National Parks, areas near Peregrine Beach township, coastal dune islands (K'gari, Mulgumpin and Minjerribah) and in coastal northern New South Wales.

Northern K'gari areas burnt in October 2020 were also sampled to allow the team to investigate the post-burn recovery of these systems over time. Unburnt area samples and historic data were also included in the study for comparison.

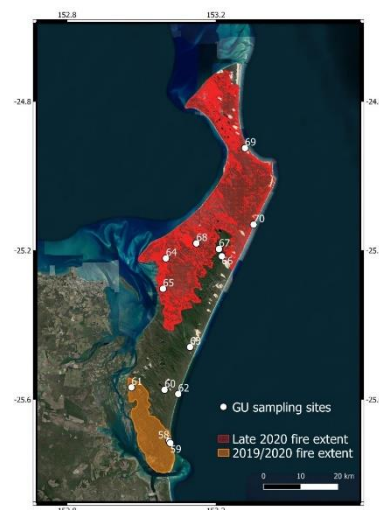
Of the 26 species of freshwater fish known to occur on K'gari, 19 species were recorded. All three threatened fish species targeted by this study - Oxleyan pygmy perch (*Nanoperca oxleyana*), honey blue-eye (*Pseudomugil mellis*) and ornate rainbowfish (*Rhadinocentrus ornatus*) were sampled at multiple sites and while no site sampled contained all three species, several contained two.

Ornate rainbowfish were found 6 km south of their previously recorded southernmost range. Two invasive species were also sampled on K'gari: mosquitofish and platy. Honey blue-eyes were not sampled at three previously recorded sites (Yidney Creek, Lake Allom and Deep Lake), and one site for each ornate rainbowfish (Deep Lake) and Oxleyan pygmy perch (Yidney Creek). Mosquitofish were sampled at Yidney Creek, which did not contain honey blue-eyes and Oxleyan pygmy perch.

Species were absent from only a small number of previously recorded sites, without any strong trend between fire affected and non-fire affected sites.

While native species were present mostly across both fire affected and non-fire affected sites, invasive species were only present at fire-affected sites. While fire disturbance may negatively affect native fish species, it is unlikely to do so to the extent of causing localised extinctions, whereas invasive species may be more likely to proliferate at sites impacted by fire disturbance. At fire-affected sites such as Deep Lake and Yidney Creek, invasive species may have a competitive edge over native species in persisting or recolonising after a fire disturbance.

The relatively minor overall differences in fish species composition and abundances between fire affected and non-fire affected sites may be attributable to a number of factors including (a) fire-affected wetland habitats and their fish communities may have partially recovered in the months since the occurrence of the fires, and (b) wallum wetlands and their fish communities may be inherently resistant and resilient to fire disturbances, although this likely depends on wetland size, depth, riparian zone characteristics, contributing catchment size, and a range of other factors.



Griffith University wetland sampling sites on K'gari (Photo: ARI)

Frog Team Surveys K'gari

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC), QPWS, Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers, Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation staff, Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), and students from the University of the Sunshine Coast braved the mozzies and undertook frog surveys across K'gari as part of the post-fire K'gari Ecological Action Plan.

57 sites were surveyed across the island revealing 11 frog species including those of the rare and threatened 'acid frog' group; wallum froglet (*Crinia tinnula*), wallum sedgefrog (*Litoria longburensis*), Cooloola sedgefrog (*L. cooloolensis*) and wallum rocketfrog (*L. freycineti*). Unfortunately, toads were also recorded at a number of sites.

Acid frogs are restricted to acidic coastal wetlands or wallum heathlands of eastern Australia and breed in oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) acidic (pH < 6.0) coastal swamps and lakes. These species are also covered by the [National recovery plan for the wallum sedgefrog and other wallum-dependent frog species](#) (2006).

Survey sites were chosen to compare wetlands that had been recently burnt with those that had not, and to contribute information to assist park management. All fauna observed was recorded as well as a general flora assessment, overall wetland condition with respect to the recent fire and evidence of human impact.



BLSR Rangers Myles and Blade work with MRCCC's Eva and USC student Elise to identify K'gari's acid frogs (Photo: MRCCC)



Is anyone listening? Cooloola sedgefrog calling (Photo: MRCCC)

Assessors noted that vegetation recovery is progressing well since the fire and the frogs are plentiful and actively breeding. Data analyses still to be carried out will show more comprehensively if there are any differences in frog populations between the burnt and unburnt sites one year after the wildfire.

The project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and the Queensland Government Wetlands Unit.

Anyone interested in submitting wetland species sightings or observations can send them to findafrog@mrccc.org.au

Article contributed by Eva Ford, MRCCC and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Post-fire Recovery Action Plan

As reported in our previous newsletter, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has asked FINIA and FIDO to help implement the IGEM K'gari Ecological Assessment Monitoring and Research Report's recommendations.

QPWS (Department of Environment and Science) has provided funding for two fire rehabilitation projects on K'gari (Dulling Fire-2020). The funding will support accommodation and transportation for volunteers. The project is a collaborative effort of FINIA members, and, is being managed by Fraser Island Defenders Organisation (FIDO).

The *K'gari Coastal Fore-dune Rehabilitation Project* is a targeted rehabilitation project incorporating the low coastal vegetation complex. Project tasks include monitoring, establishing a seed collection and restoration protocol, the collection of native seed and cuttings for propagation at the Eurong nursery, and on-



Project volunteers are excited to show off the new fluoro vests (Photo: FIDO)

ground works including restoration training and direct seeding within the vicinity of nearby fire-affected areas requiring rehabilitation.

Funding for the K'gari Pandanus Recovery Project 2022-2025 will assist in monitoring, establishing a Pandanus seed collection and restoration protocol and on-ground works including restoration training. Pandanus seed will also be collected for propagation at the Eurong Nursery and direct seeding within the vicinity of the collection of nearby fire-affected areas.

A couple of teams have now been out to the Island and works have commenced seed collection and setting up the nursery.

More information on the two projects will be released when available. If you would like to be involved, you can contact Mark Dwyer at mdwy.dbq@gmail.com

Contributed by Mark Dwyer, Fraser Island Defenders Organisation

K'gari Seed Collection

This April, I and several other Conservation and Land Management students from TAFE Queensland were given the opportunity to take part in a seed collection project for the purpose of bush regeneration after the 2020 fires on the island. This was a truly life-changing experience that cemented my love for this type of work.



Seed collecting on K'gari (Photo: Indie Mackinlay)

The trip started off with a tour around the FIDO nursery and ranger station just outside of the Eurong township. Whilst there, we were fortunate enough to meet a current K'gari ranger, James Green who also studied at TAFE and was taught by the same teacher David Docherty.

Over the course of this trip, we collected twenty-two coastal plant species from both dunal areas and bushland behind Eurong. Six of these species needed to be sowed and propagated fresh whilst the others needed to be stored for later processing. As well as this, we also potted four separate species which totalled 220 plants.

At one point, I was holding all of the seeds in preparation for storage when I had the very surreal moment that I was holding thousands of potential trees that would be planted around the island. This was the first time since starting my studies that I felt my work having a very real impact.

Overall, this was an amazing experience that I would recommend to everyone - from those new to the industry or who just have a strong passion for seed collection and conservation to industry experts who would like to volunteer their time.

Thank you to Suzanne for organising this trip and sharing her years of experience and knowledge, to FIDO for letting us use their resources and to the Island herself, K'gari for allowing us to live and work on the land for those few days. It was an experience I won't soon forget.



Thousands of potential trees (Photo: Indie Mackinlay)

Contributed by Indigo Mackinlay, FIDO volunteer with TAFE Queensland

IGEM International Women's Day Award 2022 for the BAC

The BAC has been awarded a prestigious Women's Day Award for disaster management. These awards recognise the work of those in the disaster management sector who actively champion change and demonstrate excellence. The four award categories for 2022 were: Champion of Change – Individual, Champion of Change – Organisation, Excellence in Disaster Management – Practitioner and Excellence in Disaster Management – Research.

Award recipients were announced by the Inspector-General on 8 March. The Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation was awarded the Champion of Change – Organisation Award, with a ceremony held at the BAC Office on 15 April with the Queensland's Inspector-General of Emergency Management, Alistair Dawson.

The First Nations perspective was one that Queensland's Inspector-General of emergency management Alistair Dawson said should be increasingly considered by first responders.

"It is extremely valuable. It's about creating another level of understanding about the environment in which everyone is operating," Mr Dawson said.

"Everyone is coming at it from the same direction, which is for the best outcome for the environment. But the ability for crews to understand those significant cultural points, or having people there to help make decisions around how we're going to respond to what's happening in front of us is absolutely critical."

Mr Dawson said it was a step forward in the disaster management space.

"People who are involved in disaster management constantly strive for improvement in all levels, and one of the ways we can achieve that is to make sure that we engage with everybody that has ownership or interest," he said.

FINIA extends our congratulations to the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation.



Chantel Van Wamelen and Rachel Killer of the BAC with the IGEM Champion of Change Award 2022 (Photo: Lucy Loram, ABC Radio Wide Bay)

Article compiled from the IGEM media release and with grateful thanks to ABC Radio Wide Bay

Sustainable Visitor Capacity Study of K'gari (Fraser Island)

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) is funding a sustainable visitor capacity (SVC) study of the Cooloola Recreation Area, Bribie Island National Park and K'gari (Fraser Island) and has engaged EarthCheck Pty Ltd to deliver this.



Defining strategies to achieve sustainable visitation on K'gari (Photo contributed by QPWS)

Through the study, DES is seeking recommendations to:

- Manage sustainable visitor capacities across specific parts of these areas
- Improve public enjoyment of these areas, with an emphasis on social behaviours
- Enhance protection of the environment and cultural heritage sites and improve respect for country, and
- Facilitate improved behaviour in the use of vehicles on beaches within these areas.

For the SVC to be fully informed, EarthCheck is reaching out to a range of partners and stakeholders, including relevant First Nations organisations, permit holders, authorised

commercial operators, community organisations, industry groups and state government departments, councils, and elected representatives.

The reason for the study is to ensure Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service can continue to enhance and improve its management of these areas moving forward, for environmental and cultural heritage protection and for public enjoyment. It is expected the study will be finalised by mid-2022.

Article contributed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Orchid Beach Shaves for a Cure

In late 2020, Waddy Point Ranger Jeremy Thompson joined Leukemia's World's Greatest Shave identifying March 4 2022, as his shave date. In mid-2021, fellow Orchid Beach resident 'Pud' contacted Jez to join the shave, and due to the boys' amazing facial hair, 'The Beards' team was created.

Orchid Beach township placed collecting cans in the town's rentals and with residents to donate all proceeds on the big night. An email was also sent throughout the QPWS Coastal and Inlands Region for colleagues to donate.

Orchid Beach Trading Post contacted Jez to offer to host the shave night and assisted with advertising. The Leukemia Foundation's fabulous support staff, including Renee Osbourne, sent videos and messages of support throughout the fundraising process and merchandise for the big night.

On the big night, Orchid Beach Trading Post decorated the bar. It advertised the event through social media, helping raise funds for the team and what followed was an incredible community-driven event.

Jez and Pud had the big chop! Jez's hair was put into pigtails and raffled off with some very excited people willing to cut off some locks! The hair was then donated for wigs.

Rainbow Beach Meats donated two meat trays to be raffled off, with three of the Butchers cutting off their beards and hair, raising additional funds on the night. Long time camper and ex-pro fisher Henry shaved off his 30-year-old beard with an impressive \$1,000 raised by the Orchid Beach Progress Association.



Brothers in beards Jez and Pud lose their locks for the Leukaemia Foundation (Photo: contributed)

Andrea from Rainbow Recovery was the amazing Hairdresser for the night. Rainbow local, Kroppy donated his time to MC the evening. Bob's Tyres (a supplier to the Orchid Beach Trading Post) donated a bar fridge to raffle on the night. Zoe and Ange provided IT support, raising online awareness and selling raffle tickets, raising \$1,200 for the team!

Just when everyone thought the night was over at almost \$29,000, local Ross Nimmo offered to shave off the goatee he'd had since 1996 for another \$600.00 (as long as Dave, the shop owner, lost his)! It took about 30 seconds to raise funds!

The current total is \$30,257.50, with fundraising open until June 30 2022. Please click [here](#) if you would like to donate.

A huge thanks to the boys who shaved off their beards – Jez, Pud, Scott, Jake, Josh, Henry, Ross, Dave and Kroppy, the Orchid Beach Community for coming together to support local QPWS Ranger Jez and everyone who jumped on board to make it a fantastic effort through donations on the big night. The event showed true community spirit with some spectacular fundraising.

The Big Shave looks to be an annual event within the Orchid Beach Community due to interest shown from visitors and requests through the Orchid Beach Trading Post.

Article contributed by Orchid Beach Association and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Weed Spotter Alert – Autograph Tree

The first records of naturalisation of an unusual tree have very recently been made in coastal south-east Queensland. The autograph tree (*Clusia rosea*) is a small, crooked-trunked tree reaching about 8 m tall, with very large and conspicuous dark glossy green, paddle-shaped leaves. When broken, stems and leaves exude a copious yellow sap, that hardens into a resin-like substance, that is mildly toxic.

The plant is named from the curious fact that leaves can be written on using a pencil, and the resulting message remains like green calligraphy on the living leaf, so long as the thick leaf persists.

The pink and white flowers are large (to 8 cm across), developing from ping-pong ball-sized buds. Larger trees can produce aerial roots, that have distinctive lenticels (corky patches) along their length. These look rather like large Pandanus stilt-roots. The large fruits split to reveal many reddish seeds.

Examples of this plant have escaped cultivation in the Coolum district and have spread into adjacent bushland. Hardworking Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers have identified and removed up to 20 individuals in recent months, from the popular Mount Coolum National Park and several other nearby areas. We have them to thank as effective Weed Spotters for detecting this new weed species.

Clusia rosea has been clearly demonstrated to invade coastal plant communities in the Hawaiian Islands of Maui, Oahu, Kauai, and the Big Island, and has become weedy in some Sri Lankan ecosystems. There is also evidence of weediness in parts of South Africa. The species is problematic, as it can germinate high in the forks of trees, and become hemi-epiphytic, sending down roots that eventually strangle the host tree. This arboreal habit makes it difficult to detect, and therefore harder to control than most other tree weeds on the Sunshine Coast.



One autograph no one wants to collect on K'gari (Photo: DAF)

Many people are now looking for this newly invading plant species across coastal Queensland, including QPWS rangers, habitat restoration workers, professional botanists, and local council Bushcare officers. The species is not listed as either restricted or prohibited matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014. However, autograph tree is now proven as the latest environmental weed within south-east Queensland. Early detection and control will prove much more cost-effective than waiting for this species to become as widespread as it has now become in parts of the Hawaiian Islands.

The autograph tree is being considered for listing as a 'locally significant' invasive plant species under a proposed review of the Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Plan. Other councils may also be considering listing as part of their local government Biosecurity Plans.

If you live in coastal areas of Queensland, keep on the lookout for autograph tree seedlings or plants. Record images, record location details and contact the Queensland Herbarium on (07) 3199 7671, email a photo to Queensland.Herbarium@qld.gov.au, use the weed spotter app for Android smartphones or contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Dates for the Diary

What: IGEM Bushfire Recovery Project

Where: East Coast, K'gari

When: 2 to 6 June, 14 to 18 July and 25 to 29 August 2022 (Thursday to Monday).

For: FIDO recently commenced two new projects associated with bushfire recovery on the east coast of K'gari. The Coastal Foredune Rehabilitation Project is a 12-month rehabilitation project restoring the low coastal vegetation complex. While the Pandanus Recovery Project 2022-2025 will assist in monitoring, establishing a seed collection and restoration protocol and on-ground works including restoration training. FIDO is also interested in hearing from other groups that may be interested in partnering on the project.

More info: For more information or to register your interest in volunteering with this activity, please contact Mark Dwyer at mdwy.dbq@gmail.com

What: Bush Regeneration and Monitoring
Where: Eurong, K'gari
When: 8 to 14 May, 31 July to 6 August and 23 to 29 October 2022 (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: Weed Management
Where: Happy Valley, K'gari
When: 29 May to 4 June, 28 August to 3 September, and 13 to 29 November 2022 (Thursday to Wednesday).
For: Peter Shooter leads these trips to help tackle the heavy weed infestation around Happy Valley. A group of up to 8 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: Fraser Island Clean Up
Where: K'gari
When: Friday 20 to Monday 23 May 2022
For: 4WD QLD's flagship annual event to clean marine debris off the beaches of K'gari. Volunteers, who come from many affiliated 4WD clubs around Queensland, descend on the island for a weekend each May and do their best to remove all the rubbish found on the eastern beaches of the island.
Cost: Registrations for this event have closed as the organisers have reached QPWS permit limit
More info: <https://www.ficu.org.au/>

What: Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance Annual Field Trip
Where: K'gari – various sites staying at Dilli Village
When: Thursday 26 to Friday 27 May 2022
For: For all FINIA members and supporters. Quarterly meetings are a great chance to catch up and share what's happening or should be happening on Fraser Island (K'gari).
Cost: \$75 plus accommodation
More info: Please contact the Chair, Sue Sargent, on 0429 462 041 or email contactfinia@gmail.com.

What: Cooloola BioBlitz
Where: Rainbow Beach (basecamp)
When: Friday 4 to Sunday 6 November 2022
For: Hosted by Cooloola Coastcare and Fraser Island Defenders Organisation, the Cooloola BioBlitz aims to map the biodiversity of the Cooloola region near Rainbow Beach, Cooloola Cove and Tin Can Bay.
Cost: TBA
More info: For more information, please follow the Cooloola BioBlitz [Facebook page](#).

Funding Opportunities

What: Gambling Community Benefit Fund

For: One-off grants for not-for-profit organisations to help provide community services or activities that benefit the Queensland community. Funding rounds 114 and 115 have been combined into a \$100k Disaster Recovery round.

When: The super round opens on 16 May and closes at 11.59 pm on 15 July 2022.

Email: cbf@treasury.qld.gov.au

Phone: (07) 3247 4284

Website: <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/corporate/sponsorships-and-grants/grants/community-benefit-funding-programs>

What: Fraser Coast Regional Council Community Environment Fund

For: Not-for-profit community-based organisations can apply for up to \$2,000 (a total funding pool of \$10,000 is available) to assist with projects that make a positive and ongoing contribution to the Fraser Coast's biodiversity, environment and waterways values. Assistance may be provided as cash or through in-kind Council services.

When: Applications are open now until 27 May 2022 (although they may close earlier if all the funds have been expended).

Phone: 1300 79 49 29

Email: grants@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Website: <https://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/grants-and-awards>

What: Norman Wettenhall Foundation—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 1 July 2022 (funding released August 2022)

Phone: (03) 5472 1316 - Elizabeth (Beth) Mellick, Executive Officer

Email: beth@nwf.org.au

Website: <http://www.nwf.org.au/>

What: Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife Service

For: Community Conservation Grants (Up to \$10k) assist in the protection of our native plants and animals, habitats, landscapes, conserving and celebrating Australia's Indigenous heritage and encourage more people to take part in on-ground conservation works

When: Next round opens 1 June and closes 25 August.

Phone: 1800 828 626

Email: fnpw@fnpw.org.au

Website: <https://fnpw.org.au/grant/community-conservation-grants/>

What: Australian Geographic Society Sponsorship

For: Founded by Dick Smith, up to \$15,000 is available for Australian Geographic Society Project Grants each quarter. The Society for Project Sponsorship funding targets all four Project Categories: Science, Community, Adventure and Environment. The society also offers seed grants between \$500 and \$3000.

When: Applications are now taken throughout the year for sponsorship rounds.

Phone: (02) 9263 9825

Email: society@ausgeo.com.au

Website: <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/society/sponsorship/2013/11/apply-for-sponsorship>

What: **The Mullum Trust**
For: Supports projects which have significant, ongoing or catalytic environmental outcomes. Grants are available from \$100 to \$10,000. Projects with specific and localised environmental outcomes are preferred, although locally based projects with far-reaching impacts are also encouraged.
When: Ongoing
Phone: Mr Ryan Neoh on (03) 9671 6658
Email: rneoh@deloitte.com.au
Website: <http://thetrusteeformullumtrust.myob.net/>

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, we rely on our partners to support our activities for the K'gari (Fraser Island) World Heritage site, with no dedicated funding to support our meetings, administration, barge transfers, and accommodation. We want to acknowledge Fraser Coast Regional Council, Sealink Fraser Island, 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.