



# FINIA

THE NATURAL INTEGRITY ALLIANCE FOR K'GARI

## Newsletter

*Sustaining the natural and cultural integrity of K'gari together*

*May 2026*

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With cooler temperatures, Autumn is a productive time on K'gari. Multiple clean-ups are underway, targeting the constant plastic tide pushing onto K'gari's east coast. Visitors and vehicles bring other threats, such as invasive weeds, pests and diseases, with red imported fire ants and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* both causing havoc on the mainland. These highlight the urgent need for greater biosecurity (prevention and surveillance) for K'gari. Increasing visitation is a delicate balancing act for the island's managers, protecting the island's needs for future generations comes at a cost.

*The Editor*

### More Than Just a Clean-Up: Protecting K'gari, Together



As we all know, K'gari is one of the most extraordinary places in the world - wild, untamed, and deeply significant both environmentally and culturally. But it faces many challenges, and one of the most visible to residents and visitors alike is the growing impact of marine debris and plastic pollution washing up along its shores.

At **Keep K’gari Clean**, we believe protecting this island isn’t just about removing waste - it’s about creating connection, responsibility, and long-term change.

### Turning Action Into Impact



*Keep K’gari Clean’s Hana Robinson – walking and talking trash! (Photo: John Veloso Media)*

Our recent beach clean-up was designed to be more than a quick collection effort. It was a hands-on, immersive experience that brought together volunteers, tourism operators, and community members to take real, measurable action.

Over 20 days, the Keep K’gari Clean team **walked 125kms** from Sandy Cape to Hook point. The project engaged **49 volunteers**, aged 17 to 87, from a variety of backgrounds and **removed a staggering 6,725kg of rubbish** from K’gari’s east coast.

But the real impact goes beyond the numbers. Every clean-up creates a moment where people see, first-hand, the scale of the issue—and their role in being part of the solution.

### The Role of Tourism

Tourism on K’gari should not just be about showcasing beauty - it needs to be about protecting it too. Operators, guides, and guests all play a part in preserving the island. Hana Robinson, founder of the Keep K’gari Clean Project and a local operator, aims to work closely with tourism businesses to:

- Integrate clean-up efforts into their operations
- Help fund marine debris collection on the island
- Educate guests on waste, conservation, and responsible travel
- Lead by example in reducing and removing waste from the island

“This collaborative approach strengthens not only environmental outcomes, but also the integrity and reputation of our region,” Hana said.

### From Awareness to Responsibility

One of the biggest shifts we’re seeing is a move from awareness to ownership. Visitors are no longer just observing the problem—they’re actively contributing to the solution. Whether it’s picking up debris during a walk, participating in a structured clean-up, or rethinking their own consumption, these small actions add up. And importantly, they don’t stop when people leave the island.



*Volunteers Georgia and Cory out on the trash trail (Photo: John Veloso Media)*

### What’s Next

Looking ahead, the Keep K’gari Clean Project is focused on expanding the reach and impact of its clean-up initiatives through:

- Structured clean-up experiences for groups and businesses
- Education programs around plastic use and waste systems
- Partnerships that support long-term, measurable environmental outcomes.

There is also growing interest in initiatives like **plastic offset programs**, where individuals and businesses can take responsibility for their footprint in a tangible, action-based way.

### A Shared Responsibility

Protecting K’gari is not the responsibility of one organisation—it’s a shared commitment across community, industry, and visitors. Through collaboration, education, and consistent action, we can ensure this island remains as wild, beautiful, and significant for future generations as it is today.

If you’re interested in getting involved or learning more, please reach out to [Hana@kgarifraserisland.com.au](mailto:Hana@kgarifraserisland.com.au).

*Article contributed by Hana Robinson, Keep K’gari Clean Project*

## BAC Launches Biosecurity Strategy for K’gari

After 21 months of development, the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC), supported by the K’gari Biosecurity Advisory Group (KBAG) made up of the island’s landholders and major stakeholders, has launched a 20-year Biosecurity Strategy for K’gari.



Hundreds of vehicles queueing for the Inskip Barge with no biosecurity measures in place (Photo: FINIA)

Funded by an Australian Heritage Grant, the strategy aims to reduce the threat of invasive weeds, pests and diseases to World Heritage-listed K’gari. The strategy focuses heavily on education and awareness, prevention (stopping invasive pests at the mainland border), and adaptive management through surveillance (monitoring) and management activities on K’gari.

Biosecurity was identified as a high threat to the island (along with increased visitation and the impacts of climate change) by the IUCN in their [2025 Outlook Report](#) for K’gari. Managing biosecurity threats to K’gari was one of five areas of action identified by the Butchulla Working group to increase the island’s resilience to a changing climate in the *Butchulla Climate Change Response Plan for K’gari* (2024) and a priority by the K’gari World Heritage Advisory Committee in their *K’gari World Heritage Strategic Plan 2025-35*.

The K’gari Biosecurity Strategy was supported by Risk and Cost-Benefit Analyses undertaken by the Queensland University of Technology’s (QUT) Ella-Jane Raymond and Prof. Jennifer Firn – both informed by experts in K’gari’s threatened and invasive species.

The QUT Study identified that in the absence of a significant and coordinated biosecurity strategy, K’gari faces widespread ecological impacts from invasive species across its universally recognised ecosystems (i.e. perched lakes, heath, rainforest and fens) over the next twenty years. The study also suggested that if a coordinated biosecurity strategy was implemented, these risks could be greatly reduced, by a minimum of 36% for perched lakes, and up to 77% for K’gari’s rainforests (Raymond and Firn, 2025).

In addition to the Strategy, the collaborative working group developed a 1-year Annual Implementation Plan focusing on actions for 2026-2027 and a Business Model and Funding Options to support the strategy, which were estimated to be \$2.3M a year (in addition to any capital infrastructure).

Government and non-government partners represented in the collaborative project included Biosecurity Queensland (Department of Primary Industries), Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, Environmental Biosecurity Office (Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), FIDO – Watchdog for K’gari, FINIA, Fraser Coast Regional Council, K’gari Community Associations, Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation), QUT, Sealink K’gari, and the University of the Sunshine Coast.



BAC’s Rangers undertaking biosecurity surveillance on K’gari (Photo: BAC)

“Everyone wants to see K’gari healthy – from the Government Departments to tourists. Many visitors we spoke to were surprised that there weren’t more preventative actions already in place,” said KBAG Chair and BAC Project Manager, Chantel Van Wamelen.

“For us, caring for K’gari is our cultural responsibility, but this isn’t something we can achieve on our own. Through the strategy’s collaborative governance model and appropriate funding support, we can increase K’gari’s resilience, protecting her for future generations of Australians and tourists alike.”

“Minyang galangoor gu, djaa kalim baya-m – What is good for the land comes first.”

A copy of the K’gari Biosecurity Strategy 2026-46 can be downloaded [here](#).

*Article contributed by Chantel Van Wamelen, Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation*

## Commemorating 20 years of FINIA

Founded in December 2005, on 25 February 2026, FINIA members helped mark their 20th anniversary by planting a K'gari apple (*Acronychia imperforata*) at the University of the Sunshine Coast's campus in Pialba. A matching tree will be planted at the K'gari Research Station in May.

The K'gari apple is a hardy, fast-growing, subtropical Australian native shrub or small tree that grows to 5–10m tall and 3–6m wide. It can be used as a screening, hedging, or feature tree and is ideal for coastal gardens as it resists salt-spray and thrives in full sun. The tree has dense, glossy green foliage, cream summer blossom, and clusters of tart-sweet edible, yellow fruits (great for jams and chutneys) that attract bees, butterflies, and birds.

Present were: Sue Sargent (FINIA Chair), Mellissa Foley (Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation), David Anderson (FINIA Deputy Chair, Eurong Community and Fraser Island Associations), Zela Bissett and Peter Shooter (FIDO), Amber Perry (Fraser Coast Regional Council), Steve Settle (Happy Valley Community Association), Lesley Bradley (Lower Mary River Land and Catchment Care Group and Sandy Cape Lighthouse Conservation Association), Dr Kim Walker (University of the Sunshine Coast), and Jennifer Waithman (Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council).



*The commemorative K'gari Apple at the University of the Sunshine Coast's Pialba Campus (Photo: FINIA).*

FINIA extends our thanks to long-term member Peter Shooter who donated the tree and Lesley Bradley, Charlene Brown, Charmaine Foley, Happy Valley Community Association, Juliet Musgrave, and Sue Sargent who all contributed to the purchase of the tree's botanical label (FINIA's first crowdfunding project for itself).

Grateful thanks to Peter Weir and the University of the Sunshine Coast for providing a site for the tree and its ongoing care.

*Article contributed by Sue Sargent, FINIA*

## Celebrating Tokiko's contribution to K'gari

On 25 May 2026, Tokiko (Su) Dawson will officially be hanging up her work boots. For over two decades, the FIDO volunteer and environmentalist has coordinated FIDO's quarterly week-long weeding, bush regeneration and monitoring program operating from Talinga (the former Sinclair family home) at Eurong.

Su originally worked alongside her partner, the late John Sinclair AO, supporting his efforts in conservation and volunteering on the island, helping to organise and cater for trips. But gradually she became more actively involved in vegetation projects collecting seeds for the island's nursery, working with FIDO and local Councils with their 'plant me instead' ornamental weed replacement program and planting several display gardens around the Eurong township.



*FIDO's K'gari Weed Buster Week 2002 – Su is second from the left in the front row, John is far right. (Photo: FIDO).*

Unassuming and shy, Su has a naturally enquiring mind and has run several trials on K'gari looking at weed management and seed regeneration – applying her knowledge to increase the success of FIDO's efforts.

If you have followed FINIA from the beginning, then you may remember that this is not Su's first retirement. In May 2015, John and Su hosted their ["last weeding trip to Eurong"](#) as group leaders after more than a decade of leading the program. However, Su's dedication to the task, contributing a further 11 years of participation and leadership is nothing short of extraordinary.

On behalf of all FINIA members, we wish Sue a happy and healthy retirement and thank her for her incredible contribution to K'gari's system health and integrity.

25+年間の献身お疲れ様でした – Thank you for over 25 years of dedication.

*Article contributed by Sue Sargent, FINIA*

## Lessons for K’gari: Wolf Management in Yellowstone National Park

K’gari QPWS rangers, BNTAC rangers and QPS staff were treated to an afternoon one-hour session with renowned wildlife researcher Professor Dan MacNulty, learning about the similarities of Yellowstone National Park visitor and wildlife risk mitigation management to the K’gari management program. Let’s just say the rangers were glad they don’t work with bears on K’gari.

Dan led us through the work he and his colleagues have undertaken in the wolf behaviour space over three decades. Staff had an opportunity to catch up with Dan after the presentation. Dan had a particular interest in meeting the K’gari rangers so stopped by during the Queensland leg of his Australia visit.

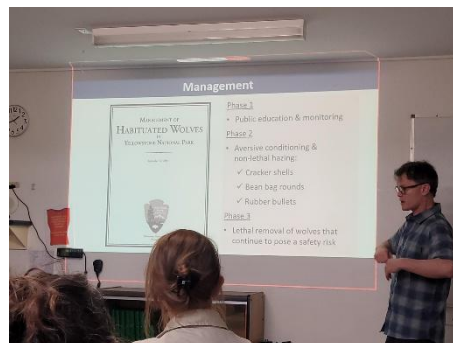
Dan MacNulty is a Professor in the Department of Wildland Resources at Utah State University.

Dan works at the interface of animal behaviour, population biology, and community ecology to address basic and applied questions in ecology and conservation. He began his research career in 1995 as a field technician in Yellowstone National Park with David Mech and he assisted with wolf reintroduction and post-release wolf monitoring. He has conducted research related to Yellowstone wolves ever since.

Much of Daniel's research centres on understanding the ecological consequences of wolf reintroduction as part of several long-term, collaborative studies of carnivores, ungulates, and plants in northern Yellowstone National Park.

His many publications for both scientific and general audiences include the books *Yellowstone Wolves: Science and Discovery in the World’s First National Park* and *Wolves on the Hunt: The Behaviour of Wolves Hunting Wild Prey*.

*Article contributed by Linda Behrendorff, QPWS K’gari Senior Ranger NRM*



*Prof Dan MacNulty presents his findings on the management of wolves in Yellowstone National Park to an appreciative audience (Photo: QPWS)*

## Fire Ant - Biosecurity Zone Changes

Queensland’s [fire ant biosecurity zones](#) have been updated (effective 15 April 2026). These updates affect suburbs across City of Logan, City of Gold Coast, City of Moreton Bay, Lockyer Valley Regional, Scenic Rim Regional, and Sunshine Coast Regional local government areas.



*Sheets of metal or palletised materials can transport Fire Ants (Photo: NFAEP)*

If you live or operate a business within these zones, it’s important to understand the [movement requirements](#) before transporting materials that can carry fire ants such as baled hay or straw, manure, mulch, potted plants, quarry and mining materials, soil, and turf. Fire ants can hitch a ride in equipment or materials that have been in contact with soil or stored outdoors.

Fire ants can also travel through non-traditional materials and equipment that have no specific movement control requirements but are increasingly high-risk. These include:

- Pallets or palletised materials—such as bricks, bagged products, steel equipment
- Machinery or equipment—items with soil, organic matter, or moisture
- Large structures—shipping containers, site sheds, portable offices
- Other items—traffic cones, skip bins, fencing materials.

Any item stored outdoors on the ground for an extended period is high-risk and considered a non-traditional material or carrier.

Before you buy, sell, or move these items, check the zones and understand the movement requirements. It’s a simple step that helps protect your property, business, and the wider community.

*Article from Fire Ant News, National Fire Ant Eradication Program*

## K'gari leads the way in recycling

K'gari (Fraser Island) is setting a new benchmark for recycling in remote and environmentally sensitive locations, with outstanding results recorded since the introduction of comingled recycling services last year.

Fraser Coast Councillor John Weiland said comingled recycling was rolled out at Eurong and Happy Valley in September 2025 and has delivered exceptional outcomes. "Contamination rates are sitting at just 3%, which is an exceptionally low figure and well below industry averages," Cr Weiland said.

Contamination occurs when non-recyclable items are placed in recycling bins, which can result in entire loads being rejected and sent to landfill. Keeping contamination low means recyclable materials can actually be recovered and reused. Cr Weiland said the results highlighted the strong commitment of K'gari businesses and the island community to protecting the island's unique environment.



*K'gari's community has really got behind their new recycling program (Photo: Fraser Coast Regional Council)*

"The rollout forms part of Council's K'gari Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, and the results clearly show K'gari is leading the way when it comes to recycling performance and environmental stewardship," he said.

"The outcome is a credit to residents and businesses who have embraced the new system and have taken the time to sort waste correctly. Everyone on K'gari has played a role in making this work, from separating waste correctly to keeping contaminants out of recycling bins."

Council encourages residents and businesses to continue recycling glass bottles and jars, paper and cardboard, hard plastics, and steel and aluminium cans and containers. Bulk household waste such as furniture and white goods, as well as hazardous waste including oil, chemicals and batteries, can be dropped off at the core facility area at Eurong during opening hours on Monday, Thursday and Saturday between 9.30am and 2.30pm.

Cr Weiland said waste facilities on K'gari are regularly serviced, with waste transported back to the mainland for processing and disposal.

"This is a significant step forward in improving waste management and recycling services, while helping to protect and preserve the island's World Heritage and cultural values," he said.

A copy of the K'gari (Fraser Island) Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy is available at [www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/Services/Waste-and-Recycling/Kgari-Waste](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/Services/Waste-and-Recycling/Kgari-Waste)

*Article contributed by Fraser Coast Regional Council*

## Cane Toad Rodeo: FIDO's first toad busting on K'gari

Following negotiations between FIDO president, Zela Bissett and the management of Kingfisher Resort, FIDO were offered two rooms for two nights during from 20-22 March with Zela and her partner Glen Hills, and Sandra and Navin Naidoo spending two nights at Kingfisher Bay Resort working on cane toad reduction.

After arrival, the team accompanied Ranger Indy on a tour of the boardwalk area where the *Illumina* light show is held. While *Illumina* was taking place, the team set off with buckets and grabbers patrolling lake sites around the accommodation blocks. Glen was the chief toad grabber, reporting that toads were three times the size of the ones captured during January's mainland Cane Toad Bust (litter pickers had to be fully extended to reach around their bodies).

Sandra and Navin honed their grabbing technique and we soon had half a 20L bucket of mostly, very large adult toads. After *Illumina* was finished, Team Toad moved to the boardwalk area where another haul of very



An impressive haul of large adult toads was removed (Photo: FIDO)

large adults and a few tiny freshly morphed juveniles were collected. Head Ranger Evan had organised a fridge freezer in the shed to humanely euthanise the 20L haul of adult toads.

The following morning three Watergum tadpole ‘drum’ traps were deployed at three different locations with a weight to prevent rolling, before baits were added. After the suggested 6 hours, the trap set in the *Illumina* lake had far more cane toad tadpoles than the other two. Although the traps placed in lakes around the accommodation blocks did contain tadpoles, these were not in such large numbers. Ranger Indy came down to help us strain the toad tadpoles out of the water before taking them to their shed to weigh, cool and freeze them.

Following the routine from the previous night, areas around the accommodation were patrolled while *Illumina* was on, with Team Toad also walking down towards the jetty to check the Wongari Den and Sand Bar areas.

A large number of adult toads were dispersed across all areas requiring buckets to be emptied before surveying the *Illumina* boardwalk where again plenty of large adult toads and a few small ones were removed. The second haul was added to the first, to be processed by the resort’s rangers the next day.

On the final day, all three traps were deployed in the boardwalk area that yielded the most tadpoles the previous day. After the recommended six hours there were very large numbers (thousands) of cane toad tadpoles in all three traps. The scent plume from the lures requires some hours to disperse. Glen and Navin also experimented with scooping water from *around* the traps with pool scoopers catching a number of very advanced toad tadpoles almost ready to emerge onto dry land. A few small fish were found in each trap, but these were returned to the water still alive. Tadpoles were then strained out of the water and collected in a compostable plastic bag which was left with the toads for humane disposal, with Ranger Elke.



Ranger Indy and FIDO's Sandra Naidoo strain cane toad tadpoles from the trap (Photo: FIDO)

Moving forward, the program will need more helpers (volunteers and resort staff) to place, monitor and empty traps, and count captured toads and tadpoles. Navin’s step counter indicated the team had walked more than 8 kilometres each day, with hundreds of adult cane toads and thousands of tadpoles removed. A successful cane toad rodeo!

*Article contributed by Zela Bissett, FIDO*

## **Review of Saving K’gari from the Sand Miners: Memoir of the Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry, 1975–76 by Chris Loorham**

Chris Loorham’s memoir is a rich, engaging, and historically valuable contribution to Australian environmental history. It blends personal narrative, legal analysis, and political context to illuminate the Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry (1975–76), a pivotal moment in the evolution of Commonwealth environmental powers. The paper succeeds in offering both a reflective personal account and a substantive explanation of how respectful relationships, inclusive leadership, and independent inquiry shaped a landmark conservation outcome.

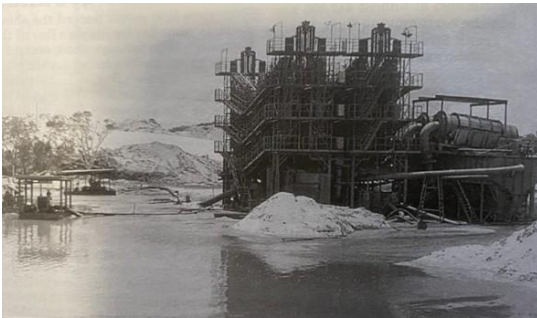
The Fraser Island Inquiry is widely acknowledged as a turning point in Australian environmental governance, yet firsthand accounts are scarce. Loorham’s narrative fills this gap by documenting the inquiry’s internal dynamics, including the commissioners’ commitment to independence and clarity. For example, he recalls discussions about ensuring recommendations were “clear and unambiguous” to avoid tokenistic government responses.

The article’s strongest feature is its insider perspective. Loorham’s role as a young legal adviser allows him to recount moments that would otherwise be lost to institutional memory including campfire conversations,

bureaucratic tensions, and the emotional weight of Butchulla testimony. These recollections give the paper a vividness rarely found in legal or policy histories.

The camping tour, shared meals, and interpersonal dynamics bring the inquiry to life. The anecdote about the forester scolding a mining executive for wasting a match is both humorous and illustrative of the culture of the time.

A particularly compelling section recounts the author's efforts to ensure Aboriginal voices were heard. The testimony of Olga Miller is described with care and respect, including her story of ancestors seeing "a big white bird on the horizon", Cook's Endeavour. This material underscores the cultural depth of K'gari and the importance of Indigenous knowledge in environmental decision-making.



Murphyore's sand mining plant. The primary separation plant separated the minerals from the sand using centrifuges (Photo: Robert Onfray)

The paper avoids simplistic partisanship. It notes that the Whitlam Government established the inquiry, but the Fraser Government implemented its recommendations, an example of rare bipartisan environmental action.

This memoir is a valuable and engaging contribution to the history of Australian environmental law and activism. Its blend of personal reflection, legal insight, and political context makes it both informative and enjoyable to read. The paper preserves important institutional memory and highlights lessons that remain relevant today, particularly the power of inclusive leadership and independent inquiry in resolving environmental conflicts.

The paper deserves a place in the scholarly conversation about environmental governance, public inquiries, and the evolution of Commonwealth environmental powers.

Chris Loorham's paper is available free to download [here](#).

*Review contributed by Dr Kim Walker, University of the Sunshine Coast*

## Know your Sea Cucumbers!

The Great Sandy Strait (Korrawinga) and surrounding Hervey Bay area are known habitats for many sea cucumber species, including those that were historically targeted in the local *bêche-de-mer* fishery during the 1980s and 1990s.

Based on regional surveys and the Queensland Sea Cucumber Fishery (QSCF) operations, which extend down to Tin Can Bay, the following species are found in the local area:

- Sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*): Primarily found in the region's shallow waters and sand flats. Sandfish are highly abundant in the soft-bottom habitats of the Indo-Pacific, including the southern region around Hervey Bay. This species is noteworthy as it forms part of the local fishery and was the focus of a commercial sea cucumber culture and sea ranching project in Hervey Bay.
- White Teatfish (*Holothuria fuscogilva*): A significant species found in the area, often in deeper water.
- Black Teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*): Found throughout the Queensland east coast, usually on the reef flat, down to the Moreton Bay region.
- Curryfish (*Stichopus hermanni*, *Stichopus vastus*): commonly targeted in the Queensland fishery.
- Blackfish/Burrowing Blackfish (*Actinopyga spinea*/*Actinopyga palauensis*): commonly targeted in the broader QSCF.
- Leopardfish (*Bohadschia argus*): Often found in sandy, shallow coastal areas.
- Brown Sandfish (*Bohadschia vitiensis*): Found in the Queensland region.
- Greenfish (*Stichopus chloronotus*): A spiky sea cucumber also common to the area.

The Great Sandy Strait and adjacent Hervey Bay are significant areas for the QSCF, which targets several high-value species for export to Asian markets. The most important ones for fisheries in the region are sandfish,

black and white teatfish, the burrowing blackfish (comprising an average of 55% of the total annual harvest in the QSCF) and curryfish (including Hermann's sea cucumber).

Sandfish are one of the highest-valued species in the trade.

The fishery is managed under a limited-entry, rotational, and quota-based system to prevent overfishing, with much of the harvest processed as bêche-de-mer. While historically important, it is noted that collecting sandfish in some areas of Hervey Bay has been prohibited to manage stocks.

A research project being led by Alison Hammond from the University of the Sunshine Coast is currently mapping the historical and current distribution of these species in the Great Sandy Strait (Korrawinga).



*Burrowing blackfish make up 55% of the annual fishery harvest (Photo: CC-by-Anne Hoggetts)*

*Article compiled by Sue Sargent, FINIA*

## Be a Voice for the Voiceless: Join the Wildlife Rescue Team on the Cooloola Coast

Our stunning Cooloola Coast is home to an incredible array of native neighbours—from the iconic kangaroos grazing at dusk to the vibrant birdlife that fills our mornings with song. But sometimes, these wild residents find themselves in trouble. Whether it's a joey orphaned by a roadside accident or a sea bird tangled in fishing line, their survival often depends on the quick thinking of a local hero.



*One of two Northern giant petrels (Macronectes halli) rescued during April with a wingspan of almost 1 metre (Photo: ANARRA)*

If you would like to be that hero, here's an opportunity to take the first step towards making a difference.

On Sunday, 31 May, ANARRA (Australian Native Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Association) is hosting a vital double-feature workshop in Rainbow Beach. If you've ever wanted to help but didn't know where to start, this is your gateway to becoming a wildlife rescuer and carer.

The day is split into two essential sessions designed to take you from being a curious observer to a confident responder:

1. **Orientation Workshop:** This is the "must-have" foundation. You will learn the legalities of wildlife rescue, including licensing requirements, and the Code of Practice for rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing our native fauna.
2. **Primary Care of Wildlife:** Once the basics are covered, the session will dive into the hands-on essentials, covering:
  - Basic assessment of rescued animals.
  - Immediate first care and life-saving treatments.
  - Ongoing health management.
  - Criteria for assessing when an animal is ready to return to the wild.

Cost is FREE for ANARRA members or \$20 for non-members. ANARRA membership costs \$30 per person or \$40 for a family per financial year. Numbers are limited so bookings are essential.

### More Ways to Help

Not everyone is in a position to care for wildlife in their home, and that's okay! ANARRA is always looking for more volunteers to keep the wheels turning:

- **Rescuers & Transporters:** Help sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife get to a vet or carer.
- **Hotline Heroes:** Volunteer from the comfort of your own home by handling the group's 24-hour emergency hotline. Full training is provided. This is an excellent way to learn about our precious native wildlife and be part of a growing band of dedicated rescuers and carers.

Ready to join the rescue family? To register for the workshop or for more information, please email [anarrawildlife@gmail.com](mailto:anarrawildlife@gmail.com) with your contact details.

Whether you want to actively participate with rescues or caring for wildlife or contribute just a few hours a week to answer the phone, your support helps the Cooloola Coast remain a safe haven for the creatures that make our region so special. ANARRA hope to see you there!

*Article contributed by Deb Seal, ANARRA*

## Dates for the Diary

**What: K'gari 4WD Cleanup 2026**

Where: K'gari

When: 8-11 May 2025

For: 4WD Queensland's annual K'gari Clean Up has been running since 2001, this year celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 2025, the event attracted 826 volunteers from 24 affiliated 4WD clubs, supported by 30 sponsors and over 330 vehicles, who collectively removed 8,355 kg of waste across 114 km of K'gari's coastline. Participants must be a member of a 4WD Club for insurance purposes.

More info: [www.4wdqld.com.au/kgari](http://www.4wdqld.com.au/kgari) - please note, this event has sold out, so please email [admin@kgaricleanup.au](mailto:admin@kgaricleanup.au) if you would like to be added to the waiting list.

**What: Weed Management**

Where: Happy Valley, K'gari

When: 13-18 May, 12-18 July and 1-7 November 2026

For: Peter Shooter leads these trips to help tackle the heavy weed infestation around Happy Valley. A group of up to eight people share *Kurrawa*, a comfortable holiday house in the Centre of Happy Valley. The group work to contain a particularly aggressive weed with poisonous seeds, *Abrus precatorius* Var. *Africanus*. This weed heavily impacts local vegetation but is not found elsewhere on K'gari. The team also focus on large woody weeds, Easter cassia and lantana. Note - 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](mailto:weeding@fido.org.au).

**What: Bush Regeneration and Monitoring**

Where: Eurong, K'gari

When: 18-25 May

For: Su Dawson from FIDO has been conducting weeklong weeding–bush regeneration programs in Eurong since 2005. This will be Su's last trip. With her leadership, FIDO has progressively transformed Eurong and dramatically reduced the weed threats there. Based at Tallinga, the former Sinclair family home in Eurong Village, work focuses 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](mailto:weeding@fido.org.au).

**What: Wildlife Rescue Workshops**

Where: Rainbow Beach (location details provided on registration)

When: Sunday 31 May

For: Do you want to learn about rescuing and caring for sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife? The Australian Native Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Association Inc (ANARRA) is hosting two introductory workshops (orientation and primary care of wildlife) that are essential for anyone interested in becoming a wildlife rescuer or carer.

Cost: FREE for ANARRA members and \$20 for non-members

More info: To register, please email [anarrawildlife@gmail.com](mailto:anarrawildlife@gmail.com)

**What:** FINIA Meeting (FINIA Partners only)  
**Where:** Maryborough Town Hall  
**When:** Tuesday 4 August  
**For:** FINIA's partner organisations meet quarterly to provide updates and collaborate on projects. Three meetings are held on the mainland with an annual field trip to K'gari each year. The final meeting for 2026 will be held on Tuesday 17 November from 10am to 2pm at Maryborough Town Hall  
**Cost:** Free  
**More info:** To register, please email Sue Sargent at [contactFINIA@gmail.com](mailto:contactFINIA@gmail.com).

## Funding Opportunities

**What:** **Wettenhall Environment Trust —Small Environmental Grant Scheme**  
**For:** Objectives of the Small Environmental Grants Scheme (up to \$15K) 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 15th June 2026 (for funding in August 2026)  
**Phone:** (03) 5472 1316 or 0431 219 980 - Elizabeth (Beth) Mellick, Executive Officer  
**Email:** [beth@wettenhall.org.au](mailto:beth@wettenhall.org.au)  
**Website:** <https://wettenhall.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/>

**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. Maximum grants for are generally \$35,000. The Department of Justice is currently introducing a new online system to make applying for a grant under the fund easier.  
**When:** The next funding round will open early in the second half of 2026, once the system is live.  
**Email:** [cbf@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:cbf@justice.qld.gov.au)  
**Phone:** 1800 633 619  
**Website:** <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/community-grants>

**What:** **Purves Environmental Fund**  
**For:** Support 12-month proposals of up to \$50,000, that meet the Fund's current focus areas: degradation of wilderness, over exploitation of natural resources and pollution. Grant applications are through an EOI process.  
**When:** Applications are open year-round.  
**Website:** <https://www.purvesenvirofund.org.au/funding>

## 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 World Heritage site. We acknowledge Fraser Coast Regional Council, Sealink – Kingfisher Bay Resort & K'gari Explorer Tours, the University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, and our outstanding contributors, volunteers and donors for their generous support.

Without this generosity, FINIA's activities would not be possible.

*Thank you*



Visiting K'gari? 'Be dingo-safe!' at all times:

- Always stay close (within arm's reach) of any children and young teenagers.
- Always walk in groups and carry a stick.
- Camp in fenced areas where possible.
- Do not run. Running or jogging can trigger a negative dingo interaction.
- Never feed dingoes.
- Lock up food stores and iceboxes (even on a boat)
- Never store food or food containers in tents, and
- Secure all rubbish, fish, and bait.