FINIA
THE NATURAL INTEGRITY ALLIANCE FOR K'GARI

Newsletter

Sustaining the natural and cultural integrity of K'gari together ***November 2026***

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Congratulations to the BAC and K'gari Biosecurity Advisory Group on their Queensland Landcare Award for the K'gari Biosecurity Strategy. This is a fabulous story of leadership and collaboration in action.

We are bracing for impact with the current record-tracking El Niño. If predictions are correct, sea surface temperature anomalies could exceed 3°C above average. So, this could be a bad fire season.

There are lots of great stories inside this issue, sharing hope that together we can make a difference for this incredible, World Heritage listed place.

The Editor

Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation Receives Queensland Landcare Award for Biosecurity Leadership



Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) has won the First Nations Landcare Collaboration Award at the biennial Queensland Landcare Awards, held on Saturday 10 October. The award recognises partnerships that bring First Nations-led cultural land, sea and water management practices into broader landcare efforts, supporting sustainable and inclusive natural resource stewardship.

BAC was recognised for leading the development of a tenure-blind biosecurity strategy for K'gari in partnership with island stakeholders through the K'gari Biosecurity Advisory Group. The K'gari Biosecurity Strategy was developed through an 18-month project that began in late 2024, funded by an Australian Heritage Grant, and was launched earlier this year.

K’gari Biosecurity Advisory Group Chair and BAC Ranger Coordinator Chantel Van Wamelen accepted the award on behalf of BAC and its partners, alongside BAC Director Aunty Christine Royan. BAC also acknowledged the contributions of project team members Dr Geoff Pegg (DPI), Professor Jennifer Firn and Ella-Jane Raymond (Queensland University of Technology), and Sue Sargent (FINIA).

“Biosecurity is a significant issue for K’gari. More than 200 introduced species have been recorded on the island, many of them invasive pests,” Ms Van Wamelen said.

“These include cane toads, feral cats, coastal brown ants, tilapia, Jamella (pandanus leafhopper), weeds such as bitou bush and lantana, and diseases including myrtle rust and *Phytophthora heveae*. Bitou bush has been the focus of a concerted management program on K’gari for more than 40 years, while lantana smothers native coastal and forest vegetation.

“The strategy focuses on prevention, particularly in relation to visitors and vehicles, while maintaining surveillance so any new incursions can be reported, monitored and managed to minimise impacts on the World Heritage-listed island.

“We do not want yellow crazy ants, polyphagous shot-hole borer or *Phytophthora cinnamomi* to reach the island. That would be devastating for K’gari.”

Aunty Chris Royan said protecting K’gari was a shared responsibility.

“K’gari is an incredibly special place and has been sacred to us as Butchulla People for thousands of years.



Keep off K’gari! Phytophthora cinnamomi causes severe biodiversity loss and permanent damage to native ecosystems (Photo: Australian Plants Society)

“Biosecurity is everybody’s responsibility, and we need your help. If you are visiting K’gari, please check and clean your vehicle, boots and equipment before you travel—come clean and go clean.”

Queensland Landcare Award category winners automatically progress to the Australian Landcare Awards, to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre in South Australia in September 2027.

Project partners and members of K’gari Biosecurity Advisory Group (KBAG) included Biosecurity Queensland (DPI); Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC; Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC; the Chief Environmental Biosecurity Office (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries); the Department of Natural Resources (DNRMMRRD); FIDO; FINIA – the Natural Integrity Alliance for K’gari; Fraser Coast Regional Council; Horticulture and Forestry Science (DPI); K’gari Research Station (University of the Sunshine Coast); the Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage (DETSI); Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (DETSI); Queensland University of Technology (QUT); Sealink Kingfisher Bay; and K’gari community association representatives.

Article contributed by Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation

Travelling to K’gari? Come Clean Go Clean!

As the K’gari Biosecurity Strategy moves into its implementation phase, BAC has kicked off its actions with a fun, colourful postcard encouraging vehicle drivers to ‘come clean, go clean’ to K’gari.



Ensure your vehicle is clean – inside and out – before you come to K’gari (Image: BAC)

Featuring two of the BAC’s Rangers, Dakota (Koda) Broome and Preston Doyle, BAC demonstrates how important it is to make sure that your vehicle isn’t bringing any invasive hitchhikers along for a free ride to the island.

Drivers might be surprised to learn where invasive species may be hiding. The back of the postcard provides drivers with a quick inside-and-out washdown checklist covering the chassis and underbody, tyres, wheel arches and mudflaps, grills, winch and cab interior (along with a list of last-chance mainland washdowns) before you drive onto the barge to K’gari.

These simple actions can help prevent threats such as cat's claw creeper, yellow crazy ants, and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* from reaching the island. This helps protect K'gari and makes the island more resilient to threats such as climate change.

Postcards will be available through participating tourism providers and are being distributed by the BAC's Butchulla K'gari Djaa NIAA Rangers.

Article contributed by Jodie Rainbow, Butchulla K'gari Djaa NIAA Rangers, BAC

Native, exotic or from here: what the labels mean for a K'gari garden

Native or exotic sounds like a simple choice at the nursery counter. On K'gari and the Fraser Coast it is worth one more question: native to where?

A native plant is one that occurs naturally somewhere in Australia. An exotic plant was brought here from elsewhere, on purpose or by accident. Exotics are not villains. Many are well behaved in a garden and give colour, shade and fruit that natives cannot. The trouble comes when an exotic finds our climate to its liking and escapes over the fence. Queensland gains new naturalised weeds every year, and many of them started life as garden plants.



Where do you source your plants? Photo: Nursery Near Me

Natives earn their reputation for a reason. They have adapted to local soils, rainfall and dry spells over a very long time, so an established native garden usually needs less water, less feeding and less fuss. Native plants also feed the birds, insects and other wildlife that evolved alongside them. A garden of flowering natives is a food source; a garden of exotics is mostly scenery.

The Butchulla people take the idea one step further, and they are right to. Native is a big word. A species that grows on K'gari has spent thousands of years adapting to sand, salt, wind and fire, and the same species grown from mainland seed can behave differently in your garden and mix its genetics with the island's own.

For a garden that sits next to (or within a) national park, the best choice is not just native but local: plants found on K'gari or the nearby coast, grown from seed collected close to home. Ask your grower where the seed came from. A good one will tell you.

The full guide, Native vs Exotic Plants: What's the Difference, is free to read at https://nurserynearme.com.au/blogs/blog/native-vs-exotic-plants-understanding-the-differences alongside more than 300 plant care guides written for Australian climate zones.

Article contributed by Isaac Olson, Nursery Near Me

Isaac Olson is the director of Nursery Near Me, an Australian online nursery that delivers plants, trees and hedging to every mainland state with no minimum order.

Establishing K'gari Cane Toad Watch

Introduced from Hawaii in June 1935, cane toads reached the Fraser Coast and Maryborough region in the early 1940s as they spread down the coastline from the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations release sites in North Queensland. Long-term residents and visitors to the island including the late John Sinclair's sister, Margaret, remember first seeing cane toads on K'gari in the late 1960s.

FINIA first participated in cane toad control in 2015, inviting the University of Sydney to deliver a workshop on K'gari focusing on the collection of Bufotoxin and its use as a lure for cane toad tadpoles. A decade on, the technology has progressed to a commercially available BufoTab courtesy of the University of Queensland, now marketed by WaterGum.

Cane toads are now spread across large areas of the island where they wreak havoc with native wildlife. They eat almost anything they can catch and swallow, consuming up to 200 food items a night including insects,



Cane toads outcompete native wildlife for food and habitat (Photo: QPWS)

bees, ants, small reptiles, small mammals, crustaceans and native frogs. They outcompete native animals for habitat and although they prefer moist habitats (wetlands, drains and agricultural lands), they can survive losing up to 50% of their body fluid. Animals that bite or swallow adult toads (like K'gari's death adder and goannas) suffer rapid heart failure and death. Over 90% of local populations of predators crashed upon toad arrival.

Led by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), FINIA partners recently met to discuss collaborative cane toad management on K'gari. The team accepts that, with current methods, cane toads will not be eradicated on K'gari. However, targeted cane toad management reduces pressure on native species and buys affected wildlife some time. After all, it was only 11 years ago that we first trialled Bufotoxin.

Anyone can participate, either by reporting where they see cane toads on K'gari (both tadpoles and adults) on FeralScan or by joining the **K'gari Cane Toad Watch** group to allow data to be aggregated to provide a clearer picture and identification of cane toad hotspots.

Partners in the project include QPWS, Department of Natural Resources (Unallocated State Lands), Fraser Coast Council, Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation, FIDO, the University of the Sunshine Coast's K'gari Research Station, and Sandy Cape Lighthouse Conservation Association.

Article contributed by Sue Sargent, FINIA

We need you! Be a Cane Toad Spotter

All reports of cane toads on K'gari can be used to help us improve our surveillance and control efforts, to protect the island.

ToadScan is a free community resource for recording and mapping observations of cane toads in our local area. The information we record can be used to identify areas for coordinating control of cane toads and can help us assess our efforts to remove cane toads from the island. Anyone can record:

1. Sightings of cane toads (including adults, juveniles, eggs or tadpoles),
2. Impacts of cane toads (such as dead native wildlife), and
3. Control activities*, like hand collection of cane toads or cane toad tadpole trapping within the townships.



Identifying and reporting cane toads on K'gari is a quick, easy way to help (Photo: FeralScan)

**Note: Control activities for cane toads in the K'gari National Park or on Unallocated State Land require a permit or agreement from the relevant authority.*

ToadScan is part of the National FeralScan project. People can record cane toad observations via the website, or directly via the FeralScan Pest Animal Reporter Mobile App (Free download from Apple or Google).

Members of **K'gari Cane Toad Watch** who register their details in ToadScan can then collaborate to document the scale of the problem across the island. Simply visit the ToadScan website for more information, or contact the FeralScan Coordinator, Peter West, on 0407 622 191 or email feralscan@feralscan.org.au.

Article contributed by Peter West, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

John Sinclair Memorial Lecture 2026



Environment Minister, Senator Murray Watt with Spencer Hitchen from Save Sunrise Glossies Photo: Spencer Hitchen

Congratulations to everybody who helped put together FIDO's successful John Sinclair Memorial Lecture on Sunday August 23 at Mount Coot-tha Botanical Gardens auditorium.

Many were touched by the presentation to FIDO stalwart and retiring Eurong team leader Su Tokiko Dawson, impressed by the eloquence of our first speaker, Spencer Hitchen, and appreciative of the informative talk presented by our guest speaker, Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt.

Murray displayed an informed appreciation of the work of John Sinclair and FIDO over the years and made a thorough effort to acquaint the audience with the efforts made by the Albanese government in environmental protection.

Not everyone felt that enough had been done; however, an atmosphere of respectful debate prevailed, and several of the groups attending suggested they felt Murray had addressed their concerns with courtesy and attention.

FIDO can be proud to have created a forum which gathered representatives of many grassroots organisations and provided them with an opportunity to network together and speak with the Minister. Appreciation for the passion of young environmental champion, Spencer Hitchen from Save Sunrise Glossies, was evident when he received a standing ovation from the 100-strong crowd. If you want to listen to Spencer's presentation, it can be found here.



FIDO's Keith Sinclair and Zela Bissett with Spencer Hitchen (Photo: FIDO)

Those present, in addition to FIDO members, included Save Victoria Park, Friends of Mount Coot-tha Botanical Gardens, turtle rescuers from Bribie Island, groups concerned with quarrying in the Glasshouse Mountains, and others fighting to preserve precious habitat or prevent potentially disastrous development. It was a convincing exhibition that grassroots activism is alive and well in Queensland.

Thanks are extended to FIDO's core members with special thanks to Charmaine, Peter, and Keith, who have put in many days of sustained effort and sorted challenges and obstacles to bring this day to a successful conclusion. To Spencer, Maxine, Gerard, Sandra, Navin, Pauline, Tanisha, Chmura, and many who turned out to assist, I can't thank you enough! FIDO still has a vital role to play, and you are all needed on this journey!

Article contributed by Zela Bissett, FIDO

FIDO and K'gari Weed Control

For some years now FIDO has been battling with a variety of weeds on land in and around Happy Valley and Eurong on K'gari. FIDO is working with Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation Rangers on this project.

Biosecurity is so important everywhere, and especially on K'gari. Preventing non-native plants, animals, fish, insects and plant diseases getting onto the island is so important. Once here and established, they are very difficult, and in many instances impossible, to eradicate.

Many of K'gari's weeds were originally brought to the island as garden plants, which escaped and became naturalised. This is a common story all over Australia (and the world for that matter). A good case study is two plants FIDO has been doing battle with for some years. Both were brought to K'gari as garden plants and became major pests.

Crab's eye creeper (*Abrus precatorius subsp. africanus*)

Crab's eye is an attractive sprawling perennial climber with insignificant mauve flowers but spectacular clumps of bright red and black seeds which can hang on the plant for up to two years. It has a very thick taproot that penetrates deep into K'gari's sand making it very drought-resistant. During drought periods

when other plants are looking stressed due to lack of water, this plant looks extremely healthy, as it sucks up water from deep in the sand where other more shallow-rooted plants can't access it.

Crab's eye is from Southern Africa and Madagascar.



Crab's eye creeper is a dense canopy killer. Inset photo of deadly red seeds (Photos: FIDO)

The spectacular seeds contain one of the most toxic substances known, abrin. One seed, if chewed, is enough to kill an adult human. The seed has a hard seed coat that resists digestion if swallowed whole by an animal. Birds eat it and it passes straight through their digestive system, spreading it considerable distances.

Crab's eye spreads over the ground smothering native vegetation. It will also extend into the canopy of trees and smother them out.

FIDO has put years of work into controlling Crab's eye at, and around, Happy Valley, which to the best of our knowledge is the only place it exists on K'gari. We want to keep it that way and especially prevent spread into the National Park.

The population is now less than 1% of what it was when we first started to control it in 2012. It is a never-ending task. Birds spread the seeds, which because of the hard, resistant seed coat can remain in the soil for a long time. We are doing all we can to prevent it invading other areas of K'gari.

Coral creeper (*Barleria repens*)

Coral creeper is a dense ground cover plant that can grow into a small bush. It comes from Africa. Like Crab's eye it was brought to Eurong as a garden plant. It has bright green leaves and attractive salmon-coloured tubular flowers.

Despite years of work by FIDO and local resident David Anderson, Coral creeper is widespread around Eurong, including on Aboriginal Freehold Land. FIDO volunteers and Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation's Rangers now have a major blitz underway at Eurong to get this weed under control.



Coral Creeper – Prolific seed spreader (Photo: David Anderson)

Coral creeper spreads seeds by an unusual method. The seed pods "dehisce"; that is, they explode, scattering hundreds of small seeds up to 10 m.

Just as Crab's eye is only found at Happy Valley, coral creeper is only at Eurong. Again, we are keen to ensure it does not extend to other regions of K'gari.

Should you or anyone you know wish to join the FIDO weed control volunteer team, please contact Peter on 0417 649 158 or email peter.shooter@gmail.com

FIDO runs at least 6 week-long trips each year to K'gari. Volunteers are required to do 4 hours of work each day, usually in the morning, then sight-see in the afternoon. FIDO provides all transport and accommodation. Volunteers are asked to pay $300 (waged) or $200 (unwaged) and provide one evening meal for the team of five people. FIDO provides all other food.

It is a great way to see the island and make a real contribution to K'gari.

Article contributed by Peter Shooter, FIDO

Effective and Collaborative Fire Management on K'gari in 2026

Collaboration remains the foundation of effective fire management on K'gari, ensuring planned burning objectives are achieved while protecting the island's communities, infrastructure, cultural values and natural ecosystems.

The 2026 fire management program commenced with the annual QPWS Fire Referral Group meeting and Locality Specific Bushfire Management Committee (LSBMC) workshop, bringing together QPWS fire practitioners, Butchulla Rangers, Queensland Fire Department personnel, DNR, Fraser Coast Regional Council representatives, commercial operators and local residents. These forums provided an opportunity to review residual bushfire risk, identify community engagement opportunities and coordinate resources for the year ahead.

Building on previous years of planned burning, the 2026 program focuses on creating and maintaining a mosaic of burnt and unburnt country across the World Heritage-listed island. Treatments included asset protection burns, bushfire mitigation burns, staged conservation burns and cross-tenure fire management activities aimed at reducing bushfire risk around residential areas, resorts and critical infrastructure. This season the Great Walk hiker areas were identified as having long-unburnt vegetation that potentially posed a risk to hikers and infrastructure. Benaroon and Boorangoora hikers' camps were treated with low-intensity hazard reduction burning.



Exploration Break burn – Newly trained staff member Nicole igniting a landscape management burn in northern K'gari (Photo: QPWS)

Targeted planned burning remains one of the most effective tools for reducing fuel loads, mitigating the risk of severe bushfire and protecting life, property and environmental values. Equally important is the delivery of fire regimes that support the long-term health and conservation of K'gari's unique ecosystems.

Preparation work continues to be a significant component of the program. Strategic fire line maintenance, vegetation management around key infrastructure, equipment servicing and operational readiness activities have been undertaken to ensure crews can safely respond when suitable weather conditions arise. With forecasts indicating the potential for hotter and drier conditions, planning and preparedness remain critical to taking advantage of favourable burn windows while maintaining vigilance during periods of elevated fire danger. The planned burn season from March to August only provided 25 weather-suitable burning days in the 6-month window.

The 2026 program continues to demonstrate the value of partnership and shared responsibility. Through the combined efforts of QPWS, the Butchulla people, emergency services, neighbouring landholders, local government and the community, K'gari is better positioned to manage bushfire risk while protecting the island's residential areas and outstanding cultural and natural values.

Fire on K'gari is everyone's business. Thank you to all stakeholders, fire practitioners and community members who contribute to the ongoing success of collaborative fire management across the island.

Article contributed by Linda Behrendorff, QPWS K'gari NRM – Fire Enhancement Team

Keep K'gari Clean Is Now a Registered Charity!



Keep K'gari Clean sorting trash (Photo: Drop Bear Adventures)

The team behind the Keep K'gari Clean Project is celebrating a huge milestone. The project is now incorporated and officially registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

This achievement builds on years of community effort to remove marine debris from K'gari's beaches. It also gives us a strong foundation to keep protecting the island for years to come.

Meet our committee

Our committee is made up of seven passionate, dedicated people, and each one brings something special to the board. Hana Robinson, co-founder of Drop Bear Adventures, whom many of you will already know, has brought together Lauren Harris, Sofia Prida, Erica Hamp, Julius Tigges, Peter Hunt and Scott Malone. Every

member volunteers their time and brings years of environmental stewardship to the role.

66,751 kg and counting

Together, we have removed a total of **66,751 kg of rubbish** from K'gari's eastern beach. Many people assume beach litter is left behind by visitors, but most washes in from the ocean with every high tide. That's why the work never stops. Behind every kilogram is someone who gave their time and energy to help care for the island.



Keep K'gari Clean volunteers hard at work, collecting and sorting marine debris (Photo: Drop Bear Adventures)

Join us in 2027

Our 2027 Beach Clean Up dates will be released at the end of November. Whether you've joined us before or would be volunteering for the first time, we'd love to welcome you. Register your interest in volunteering here.

Our new online home

Keep K'gari Clean now has its own website at keepkgariclean.org. Visit to learn more about the project and stay connected.

The Keep K'gari Clean Project is supported by a community of dedicated volunteers and local businesses. We invite everyone who loves this extraordinary island to join us. Thank you to everyone who has walked the beaches, filled a collection bag, donated or supported our work behind the scenes.

We look forward to continuing to care for Butchulla Country together.

Article contributed by Hana and Christie from Keep K'gari Clean

Setting the Record Straight on Indigenous Occupation of K'gari

Indigenous island and coastal occupation of southeast Queensland has been one of the most intensively studied topics in Australian archaeology. The region possesses the best-documented coastal archaeological record in the country, yet the most famous and iconic landscape in this region, K'gari World Heritage Area in Butchulla Country, has been comparatively less studied.



Waddy Point Rock Shelter (WP1) pictured in 2002 (Photo: Prof. Ian McNiven)

A recent publication by the Centre of Excellence for Indigenous and Environmental Histories and Futures (CIEHF) in partnership with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation highlights how detailed radiocarbon dating for Waddy Point 1 (WP1) rock shelter has revealed the use of the site during colonial invasion in the nineteenth century. This discredits European archival-based histories that suggest Butchulla discontinued use of K'gari, and especially the back beach, during the colonial period.

A Bayesian analysis of WP1 radiocarbon dates documents continuous occupation between c.1000 and c.150 years ago, with mollusc harvesting focused consistently on rocky shore gastropods and sandy shore bivalves. Long-term sustained mollusc harvesting also speaks to the continued importance of the sea and marine foods to Butchulla diet and identity.

Although British colonial invasion during the nineteenth century attempted to displace and erase Butchulla culture, post-contact mollusc shells in the upper levels of WP1 record Butchulla cultural resilience and possible scheduling changes in use of the site.

The history of mollusc harvesting registered at the hundreds of other midden sites along the east coast of K'gari similarly records long-term continuities in marine-focused cultural practices. Such Truth-Telling

archaeological research helps redress major inadequacies in colonial archival recordings of continuities in nineteenth-century Butchulla occupation and use of K'gari.

Rogers, A. J., McNiven, I. J., & Hua, Q. (2026). Collaborative archaeological research reveals 1000 years of sustained Butchulla mollusc harvesting and cultural resilience on the largest sand island in the world, K'gari, Australia. *Australian Archaeology*, 1–27. https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2026.2718593

Dates for the Diary

What: **Happy Valley Weed Management**
Where: Happy Valley, K'gari
When: 1-7 November 2026, 7-13 February, 16-22 May and 6-12 June 2027
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 home in 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.

What: **Webinar - Finish the Fight: Live from the Fire Ant Frontline**
Where: Online
When: Monday, 2 November 2026 from 5-6pm
For: Most Australians have never seen a fire ant. But in parts of SEQ, they've become part of everyday life. People check the backyard before the kids go out to play. Councils treat parks and sporting fields. Farmers work around nests in their paddocks. This is what's at stake for places like K'gari if we don't finish the job. Join the *Invasive Species Council* for this free webinar to hear how fire ants have changed communities and what we have learned to date.
Cost: FREE
More info: To register, please click on this link.

What: **FINIA Meeting (FINIA Partners only)**
Where: Maryborough Town Hall
When: Tuesday 17 November 2026
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.
Cost: Free
More info: To register, please email Sue Sargent at contactFINIA@gmail.com.

What: **Bush Regeneration and Monitoring**
Where: Eurong, K'gari
When: Dates to be announced shortly
For: FIDO has been conducting weeklong weeding–bush regeneration programs in Eurong since 2005. Based at Eurong, work focuses on weeding, bush regeneration, building the Eurong nursery's capacity, and continuing FIDO's ongoing environmental monitoring programs.
Cost: $300 ($200 for concessions) to subsidise costs.
More info: Please send any questions to weeding@fido.org.au.

What: **FINIA Field Trip 2027**
Where: K'gari
When: 5-6 May 2027
For: FINIA's partner field trip and meeting takes place annually and is an opportunity for organisations to check out field sites and opportunities for future collaboration.
More info: Please check with ContactFINIA@gmail.com

Diary Date: **Cooloola Bioblitz 2027**
Where: Cooloola
When: 29-31 October 2027
For: Join groups of scientists, naturalists and volunteers for an intensive field study over 3 days. Cooloola BioBlitz 2027 will be based in the beautiful coastal village of Rainbow Beach. Field trips venture into the Great Sandy National Park, Cooloola Recreation Area and Inskip Point Recreation Area, a region of natural and environmental significance.
Cost: To be advised
More info: https://www.cooloolacoastcare.org.au/projects/bioblitz

Funding Opportunities

What: **Australian Heritage Grant Round 9 (2026-27)**
For: The program supports the protection and promotion of Australia's National and World Heritage listed places, including First Nations cultural heritage values at listed places. A priority for Round 9 is to improve First Nations engagement with the program, consistent with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Grants between $25,000 and $400,000 are available for up to 3 years for activities that strengthen the recognition, protection, management of and public engagement with the heritage values of listed places.
When: Opens in late 2026
Phone: 13 28 46
Website: Register now on GrantConnect to be notified when Round 9 opens and receive more information as it becomes available.

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 14th December 2026 (for funding in February 2027) **– apply early!**
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: **Purves Environmental Fund**
For: Support 12-month proposals of up to $50,000 that meet the Fund's current focus areas: degradation of wilderness, overexploitation 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

What: **Fraser Coast Community Grants**
For: Supports community-led initiatives from $1,000 to $5,000 that respond to local needs and deliver measurable social, community or environmental outcomes or build skills, capacity, resilience and participation within the community.
When: Round 2 opens on 1 February 2027 (announced in April 2027) for projects to be completed by 1 October 2027.
More: For further information please contact Council's Grants Officer on phone 1300 79 49 29.
Website: https://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/Community/Grants-and-Sponsorships

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, the University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, SurveyMonkey 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.