

Diary for Interim Weed Working Bee Eurong — 12th to 17th February, 2017

Sunday, 12th February

There were late changes of plans on the eve of the project. FIDO's Land-Cruiser vehicle (TAHKA) that we were planning to use had a puncture on Saturday afternoon on its return from the island. All inquiries to have the puncture repaired in Brisbane in time for the early start the next morning proved fruitless. Thus there was a last-minute switch to the smaller Pajero (Sujo) but to fit in the load we were planning to take up to Lake Allom we needed the trailer. It made the crossing the island under the extremely hot dry conditions more difficult.

We got away from Brisbane at 4.44 am to catch a 10.00 ferry. It was far too early as we waited for over an hour at Mary River Heads for the barge which was late. We were bogged twice in the track's loose dry sand on the way across the island. It was so dry that some old banksias as well as Midyim and Foxtails were dieing on the ferry side of the tall forest.

At Eurong we unloaded got bogged again backing the trailer into the Council yard and then went on an inspection along Easton Street to see what work needed to be done in the coming days. Fearless Leader also inspected the Nature Walk and discovered that there was vandalism to the track with the top barricade being pulled out of the ground.

Our timing was good because none of the germinants since we cleaned this area in December had set any seed.

Su was happy to declare one green zone East of the Toilet Block between Easton Street and the road.

Monday 13th February

In intense heat wave, work was hot and exhausting.

Su worked on Easton Street where the shade helped. She meticulously worked her way westwards towards the dingo grid, dealing with every sort of weed but particularly Brazilian Nightshade and Coral Creeper.

Fearless Leader gathered implements and materials to reinstate the barricade at the top end of the Nature Walk and began the process of burying a cross piece of timber between the two legs so that it couldn't be so easily uprooted again. He also used 7.5 litres of roundup mix on Green Panic, Siratro and Mossman River burr between the 'quarry' and the effluent tanks.

Tuesday, 14th February

The day was cooler with some cloud cover and work was more bearable with only a light breeze. Rain was predicted but despite distant thunder not a drop fell.

After finishing a second barricade on the Nature Walk to comply with the Resort's request that there be only one exit and entrance the Fearless Leader turned his attention to treating the thick Coral Creeper outside the Dingo fence. When digging the holes he noted that the sand more than 60 cm down was bone

dry. During the day 40 litres roundup were dispersed on the outside of the northern dingo fence between the western most observation and the pedestrian gate through the fence. However there were some alien grasses that were growing very large as a result on the irrigation with treated sewage effluent and surprisingly two young groundsel bushes were also taking advantage of the enriched conditions.

Meanwhile on the inside the dingo fence Su was advancing westward with her maintenance of the area previously cleared. While she was manually removing many isolated weeds over the two days she used 30 litres of glyphosate on the patches of germinants.

Wednesday, 15th February

Fearless Leader returned to work on the dense Coral Creeper outside the dingo fence. He started near the Gate where he had finished the evening before and worked his way up to the bend in the dingo fence that seemed to be the easternmost part of the infestation. 20 litres of glyphosate were dispersed during the morning and another 20 litres after lunch.

It was noted that a fire had helped contain the Coral Creeper but not with 100% success. However it made it easier to spot the isolated plants that in places went more than 50 meters from the Dingo fence. Also the extreme dry and intense heat were causing plants outside the spray zone of the treated effluent to wilt.

A follow up spray will be needed in March and it will need to extend further into the bush to locate any isolated plants to kill them and stop further seed dispersal.

Throughout the day almost without a break Su continued her weed-cleansing operation on the inside of the dingo fence, dealing manually with larger isolated weeds but spraying larger infestations and trying to avoid collateral damage.

Thursday, 16th February

The day was clear and very hot. There was only a light breeze from the South East and the weather was perfect for spraying.

20 litres of Roundup used on the area between the Roundabout and Problem Corner. While the area is generally clean as far as Surfside there were some Coral Creeper and green panic targeted. Between Surfside and the Dingo fence there is a small wild island that was riddled with Coral Creeper and Siratro and that took up a lot of attention.

The work was paused for consultations with David Anderson who has been supplied with the residual Roundup so that he can deal with weeds in Residential Valley.

Apart from the consultations with David Anderson Su put in an 8 hot hard hours for the day, starting by manually weeding from the Roundabout to the Bus Wash. After lunch she braved Su's slippery slope to carry out maintenance weeding for Coral Creeper and is now ready to declare this area a Green zone needing only monitoring and maintenance.

Meanwhile F.L. managed to commission Dolly, the all-terrain trolley, that is to help carry heavy loads such as drums of chemicals and crates of goods. He then painted a dozen stakes in readiness for use in March and then the new barricade that had been installed along the Nature Walk.

Friday, 17th February

There was an early inspection of the proposed garden outside Trade-Winds Wing of the Resort where the Resort wants some planting of natives to act as a screen between room guests and the dining rooms. Later in the day we caught up with Maintenance Manager Wayde and discussed the project. He is going to have the area for the garden sprayed before the work begins on the new planting to kill off the Couch-grass there. John Sinclair is also going to request wood chip be dumped near the site in readiness for the planting as well as more convenient access to water to help establish the new plants.

There was then an inspection of previous work in and around the Residential Valley to establish work priorities in March. Many priorities were noted including targeting of more pernicious weeds. An inspection then of the Nursery revealed that there was adequate suitable plant stock to undertake the garden project in March without drawing on Kingfisher's Nursery.

At 1.30 pm it was decided to defer lunch until we reached the ferry. It was a very prudent move. A vehicle in front of became bogged and we lost momentum and when that vehicle was freed, we became hopelessly bogged. There were some three other vehicles and a bus behind us wanting to get through and they helped us out but in the process we forfeited two old sets of maxi tracks. We kept going and made it to the ferry by 2.45 and back in Brisbane by 8.30.

Priority jobs in March

1. Establish the Trade-Winds garden at the Eurong Resort
2. Replace signs on the Nature Walk.
3. Follow up the spraying of the area on the north side of the dingo fence.
4. Focus on the area between the rest and Residential valleys for a range of weeds particularly Mother of Millions, Coral Creeper and Asparagus Fern and remove Umbrella Tree and Brazilian Cherry from Klaus's place.
5. Make the restocking of the QPWS Eurong Nursery a priority
6. Take a load of gear from the shed to Harold Charles Barracks for Easter and storage including Dolly, the trolley, and gas and stove etc.
7. Repair the fence on the Council yard