

REPORT

FRASER ISLAND WEEDING TRIP MAY-JUNE 2006

A group of 11 volunteers met on Fraser Island on May 22 to do follow up weeding of areas worked by the group who had been there in October '05 and to commence weeding of new areas adjacent to the Eurong Resort.

The team was lead by Stephanie and Julian Lymburner both qualified bush regenerators from Northern New South Wales, who had attended the trip in '05.

The volunteers worked around the Eurong precinct, focussing mainly on Cassia (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*) Lantana (*Lantana camara*) Ground Asparagus (*Protasparagus aethiopicus* syn. *densiflorus*) and Corky Passionfruit (*Passiflora suberosa*).

The Eurong Resort very kindly donated accommodation for 6 volunteers as well as picking them up and transporting them from the mainland. Their groundsmen also cleared up the bags of weeds and rubbish the team collected during their daily works. Discussions were had with the groundsmen about other vegetative dumping on the edges of the resort grounds that pose a fire risk, they acknowledged the problem and indicated that this would be done as part of routine maintenance.

A single plant of Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) was found within the grounds of the resort, the seed head bagged and the cut stems painted with glyphosate.

The weather was perfect for the 11 days of weeding and having dealt with large areas of Lantana, either hand pulling or cutting and painting the stems. An infestation of Sisal Hemp (*Agave sisalana*) was found in the sandy swale to the south of the resort. Some of these were metres tall and bearing fruit - in the form of 'balls' of plantlets



The plants were removed, the 'balls' were bagged, large plants leaves were cut off and the main stem 'painted' with glyphosate. The leaves were left suspended off the ground, most of these were collected by the groundsmen and disposed of in the large metal rubbish bins.

The other weed that is raising concern with Dr. Ivan Thrash from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is Brazilian Climbing Nightshade (*Solanum seaforthianum*)



This species was present in small numbers last October but has now increased in dramatic numbers in the area just north of the resort – close to the new toilet block, these were hand removed and all seeds bagged.

The QPWS loaned us a Solo backpack for the spraying of Madeira Vine(*Anredra cordifolia*) Ground Asparagus and other weeds – this meant that some large areas of these weeds were able to dealt with more effectively than hand weeding.

All the volunteers enjoyed their stay on the island and the hours that they worked, expressing their pleasure at being able to assist in the removal of environmental weeds and the regeneration of areas around the Eurong precinct. Daily work sheets were kept recording chemical usage, volunteer hours and weeds treated

