

**Diary  
for  
Eurong Bush Regeneration Week  
15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018**

*(Featuring FIDO's first Plant Give-away for Island residents and landholders)*



**Collecting plants at the Nursery and loading up for the Plant Give-away**

**Summary**

- The volunteers contributed 302 volunteer hours during a week of achievement— worth over \$7,500 in economic terms
- Over 150 plants were given away or planted out in the bush regeneration work;
- More improvements were made to the storage area inside the shed provided by the Fraser Coast Regional Council and there was general maintenance and weeding undertaken of the Demonstration Garden areas and Roundabout at the back of Eurong Resort.
- The volunteers added more than 150 new plants to the QPWS nursery more that replacing the stock given away. Many more plants were advanced from seedling trays to pots or from tubes to larger pots;
- To free up much needed bench space in the QPWS Nursery volunteers have established FIDO's Pandanus Nursery within Eurong village to utilize the grey water that is dispersed along the dingo fence. Over 100 pandanus and wildings including tuckeroos were potted up to grow up there
- Volunteers launched two Lantana Attacks in former rubbish dump areas — one is just north of the dingo fence and the other 800 metres south of the village. The aim is to progressively eliminate Lantana in these areas of thick infestation making it possible to deal with other weeds being harboured there.
- As weeds inside Eurong's dingo fence increasingly come under control, particularly in the Bampi area, bush regeneration work is progressively extending beyond the dingo fence in areas west of the dingo grid with lantana, Easter Cassia and other weeds dealt with.

**Note:** The writer of this diary suffered some indisposition during the working bee and was relying on notes and reports of others. While most had been incorporated into the diary some handwritten notes were misplaced during the final editing. These included more precise numbers of plants and work done by individuals.

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July

It was a relatively easy start to the day with the main deadline to meet up at Gympie's Lake Alford at 12.00 noon for lunch.

Being the last day of the school vacations the roads were surprisingly busy. The Fearless Leader and Len headed for Mount Coolum to rendezvous with Suzanne and three interstaters of the team in the Noosa Coolum area. They left Suzanne's at 11.15 and made Gympie at close to schedule. In the meantime Su had collected Gray and Ross and made it to Gympie. The Gold Coast contingent meanwhile and headed direct to Hervey Bay for family reasons for which they were rewarded with new hand stencils on their 4WD.



The ferry at Mary River Heads

It was a calm uneventful crossing from Mary River Heads to Kingfisher Resort but that was more than offset by the drive to Eurong where a plethora of on-coming vehicles caused many delays and problems like hitting trees, needing to be dug out by a bus driver who pushed them too hard and too far, and long reverses with the trailer.

It was dark (5.35) when the three vehicles arrived at Talinga — Weerona where Kristina was waiting patiently.

Once unloaded the group settled down to a Happy Hour and shared a delicious dinner of pasta and fruit salad.

The dinner was a time for briefing and discussion of logistics and signing the Volunteers Register.

## Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> July

It was a cool start to a very calm almost windless day. The sea was so flat that the pods of passing whales stood out as they broke the surface and all of this passing parade could be seen from the kitchen window.

After the foraging session for breakfast everyone was keen to get started. A rendezvous at the shed allowed the transfer of new materials and equipment, the filling of small spray bottles glyphosate, collecting requisite tools and protective gear and a quick briefing before a tour of the village, sighting gardens of greenhood orchids and checking on a possible site for a establishing a FIDO HQ on the island.

After the quick orientation it was off to the Lantana Patch 0.8 kilometre south of Eurong Village. This is a popular camping site that is currently closed. Nine people were engaged. The task assigned was to remove all lantana between the rear road and the beach and then to work from the western edge of the road working back inland. It took no time to attack the Green Enemy. In the process finding many stray Easter Cassia and sighting a well advanced but unreachable Cocos Palm. The volunteers in the Lantana Attack mainly used loppers and sprayed the stumps with 100% glyphosate. Some plants were grubbed out with mattocks. However the Fearless Leader discovered a patch where almost every lantana leaf was growing from a young germinant that had pushed up through the long couch grass. This is an area that badly needs a fire that could kill off most of the lantana germinants. Fire needs to be incorporated into lantana management on USL.



Tricia fights her way through the lantana

The area urgently needs to be burnt. The Fearless Leader plans to take up this matter with the DNRM which has the overall responsibility for the site. Conditions are now very suitable and fire now would help clear up the Lantana Patch making it easier to get in to deal with survivors of any fire. It would also help us to locate and deal with the more serious permanent weed such as Cocos Palms, and Easter Cassia and possibly other Camphor Laurels. Plans to return to the area during the week to follow up didn't eventuate.



Suzanne, Robin and Kelli went to work in the nursery. The first nursery chore was dealing with maintenance there. The incredible Flick weed has become established there. They had a very busy morning also preparing for the plant collection for Lake Allom on the morrow and the Plant Give-Away on Wednesday.

During the morning Fearless Leader visited the QPWS office and caught up with Dan Novak. He learnt that there is a possibility that a Maryborough High School might be interested in a Fraser Island project with about 20 kids for a few days each year. Over time this could help transform the Lantana Patch back into an open grassier area as it had been right up to about 1980 when it was referred to as the horse paddock. We will await developments.

Meanwhile at *Bampi* Sproceeded with her self-assigned project to clean up this small patch of bush between Easton Street and the dingo fence keeping it as weed-free as possible. The task has been made much more difficult since the Resort started to disperse its grey water over much of the area. She worked all morning and much of the afternoon in the area, starting from the toilet block working west to the drainage area. Her main target species were lots of Brazilian nightshade, the few Coral Creeper and Corky passion vine but at the drainage area she found a thicket of *Praxellis* that we first recorded in Eurong in 2015. She also dealt with an annoying small thicket of Cobblers Pegs



**Hand in Hand the Intrepid trio delivered the smoko to be taken on the shores of Lake Boomanjin**

Most of the crew went on an afternoon tour of the Southern lakes. An intrepid trio of Chris, Ross and Len took the plunge at Lake Birrabeen where an image of the outing group was captured. It was a perfect weather day.

#### Hours Worked

Lantana Attack: 9 x 5	45
Nursery: 3 x 5	15
<u>Bampi: 1 x 7</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>67</u>



**The Group at Lake Birrabeen**

#### Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July

It turned out to be a very beautiful day but a lost day for the Fearless Leader who had been planning this day excursion for months to observe what is happening around Orchid Beach, Waddy Point, Indian Head and the Harold Charles Barracks. It wasn't to be as he launched into a bout of vomiting just before 6.00 am as the group was preparing to board vehicles. He stayed behind supported by Su who went to work on her passion for weeding between administering to him.

The group left camp in Greg's vehicle branded with "Hands" and Tahka at 6.30am for Happy Valley to retrieve the weather station. They stopped to have breakfast at the Rotary shelter. It was here that the Lantana Warrior, Banjo (who now identifies Lantana on sight) discovered that he had left the vital keys to access the Harold Charles Barracks behind. Su jumped in the car and delivered them to him before the group had left Happy Valley. He retrieved the external part of the weather station but was unaware of the need to return the computer and electronic gear from inside the shed.

They then drove straight through to Indian Head for some sightseeing and photos of the friendly whale waving to an excited audience.

They then went on to Indian Head and Waddy Point without incident after deflating the tyres. After stopping at Middle Rocks ("Champagne Pools") the group took a walk and close look at the pools before meandering on to Waddy Point Ranger Station for Kristina to say "Hi" to Simon. There were lots of fishing boats and tractors on the beach. More interesting though was the unusual sight of a Jabiru resting back against the swamp waiting for his lunch to swim by.

After this quick tour of Waddy Point and Orchid Beach the group then headed for Harold Charles Barracks at Lake Allom where they had an early



lunch and dropped off the generator. The group then scoured the grounds for suitable volunteer plants that were due to be removed from the area but could be useful additions in the nursery. 79 plants were potted up.



The Jabiru was a beachside spectator near Orchid Beach

The whole trip home included a series of stops including the Knifeblade Sandblow where there was speculation on how long it would have taken for a sandblow to advance so far inland. (A: It began moving 10,000 years ago when the coastline was several kilometres east of the current shoreline.) Other stops included the Pinnacles, *Maheno* and swimming at Eli Creek. The group arrived back at Eurong at 5.00 pm.

There was a quick tour of Orchid Beach following south from the northern ramp and proceeding south through the houses then off to Lake Allom for some plant gathering.

Meanwhile Su continued her forays until dark having located a previously undiscovered large orange tree with a heavy crop in the dump area near the water tanks. Fearless Leader who was feeling ill all day struggled through but didn't join in Happy Hour or Dinner at the resort.



Keeping the area surrounding Harold Charles Barracks is vital for fire protection. However many of the germinants volunteering in the open space are needed in the nursery. This annual exercise serves two useful purposes.



Collecting Foxtail propagation material



Kristina, Greg and Len unloading the new generator

It wasn't though a day of all play and no work. There was vital work done collecting the Happy Valley weather station and delivering a generator and collecting plants at Harold Charles Barracks

#### Hours Worked

Happy Valley & Harold Charles Barracks:	= 11
Bampi: 1 x 7	7
Total	18

## Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July

Another beautiful day in Paradise. Everyone was buoyed up after their outing yesterday and were keen to get moving. The Plant Give-away was just one of the highlights of this cool fine cloudless day. The troops were eager for the 7.30 muster and soon gained an appreciation of the chores waiting the day.

Having appreciated a whole day outing on Tuesday, there was no afternoon outing today. Alas though the Fearless Leader succumbed to indisposition. He spent the remainder of the day horizontally listening as nearby coconut palms came crashing down. Unfortunately, there weren't as many as he would have liked to see fall. His aversion for the exotic palm was illustrated by seeing six young coconuts coming up on the public land in front of *Talinga* that Chris dispatched.

Robin, Kelli, Kristina and Su went to work outside the Dingo fence on the northern side to remove thousands of Coral Creeper seedlings and many Brazilian nightshade. Their work was augmented by Len who was lopping and clearing the management path inside the dingo fence.

There weren't a lot of customers for the Plant Give-Away. Happy Valley Retreat took the most making a special trip down to collect the most plants of all.

**FIDO's Pandanus Nursery:** In the early stages of FIDO's work at the QPWS nursery Green Army members planted up lots of pots each with an individual pandanus seed. This used up lots of potting mix and took up much needed bench space. It took a long time for the pandanus to germinate and many failed to germinate. This experience was followed by seeing how pandanus are germinated on Lady Elliott Island by allowing the seeds to germinate on open ground before potting. That led to a decision to establish an open seedbed at Eurong where the Resort grey-water is dispersed.

It takes a long time for pandanus to germinate but by this working bee more than 50 pandanus seedlings were ready to pot up to be more advances for planting out. In between attending the Plant Give-away Gray and Ross not only potted up pandanus but also Tuckeroo and fig wildings. There are now almost 100 pots that are being irrigated every night that will soon be ready to plant out while other pandanus seeds continue to germinate here without cluttering up the QPWS Nursery.

That evening everyone enjoyed a happy interactive barbeque at *Talinga* on a very cool night. Gray cooked the sausages (although not quite burnt enough for Greg's taste), the women led by Su

prepared the salads and Tricia produced great Apple Crumble. We invited Resort staff John Dolfin and the new Assistant Manager Nitin Menon as well as David and Marion Anderson as guests. It was a great evening.

Greg was a busy handyman for the day. He constructed a new shelf outside the shed, fixed the shed gate, assembled the new backpack, water barrel, and delivered plant and backpack sprays for Su, outside the dingo fence. His fascination with Fraser Island Bunnings involved timber retrieval from the tip and lantana area and delivering 10 bags of weeds to the tip.

The afternoon outing was to Dilli Village and southern lakes.

## Hours Worked

General all day working around Eurong including	
Pant Give-Away: 8 x 8	64
Nursery: 3 x 8	24
Bampi: 1 x 8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>



## Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> July

It was yet another glorious day. There wasn't a white-cap to be seen on the sea that was so calm that there was just a thin single line of waves breaking on the beach. This is about as much of the world outside of *Talinga* that the Fearless Leader observed. As a result the diary for the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday is a bit blurred based on what he registered from what he was told.

Su, Kristina, Kelli and Robin worked around the Roundabout and at the adjacent start of the Great Walk. They removed Coral Creeper, Brazilian nightshade and Corky passion vine as well as Cobbler's pegs and green panic.

Between other chores, Ross and Gray extended the area being purged of weeds outside the dingo fence.



Ronnie & Trish meanwhile were busy working on their self-appointed task assumed over the years of weeding the Demonstration gardens at the back of the resort that they had helped to initially establish. The gardens were left looking very healthy with native plants growing well.

Up at the nursery Handyman Len was busy repairing the tunnel leaking and defective plumbing while Suzanne potted up 73 plant collected at the Harold Charles Barracks. All of that was to the sound of Petalostigma seeds popping in the sun. These were seed collected months ago and require bright sunlight to dehisc.

Su sprayed 20 litres of glyphosate between Talinga to the toilet block and along the dingo fence aiming at seedlings and particularly Brazilian nightshade that was thick.



Back at the shed Greg created a much-appreciated shelf on the outside of the shed to assist in filling drums and dispensing their contents. He also cleaned out all the fittings of the spray bottles, between delivering 12 bags weeds to the tip and backpack and water for new plants to the area north of the dingo fence where there has been much activity. Trip to lake Mackenzie for arvo tea and swimming and walking.

### Naming areas north of the Dingo Fence.

These areas are assuming more importance in FIDO's bush regeneration program and deserve identifying names that are now bestowed for ease of defining the sites with Butchulla names.

In the section closer to the road into Eurong a number of Brush box have become established taking advantage of the grey water irrigation. This section that also includes a lot of Cypress will be referred to by FIDO in future as **Dhinkar** (Brush Box).

The area to the east where the old dump had been and the domestic water tanks for Easton Street houses exist will be known as **Yabban** (meaning East). This area was badly infested with lantana and weeds but has few Cypress and larger trees.

Over three days as the volunteers worked their way deeper into the *Yabban* area they discovered a very healthy orange tree loaded with fruit that was harvested and distributed as widely as possible. They also discovered a Cabbage Palm (*Livastonia australis*) that we hope that we can source seeds for the nursery from. There have already been unexpected bonuses from the work done in clearing the Yabban Area

### Hours Worked

Various chores in Eurong: 12 x 4.5	54
Bampi: 1 x 3	3
Total	57

### Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> July

Robin, Kelli and Su went to work in the area in front of Second Valley. The Fearless Leader almost distracted them from their objective when he spied some coral creeper out of place at Problem Corner. However they quickly disposed of that and set to work outside Drop Bears Base Camp. They found seed of *Hibbertia scandens* that they collected for the Nursery and set to work on Coral Creeper, stuffing equivalent of a couple of trailer-loads into trees to dry out. They also dealt with Brazilian nightshade, Painted Spurge, three sisals and a small patch of Mother of Millions that they are quietly confident of having eliminated. They also noted half a dozen juvenile coconuts outside the fence to be removed next time as well as a number just establishing in the area.



Robin and Kristina also weeded soft weeds in front of Talinga — Glossy nightshade Thickheads and lots of Cobbler's Pegs.

In the afternoon while most walked to Wabby Lakes Su sprayed 10 litres along the edge of the

road between the Dingo Grid (west) and the tennis court.

Meanwhile Greg delivered more water and spray pack to dingo fence for Su and delivered 12 bags weeds to the tip. He joined Gray and Ross on the road out west of the dingo fence for the rest of the morning for a big lantana and weed clean up.

Greg forewent the Wabby Lakes outing to continue cleaning up after a week of most productive work. After dropping all off the group to walk from the beach to Wabby Lakes he came back for household rubbish and more weeds to the tip. Cleaned up backpacks and tidied the shed. He picked all up at Wabby Lakes exit at 4.00 pm.

## Hours Worked

General work around Eurong: 9 x 5	45
Nursery: 3 x 5	16
Bampi: 1 x 3	3
Total	64

## Saturday, 21<sup>s</sup> July

There was no work but just a well-coordinated effort to load up and clean up the houses and be at Kingfisher Resort in time for the 9.30 ferry. Despite much oncoming traffic the deadline was comfortably met and we all returned to our respective domiciles.

It was such a happy, productive and rewarding week for twelve of the 13 in the group. All but two of the group were on the second or more bush regen trip with FIDO. Four were from interstate and one was from Germany. The only sour note

resulted from the Resort's destruction of the four-year-old Fraser Island Creeper just prior to its beautiful flowering this this coming Spring.



The Great Give-away



Happy Hour at Weerona

