

## Weed Busters' Diary

### Eurong Bush Regeneration Program

### 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

#### *A Fraser Island Defenders Organisation volunteers program*

During a week that combined recreation and hard work the group contributed over 200 hours of on-ground work as described below including over 50 hours of work at the QPWS nursery.

Four critical collaborations that improve the productivity of the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation' Bush Regeneration program in Eurong. The major support comes through funding by the Burnett Mary Regional Group's "Keeping it Great" program from the National Landcare Programme.



The working Bee was sponsored by Eurong Resort whose contribution was to supply outstanding Bistro meals to the FIDO volunteers each night. It is a very significant and generous contribution and recognition also of the work FIDO has done in progressively transforming the natural integrity to the Eurong landscape.

*This Diary is recorded in two parts. Part One is covering the general Bush Regeneration in and around the Eurong village recorded by Greg (Banjo) Orr. Part 2 is recorded by Suzanne Wilson who was unable to be present for the first four days and covers mainly her work in the Nursery*

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Wet! Wet.! Wet and Windy

After a long day of travel for most we arrived to heavy rain , said our hellos and decided that Happy Hour was a good idea.

We discussed tomorrow's activities and teams had a good meal and for all an early night except for Mike, Nick and Maree who went to the bar to watch Australia defeat New Zealand in the Rugby

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Fine weather. 6.30 am start

Maree took the girls and Bruce weeding along the dingo fence ppre smoko and then afterwards to Singapore Alley. 2 bags of weeds — coral creeper asparagus, lantana and Milie -a-minute creeper. Mike, Nick and Greg cleared out all of the shed and started erecting shelves and hangers for tools. Nick fixed the lighting problem and sharpened some tools (Shovels and brush-hooks.

The afternoon drive was to Eli Creek while Nick and Maree returned to Tin Can Bay . It was Robyn's first trip to the island and she was thrilled to see several sea eagles and dingoes at close quarters along the way.

Happy Hour at 5.30 then off to the resort for dinner. # bags of weeds for the dump.

**Hours worked** (6 x 4.5) = 27

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

7.00 am start. Penny, Bruce and Robyn took smoko with them to Singapore Alley and started in the gully and worked their way northwards to Problem Corner, weeding out Coral Creeper, Corky Passion vine, Mile-a-minute, prickly-pear, asparagus fern, Brazilian nightshade, Easter cassia and Singapore Daisy. Cut and paste on Corky Passion and Mile-minute. 3 bags sent to the dump.

Greg and Mike attacked the Men's shed to continue the shelving exercise, removed rotting timber from the floor and in the alcove at the back right hand corner continued sorting and placing items in groups. They visited Bunnings (K'gari) and found the ideal potting table for Seedy Sue. They also took all of the rotting plastic and chairs to the dump. These were the perfect nest site for several large rats. This exercise will continue tomorrow.

After lunch we all went to Central Station for afternoon tea and a walk along Wanggoolba Creek . There was a shower late in the afternoon but it promises to be better tomorrow.

**Hours worked** (6 x 5) = 30

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

6.30 am start

Penny Robyn, Chris and Bruce did all of the gardens in the Eurong Resort weeding and trimming filling 7 bags of weeds.

Mike and Greg continued the shelving in the shed and sorting the boxes and miscellaneous tools etc.

The Afternoon outing was Thursday Island Lake McKenzie (Boorangoora) where the group indulged in swimming and walking the beach. They then drove across to Wabby Lakes Lookout from where Robyn, Penny, Chris and Bruce walked from there to the lake and on to the beach, where Mike and Greg collected them. Mike set up a Go-Pro on the front of Tahka for some great track and beach shots. It was beautiful weather but it rained (conveniently) overnight.

**Hours worked (6 x 5) = 30**

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

6.30 start. Fine weather

Greg and Mike removed all rubbish from the shed to the tip and updated the the Notice Board. They took the bath and table to the nursery and completed a general tidy up in the immediate area.

Seed Sue arrived around 10.00am so took her up to the nursery and built a platform for the bath and placed her new potting table under the shade cloth.

Penny, Chris, Robin and Bruce continued in Singapore Alley removing lantana , 8 sisal, 10 clivea coral creeper, Gloriosa lily , corky passion vine prickly pear mile-a-minute, mother of millions and asparagus. A full trailer load of weed was taken to the dump.

Suzanne weeds with others at the nursery after lunch

**Hours worked (6 x 5 ) + 4x3) = 42**

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

Fine weather.

Seedy Sue yook Chris and Robyn with her to the nursery to clean up the pots making many fine remarks by the way of the professional way that the bath and potting table were set up by the A Team of Greg and Mike.

They also planted many seed (see Suzanne's Report) Over 200 seeds were planted in pots

Penny and Bruce continued to work in and around Singapore Alley. Mossman River Grass was found in the middle of the alley through path which was bagged and removed to be disposed of in the bins at Bunnings (K'gari).

Using the FIDO GPS Bruce plotted the area covered by the giant banyan fig at the Children's playground. The area of the canopy was 1,420 m<sup>2</sup>. (almost 1.5ha)

Lantana prickly pear, Coral creeper and Corky Passion Vine from the western dingo grid as requested by Su

The roundabout was also weeded and seeds were spread on it

Greg and Mike remove Gossy Nightshade by hand and sprayed on the northern side of the dingo fence. They then used up the remaining spray on the floors of the nursery to suppress the dreaded flick weed before repairing the door at the top nursery shade-house and set up drainage for the pot cleaning bath.

They then ran the Nature Walk and checked off the signage as listed on Fearless Leader's request sheet before marking out areas for tree planting on the slope from

Problem Corner to the Sewage tanks. Suzanne has Emailed Ben from Nomads to request that these new plantings be watered regularly until established.

The afternoon drive was to Kingfisher Resort while Chris and Bruce stayed behind to veg out.

**Hours worked** 6.30-11.30 (7 x 5) = 30

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Fine weather

Penny did another walk along the dingo fence on a final clean-up then back to Singapore Alley. Suzanne took Chris and Robyn with her to the nursery to wash pots and plant seedlings. Five trays of different species were sown plus cuttings (See Suzanne's Report). Mike, Bruce and Greg then planted out 62 plants along the embankment at the back of "Surfside" between the road and the Nature Walk, Plants included midyim, casuarinas, Dodonea, acacias and ground cover pigface and goats foot convolvus. All suitable for this area. Bruce got rid of three small Brazilian cherries near the Nature walk as well as more Corky Passion Vine near the western entrance Dingo Grid and outside the dingo fence a number of Coral Creeper.

A quiet afternoon was had packing and sorting out food for tomorrow's Butchulla celebration. The trailer is packed and ready for an early morning getaway.

Chris Sinclair and Stuart arrived at 2.30 and Chris got stuck into mowing around Talinga and Weerona straight away.

**Hours worked** (7x 6) + (4x3) = 42



Mike and Greg were justifiably proud of the transition they have made in tidying up the "Shed" which is space made available to FIDO by the Fraser Coast Regional Council to store our accumulations of tools and equipment. This secure storage base is a major contribution and one of the valuable collaborations that increases the productivity of our groups.



**Images of the Tidy Shed and the new Nursery Pot Wash**



The collaboration with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service that allows FIDO to use the Eurong Nursery to propagate the plants needed by residents and FIDO for urban bush regeneration. It is critical to ensuring that no plant propagation material leaves K'gari and that nothing is brought on. Installation of a pot washing facility is just another fundamental quarantine practice.

## From Suzanne's Nursery Report

I believe we covered all of the jobs that were listed for October. And your shed is looking amazing

The bank behind Nomads and adjacent to the Nature walk entrance was planted out with 64 suitable species including groundcovers, shrubs and trees. All are staked and marked with pink tape. I emailed **Ben from nomads** about watering them twice a week.

I also emailed James Kendall from the Discovery Group and thanked him for the lift to Eurong.

I arrived by 10.30 am and Mike and Greg were having Smoko in the bus shelter, so I dropped off my back pack, got changed and headed straight to the nursery.

While Mike and Greg set up the bath tub and potting bench, I checked out the progress of all the plants particularly the seed and cuttings sown in July and September.

The nursery still had the flick weed but definitely not as thick as previously. The interim weeding in September has helped to prevent it setting seed again, and four of us tidied it up after lunch.

Hours (10.45 am – 12 pm) x 3 x 3.75 hrs = 11.25 + (1.00pm – 3.30 pm) 2.5 x 4 = 10 hrs **21.25**

It appears vigilance is the answer

On Thursday and Friday, Robyn and Christine were fabulous workers that pricked out seedlings of 5 different species (some sowed in July, September) and potted them into tubes and pots totalling 240. They also potted on cuttings that had rooted into 13 x 140 mm pots.

We also sowed trays of seed of six species and prepared and potted cuttings of 5 species. I also collected and cleaned seed of 6 species as well as collecting the cuttings mentioned previously.

I replaced some of the cable ties on the shade cloth as they had broken. And also unblocked one of the sprinklers. I also had Greg and Mike remove the inner gate of the shade tunnel as it has completely collapsed and was blocking some of the sprinklers.

Greg also sprayed the nursery floor with glysofate.

The ladies helping, allowed me to move some stock from the top tunnel down to the sunny bottom benches, as well as giving the climbers and groundcovers a haircut.

The ladies also washed a lot of pots at the new pot washing station.

Once again John Dagusch was keen to learn more, but was too busy to help this visit, as the Rangers were helping set up at Central station for the Butchulla celebration. Baz was only sited in the distance!

Both days we started early onsite at the nursery at 6.30am and worked through until 11.30 and midday.

HOURS 6.30 am – 11.30 am x 3 = **15** plus Friday: 6.30 am – 12 pm x 3 = **15.5**

**Mulcher:** There was lots of talk amongst the vollies about the mulch situation. Greg and Mike noticed there was lots of trees at the Eurong dump and commented on how handy it would be to have a mulcher onsite when this was the case. We talked about the fact the council would probably not help as it would be cheaper to burn. Is it worth asking Sue Paul?

We also wondered if Kingfisher could bring their mulcher over when there was enough green waste to mulch? Robyn Preston said she would be happy to contribute to the cost of a mulcher, depending on the outlay.

## Butchulla Celebration Day at Central Station, K'gari

The Butchulla celebration on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October was amazing and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was a day to remember forever. Thank you for ensuring we could attend. I moved around and talked to many attendees. These included Dustyn Curry and family, Aunty Shirley, Gayle Minnicon, Conway Burns, Kathryn Miller, Sue Sargeant, David manager of the Tin Can Bay nursery, Ken Diehm, CEO of Fraser Coast Council and Nai Nai Bird.

I potted up a Banksia, Austromyrtus and Dianella into a large pot and presented it during the ceremony to Nai Nai Bird. I spoke to Gayle Minnicon beforehand and she included this in the celebration. I said it was a thankyou from FIDO for the invitation to the Butchulla determination celebration and to our ongoing friendship and collaboration. It was well received.

This was the last day of our week long Eurong working bee and our group of seven were invited to attend the celebrations.

On arrival every invited guest and Butchulla attendee were cleansed with smoke and water as they entered the ceremonial grounds. We then walked around the pathway which guided us around a beautifully constructed artwork of the Rainbow serpent made by Butchulla artists from coloured sand found on K'gari. Other artworks made from K'gari sand included birds, butterflies and turtles.

MC for the day was Gayle Minniecon, who kept the celebrations moving along nicely.

There was gift giving from the Butchulla people to the various sponsors including QPWS and Kingfisher Bay Resort. I presented a plant gift from FIDO to Elder, Nai Nai Bird, keeper of plant knowledge and explained the gift was to say thank you for the invitation to the determination day celebration and as a symbol of our ongoing friendship and collaboration.



The attendees were then entertained by the Butchulla men, women and children who showcased their culture and connection to country through song and dance. They performed on a stage of shimmering white sand that illuminated the dancers and the surroundings.

Everyone in attendance was then asked to call out to *K'gari*, "*K'gari, K'gari, K'gari.*"

Afterwards food was served and a celebration cake was cut, and the celebration was over. It was then time for us and many others to head home, via the last barge of the day to River Heads.



All in all a wonderful day never to be forgotten.

Thank you and congratulations.

Three Butchulla lores:

1. *What is good for the land comes first.*
2. *Do not touch or take anything that does not belong to you.*
3. *If you have plenty you must share.*

More photos and videos from the day can be found on the Facebook page -Butchulla Country and People

