

Report Interim Eurong Working Bee 15th -19th January 2018

Participants:

Suzanne Wilson and Dale Henwood
Tokiko (Su) Dawson and John Sinclair

Monday, 15th February

The day began in the dark to leave Brisbane in time to catch the 10.30 ferry to Wangoolba Creek. There was little time for anything other than keeping our rendezvous

Once on the island there was a pause at Central station to explore for Piccabeen seeds seedlings, (without success). We had more significant success in dealing with a few emergent Clivia lilies. Our biggest concern was seeing the spread of the Gloriosa lilies around a relic avocado tree. We removed quite a few Corky Passion vines but decided the return to Central Station in February to focus on these weeds — Corky Passion and Gloriosa lilies. These are items for special attention in February 2018.



Gloriosa lilies at Central Station

We reported to Linda Behrendorff and Sarah Mahoney and discussed collaborative work in Central Station with Sarah Mahoney who has been assigned to assist with the nursery clean-up and our need for some Picabeen seeds/seedling (up to 25) She has worked on weeds in local government on Sunshine Coast and will assist with collection of appropriate plants for Happy Valley and Eurong to grow in the nursery. Her name is to be added to distribution list for FIDO weed reports. We arranged to meet Linda on Thursday for plant lists and processes for updating data recording.

We also Scott Butterworth assist RIC currently 2IC

Matt Palmer is soon to take over from John Dargush who is acting RIC

Also met Simon a Eurong Ranger whose German girlfriend is studying Natural World Heritage. She arrives on the 5th March (just after FIDO's working Bee) and who will be here for May a d August at Happy Valley and July at Eurong. Find name

Met Smiley Burns a QPWS working with Mark Page a Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation Community Ranger.

At Resort Reception discussed the program with Greg Hilton who confirmed the generous support for FIDO's efforts. There is a new Maintenance Manager for the Resort, John Dolfin. He returns from leave on Wednesday. We need to urgently discuss the weeding and landscaping program with him

Inspection

Demo gardens trashed though ignorant weeding by people who had no understanding of what native gardens are about nor an understanding for the need to protect and project the natural integrity on this World Heritage site.

The work done by Greg and Mike in October has made the tool-equipment shed at Eurong so much more functional. It is great to be able to access tools in seconds.

The irrigation grey water zone wasn't as bad as expected. The water is now being sprayed only after 6.00pm and not during the day,



The nursery continues to grow and flourish but there is a continuing problem with the invasive Flick Weed

Tuesday 16th January

The day started with a light sprinkle of rain but that soon evaporated. Prior to going to the nursery Dale assisted in organising Su's day by getting the chemicals into more manageable sized containers.

At the nursery there was lots happening with Ross Belcher and members of the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation conferring over cultural heritage in site

Suzanne busy doing a lot of weeding in the nursery while Dale removed an old table and created a new one removing the old table and some rubbish from San Antonio to the dump. Suzanne also collected a lot of seed during the day.

After lunch F.L Suzanne and Dale made a trip to Happy Valley to refurbish the sign shelter. On the way they removed one Broadleafed Pepperina but another was too big to remove without chemical that they didn't have so it was clearly marked for Peter's team to follow up in two weeks time and they went on to Happy Valley.



The Happy Valley sign shelter before (above) and after (below) More work is needed.



After refurbishing the sign shelter and an ice-cream they returned to Eurong. On the way they dispensed four stray coconut palms growing in a cluster. One,

the parent, was very mature but with diligence and application, it was dealt with and poses no more weed problems.



The coconut's last stand brought down by a 10 inch battery operated chain saw.

Su spent the whole day working to eliminate as much Pangola Grass as she could from opposite Weerona and opposite San Antonio. During the day she pumped out about 40 litres of glyphosate.

Fearless Leader went on an inspection and evaluation of the area from the Roundabout to Problem Corner and identified few problems:

- rubbish (a small amount) being tossed into the bush
- The gardens being trashed by gardener removing species that had been plants and butchering all of the shrubs



Problem Corner continues to be less of a problem.

Wednesday 17th January

Today was a total write off the Fearless Leader who was barely conscious for four hours and running a fever. During one of his brief episode of wakefulness he felt some ticking of his bare toes beneath the table. The cause soon became apparent when George, the large resident goanna showed himself. Whatever George detected with his long forked tongue remains a mystery.

Elsewhere the Weeding Ninja was progressively and meticulously working along the dingo fence discovering a new plant a prostate phorb, *Einadia hastata*, another new species for the island.

Work program for February -March:

1. Manually weed coral creeper outside dingo fence
2. Spend half a day at Central Station on Corky Passion and Gloriosa lily.
3. New Perspect for shelter and paint background.
4. Glyphosate Green panic from Sewage tanks to Nature Walk
5. Manually weed the area from Nature Walk stairs to the dingo fence including the island and just through the dingo fence. Target species include fishbone fern, green panic, siratro and coral creeper;
6. Undertake a replanting program in the reception and Tradewinds

Jobs to prepare for February-March Program

1. Buy new perspex for Happy Valley
2. Buy new 10 litre containers for easier handling of mixed chemicals
3. Buy a large funnel for dispensing from drum to drum
4. Ensure the gate at Problem Corner is unlocked;

The Butterfly Incident

Driving through the rainforest between Central Station and Eurong is always an uplifting experience but our drive on 15 February was more stimulating than usual. A n almost iridescent turquoise blue triangle butterfly took a liking to the blue tip of the aerial on our bulbar. As first we thought that it had been caught on a cobweb. Then we realized that it was flying free but absolutely obsessed with this quivering blue bit of plastic and the movement created by the vehicle's motion. Once we observed this beautiful creature and Torres Strait attraction to this bead we slowed down to better observe it. For close to a kilometre its obsession with the swaying blue mesmerized the butterfly as it played with the object of its attention like a kitten with a ball of wool. It flew up almost to caress it and then retreated. All of this was occurring a metre in front of our eyes. It was just another of those unexpected pieces of magic that makes K'gari so exciting



Christmas Orchids at Central Station