



Fraser Island Defenders Organisation

FIDO — The Watchdog of Fraser Island

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Aim: *To ensure the wisest use of the natural resources of Fraser Island*

Fraser Island Weed Replacement Project

Weeding Trip 03rd -09th Feb 2012

led by M.Lowe

Day 1

We departed Brisbane around 9:15am after picking up Helen Sutherland in Toowong and Ann and Barry Ingham at Greenslopes. A brief stop was made at the Caltex Service Station and then morning tea at Forest Glen at 11:10am. A stop was made at Gympie at 12:10pm and Goomboorian at 12:40pm. We arrived in Tin Can Bay at 1:00pm and enjoyed lunch with Lu and Wendy Lowe, picking up Gail Bartholomew and the remainder of our food supplies and repacking the trailer. Departure from Tin Can was made around 3:45pm and we arrived at Rainbow Beach at 4:15pm. After deflating the tyres at Inskip Point, we boarded the barge at 4:50pm arriving on Fraser Island at 5:10pm. With the tide receding, the journey was made around Hook Point and direct to Eurong along the eastern beach arriving at 5:40pm. At 5:50pm we were joined by Miles Pritchett and Skye Matthaai and Peter Woldseth and Sandra Smith who arrived on the River Heads ferry to Wanggoolba Creek on the Island's west. A simple yet delicious spaghetti bolognese with garlic bread prepared by Gail and Miles was enjoyed after a long day's travel.

Day 2

We began our week by doing an inventory of tools and equipment stored under

Council's toilet block at 7:00am. All pieces were marked with **FIDO**, counted and recorded. We then undertook an OH&S induction before making a start in Easton Street Reserve opposite Talinga. By smoko at 9:30am, we had worked past the large open patch where rubbish waste was originally removed on one of FIDO's previous weeding trips. Following smoko, the team continued to work westward along the dingo fence, ending at lunchtime at 12:00pm beyond the entrance to the toilet block and FIDO picnic table. The usual weeds were present including Corky Passion Vine, Siratro, Brazilian Nightshade, Woolly Fleabane, Cobbler's Pegs, Mossman River Grass, Pangola Grass, Couch Grass and Portulaca weed, but in far lower numbers than previously encountered. Seeds were bagged, taken to the tip and placed in the general refuse bins to be removed from the Island.

Coral Creepers numbers seem to be down although numerous seedlings are still scattered throughout the site from the beginning of the toilet block fence on Easton Street onwards. Many queries were raised about the identification of a number of native species including Tape Vine (*Stephania japonica*), Native Wandering Jew (*Commelina diffusa*), a native fern, Native Jasmine (*Pandorea jasminoides*), Foambark Tree (*Jagera pseudophrys*), Crinum Lily (*Crinum pendunculatum*), Midyim (*Austromyrtus*

dulcis), Coast Canthium (*Cyclosporum coprosmoides*), Coastal Cypress Pine (*Callitris collumelaris*), Scrambling Lily (*Geitonoplesium cymosum*) and Blue Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea*).

Following lunch, work resumed at 3:30pm until just after 5:00 when the crowd began to disperse. Work was done around the remnant trees at the corner of Easton Street and on the lawns and gardens in front of the last house on the street. The major focus was on Mossman River Grass, Crow's Foot Grass (*Elusine* sp.), Khaki Burr (*Alternanthera* sp.), Guinea Grass, Portulaca and another as yet unknown pasture weed species.

A walk late in the afternoon revealed that previous spraying of Coral Creeper had not been as successful as expected, while Purple Splash (*Alternanthera dentata*) was successfully removed. An investigation of the un-mown grounds in front of the Resort revealed several relic garden species still persisting including a red hibiscus and a lily, as well as an abundance of Coastal Morning Glory growing from the swampy areas up to the mow line. Previous investigation of the extent of Morning Glory shows it stretches south to at least the entrance of Second Valley.

Dinner was served with baked Snapper, boiled vegies and scallops in milk curry and cherry cake and ice-cream for dessert.

Seed collected: *Hibbertia scandens*, *Melaleuca quinquenervia* and *Banksia integrifolia* var. *integrifolia*.

Total hours worked: $6.5 \times 9 = 58.5$ hrs

Day 3

Day began at 7:00am with Miles, Skye, Peter and Sandra (Team 2) attending to the demonstration gardens at the

roundabout and behind the tennis courts. Ann, Barry, Helen, Gail and Michael (Team 1) went to work outside the dingo fence on the northern side focusing on Pangola Grass, Khaki Burr, Corky Passion Vine, Siratro, Woolly Fleabane, Brazilian Nightshade, Mossman River Grass and then Coral Creeper, which has extended its range northwards by up to about 5m since October 2012. By about 45 minutes before lunch the two teams met up and began weeding inside the dingo fence from the cattle grid and heading east. One non-fruiting Brazilian Cherry was noted outside the dingo fence to the north below the water tanks.

After lunch teams took an afternoon break - Team 1 to Lake Birrabreen and Team 2 to Lake Alom. Upon return members of Team 1 went to work on the remnant at the end of Easton Street and then onto the vegetated area by the FIDO picnic shelter. For dinner we had roast lamb and vegetables.

Seed collected: *Callitris columellaris*, *Alphitonia excelsa*, *Entolasia stricta* and *Paspalidium distans*.

Total hours worked $(5 \times 9) + (1 \times 5) = 50$ hrs
Seed cleaning: 4hrs

Day 4

With a planned day off, Team 1 drove to Pile Valley and walked through to Central Station. Michael drove around to meet the walking party for morning tea. This was followed by a leisurely drive to Lake McKenzie for a swim and lunch. After filling our tanks, it was a steady drive back to base for further R & R.

Meanwhile, Team 2 continued working in Second Valley removing garden waste from Council road reserve. 6 trailer loads were taken to the tip. They also removed

weeds from the garden beds near the resort laundry. In the afternoon they took a quick trip to Lake Wabby.

For dinner Gail cooked Thai curry chicken with rice and baked apples and ice cream for dessert.

Seeds collected: *Cordyline rubra*,
Eleaocarpus obovatus, *Xanthorrhoea macronema*, *Dianella congesta*.

Hours worked: (4x5) = 20hrs
Seed cleaning = 3hrs

Day 5

Team 1 began on Coral Creeper about opposite the tennis court car park while Team 2 went to Second Valley and removed another 4 trailer loads of garden waste including old tyres and washing machine tubs. Some hand weeding was done to remove Corky Passion Vine, Fishbone Fern, Mothor-o-millions, Madeira Vine, Giant Panic Grass, Arrowhead Vine and Stagger Weed.

At 10:30am we paid a visit to the QPWS nursery at Eurong with new FINIA liaison ranger, Ian Webb. Progress is looking good although we were unable to do any work as our volunteer applications could not be processed in time.

By 11:30am we had returned to our general duties. Team 2 returned to Second Valley to remove a 'Rubber Tree' identified by Peter on Wednesday while Team 1 kept on with coral creeper heading westward away from the toilet block until lunch at 12:30pm. By late afternoon (4:00pm), Team 1 had returned to removing Coral Creeper while Team 2 took the afternoon off. It was noted that grass clippings from the Resort are still being dumped in bush land opposite the tennis courts and by the drain. Coral Creeper was also not growing

in the garden under palms at the deep end of the resort swimming pool.

For dinner we ate Tacos and Burritos.

Hours worked: (5.5x9) + (1.5x5) = 56hrs
Seed cleaning: 1hr

Day 6

Team 2 began the day in Second Valley removing one of the last fruiting Brazilian Cherries on Council's road reserve. A quick talk with the local mechanic also cleared the way for another fruiting Cherry to be removed from one of the local properties on Williams Street. 3 other smaller Cherries were removed from road reserve closer to the Fire Brigade shed that were not fruiting. On the return trip from the dump, 3 more non-fruiting Cherry trees growing by the roadside beneath a large fig tree were removed (GPS location noted).

Meanwhile Team 1 continued work on Coral Creeper opposite the tennis courts. In the drainage channel, many weeds were removed including Mossman River Grass, Pangola Grass, Mulumbimby Couch, Lawn Couch and Parxelis. These weeds are most likely washing down the drain from above the tennis courts and into the bush. Team 1 were later joined by team 2 as they removed a rubbish pile from under the pine trees diagonally opposite the resort office, and then transferred the ever-growing piles of Coral Creeper being removed to the rubbish skips at the tip. They were not added to the green waste pile.

At 12:30pm, both teams retired for lunch and enjoyed an afternoon of free pursuits. Michael took Gail, Helen and Barry to Lake Wabby, walking in on the main track and returning through the old track via the sandblow while Barry made his way back

on the main track and along the beach almost to Eurong before being picked up by the vehicle. Sadly along the track in to Lake Wabby there is a lot of Lantana and Moth Vine (*Araujia hortorum*). A rarely seen fruiting *Macrozamia* was also found on the old Lake Wabby track on the way back to the vehicle.

For dinner Gail made Shepherd's Pie and a Quiche.

Seed collected: *Geitonoplesium cymosum*

Hours worked: $(5.5 \times 9) + (2) = 51.5\text{hrs}$

Seed cleaning: 1hr

Day 7

7am saw Miles, Skye, Peter and Sandra depart Eurong to rendezvous with the 9am ferry from Wanggoolba Creek to River Heads. The rest of the team members remained in Eurong to await the falling tide before delivering seeds collected to the NPWS nursery and taking to the beach at 11am. Before departing however there was a chance to remove a few more weeds around Talinga and a clump of *Setaria* grass and *Panic* grass at the township entrance. The GPS location was recorded for the Brazilian Cherry north of the dingo fence beyond the water tanks and old dump site.

A quick stop was made around Hook Point to observe and photograph a teaming flock of shorebirds which always seems to be resting in that area. We then moved around to meet the ferry and were quickly shuttled back to Inskip Point. By 1pm we had arrived in Rainbow Beach and took Supe and the trailer in to be washed down before stopping at Seary's Creek for lunch and some photography. We then hit the road at 2:30pm, dropping Gail off at Tin Can Bay and then direct to Brisbane arriving at Ann and Barry's place by

6:30pm. Helen was the last volunteer to arrive home at 7pm.

Seeds collected: *Hibiscus heterophyllus*

Hours worked: 2hrs