

# Bush Regeneration Diary

## Eurong

21 to 27 October, 2018



The FIDO Weedbusters team at Pile Valley

### Summary

- The group of 10 volunteers contributed **239.5 volunteer** hours of work in the Eurong precinct and Central Station where follow up work was carried out to eliminate Clivea and Gloriosa lillies .
- The group carried out maintenance of the nursery, collected much new propagation material, sowed more seeds in readiness for upcoming programs including planting Cypress to screen off the Deer Farm, planted out many seedlings and potted up more plants from tubes, cleaned pots and expanded the capacity of the nursery.
- The team relocated plants in the Pandanus nursery from the northern side of Easton Street to the southern side to take advantage of the Resort's amended grey water irrigation regime.
- 60 plants from the nursery were planted out around the village as part of the bush regeneration program and other plants distributed to private Eurong landholders.
- The group had a major achievement in the lantana attack south of Eurong freeing up many native plants and eliminating three (3) Cocos Palms and breaking through the former wall.
- Carried out extensive manual weeding particularly in the vicinity of Problem Corner to Singapore Alley (Areas M, O, P) to eliminate Coral Creeper, Singapore Daisy, mother of Millions, Sisal lantana and Basket Asparagus.
- Manually weeded the Coral Creeper and lantana outside the northern dingo fence.
- Sprayed glyphosate on the flush new growth of Green Panic fringing the south of the resort and in Easton street precinct
- Tidied up the Nature Walk and reinstating one deliberately removed barricade

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October Brisbane to Eurong

The trip to Eurong wasn't arduous. We had a morning tea break at Yandina and arrived at Gympie at 11.45 with the Pomona group not far behind. The earlier lunch allowed us time to do a couple of walks in Maryborough to get a quick appreciation of the Heritage precinct and later the John Street Precinct of Heritage houses.



One of Maryborough's grander Heritage houses

We were on time at Mary River Heads but the crowds heading for Kingfisher Resort to glimpse the Royals took the Kingfisher ferry longer than usual. It was a very smooth ride across to Eurong.

We quickly settled in and had the safari tent up for Paul and Ken and even a time for Happy Hour and Orientation briefing before heading for the Resort for dinner at 7.00 pm. It was just commencing to lightly rain and lightning from the approaching storm. After dinner the storm kept rumbling and grumbling but despite the noise and lightning delivered only 5.4 mm of rain. Paul and Ken in the tent slept dry all night oblivious of the thunder that shattered the Fearless Leader's sleep.

## Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

### Work at Eurong and the Royal Visit

The Fearless Leader's Royal visit experience is described separately so this just describes the work undertaken at Eurong which was formidable.

**Nursery:** Suzanne with Michelle and Peta went to the nursery which wasn't in such good shape on their arrival. They used hose clamps to hold up the watering system and temporarily repaired the shade-cloth with cable ties also replacing a sprinkler which had snapped off.. They then set about potting up plants into larger pots. They dealt with the ever-recurring chick weed problem that wasn't as bad as usual. They also fertilized plants and capped off a very busy and productive morning by selecting 60 plants to go to Eurong to be planted out on the morrow. David and

Marion Anderson also visited the Nursery and collected 28 plants to be delivered to the Beach Houses to replace Coral Creeper that they had begun cultivating there. The team then potted up seed sowed previously of *Stephania japonica* (49 plants) and *Alyxia ruscifolia* (17 plants) we also potted on tube stock to 140mm pots of *Dodonea triquetra*.(12)

Meanwhile the other six split into three groups. Ken, Paul and Angie went to work clearing the Nature Walk and dealing with weeds they encountered in the process. They cleared a large patch of Cradle of Moses on the Residential Valley side

Peter and Judy went to work in Problem Corner. (Area M) They had big challenges. They found and dealt with a groundsel bush and a well-advanced Sisal as well as lantana. They also dealt with rogue Clivea Lilies and three enormous Siratro that were over-running the vegetation. It was a busy morning of heavy work

Su meanwhile was working in the area between the Nature Walk and Problem Corner. (Area M) dealing with Green Panic, fishbone fern and Purple Splash.

After lunch, Suzanne, Su and Peter did a Dump Run to get rid of the bags of weeds that had been collected and bagged.

While four walked to Wabby Lakes and others rested the indefatigable Su returned to the Nature Walk to deal with the other end near the Rastus Seat and on the downhill side towards the Generator shed. (Area L). Here she found plenty of weeds. The Green Panic she sprayed but she manually weeded stinky passion vine, lots of Coral Creeper and Cradle in Moses. In the process she came across a number of small Easter Cassia and lantana that were despatched.

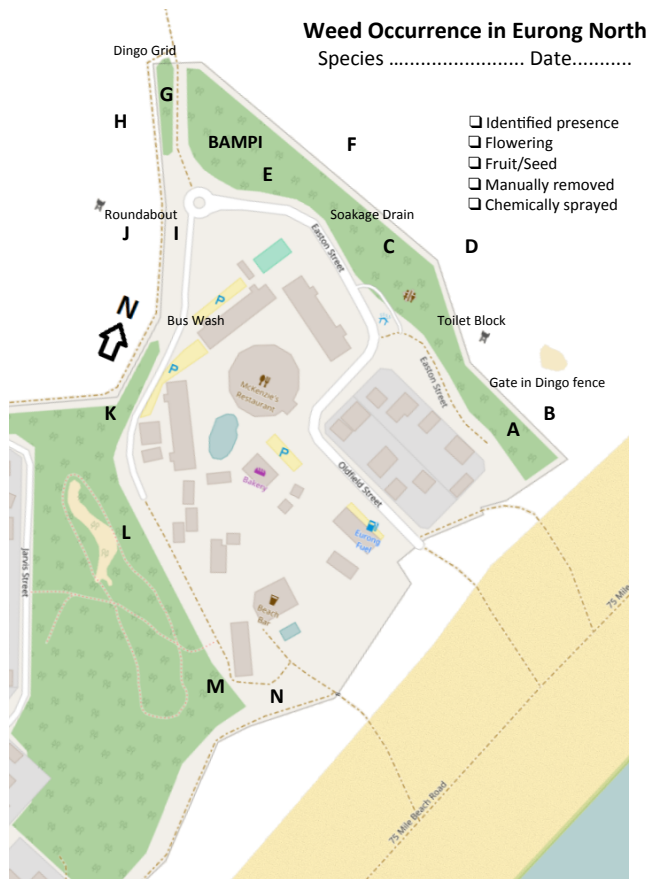
### Hours worked

Morning 4.5x 9 (7.30 to 12.00)	41.5
plus dump run 2 hour and Su 3 hour	5.0
	46.5



Delivering 60 plants from Eurong nursery to be used in FIDO's bush regeneration





### Maps of Eurong defining work zones

FIDO has mapped Eurong with the intention of identifying where each major weed species occurs and is dealt with. This has allowed the tracking showing the contraction of weed infestations over time.



**Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

### Work at Eurong and Southern Lakes

This was a day for planting out 60 plants selected from the nursery for bush-regeneration. This work was described by some of the volunteers.

*"We worked around the resort working, weeding and mulching. Peta and I (Michelle) weeded lots of couch grass and coral creeper. We planted Crinum lillies and Ricinocarpus. We collected mulch from across the road and mulched the Dianella, Vigna beach bean and Elaeocarpus reticulatus."*

*"We (Peter, Judy and Angie) planted areas around and near the Roundabout in Eurong. This involved digging holes, watering, planting and watering in. We also removed coconuts."*



Paul and Ken fixed the fallen shade cloth at the Nursery.

**Nursery:** Ken and Paul worked at the nursery with Suzanne. They repaired the fallen shade cloth, potted on tube stock and cuttings into 140 mm pots. The team was temporarily cut off while the main access track was being worked on and they were forced to use a seep track to the Ranger Station to get out to return home. Seed collection and cuttings collection continued in the afternoon.

#### Tuesday – Paul and Ken

- Repaired shade cloth.
- Potted on tube stock to 140mm pots.
- Also, cutting into 140mm pots.

Track closed used a seep track to Ranger Station to return to Eurong.

The afternoon tour started with a visit to Dilli Village where Paul recalled staying years ago and a swim. It was then off to Lake Boomanjin to appreciate the aesthetic delights of Boomanjin's western shores before proceeding on to Lake Birrabreen where swimming wasn't the order of the day

Meanwhile back at Eurong Su was busy dealing with the vigorous regrowth of Green Panic especially along areas K, L, and M before the seed matured. It was heavy work but she derives great satisfaction from her sense of achievement in conquering weeds.



These ever-changing chaotic patterns occur on Boomanjin shores

#### Hours worked

Morning 4.5x 9 (7.30 to 12.00)	41.5
Additional Work by Su and Fearless Leader	6
Total	47.5

### Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October Work at Eurong and the Beach North

It was another clear windless morning. For the third straight day there were no white top waves to be seen beyond the surf zone but it was hot.

**The Lantana Attack:** Six of the team engaged in an assault on the Lantana south of Eurong on the site of a former illegal dump. It was the second FIDO Lantana attack in the area this year and the Fearless Leader pointed out a Cocos Palm waving its fronds above the wall of surrounding Lantana. Fearless Leader said that it was his objective that the group should reach and eliminate that Cocos Palm. That later led to a clearer understanding of just how Cocos palms were spread, usually within spitting distance of where they had eaten the seed.

These are first hand accounts of how the work went:

**Paul:** *Our team of novices bravely faced off with the enemy – what seemed a solid wall of Lantana. In no time at all we had the measure of the enemy – divide and conquer was our winning strategy. We worked in teams of two cutting out patches of Lantana leaving the remaining isolated stands vulnerable to the onslaught of follow up teams. We retired hot, scratched but victorious.*

**Peta:** *With an array of tools and techniques we parted the wall in groups of two, our target being the Cocos Palm surrounded by a sea of barbed Lantana. Towards the end of the four hour fray we cut down our target, painting it with chemicals to make sure it does not regrow to seed further into the world heritage forest. While, in the vicinity, we destroyed two more palms and freed a*

*valiant banksia, a few small wattles and paid our respects to the Austromyrtus dulcis, Alphitonia and native scrambling vines that persisted valiantly despite being in the depths of the enemy stronghold. Our final assault to the enemy was to connect our cleared paths to a stand of Banksia integrifolia which were single-handedly were retaining an island of weed free tranquility – soft grasses, Dianella, Polyscias and extensive burrows in the sand. It was a privilege to widen the buffer between the Banksia and the battlefront.*

**Angie :** *We were dropped off about 800m south of Eurong on a road bordered by a wall of lantana stretching as far as we could see. We each took a lopper and got to work. The heat was fierce and we ran out of water but John kindly dropped off 5 liter of water at morning tea. The goal was to reach to a Cocos palms about 40 meters inland. By morning tea, we were close. John explained that the lantana had grown up on the site of a former dump since the end of the 1980s.*

ケン

滴る汗 掘るべき根には なお遠し  
フレイザ島（しま）に 繁るランタナ

**Nursery:** Judy and Peter and Suzanne started the morning near Talinga with taking cuttings of *Carpobrutus*, *Dianella* and *Scaveola* before heading to the Anderson's garden in the Residential Valley. They have offered the opportunity of taking cutting from their *Techomanthe* and *Pultenaea* sp.

We also checked the area for other seed and collected seed from *Acacia leiocalyx* subsp. *leiocalyx*. Back at nursery there was a lesson in preparing and striking cuttings including *Ricinocarpus* and *Phebalium*.

**Consultations:** While the bulk of the party were engaged in the Lantana attack that far exceeded the Fearless Leader's expectations for productivity and achievement given such a hot and humid day, F.L. himself went on a couple of missions. At the Resort he saw John Dolfin about setting up a meeting for Friday. This was to ensure that there can be more mutuality between the resort and the FIDO teams on the development of the gardens around the resort and other matters under resort jurisdiction. His next visit was to the nursery to rendezvous with Suzanne and where he discovered the mutilated forest just outside the Nursery including many brutalized and previously most attractive Quinine trees.

There was a meeting then with acting RIC Fraser Island South, John Green, about a few issues in the nursery. Then between delivering supplies to the Lantana attack team there was little time for writing up diaries and other office tasks.

After lunch Su dispensed another 30 litres of glyphosate dealing with Green Panic in the area between the Nature Walk and the resort. There has been vigorous regrowth and the foliage was flush and receptive to absorb the chemical. Spraying condition



**The afternoon excursion** started a little later to allow for recover from the morning's excursions. It headed north along the beach non-stop until reaching the pinnacles. Then it was a slow return with a pause to dip in Eli Creek amongst the hordes including two bus-loads.

<b>Hours worked</b>	
Morning 4.5x 9 (7.30 to 12.00)	41.5
<u>Additional Work by Su and Fearless Leader</u>	<u>6</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>47.5</b>

## Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> October

### Work at Eurong and Wangoolba Creek

The weeders had a busy schedule working from Problem Corner, around FIDO's Management track and back to Singapore Alley dealing with a multiplicity of weeds. Ken and Paul removed a nest of sisal plants, several lantana and basket asparagus and a few Easter Cassia as they worked around the swamp below FIDO's lookout seat. **Area O**

Meanwhile the rest of the team were focussed on manually weeding for Coral Creeper, Mother of Millions, Basket Asparagus and Singapore Daisy. More work remains to be done but significant inroads have been made. **Areas Y & R**

**Excursion:** The weed busting continued after lunch as part of the afternoon excursion. Previous teams have worked to eliminate Clivea and Gloriosa lilies at Central Station. This needs constant vigilant follow up and the vigilance was well rewarded.

The team then walked along the enchanting but silent Wangoolba Creek to Pile Valley where a group photo was taken where only a few days earlier Prince Harry had unveiled a plaque recognizing K'gari's forests as part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy.

**Nursery:** Peta, Angie and Suzanne returned to the Nursery where they continued the potting of the prepared cuttings and potting on of tube stock into larger pots before starting on the pot washing.



Su views the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy plaque unveiled by Prince Harry

### Hours worked

Morning 4.5x 9 (7.30 to 12.00)	41.5
<u>Additional Work by group at Central Station</u>	<u>9.0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.5</b>

## Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> October

### Work at Eurong and Lake McKenzie

It was a busy morning. Paul and Ken reinstated the barricade on the Nature Walk that had been uprooted before joining the group on the northern side of the dingo fence where they despatched still more lantana. **Area B.**

The main team of weeders started the morning by watering the plants that had been established on Tuesday. After smoko the team focussed on manually weeding Coral Creeper in **Area D**. They made great progress but there is still more to be addressed in the next Interim Working Bee.

**Nursery:** Judy and Peter returned to the nursery and they received a lesson in how to clean seed and cleaned seed of *Acacia leiocalyx subsp. leiocalyx*, *Acacia sauvelons*, *Acacia ulicifolia*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Gompholobium virgatum* and *Phyllotta phyllicoides*. The seed of these species was then sown and also seed of *Callitris columellaris* that are intended for planting in the Deer Farm.

Judy and Peter then proceeded to wash almost all of the dirty pots in the pot washing area in between the wind playing havoc trying to blow the washed pots away.

**Consultation:** There was extensive consultation with the Eurong resort management during the morning as Suzanne, Su and the Fearless Leader discussed working together to achieve a mutually agreed objective of natural integrity befitting this World Heritage site. Discussions ranged from plans to screen off the Deer Farm and the distribution of grey-water by irrigation to the pruning and plantings in the resort gardens and grounds. It was a free and open discussion that needs to be repeated with the changes of staff. The outline is to be placed in an Email.



**Lake McKenzie (Boorangoora):** The afternoon excursion was to Lake McKenzie but without Su and FL who stayed back. Su was determined to ensure that as much Green Panic as could be located was sprayed and worked through the afternoon.

#### Hours worked

Morning 4.5x 9 (7.30 to 12.00)	41.5
Additional Work by Su and Fearless Leader	6
Total	47.5

### Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October Heading Home

There isn't a lot to report for Saturday. The group headed out from Talinga at 7.30 after cleaning up and packing the vehicles. We arrived at Kingfisher Resort to catch the 9.30 am ferry to Mary River Heads at 8.30. There was time to roam, relax and have a coffee. On the mainland we refuelled in Tinana and had lunch at Lake Alford in Gympie before dispersing to our respective destinations between Pomona and Brisbane.



### Comment on Excursions

**Paul:** *Even after three days my head is spinning with so many wonderful places we had seen thanks to our wonderful guides John and Sue. Everyday has been great – Lake Wabby – such a beautiful park – like forest walk to the dunes and lakes; drifting down Eli Creek; seeing the Pinnacles and, of course, dare devil driving along the beach and forest roads.*

ケン

海を背に 素足で進む 原生林  
目に飛び込むは 白い砂原 (すなはら)

### Work in March 2019

- Continue to expand the area of the Lantana Attack south of Eurong;
- Focus on clearing up Coral creeper infestations outside the dingo fence to the north and at Problem Corner;
- Work in Singapore Alley on Singapore Daisy, Coral Creeper and Mother of Millions;
- More maintenance on Nature Walk;
- Continue to expand the Nursery ready for the next Plant Give-away in Happy Valley in 2019.
- Update the Notice Board

### Planned Eurong Working Bees 2019

**Talinga - Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March to Saturday 06<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Talinga - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

**Talinga - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

