



FRASER ISLAND DEFENDERS ORGANISATION

Happy Valley Weeding Trip: 4th - 10th February 2018

Volunteers

Peter Shooter - Nambour
Chris Breitenbach - Auchenflower
Alexis Burrett - Caloundra
Sanja Shooter - Mt Gravatt East
Pam Alick - Red Hill.

Abrus precatorius var africanus

This trip we did extensive follow up in areas where we have been dealing with Abrus previously. In all these areas there are all but no mature plants remaining. Our work focused on destroying emergent seedlings. There had been good rain just prior to our trip which enabled hand pulling of small seedlings. Larger plants were spot sprayed with 1.5% Roundup from 1000ml hand held sprays. By the end of the week the soil had dried. Pulling became more difficult and more plants were spot sprayed.

Spring rains had resulted in quite a bit of germination. Our aim is to stop plants reaching maturity, with subsequent seed set. This is largely being achieved right across our site.

Areas treated were:

- Adjacent to the Rotary shed on both sides of the western road inside the dingo fence and extending South inside the dingo fence to the grid on the Yidney Rocks Bypass Road;
- The Western area outside the dingo fence between the grid on the Yidney Scrub Road and the grid on the Yidney Rocks Bypass Road;
- Both sides of the road heading North West of the dump corner;
- The second valley outside the dingo fence North of the Ambulance station;
- The first dune north of the dingo fence between the Ambulance station corner and the dump corner;
- East of the Yidney Rocks Bypass Road inside the dingo fence;
- Extensive areas either side of Yidney Rocks Bypass Road from the grid to the beach road just North of Yidney Rocks.

Newly discovered outbreaks:

Three newly discovered outbreaks were treated. These areas are:

- South West of the Communication Tower, West of the village;
- North of the road North West of the dump corner in the second valley;
- Behind the residence "Annabells Beachbreak" and adjacent residences on the Southern side of the main entrance to the village from the beach.

In each of these three areas the infestation had extended into the canopy of native vegetation.

Photo points were established at each of these sites and photographed prior to treatment. At the first two sites, our usual methods were deployed. As much as possible of the weed was pulled down and bunched up on the ground. No stems were left connected to material remaining in the canopy. All vegetative material was then sprayed with 1.5% roundup. The sites was rephotographed and GPS'd. They will be regularly followed up. All reachable seed was collected.

At the third site the infestation had sprawled over native shrubs. Here we adopted a new trial approach. First all seed was collected. The infected areas were then spot sprayed in a manner aimed to minimise as much as possible any spray coming in contact with foliage of non-target plants. We will follow up in this area and observe the effectiveness of spot spraying. Previously in areas like this we have pulled as much vegetative material as possible off the native vegetation and spraying it on the ground. This is very time consuming. We are interested to observe the effectiveness of spot spraying.

Easter Cassia (Senna pendula var glabrata) and Lantana (Lantana camara)

Our group continued our assault on these two weeds across the site, focusing mainly on the area between the Yidney Rocks Bypass Road and the beach. Large sections of this area were so heavily infested it was extremely difficult to move through it. We have made considerable inroads in this area but there is still a huge amount of work to be done.

We did similar work in the second valley North of the Ambulance Station.

Where possible, we hand pulled both species. Where not possible, we cut the stems close to ground level and squirted the cut butt surface with 100% Roundup.

Broad Leafed Pepper (Schinus terebinthifolius)

A number of small Broad Leafed Pepper trees were removed in the Yidney Rocks Bypass area. A very large one was located close to Annabells Beachbreak. It will be removed at a later date after consultation with adjacent residents. I have spoken to the owner of Annabells Beachbreak, Scott Bell, who is happy for it to be removed and is very supportive of our efforts.

Future Weeding Trips

April 29th - May 5th

This trip is branded "**The Cassia Blitz**" and is a collaboration between FIDO and the Fraser Island Association. FIDO will be bringing 12 volunteers to this Cassia Blitz. The trip is timed to happen when the weed will be in flower making it easier to locate. Our efforts will be mainly focused on the area South of the village. We invite other organisations and individuals to join us in the Cassia Blitz. Other scheduled programs — August 5th - 11th and November 18th - 24th

Peter Shooter

Chris Brietenbach's rough schematic review of the work done and inspections made

Red: Known Abrus seeded areas

Yellow shaded: Abrus covered areas that are now mainly seedlings and premature plants that have been either hand weeded out due to the good conditions from prior rain or marked for chemical treatment and eradicated

There are some Indications of Abrus on the Western road, North west valley and likely East of Yidney rocks road. The Casia eradication program and a future delineation survey may assist in determining the extent and likely cause of the distribution of the population of Abrus).

