

Sandy Cape Lighthouse Weeding Program

Partnership includes:

- Sandy Cape Lighthouse Conservation Association (including Volunteer Caretakers Sandy Cape Lighthouse)
- Lower Mary River Land and Catchment Care Group (Landcare)

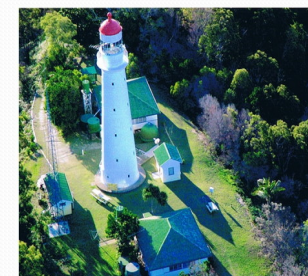
Supervised by:

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service



History of the Site

- Lighthouse Keepers 1870-1995.
- Supplies came in. No rubbish out. Over side of hill.
- Only tank water. Hardy plants.
- Many survived. Spread 1km radius.
- 1995 QPWS war on weeds.
- 2005 Ranger withdrawn from Sandy Cape.
- 2007 volunteer weeding program officially started.



Known weeds listed & prioritised on basis of:-

(a) Possible to eradicate (NOT Lantana/ Prickly Pear).

(b) Seriousness as Environmental weed. Can it form a monoculture, destroy native species, alter natural vegetation type?

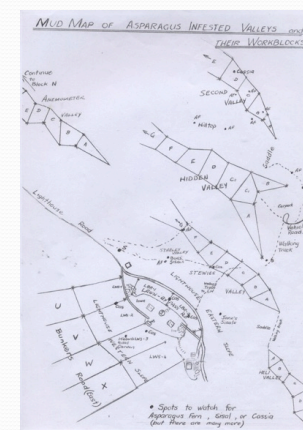
- **Four highest priority weeds:-** Climbing Asparagus Fern, Cassia, Green Panic, Sisal.
- **Already reduced to low numbers:-** Mother-in-law Tongue, Ground Asparagus, Madeira Vine, Gloriosa Lily.
- **Weeds to be monitored:-** Mossman River Burr, Crows Foot.
- **To eradicate** prevent flowering
- **Other weeds** pull out if passing but don't spend too much time.

Organising the Weeds



Organising the Site

- ONE Tenure- much easier.
- QPWS had already mapped the weeds.
- Most weeds in bottoms of 6 valleys.
- **Map** valleys into 96 manageable size **work blocks** all GPSed & **named**.
- Outlying weed sites GPSed and flagging taped.
- Different colour tape used for colour coding.



Organising the Volunteer Work Program

- All 96 work blocks were listed on sheets on a pin board in volunteer accommodation.
- When volunteers finished a block, they recorded month & year (7/17) beside block name.
- Incoming volunteers then knew which blocks were recently weeded and which were due to be done.
- Volunteers sent their weeding report to coordinator showing Block #, weed species, number of weeds, method of weeding (manual, chemical).
- Coordinator recorded all data on QPWS forms, sent to RIC.

ANEMOMETER	Date
A	9/11, 2/12, 3/13, 7/13, 8/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 4/15
B	2/12, 4/12, 3/13, 7/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 4/15
C	9/11, 4/12, 3/13, 7/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 4/15
D	9/11, 4/12, 3/13, 4/13, 7/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 4/15
E	9/11, 4/12, 5/13, 10/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 4/15
F	9/11, 4/12, 5/13, 10/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 4/15
G	9/11, 4/12, 5/13, 7/13, 10/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 4/15
H	9/11, 8/12, 5/13, 7/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 6/15
I	9/11, 8/12, 5/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 6/15
J	9/11, 8/12, 5/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 6/15
K	9/11, 8/12, 5/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 6/15
L	6/11, 9/11, 10/12, 7/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 6/15
M	6/11, 9/11, 10/12, 7/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 6/15
N	6/11, 9/11, 10/12, 7/13, 2/14, 5/14, 11/14, 6/15

Results

- Comparing yearly data to assess progress.
- Annual report sent to RIC
- In 2017, some attention is now being given to Coral Berry & Mother of Million

Weed Species	2008, 09,10	2013	2016	2017
Climbing Asparagus Fern	12,000 (3 times)	3,900	901	
Sisal Hemp	2,915	64	0	4
Easter Cassia	602	37	1	
Green Panic	1200 +	13	345	
Madeira Vine	80 + (2 times)	4	0	1
Mother in law Tongue	557	26	0	
Basket Asparagus Fern	4	1	0	
Gloriosa Lily	180	32	10	

*At the end of the day,
every little bit helps.*

