

# FIDO's Eurong Nursery

*Developing the Nursery to meet growing demand*

Presented by Suzanne Wilson



## Where My Journey With Eurong Nursery Began



## Why Is The Eurong Nursery Important?

*FIDO- 'The Watchdog of Fraser Island' aims to ensure the wisest use of Fraser Island's natural resources*

- FIDO has tackled invasive weed species since 2005
- Encouraging the use of locally sourced, salt tolerant, native species
- However, the aforementioned species were **NOT** available on Fraser Island



## So Why Not Just Bring Them In?

*"What is good for the land comes first. If you have plenty you must share.*

*Do not touch or take anything that does not belong to you."*

In respect of the Butchulla people's beliefs, it is **vital** that no propagation is taken from or brought to Fraser Island



This ensures and maintains the natural integrity of K'Gari

**All** genetic material – seed and cuttings are sourced within the Eurong Township





## Eurong Nursery 2015

**Location:** QPWS (Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service) grounds. North of the Eurong Township.

**Management:** Was previously run by National Parks but management has since been handed over to FIDO

### Nursery Features Include:

- A Timed Watering System
- Tunnels for Propagation
- Sun Hardening Area
- Space for Plant Growth



## Sourcing Equipment

These items are essential for the Eurong Nursery to operate effectively.

- Utensils for Propagation – Op Shop
- Sieves for Seed Cleaning – Op Shop
- Black Plastic for Bench Covering – Donated
- Trays for Pots – Donated
- Esky for Seeds – Donated
- 1000's of Pots – Australia Zoo

I then compiled a list of possible seed to be collected ...



## Volunteers At The Nursery

### FIDO

- Visit Eurong three times per year
- Each trip lasting one week
- Invest time in: seed and cutting collection, propagation, pot washing, weeding and nursery repairs
- Recently created additional bench space
- Hope to create a pot washing station, this October

### Green Army Team

- Built a potting bench from a disused pallet
- Had the opportunity to teach them about seed collection, propagation and other general nursery duties



## Increasing The Plant Diversity

In six short visits to K'Gari = Substantial increase in the Nursery's Species Diversity

### October 2015

- 14 species collected

Plant stock numbers vary, as plants can go to new homes between trips

### July 2016

- 38 species in total

We now have 100's of plants available in the Nursery

### July 2017

- 53 species collected, sowed and potted





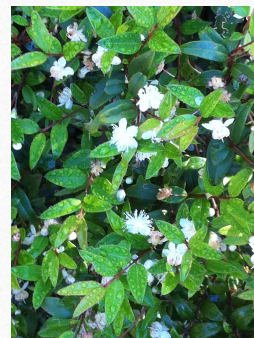
## So Where Are The Plants Going?

- Since 2016 FIDO has established three new Demonstration Gardens
- Maintained and added to existing Demonstration and other Gardens within the Eurong Resort Grounds
- Revegetation by FIDO
- Eurong locals
- National Parks Officers



## My Vision For The Future Of The Eurong Nursery

- Attain permission and permits, to collect propagation material from further afield
- Stock the plants contained in the FINIA publication 'The Fraser Island Native Planting Guide'
- Increase plant demand and turnover
- To collaborate with the Traditional Owners, the Butchulla people
- Establish a Demonstration Garden based on bush tucker plants
- Community Hub- volunteer opportunities, new skills, making connections, strengthening the community



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