

Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

January — March 2024



Nurturing Kangaroo Island's landscapes together to create a thriving sustainable future

This is the vision of the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board (the Board). This report captures the work undertaken through Board projects from 1 January to 31 March 2024 to deliver this vision.

Formed in 2020, the Board aims to deliver practical, on-ground programs to help manage the island's water, land and soil, pests, and biodiversity in partnership with farming groups, environmental non-government organisations, local councils and community groups. The Board consists of eight members, including a Chair, Andrew Heinrich. They have developed a *Kangaroo Island Landscape Plan 2021-2026* (the Plan), which combines community values, local knowledge and scientific evidence into a strategic road map to guide how the Board will work in partnership with the community and investors to support the recovery and management of Kangaroo Island's landscapes into the future. The Plan aims to strike a balance between productivity and profitability, and looking after the environment to maintain biodiversity. The plan contains five regional priorities, each with a suite of focus areas to guide the actions for the Board and the wider regional community for five years.

 COMMUNITY	<p>Priority: A connected community at the centre of decision making</p> <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with all sectors of the community to improve the island's landscapes Making decisions based on the best available scientific, local and traditional knowledge Understanding, valuing and taking care of the natural environment and cultural heritage
 BIODIVERSITY	<p>Priority: Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity</p> <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding the structure and function of habitats and ecosystems Protecting biodiversity to minimise species loss Improving our understanding of the environment and the beneficial role it plays
 ECONOMY	<p>Priority: Sustainable primary production and the island's economy</p> <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the health of the soil, water and biodiversity that supports our economy Strengthening the viability of primary production through sustainable practices Working in partnership with industry to ensure the island's economy continues to prosper
 WATER	<p>Priority: Effective water management</p> <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing water resources sustainably and equitably for all users Improving water quality in the island's catchments and wetlands Protecting aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems
 PESTS	<p>Priority: Effective terrestrial and marine pest management</p> <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling and, where possible, eradicating weeds, pests and diseases Strengthening KI's biosecurity arrangements Managing the impact of overabundant native species

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Cover image: KI Landscape Board staff who presented their work to the community at the KI Landscape Board Knowledge Day.

Water Resources Management

Overview:

This program supports the Kangaroo Island (KI) community to manage their water resources in line with the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

Key achievements January–March 2024:

- The new South Australian Government on-line water administration platform 'MyWater' is undergoing a staged public release. MyWater allows people to apply for and manage water allocations, licences, trades and permit information in one place.

Community engagement:

- Assessed four Water Affecting Activity (WAA) Permits.
- Provided advice to approximately 10 people and consultants on matters including property hydrology, erosion and WAA permitting process.
- In collaboration with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), presented an overview of trends in the health of KI aquatic ecosystems and the Kangaroo Island Ecologically Sustainable Water Take Limits hydro-ecological risk model to the water policy sub-committee. The sub-committee assisted with selecting scenarios to run through the model.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue the review of the KI Water Affecting Activities policy, including assessing the environmental risk under various scenarios using the Kangaroo Island Ecologically Sustainable Water Take Limits hydro-ecological risk model.
- Contribute feedback to the Australian Governments new draft National Water Agreement, this will build on the 2004 National Water Initiative.

10
people advised about water management

1
WAA development application & permit assessed

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- Effective water management
- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy

Funded by:

- Government of South Australia:
 - » State Appropriations



Image right: Forestry clearing is underway across KI. KILB staff are working with landholders and contractors to explain the implications of clearing forestry on the water resource, including the ability for neighbours to build dams.

Invasive Species Control Program

Overview:

This program manages declared weed and pest animal species in accordance with risk assessment priorities and regional management plans.

Key achievements January–March 2024:

Declared weeds

- Caltrop was monitored and controlled at Penneshaw, American River and Emu Bay. No plants were found at Emu Bay for the first time in six years. 42 plants were controlled at Penneshaw and 432 plants at American River.
- Khaki weed was controlled at Reeves Point for the third summer in a row. 3,000 plants were destroyed. Many plants continue to germinate.
- Surveys for silverleaf nightshade at American River were undertaken for the fourth year in a row. Only six plants were found and controlled.
- Fountain grass was controlled along the foreshore at Emu Bay with 40 plants removed.
- 80 gorse plants were found and controlled at Cassini.
- Monitoring for blackberry was conducted at six sites across the island. 120 plants were found and controlled at American River and Nepean Bay.
- Horehound was controlled along roadsides in the hundreds of Haines, Menzies and Dudley. Significant amounts of horehound remain along North Cape and Willoughby Roads, however, the numbers of horehound plants are dropping significantly along the North Coast Road and in the Emu Bay area.
- New sites with bluebell creeper were mapped along the Hog Bay Road and Playford Highway. This will be used for future weed control work. Random plants found along the roadside during the mapping were controlled.
- Summer weeds along the road verge of main and side roads were controlled. These weeds included stinkwort, fleabane, horehound, rats tail grass and African daisy.

Tasmanian bluegum wildling control

- Tasmanian bluegum wildlings were controlled over 39 priority sites on private and forestry land, by five contractor groups and volunteers supported through Trees for Life.
- Wildlings represent a significant ongoing management issue and are a declared weed. Board staff are working with landholders to support landholder-led wildling control.
- A pilot costing study into Tasmanian bluegum removal is being undertaken. To date 7 ha of medium–high density Tasmanian bluegum infestations with high density sallow wattle have been cleared.



Image below: Gorse control at Cassini.

6
sites monitored for
blackberry

3,000
khaki weed plants
removed

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Declared animal management

- The Feral Animal Control Officer has been trialling control options for little corellas to reduce their nuisance around townships. To date this has been working well.
- Work on the eradication programs for feral cats and feral pigs continued (see reports on pages 6, 7 and 8).

Community engagement:

Declared weeds

- Animal and Plant Control Officers responded to 18 public inquires about weed identification and control methods.
 - » Seven people wanted a plant identified.
 - » Five people sought weed control advice.
 - » Four people reported a weed.
 - » Site visits were undertaken with two landholders experiencing weed problems.

Declared animal management

- The Feral Animal Control Officer has been working with six landholders who have submitted enquiries around bringing domestic goats to Kangaroo Island. Landholders have been provided with options for keeping domestic goats on their properties, which are all in areas zoned high risk for feral goats re-establishing based on the Board's risk matrix.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Declared weeds

- Continue the weed control program targeting Italian buckhorn, Cape Leeuwin wattle, African boxthorn, montpellier broom, salvation Jane, arum lily, bulbil watsonia and other bulbs.

Tasmanian bluegum wildling control

- Continue Tasmanian bluegum wildling removal with volunteers and contractors.
- Continue to work with landholders to support landholder-led wildling control.

Declared animal management

- Consider and develop options to expand control efforts for little corellas.



Image below: Tasmanian bluegum wildling removal from riparian vegetation near Jump Off Road.

32
sites were controlled for
Tasmanian bluegums

6
people assisted with
domestic goat regulations

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Levy
- Government of South Australia:
 - » Landscape Priorities Fund
 - » Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Feral Cat Eradication Program

Overview:

The aim of the KI Feral Cat Eradication Program is to eradicate feral cats from KI, beginning on the Dudley Peninsula and then moving west across the remainder of KI. The program is being led by the KI Landscape Board in partnership with the Kangaroo Island Council, Nature Foundation and many other partners.

Key achievements January–March 2024:

- Eradication work continued over the Dudley Peninsula with 38 feral cats trapped using soft jaw leg hold traps in just under 2,500 trap nights.
- The program was recently restructured to form two sub-programs based on two technological advances:
 1. the increasing number of 4G cameras linked to eVorta AI software to support image processing
 2. the expansion of the Encounter Solutions Celium trap monitoring network across the entirety of the Dudley Peninsula to notify staff when traps are triggered.
- Encounter Solutions Celium trap monitoring technology has now been installed on 442 cage and 110 soft-jaw leg hold traps across the Dudley Peninsula.
- 4G remote cameras continued to be installed across the Dudley Peninsula. The cameras are placed in areas that feral cats are known to use and also where they move through the landscape.
 - » Their coverage means we have a high chance of detecting feral cats, even at very low densities, and other species of interest like southern brown bandicoots, KI echidnas and bush stone curlews.
 - » The cameras will also be used to determine the number of feral cats across the Dudley Peninsula.
 - » There are now 243, 4G cameras across the Dudley Peninsula, with this number set to be increased to 300 by the end of May 2024.
- Project staff conducted a trial comparing the success of detecting feral cats in images using AI eVorta software and people. 100,000 images were sampled.

38
feral cats culled across
the Dudley Peninsula

97.9%
feral cat images correctly
identified by eVorta AI

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Funded by:

- Australian Government:
 - » Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds
- Ian Potter Foundation
- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Purryburry Trust
- AgKI
- Members of the public

- » The eVorta system correctly detected 97.9% of total cat images, whereas humans detected 95.3% of cat images. However, the eVorta system has a much higher false positive rate (identified as a cat, but not a cat) when compared to humans.
- » This is not so much of an issue and with daily inspections of the data this number continues to decrease as the software becomes more accurate.

Community engagement:

- The KI Landscape Board has been working closely with the KI Council as they revise their Animal Management Plan and domestic cat By-Laws, to ensure consistency with the *Landscapes SA Act 2019* and alignment with the KI feral cat eradication program.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Prepare for and begin an intensive trapping program with between 500–600 cage traps and 100–200 soft-jaw leg hold traps from 29 April until September when the weather warms.
- Begin a campaign to encourage the community to report feral cat sightings. Rapid reporting of sightings will enable our team to target these feral cats using a variety of tools.
- Deliver a trapping program with 30–40 landholders using Encounter Solutions Celium technology and a new Rappt.io app. This program will begin in June and will run for at least four weeks, but could continue throughout winter if landholder interest remains high enough. The Rappt.io app will enable landholders to easily view the status of their trap and record relevant catch data. This program is funded by AgKI.
- Continue installing remote 4G cameras across the Dudley Peninsula.
- Train eVorta software to recognise individual cats. This will enable us to track the individual movement patterns of feral cats to inform more targeted control and also to confirm their removal.

552
feral cat traps across
Dudley Peninsula

100,000
images sampled
during trial



Visit the
[Feral Free Kangaroo Island Facebook page](#)
to learn more

Map of the location of cage traps across the Dudley Peninsula.



Images left: Some of the team installing Celium hubs. Right: Animals photographed using 4G connected cameras.



Feral Pig Eradication Program

Overview:

The program aims to eradicate feral pigs from KI across private and public land, parks, reserves, forestry and agricultural farmland using a coordinated landscape approach. This program is being delivered in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and KI National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The achievements below are a record of the direct contributions made by Landscape Board staff.

Key achievements January–March 2024:

- The Feral Animal Control Officer continued to track, monitor and pursue feral pigs on foot, through the remote camera network and using thermal equipment.
- Many search areas are now virtually inaccessible due to the thick regrowth of native vegetation post-fire.
- Signs of feral pig activity were detected on private land in creeklines east of the Gosse lands.
- The feral pig camera monitoring network was inspected and serviced throughout the monitoring area. This system has greatly assisted in targeting aerial effort.

Community engagement:

- During the reporting period, the Feral Animal Control Officer engaged with 20 KI landholders to undertake control, monitor for feral pig sign and discuss different aspects of the Feral Pig Eradication Program.
- Landholders have been reporting possible feral pig sign which the Control Officer has been following up. Some of these have been as a result of feral pigs, however, the sign was not fresh.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- The Feral Animal Control Officer will assist with on-ground control work, focussing on searching for signs of feral pigs, establishing and monitoring free-feed stations, maintaining the 4G camera network and responding to feral pig detections with targeted baiting and ground shooting.



Image right: Two sows recently photographed by remote camera.

1
monitoring network
inspected and serviced

20
landholders assisted with
feral pig control

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Levy
- Government of South Australia
» Landscape Priorities Fund

Kangaroo Island Native Plant Nursery

Overview:

The Kangaroo Island Native Plant Nursery grows over 150 different species of KI native plants, which can be used for revegetating land, windbreaks, coastal plantings and home garden use. The Nursery Manager is available for native vegetation management advice to assist landholders with their projects.

Key achievements January–March 2024:

- Plant propagation continued:
 - » seed sowing was completed in January
 - » seedlings were thinned.
- Just under 34,000 plants have been ordered for 2024. A further 8,000 have been grown for impromptu sales when the KI Native Plant Nursery is open on Tuesday mornings and all day Thursdays from 2 May until 29 August.
- A new pot wash station and outdoor workbench were installed..

Community engagement:

- Volunteers donated 80 hours assisting with seed collection and thinning seedlings.
- Attended a gardening Q & A session at the Kingscote Community Garden with Sophie Thompson on 19 February.
- Presented at the KILB Property Management Planning Native Vegetation and Biodiversity workshop on 20 May.
- Assisted new customers through site visits and species list recommendations.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Open the KI Native Plant Nursery to walk in customers and for landholders to collect their ordered plants.
- Formulate a strategic plan for the nursery.
- Continue to update the seedbank data base and storage systems.
- Identify and make improvements to general operational procedures.

Image right: Nursery Assistant Eryn thinning plants at the new work bench.



8,000
native plants grown for
public sales

80
hours donated to the
nursery by volunteers

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife
- Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Collette Travel
- Members of the public

Sustainable Agriculture Program

Overview:

This program uses a holistic, systems approach to assist primary producers to improve soil health and increase on-farm diversity as the basis for resilient grazing and cropping systems.

Key achievements in community engagement

January–March 2024:

Property Management Planning

- A module focussed on native vegetation and biodiversity was presented to Property Management Planning (PMP) participants on 20 March by Kangaroo Island landscape Board staff and Andrew Fairney from Seeding Natives. The module covered:
 - » benefits of native vegetation, including grasslands and grassy woodlands e.g. salinity management, windbreaks for stock, pollination, carbon storage
 - » how and when to plant
 - » fencing to protect native vegetation
 - » funding available to assist with management.
- Participants have been offered financial support for one-on-one training and support from consultants to assist with the development of their Property Management Plans.
- Participants have been invited to submit proposals to implement on-ground works identified in their Property Management Plans.

Soil extension

- World-renowned Joel Williams and Tom Robinson, mixed cropping and cattle farmer from Hoyleton, presented a workshop and field trip over two days in February. The workshop explored how to support cropping and pasture through healthy soils. The field trip visited a demonstration site and two farmers properties who are participating in the Property Management Planning program.
- The Soil Extension Officer continued to assist and work with landholders, including those at ten demonstration sites.



1
final PMP module presented

6
soil extension demonstration sites

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy

Funded by:

- Australian Government:
 - » Smart Farms Small Grants Program
 - » Future Drought Fund
- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator

- Funding has been received from the Australian Government to employ a Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator (SAF) through the KI Landscape Board. The SAF program builds on the success of the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitators (RALF) initiative which concluded on 30 June 2023. The SAF will provide a designated, central point of contact for farmers, landholders, industry, and community groups to support the adoption of sustainable, climate-smart agriculture practices. The SAFs role is to improve farmers' and other agriculture stakeholders' knowledge and uptake of climate-smart practices, including understanding of environmental markets.

Carbon Farming Outreach Program

- Funding has been received from the Australian Government to undertake a state-wide project in partnership with Landscapes SA aiming to deliver training and advice to empower SA farmers and other land managers to participate in carbon markets and integrate low emission technologies and practices into their farming operations and land management practices. The project will deliver a training package developed and provided by the Australian Government.
- The Carbon Outreach Officer to deliver workshops and provide one-on-one support to workshop attendees over two years.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Property Management Planning

- A final project wrap-up module and bus tour for participants will be held in June.
- Participants will develop their Property Management Plans in consultation with experts.
- Participants will be supported to implement on-ground works identified in their plans.

Soil extension project

- Continue to work on a KI soil management guide which is being developed with assistance from Soil Science Australia. The guide is designed to address the needs of KI landholders, answer common questions and provide advice and solutions to relevant soils related problems.

Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator

- Recruit a KI Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator.

1
cropping and pasture workshop held

2
KI farming support programs beginning



Images both pages: Participants at the Going down under for cropping and pasture workshop with Joel Williams.

Kangaroo Island Habitat Recovery Project

Overview:

This project will support landholders to improve the condition of Kangaroo Island's natural environment through native vegetation protection and restoration works with a focus on threatened ecological communities and critical habitats. A threat abatement plan for bridal veil will be developed to establish a framework for the protection and enhancement of critically endangered plant species in the Eastern Plains of Kangaroo Island.

Key achievements January–March 2024:

- The final inspection was completed for an on-ground works fencing project in the Haines region of KI. This project constructed 2.26 km of fencing to protect 22.5 ha of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland from stock grazing.
- Advice was provided to the Australian Government regarding the assessment and listing of *Pultenaea insularis* (Beyeria bush-pea) under the EPBC Act. Beyeria bush-pea is endemic to KI. A 2022 Threatened Plant Action Group/KI Landscape Board population assessment estimated the total population of Beyeria bush-pea to be 502 individual plants, many of which are restricted to roadside vegetation. The survey also identified that two sub-populations have likely gone extinct. Previous surveys of this species undertaken in the mid 1990's identified over 900 plants split between five sub-populations.
- A review was undertaken to identify the most suitable survey methodology for the monitoring and evaluation of on-ground works projects. This review examined the methods and monitoring protocols previously used for flora and fauna surveys undertaken on KI, particularly those undertaken within KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland. Any existing survey data was analysed for possible future use. A broad range of potential monitoring sites were identified. These sites will be finalised upon formal commencement of the KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland and Threatened Plant Habitat Recovery Program.

22.5
ha of KI Narrow-leaved
Mallee Woodland
protected

1
landholder guidelines
for managing KI Narrow-
leaved Mallee Woodland

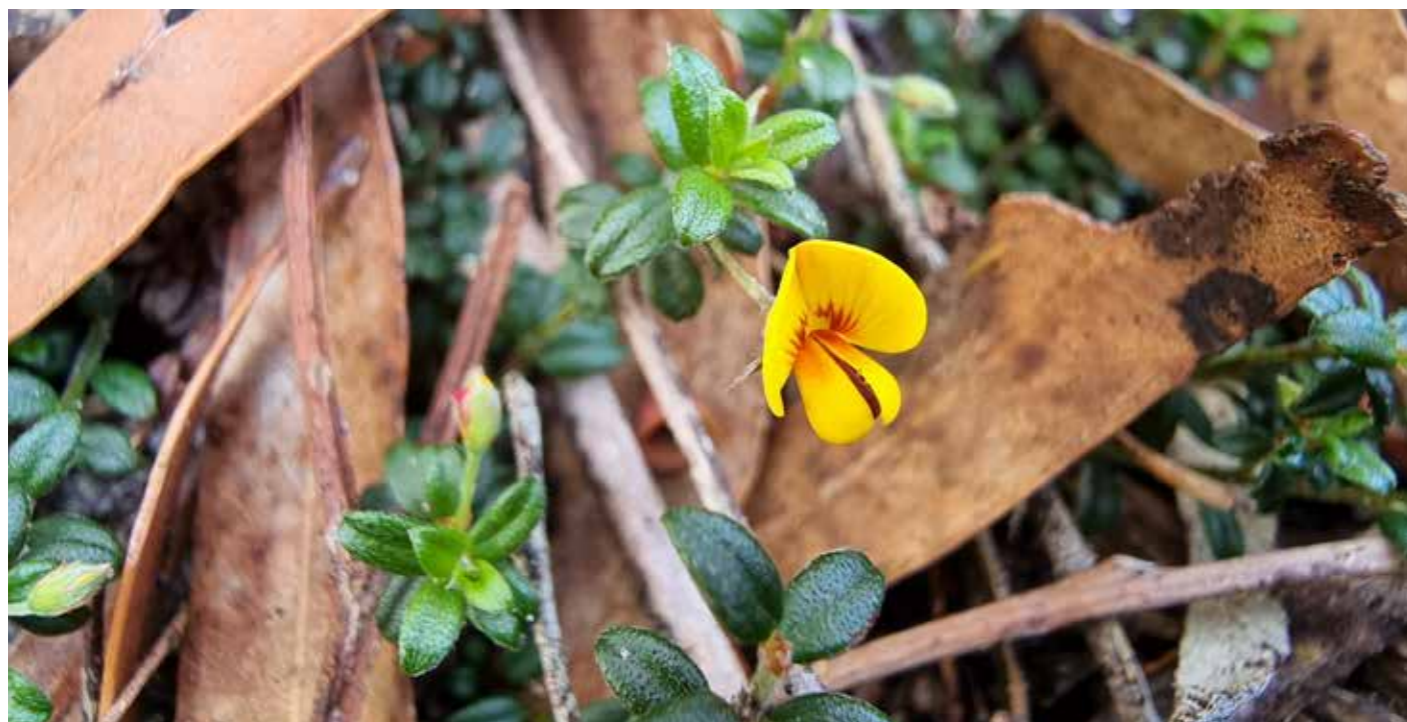
Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

Image below: Threatened plant Beyeria bush-pea growing in one of the last remaining populations in Beyeria Conservation Park.



- A broad range of spatial datasets were collated for use with the KI Emergency Response Preparedness Plan, and initial mapping begun.
- The [KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Management Guidelines for Landholders](#) were published on the KI Landscape Board website, as well as publicised through the Boards Facebook page. Hard copies of these guidelines are available from the KI Landscape Board office.

Community engagement:

- The Project Officer liaised with the KI Council regarding threatened plant species along roadsides. Assistance with identifying sensitive areas will be provided to KI Council as part of upcoming scheduled road maintenance works.
- Information regarding native vegetation recovery and the emergence of extremely rare species following the 2019-20 bushfire was given to the French journalist Angélique Forget, who is producing a documentary on the Black Summer Bushfires.
- A presentation was given to landholders participating in the Property Management Planning native vegetation and biodiversity module 20 May. The presentation focused on native vegetation legislation and management actions.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Extensive mapping will be produced as part of the KI Landscape Board Emergency Response Preparedness Plan.
- Weed control focus areas within and adjacent to threatened plant populations will be identified in preparation for weed control work soon to be undertaken.
- Final inspections of landholder on-ground works projects will be undertaken on completion as needed.

Image right: New fencing erected by a Haines landholder to protect KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland Threatened Ecological Community.



2
sub-populations of
Beyeria bush-pea appear
extinct

1
presentation given to
Property Management
Planning participants

Kangaroo Island Woodland Bird Recovery Project

Overview:

This project will deliver strategic on-ground management actions to assist the recovery of key woodland bird species post-fire. Actions will include revegetation for priority woodland bird species, habitat augmentation through the installation and maintenance of nest boxes, pest management to control species that invade tree hollows, and monitoring of key species in partnership with the local community.

Key achievements January–March 2024:

- Staff have been working with Caroline Paterson from Birdlife Kangaroo Island to set up and trial the 'Hollow Hog' tree hollow creation tool. Birdlife KI has successfully received a grant and purchased the Hollow Hog tool and all the associated equipment required to run it. An online workshop session with the tool's developer was held.
- Staff visited all 19 nesting sites with nest boxes and performed routine maintenance and monitoring of them. This included:
 - » removal of rotten duck eggs from nest boxes so they are available for glossy black-cockatoos to use
 - » moving a nest box from a tree that had died post-fire in to a new live tree

- » surveying all nest boxes and natural hollows at all 19 sites to determine which species are using them.

- Three new nest boxes were installed, two at Stokes Bay and one at American River.

Community engagement:

- 'Chewings' the Glossy black-cockatoo Recovery Program newsletter, was sent to 300 subscribers.
- Karleah Berris attended a book launch of children's book "*Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular*" at Rapid Bay Primary School. This book features glossy black-cockatoos as one of the four endangered species. Species information was provided by the Glossy black-cockatoo Recovery Program for the appendix of the book. Book information is available here: <https://easterbillsfriends.org.au/banjo-frog/>

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Trial of the Hollow Hog tree hollow creation tool in a collaborative project with Birdlife KI. KILB staff will start to trial the use of the tool for Birdlife KI from April 2024, first on the ground then at heights in trees. If successful, this tool could revolutionise habitat augmentation in forests on Kangaroo Island for our native hollow nesting woodland birds.
- Banding of glossy black-cockatoo nestlings between April and June.
- Removal of bee hives from glossy black-cockatoo nest trees in cooler weather (likely starting May 2024).

Image right: Torran Welz maintaining one of the nest boxes.



19
glossy sites
maintained

300
people received
'Chewings' newsletter

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Members of the public

Kangaroo Island Habitat for Biodiversity Project

Overview:

This project will synthesise baseline and post-fire recovery biodiversity project datasets collected as part of the KI Dunnart Recovery Program. Site-specific and landscape-scale feral cat control will continue in priority habitats used by endangered and threatened species.

Key achievements January–March 2024

- Survey sites for the 2024 autumn threatened mammal surveys began to be installed in early March. 45 of 70 sites have been installed to date. Surveys will finish between May and June as each site records data for 50 days.
- AI software to help process images is being investigated. A new high powered computer has been purchased and is being set up to run the program *Megadetector*. This program will do a first pass and remove images that do not have animals in them (false triggers). A secondary program will then be trialled called *EcoAssist*. This program links to the Megadetector program and will help to categorise photos to species. Data will be used to help draw out other threatened species from the photo dataset for planning for threatened species and submission to the Biological Database of South Australia (BDBSA).
- The use of thermal paints on artificial tin refuges has been trialled. KI dunnarts successfully used tin artificial refuges in burnt areas. However, KI dunnarts only used the refuges in the cooler months. Earlier trials with temperature loggers found very high temperatures under the tin in warm weather. The project is now trialling thermal reflective paint. Temperature loggers have been installed under artificial refuges painted with thermal paint, normal white paint and without paint. It is hoped the thermal paint will reduce the temperature under refuges and expand the number of months KI dunnarts are able to use them. Temperature loggers will be out until mid-April.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Finish installing 2024 autumn survey sites. All sites will be checked half way through the 50-day survey period to change batteries and SD cards in cameras where required. The field component of surveys will be completed by the end of June.
- Analyse temperature logger data from artificial refuges, to determine if thermal paint enhances the thermal suitability of refuges in warm weather.
- Continue processing images and compiling spatial data on threatened species other than KI dunnarts.

Image: One of the KI dunnart sites installed and ready to capture data on threatened species.



45
KI dunnart monitoring
sites installed

2
AI programs being
investigated for image
processing

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- World Wide Fund for Nature
- ZoosSA

Improving Coastal Habitats Project

Overview:

This project will monitor the Board's newly constructed native flat oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) reefs to evaluate their success and provide information for future shellfish and multi-species restoration efforts. It will also lay the groundwork for future coastal habitat actions to enhance Kangaroo Island's coastal ecosystems.

Key achievements January–March 2024

- Footage collected by Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) surveys in spring at Kingscote and American River reefs and reference sites was analysed.
- A report providing an updated population status for little penguins on Kangaroo Island was drafted and sent out for external review. This report compares the November 2023 whole-of-island census results to censuses conducted in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Community engagement

- Signs were installed on noticeboards at Bay of Shoals and American River boat ramps with information about the oyster reef restoration project, including maps of the reefs with their coordinates, and a QR code linked to the [KILB website](#).
- A presentation was given to KI Community Education (KICE) Outdoor Education students in preparation for an AusOcean working bee day to complete the monitoring rig for the new Kingscote oyster reef. The new rig will be installed on the Kingscote restored reef site soon.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Conduct an autumn little penguin census during the first clutch of their breeding season.
- Survey vegetation in little penguin colonies.
- Control feral cats adjacent to little penguin breeding habitat.
- Survey oyster metrics at Kingscote and American River restored reefs.
- Deploy the new monitoring rig at the Kingscote reef site in partnership with AusOcean and KICE Outdoor Education students.
- Install an interpretive sign about the oyster reef restoration along the Esplanade walking trail in Kingscote.
- Develop communication materials about the little penguin population status update and oyster reef survey results.

2
oyster reef signs
installed at boat ramps

32
hours of BRUV footage of
oyster reefs analysed

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

Image below: Sign about the Kingscote oyster reef at the Bay of Shoals boat ramp.



Community grants programs

Overview:

The Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants program supports KI individuals, volunteers, community groups and other not-for-profit organisations, with local landscape management projects.

Key achievements January–March 2024:

Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants

- Students from Kangaroo Island Community Education (KICE) completed a wetland restoration project through a grant from 2022-23. 30 students were involved with constructing a 300 m fence around a wetland, building a stock crossing and planting 200 native plants over 0.5 ha.
- The Kangaroo Island Wildlife Network interviewed five specialists speaking about the local native animals and plants displayed on four interpretive signs installed around Emu Bay through a grant from 2022-23.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Open and promote the 2024-25 round of KI Grassroots Grants. This round will open on 1 April and close on 6 May.

Image below left: Year 7 and 8 students from KICE Parndana Campus setting of with KI Native Plant Nursery Manager Jo McPhee to revegetate their wetland with native plants.

Image below right: Year 11 and 12 students from KICE Parndana Campus building a fence around the wetland (KICE).



30
students restored wetland
at KICE Parndana

5
specialists interviewed for
Emu Bay interpretive signs

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Effective water management
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Levy
- Government of South Australia:
 - » State Appropriations
 - » Minister for Environment and Water



Planning and Evaluation Team

Overview:

This team works with all KI Landscape Board projects to support their effective and efficient delivery and to assist them to meet their reporting responsibilities. The team also coordinates the KI Landscape Board's strategic planning, including evaluating performance towards implementing the KI Landscape Plan.

Key achievements January–March 2024:

- Submitted an output report to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT) for the project: *Kangaroo Island feral cat eradication*.
- Began a project to develop an Emergency Response Plan for Natural Assets (ERNA) for the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board. This project has three components:
 - Maps of biodiversity assets (include *EPBC Act* and Matters of National Environmental Significance) and agricultural natural capital assets at an appropriate scale for emergency response. These maps will be overlaid with extreme weather vulnerability/susceptibility information (e.g. risk of bushfires, drought, floods, diseases, pests, etc.) The aim is to house this on an on-line platform.
 - An emergency preparedness and response plan for Kangaroo Island outlining actions for the KILB to undertake to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, an emergency event.
 - Community/stakeholder engagement to share and integrate the information generated to enable consistency with other emergency response plans.
 - A very successful workshop was held with the consultants from Climate Cavalry, who are helping to develop the plan, and relevant Board staff on 14 March. Actions were identified and prioritised for terrestrial biodiversity, coast and marine biodiversity, agriculture and governance.
- Supported the planning of the Island Ark Symposium VIII which will be held on Kangaroo Island from 26-29 August and hosted by the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board. See <https://www.islandarksymposium.com/>

Community engagement:

- Assisted project staff with communications and media to develop posters, web pages, media articles, factsheets, newsletters, ute guides and flyers for KI Landscape Board projects.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Facilitate workshops with agency, stakeholders and community groups to review actions, identify shared and collaborative actions and improve the integration of natural asset protection in emergency management.
- Promote and prepare for the Island Ark Symposium VIII.
- Assist projects with reporting and monitoring requirements and liaise with the Australian Government and project staff to meet contracted requirements for projects.
- Seek funding to continue KI Landscape Board project work.

2
reports submitted to project funders

1
tender successfully submitted and awarded

Links to KI Landscape Plan

- A connected community at the centre of decision making
- Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Effective water management
- Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Funded by:

- Australian Government
- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

How we can help you



KI Native Plant Nursery

- local native plants
- growing, planting and revegetation advice suited to KI soils and climate
- plant identification

Contact Jo McPhee
0437 322 692
jo.mcphee@sa.gov.au



KI native vegetation

- advice on how to manage KI native vegetation
- grants available to protect and revegetate KI native vegetation

Contact Kym Lashmar
8553 2476
kym.lashmar@sa.gov.au



Soil Extension Officer

- assist with sustainable agriculture activities, e.g. workshops, demonstrations, soil management and peer learning sessions

Contact Cassandra Douglas-Hill
0402 107 167
cassandra.douglas-hill@sa.gov.au



Water management

- advice on water affecting activities and permits e.g. dams and earth works in or near a water body
- advice on water resources e.g. salinity, wells

Contact Mark Agnew
8553 2476
mark.agnew@sa.gov.au



Weed control

- weed management advice
- weed identification
- reports of new weeds
- hire of cape tulip weed wiper

Contact Jason Walter
0418 708 557
jason.walter@sa.gov.au



Pest animal control

- domestic goat and pig permits
- feral goat and deer reports

Contact Brenton Florance
0427 618 304
brenton.florance@sa.gov.au



Feral pig control

- control of feral pigs
- feral pig reports

Contact Brenton Florance
0427 618 304
brenton.florance@sa.gov.au



Feral cat control

- control of feral cats
- feral cat trap hire

Contact Paul Jennings
8553 2476
paul.jennings@sa.gov.au