



Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

October — December 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 October to 31 December 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

Priority: A connected community at the centre of decision making

Focus areas:

- 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

Priority: Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity

Focus areas:

- 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

Priority: Sustainable primary production and the island's economy

Focus areas:

- 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

Priority: Effective water management

Focus areas:

- 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

Priority: Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Focus areas:

- 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: Year 4 and 5 students from all KICE campuses gather at Flinders Chase Visitor Centre for the inaugural Young Environmental Leaders Forum, organised by Board Environmental Education Coordinator Deb Laver (Dan Clarke).

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* (the Act).

Key achievements October–December 2024:

- Updated the water database to reflect the removal of commercial forestry and changes in property titles.

Community engagement:

- Advised 30 people on matters including dam siting, forestry transition to agriculture, farm maps and Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permitting process..
- Assessed three Water Affecting Activity Permits.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Recruitment of a new Water Officer following our current Water Officer leaving to undertake the role of Senior Groundwater Water Policy Officer with the Australian Government.

30
people helped with
water matters

3
WAA permits 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 below: Cygnet River.



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 October–December 2024:

Declared weeds

- For the first time roadside control of African boxthorn was undertaken along 23 km of Cape Willoughby and North Cape Roads. 140 large plants were removed.
- 5,000 horehound plants were controlled along 340 km of roadsides in Haines, Menzies and the Dudley Peninsula.
- 2,000 yellow burrweed plants were controlled with landholders over 10 ha on properties in Haines and along roadsides.
- 280 ha were searched for bridal creeper at Kelly Hill. Only four plants where found and destroyed.
- 50 African lovegrass plants were controlled at previously visited sites along Birchmore Road.
- Sites where black flag had been found at Brownlow, Reeves Point and Mitchel Drive were re-visited for a third time. No new plants were found.
- 2,000 salvation Jane plants were controlled over 18 previously visited sites covering 12 ha. These sites all had less salvation Jane plants than in previous years, however, two new sites were also found.
- 1,103 Montpellier broom plants were removed from 10 previously visited sites covering 22 ha. For the first time three of these sites did not have any Montpellier broom, however, one new site was discovered near a known site.
- Follow up control of 200 sweet pittosporum plants was undertaken along 3 km of East West Highway One.
- 15 caltrop plants were removed from previously visited sites at Penneshaw and American River.
- 86 khaki weed plants were removed from Reeves Point during two site visits.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Tasmanian blue gum wildlings were controlled over 560 ha at previously controlled sites on private lands and roadsides.

23
km roadside control
African boxthorn

86
khaki weed plants
removed Reeves Point

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

- A report of a dead rabbit on Hog Bay Road was investigated. The rabbit was too damaged to determine if it had been alive on KI prior to its death, but no signs of it living were discovered near where it was found. Remote cameras were installed where it was found for 21 days but did not detect any other signs of rabbits.
- 366 little corellas were controlled around Kingscote.
- Work on the eradication program for feral cats continued (see report on page 6).

Feral pig eradication program

- Continued to support the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) to undertake the feral pig eradication program and develop and implement a proof of freedom plan.

Community engagement:

Declared weeds

- Animal and Plant Control Officers responded to 31 public inquiries about weed identification and control methods:
 - five people wanted a plant identified
 - 21 people sought weed control advice
 - three people borrowed weed control equipment
 - two reports of yellow burrweed germinating in grain and hay imported from the mainland were investigated.

Declared animal management

- Currently permitted domestic goat and pig properties were inspected to ensure compliance before re-issuing of permits.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Declared weeds

- Continue developing the KI Weed Ute Guide.
- Continue the weed control program targeting gorse, blackberry, bluebell creeper, Italian buckthorn and summer annuals along roadsides.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Develop a management plan for the control of medium and high density Tasmanian blue gum wildlings in native vegetation.

Declared animal management

- Consider and develop options to expand control efforts for little corellas.
- Continue supporting the Dudley Peninsula feral cat eradication program.
- Re-issue permits to complying domestic goat and pig owners.



560
ha Tasmanian blue gum
wildling control

366
little corellas
controlled

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Levy
- Australian Government
 - Saving Native Species - Priority Places
- Government of South Australia:
 - Landscape Priorities Fund
 - Department of Primary Industries and Regions
 - Department for Infrastructure and Transport

Image left: African lovegrass found growing along Birchmore Road. Please notify the Board if found.

Image below: Tasmanian blue gum control at Mt Stockdale.

Feral Cat Eradication Program

Overview:

This program is working to eradicate feral cats from the Dudley Peninsula to determine if it is feasible to eradicate feral cats from the rest of Kangaroo Island. The program is being led by the KI Landscape Board in partnership with the KI Council, Nature Foundation and many other partners.

Key achievements October–December 2024:

- The most intensive trapping and monitoring program since the feral cat eradication program commenced in 2020 continued.
 - » Using Celium trap monitoring technology, 530 sensor-connected traps (350 cage traps and 180 soft-jaw leg-hold traps) are being managed by the field team across the entire eradication zone, seven days a week.
 - » 77 feral cats were removed between 1 October–31 December 2024.
 - » 22 feral cats were caught on the Dudley Peninsula: four in cages and 18 in soft-jaw leg-hold traps.
 - » A further 23 feral cats were removed from the Isthmus Management Zone (5km buffer zone west of feral cat fence) in cages.
- The remaining 32 feral cats were caught west of the Dudley Peninsula in cages. These feral cats were caught at the Timber Mill in Seddon where the team was trialling ant deterrents, and along Hog Bay Road. Feral cat captures are declining on the Dudley Peninsula, but the team require cat urine and faeces as lures for their soft-jaw leg-hold trapping, so trapping was undertaken on Hog Bay Road to collect these lures.

Community engagement:

- Over winter 35 landholders on the Dudley Peninsula participated in a trapping blitz with support from the Feral Cat Eradication Team.



77
feral cats removed from
KI

530
feral cat traps set across
Dudley Peninsula

- 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

Call in a cat
on the Dudley Peninsula
0459 952 830

Image below: Feral cat Team members and the community enjoy a meal together at the community information session.

- » The traps were fitted with Celium trap monitoring technology. Landholders were able to see if their traps needed checking in real-time using the free Rappt.IO app.
- » During the blitz landholders managed 115 feral cat traps on their properties, over 3,100 trap nights, helping the program remove 202 feral cats: 145 from the Dudley Peninsula and 57 from the Pelican Lagoon isthmus.
- An information and celebratory session for Dudley Peninsula landholders was held at the Dudley United Football Club with the Feral Cat Eradication Team on 30 October.
 - » 25 Dudley Peninsula landholders attended along with staff and members of the KI Landscape Board.
 - » The information session was an opportunity to wrap up and celebrate the success of the winter trapping program and the high level of participation from the Dudley Peninsula community.
 - » The team showcased tools and technology and heard from the community over a BBQ.
 - » This extremely successful event highlighted the importance of keeping the community connected to the program.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Over summer some cage traps will be closed for an extended period. If you see a closed cage trap with hessian placed inside, it is being rested. It is best to leave traps installed rather than removing them as feral cats become more accustomed to their presence, resulting in higher catch rates when they are opened up again.
- Feral cat detection dogs will be used to locate and remove feral cats that have become trap-shy and problematic to catch as the weather warms up. These dogs show no interest in stock or wildlife.
- Soft-jaw leg-hold traps will be deployed in areas permitted for their use and a targeted shooting program will continue.



35
landholders removed 202
feral cats during blitz

25
landholders attended
information session

- 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

Images below from the community information session: Left: Team member Joe Donaldson demonstrating how to set a soft-jaw leg-hold trap. Right: Team member Josh Mulvaney explaining feral cat trap locations.

Sustainable Agriculture Program

Overview:

The Board recognises the ongoing land stewardship undertaken by the Island’s agricultural community. This program promotes and supports the adoption of evidence based sustainable land management practices that generate productivity gains and positive environmental outcomes.

Key achievements in community engagement

October–December 2024:

The Soil Extension Officer (SEO) and Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator (SAF) worked together on several activities including:

- Supporting a local farmer to conduct 20 Salvia and microbiometer soil tests at their Roo Lagoon farm trial site.
- Undertaking sap testing and analysis of grape vines at False Cape vineyard.
- Applying biological soil additives to non-wetting sands at a trial site at a Dudley East property.
- Trialling an application of a bacteria-based insecticide (Dipel) on a turnip crop to control diamondback moth on a Dudley East property. Using a pesticide would have killed the soil biology and affected the amino acids in the plants and the soil amendment/foliar application. Fortunately the Dipel bacterium reduced the numbers of diamondback moths and saved the crop.
- Attending the South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub workshop *Strategies to prepare for a dry spring and summer* in October at Stokes Bay.
- Attending a Bureau of Meteorology ‘Train the Trainer’ session on ‘My Climate View’ in November.
- Meeting with other SA SAFs, SEOs and Carbon Outreach Officers to visit the APAL Labs to improve their understanding of what is involved in the soil testing process.

Soil extension

- The Soil Extension Officer (SEO) supported farmers to establish three new demonstration sites and continue to implement demonstrations and trials through advice about and practical support with soil ameliorants, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), cover crops, monitoring, sap and biological testing.
- The SEO attended and hosted a range of workshops including a:
 - » Peer to peer breakfast workshop about summer fodder crops with Josh Rasheed from Naracoorte Seeds and farmers.
 - » Meat Livestock Australia *BredWell FedWell* workshop.
 - » 2024 Livestock Advisor Update in November in Adelaide.
 - » Women Together Learning workshop *Tools for Tough Seasons* in November.
- The SEO was also interviewed on ABC NorthWest about the Soil Extension project.

Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator

- The Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator (SAF) conducted spring Visual Soil Analysis (VSA) monitoring along transects on the four demonstrations established on farms through the previous Australian Government Building Resilient Agriculture project.
- The SAF supported two KI farmers to attend the *Soil Extension and Adoption field day* at Deep Creek which looked at the impacts of stock management decisions on soils.
- The KI SAF met with other South Australian based SAFs and toured PIRSA’s Turretfield Research Farm to view

2
containment feeding
videos produced

9
farmers helped with soil
trials & demonstrations

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:
 - » Future Drought Fund
 - » Carbon Farming Outreach Program
 - » Natural Heritage Trust, Climate-Smart Agriculture Program
- Government of South Australia:
 - » Landscape Priorities Fund

the work PIRSA scientists have been doing to reduce methane emissions from sheep.

- The SAF meets with AgKI each fortnight to work collaboratively.
- In December, the SAF worked with our partners AgKI, PIRSA, local farmers and Ninti Media to develop a containment feeding video for Kangaroo Island with an associated factsheet. They also developed a proposal for a “KI Farm Yarns” podcast. See www.youtube.com/channel/UCdfEauH_fqWyJlvuAF0fD4w

Carbon Farming Outreach Program

- The Carbon Outreach Officer (COO) met fortnightly with the state-wide team to co-design project products, discuss carbon farming initiatives and developments and as an avenue for external carbon farming related experts to present.
- The COO supported the national and state delivery of the program through participation in the National Carbon Farming Outreach Program Working Group.
- The COO also attended a national workshop facilitated by NRM Regions Australia in December to develop a statewide communications and engagement plan.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Host a Bio-Fert workshop on 26 February with representatives from GroundGrocer and the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.
- Conduct baseline soil tests at demonstration sites post-harvest and continue working with existing and new demonstration sites.
- Continue to support farmers with one-on-one technical advice relating to soil issues/problems.
- Present summaries of the upcoming Carbon Farming workshops to the KI Landscape Board and AgKI to receive feedback on the content of the workshops and advice on what KI farmers are most likely to be interested in learning.
- Finalise the statewide Carbon Farming Outreach Program communications and engagement plan.
- Deliver foundational Carbon Farming workshops in May/June after the season breaks.

Images: Below left: Containment feeding. Below right: Jim Mead, Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator, sap testing.



Environmental Education Program

Overview:

This project is partnering with the local school KI Community Education (KICE), to develop and implement a free environmental education program embedded in the Australian (R-10) and SA (11-12) curriculum.

Key achievements in community engagement

October–December 2024:

- Hosted the first KI Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) Forum at Flinders Chase National Park in November for all year 4 and 5 students from KICE.
 - » 120 students attended the forum. Six activities were set up and hosted by the Board and National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) staff, and education officers from Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.
 - » The activities covered fire regeneration, sustainable buildings, leadership, vertebrate pest management (feral cats), bushwalking and small mammal and bird bushfire recovery.
 - » Following the forum student representatives presented the Board with their future visions for KI.
 - » The forum was run with support from the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, NPWS and Our Town.
- Coordinated and presented a professional development session for six KICE teachers at their staff training day in November. The session provided ideas and activities for lesson planning and showcased the equipment and resources related to aquatic macroinvertebrates.
- Established a KICE Environmental Education Steering Committee to support project planning and delivery.
- Developed four education resource and equipment kits including bird watching, KI birds, soils and aquatic macroinvertebrates.
- Provided one-on-one assistance to KICE teachers relating to little corellas, sustainability, sustainable land management, land formation, birds, nests and species classifications.
- Supported 20 KICE students to participate in the Great Aussie Bird Count.
- Developed the Environmental Education Program newsletter for Term 4 and distributed to KICE staff.
- Supported five KICE teachers to attend a Green Adelaide professional development session *Sustainability in the classroom and beyond!*

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Develop materials for teachers relating to the Environmental Education Program services and equipment and a 2025 environmental education program plan.
- Create a platform on the Board website for the Environmental Education Program with information and resources.

Image below: KICE students who participated in the YEL forum present the Board with their vision for KI's future.



120
students attended the
Young Environmental
Leaders Forum

4
education & resource
kits developed

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:
 - » 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 October–December 2024:

- Seedling propagation for the next planting season is well underway with seed sowing and seedling transplanting for 2025 orders and plant sales.
 - Collected seed from species that ripen in summer and mapped seed collection sites.
 - Gradually replacing sprinkler heads on irrigation system.
- Community engagement:
- Attended the Kingscote Show with KI native plants for sale and information about the KI Native Plant Nursery.
 - Hosted a visit for a representative from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife.
 - Supported landholders through property visits for new customers and assisting with late orders.
 - Volunteers donated 80 hours washing pots, sowing seed, transplanting and seed collecting.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue to map seed collection sites and extend knowledge of plant species and where they grow.
- Commence entering data into seed bank data base.
- Continue to attend quarterly propagation workshops with other community nursery managers.

124
plant species
propagated

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
- Members of the public



Image left: Youngest volunteer Yindi Gornall sowing native plant seed.

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 October–December 2024:

Native vegetation protection and restoration

- 13 landholders accepted their offer to participate in the KI On-ground Works Fund for 2024–25. Two of these on-ground works projects have already been completed by enthusiastic landholders, with 115.7 ha of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland protected by 2.3 km of fencing near Cuttlefish Bay, and 12.2 ha of KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland protected by 1.1 km of fencing at Willoughby on the Dudley Peninsula.
- Extensive planning has been undertaken to investigate whether restored native vegetation is providing better, worse, or similar habitat for native animal and plant species, compared with existing equivalent remnant native vegetation.
 - » Six restoration and six remnant native vegetation monitoring sites were identified through desktop analysis and field reconnaissance.
 - » Vegetation monitoring quadrats and fauna drift line camera traps are being established, with survey work due to begin in autumn.
 - » This monitoring aims to increase our knowledge of the effectiveness of habitat restoration works and improve our understanding of the factors that influence habitat adoption by native animal and plant species.

Priority woody weed control

- Woody weed control focussed on protecting critical roadside threatened plant populations in Haines and MacGillivray. To date 6,863 individual weeds from 14 different species have been controlled at 2,197 separate locations. Control locations were recorded with GPS and mapped using ArcGIS.
 - » Control focussed on three priority weed species:
 1. Bridal veil (*Asparagus declinatus*) with 3,800 plants removed from American River, Hog Bay, Wallers and Florance Roads, and the perimeter of Beyeria Conservation Park.
 2. African olives (*Olea europaea* ssp. *cuspidata*) with 726 plants removed from Elsegood Road.
 3. European olives (*Olea europaea* ssp. *europaea*) with 1,654 plants removed from Halls Road.
 - » Weeds were controlled by herbicide spray, cut and paint and drill and fill with herbicide, and physical removal. Due to the high density of young olive wildlings along Halls Road, a new control method was trialled. Olive wildlings were slashed with a brushcutter, then the cut stem were rapidly spot sprayed. This method proved to be very efficient, and its effectiveness will be monitored.
 - » Intensive control of outlier populations of bridal veil was undertaken by specialised weed control contractors along Starrs Road and American River Road. 51 bags of bridal veil plants and tuberous root material were removed from 537 locations along 1 km of Starrs Road. 21 bags were removed from 860 locations along 1.4 km of American River Road. This control aims to prevent further establishment or spread of the infestations.

127
ha KI Narrow-leaved
Mallee woodland
protected

2,380
olive plants removed from
threatened plant habitat

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
- Government of South Australia
 - » Landscape Priorities Fund
- Australian Government
 - » Saving Native Species – Priority Places

Community engagement:

Native vegetation protection and restoration

- Provided comments to the Australian Government’s assessment of Beyeria bush-pea (*Pultenaea insularis*) for inclusion as Critically Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act)* 1999.
- Provided 552 threatened plant records to the Biological Database of South Australia (BDBSA). These records are now available to the public through applications like NatureMaps.
- Liaised with the Conservation and Wildlife Branch of Department for Environment and Water (DEW) regarding signage and barriers to protect significant roadside populations of threatened plants.
- Gave comments to the Native Vegetation Council regarding a clearance application.
- Advised a landholder about burning aging vegetation on their property.
- Gave information to a landholder interested in undertaking on-ground works projects on their property.

Priority woody weed control

- Community engagement focused on project staff liaising with landholders with properties adjacent to roadside weed control works. Landholders generally supported the control works. One landholder volunteered to help control olives along Elsegood Road and was inspired to continue controlling olives on their property.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Native vegetation protection and restoration

- Funding is available to establish 1 ha of threatened plant habitat in Haines/MacGillivray. The site will be selected following a desk top survey and site assessment.
- Planning and liaison will continue with the KI Council and Department for Infrastructure and Transport to establish roadside barriers and signs alerting workers and the public to the presence of critical threatened plant populations on roadsides, to prevent them from being accidentally harmed.
- The six restored and remnant native vegetation sites will be monitored in autumn and again in spring to investigate factors that influence habitat adoption by native animal and plant species.

Priority woody weed control

- Priority woody weed control work will continue.
- Post-control monitoring will be undertaken to find any weeds that were missed and evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment.

Images: Below left: A driftline set to monitor fauna and flora differences between restored and remnant native vegetation. Below right: Project staff slashing olive wildlings on Halls Road before spot spraying.



14
weed species controlled
at 2,197 sites

552
threatened plant records
loaded into BDBSA



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 October–December 2024:

- The Hollowhog wood carving tool has been trialled for hollow creation. Trial hollow log nests have been made for crimson rosellas (15 hollows) and pardalotes (10 hollows). These will be installed in, and next to, revegetation sites where these species occur, to determine if augmentation can make revegetation areas useful breeding sites faster for hollow nesting species. So far nest boxes and logs have been installed at four sites around Middle River for these species.
- 12 sites were selected for habitat augmentation activities for threatened woodland birds: four in Latham Conservation Park, four at Murray Lagoon and four in Middle River gorge.
 - » Habitat augmentation activities include installing nesting hollows constructed by the innovative “Hollowhog” tool and trialling augmented logs as nesting habitat in revegetated or burnt sites where natural hollows are lacking.
 - » This habitat augmentation is targeting the vulnerable Kangaroo Island crimson rosella. Spotted and striated pardalotes will also be targeted due to their known readiness to use nest boxes.
- Glossy black-cockatoo nest boxes were opened for their upcoming 2025 breeding season. The nest boxes were closed during the little corella and galah breeding seasons to exclude these species.
- Surveys were undertaken to determine the abundance of feral European honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) hives within open dry sclerophyll forests with an overstorey dominated by tall mixed Eucalyptus species over a shrubby understorey layer. The aim is to determine what proportion of hollow-bearing trees within a woodland contain feral European honeybee hives, or how prevalent hives are in natural forests on the island. Due the tree-based nature of this survey method, it will also provide information on tree hollow abundance in forests on Kangaroo Island.

Image right: Glossy black-cockatoo Officer Torran Welz using the Hollowhog tool to create a nest hollow.



25
Hollowhog nest boxes made

12
sites selected for habitat augmentation

- 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
 - Australian Government
 - » Saving Native Species – Priority Places
 - Members of the public

- » The surveys were undertaken over 8 ha at Cygnet River, Parndana Conservation Park, Western River and Woodlot Gully (Stokes Bay).
- » Within these four sites, three hollow bearing tree species were recorded: sugar gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*), SA blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) and river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). 204 individual trees of these species surveyed.
- » Across all three species, only 40% had a hollow entrance indicating they contained at least one hollow, and of those 11% were occupied by feral European honeybee hives.
- » Hives seemed to be more prevalent at one particular site (Cygnet River) and in one species of tree (SA blue gum).
- » More data will be collected in the future to increase our sample size prior to robust statistical analysis being conducted.

8
ha surveyed to determine abundance of bee hives

80
KICE students participated in YEL session

Community engagement:

- Project staff ran a joint session for year 4 and 5 students at the Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) event run by the Board’s Environmental Education Coordinator at Flinders Chase Visitor Centre on 12 November 2024. Four groups with 20 students each, were shown a fauna monitoring site using remote cameras. They were then shown images obtained from camera traps and were given a field guide, prepared for the event with threatened and common bird species, which they used to identify threatened woodland birds to species level.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- More log hollow nests will be created and installed in target areas with revegetation sites.
- Removal of any recent bee hives that have moved into glossy black-cockatoo nesting areas.
- Finalise woodland bird spatial datasets of their presence and breeding sites to inform habitat augmentation activities.

Image below: Team Leader Biodiversity Karleah Berris talking with year 4 and 5 KICE students at the Young Environmental Leaders event at Flinders Chase Visitor Centre (Dan Clarke).



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 and continue to build on those datasets for target species through re-surveying long-term monitoring sites seasonally during spring and autumn.

Key achievements October–December 2024

- KI dunnarts, southern brown bandicoots, KI echidnas, Rosenberg’s goannas, pygmy possums and threatened birds were surveyed at 70 long-term monitoring sites across western KI. These sites have been monitored since 2020 and are being used to detect trends in fauna recovery.
- Liaised with the Rotary Club of Burnside on their design of underground ‘bunkers’ to protect endangered southern brown bandicoots during fires.

Community engagement

- Project staff ran a joint session for year 4 and 5 students at the Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) event run by the Board’s Environmental Education Coordinator at Flinders Chase Visitor Centre on 12 November 2024. Four groups with 20 students each, were shown a fauna monitoring site using remote cameras. They were then shown images obtained from camera traps and were given a field guide, prepared for the event with threatened and common fauna species, which they used to identify the fauna in the images to species level.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Monitor small mammals at long-term survey sites in autumn.
- Build, install and monitor southern brown bandicoot ‘bunkers’ in unburnt patches of native vegetation which are currently the strongholds for southern brown bandicoots.

Images below: threatened fauna photographed during the surveys. Top row (left-right): bassian thrush, pygmy possum and southern emu wren. Bottom row (left-right): KI dunnart, southern brown bandicoot and KI echidna.



Improving Coastal Habitats Project

Overview:

This project will undertake actions to improve the quality of habitat for Kangaroo Island’s priority coastal species through habitat augmentation, protection and revegetation. Key coastal habitats and threatened species will also be monitored to provide information and direction for current management actions, with a focus on the Board’s newly constructed native flat oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) reefs and little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) colonies.

Key achievements October–December 2024

- A whole-of-island little penguin census was completed in October with support from DEW. Results were consistent with censuses taken in spring of 2023 and autumn 2024.
- A metric survey of native flat oysters at the Board’s American River reef restoration site was conducted. Results show increasing densities of *Ostrea angasi* spat have settled on the artificial reef. Oysters of a range of sizes were identified, suggesting they have successfully settled and survived over the past two years since the reef was completed.
- The Board’s Coast and Marine Project Officer attended the two-day state-wide Coast and Marine Forum hosted by Green Adelaide. They presented on the Board’s coast and marine program, with particular focus on the oyster reef restoration project.
- The Coast and Marine Project Officer assisted with fieldwork surveys on KI beaches as part of the Gulf St Vincent biennial bioregional marine debris survey program which have been led by Green Adelaide since 2010.

Community engagement

- The Board hosted Birdlife’s Hooded Plover Conservation Community Workshop in October, and continued to support the monitoring program through spring and into summer.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Improve little penguin colony coastal habitat by removing old and defective structures, controlling weeds and revegetating degraded habitat.
- Present on the Board’s oyster reef restoration project at Green Adelaide’s Coastal Ambassadors Program.
- Collaborate with year 7 and 8 Environmental Technology students at KICE to build hooded plover chick shelters as part of their habitat augmentation focus for term 1 2025.
- Ongoing hooded plover monitoring and barrier control activities to protect adults, chicks and eggs during the breeding period.

Image below: Tiles forming part of the American River reef covered with native flat oysters of varying sizes, indicating multiple ages.



Communications and media

Overview:

This project provides professional communication services, processes, advice and support to the Board, General Manager and project staff. All work is in line with the Board's priorities and direction and tailored to the community and national/international audiences through targeted messaging and communication methods.

Key achievements October–December 2024:

1. Media

1. Seven articles were published in the media over the quarter:

- 9/10/24: [Corella control](#)
Information about the targeted control program the Board is trialling in response to concerns raised by the community and the Kangaroo Island Council.
- 29/10/24: [347 feral cats eliminated as KI Landscape Board undertakes trapping blitz](#)
Promotion of the Board's work with many dedicated landholders and community members across the Dudley Peninsula and Pelican Lagoon, to deliver the most intensive winter trapping and monitoring program since the feral cat eradication program commenced in 2020.
- 11/11/24: [Little Corella community update — dispelling the myths](#)
An update for the community on the Board's little corella control trial with a reminder to landholders about actions they can take to control little corellas on their properties.
- 15/11/24: [Kangaroo Island Landscape Board pays tribute to Janice "Jackie" Kelly](#)
The Board acknowledged with profound sadness the passing of Janice "Jackie" Roslyn Kelly OAM.
- 17/11/24: [Kangaroo Island hosts its first Young Environmental Leaders forum](#)
Promotion of the first Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) forum with 120 KICE students at Flinders Chase National Park in November 2024.
- 6/12/24: [Success of KI feral pig eradication recognised](#)
The Stock Journal published a story about the likely eradication of feral pigs from KI following the 2019/20 bushfires.
- 13/12/24: [Biosecurity reminder to keep Kangaroo Island safe from pests](#)
The Board issued a timely reminder to visitors and new residents about about animals, pests and weeds that are not allowed on KI.

Four interviews were given to ABC North West radio:

- 9/10/24: Dudley Peninsula [primary producer Tom \(Trout\) Willson was interviewed about narrowed-leaved mallee conservation practices on his property](#), resulting from property management plans developed by the Board.
- 6/11/24: KILB Feral Cat Eradication team member Chantelle Geissler and sheep farmer and owner of Antechamber Retreats Andy Gilfillan, were interviewed about the results of the Dudley Peninsula feral cat eradication program and the community's involvement.
- 3/12/24: KI Mayor Michael Pengilly was interviewed about the Board's call for community members to report little corella roosting sites.
- 18/12/24: Board Chair Andrew Heinrich was interviewed about biosecurity measures in place to protect KI's environment and agriculture industries.

31
social media posts

7
media articles published locally

- 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

Two articles were published through ABC media on-line:

- 7/11/24: [Spying on echidnas' sex lives for decades, researcher says there's still much to learn](#)
Overview of Board Member Dr Peggy Rismiller research into Kangaroo Island's tiger snakes and echidnas.
- 28/11/24: [Calls for SA government to change 'archaic' restriction on trapping feral cats in regional areas](#)
Explaining why the Board is working with landholders and the Invasive Species Council to change an "archaic" rule that prohibits feral cats from being trapped and destroyed within 1 km of a residence.

2. Social media

- 31 social media articles were posted on the [Board's Facebook page](#). These posts reached 97,800 people, and attracted 37 new followers.
- The Facebook post about research from the Board's [Glossy Black-Cockatoo Recovery Program](#) was viewed by 3,300 people.
- A video summary of the [Island Arks Symposium](#) was published on the Board YouTube channel.

Community engagement:

- October 24: The Board sponsored the Nature Festival supporting an open day at [Bev Maxwell and Colin Wilson property, "Strepera"](#) and participating in *Connecting with our Island Home*, a free event for children under five years held at the Kingscote Townhall.
- November 24: The Board worked with landholders and community groups [to remove restrictions on soft-jaw leg-hold traps and change legislation under the Dog and Cat Management Act](#) to allow landholders to better manage and eradicate feral cats on their properties.
- November 24: The Board published community information about what to do if dead birds are found in relation to the H5N1 strain of bird influenza.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- In February 25, ABC's Landline program will feature a story about the Board's feral cat eradication program on the Dudley Peninsula.
- Partnering with PIRSA to develop a guide for invasive weeds on Kangaroo Island.
- Partnering with the University of Adelaide to develop a soil book in line with the Board's soil extension objectives.
- Development of a full suite of communications to educate landholders about dam compliance.
- Promotion of fire wise plants available at the KI Native Nursery.
- Partnering with Agriculture Kangaroo Island to produce a series of podcasts for the Island's primary producers.

Image right: Feral Cat Eradication Team members Chantelle Geissler and Paul Jennings with the ABC Landline crew.



4
radio interviews coordinated

3,300
people viewed post on KI glossy recovery

- Funded by:
- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
 - Australian Government
 - Government of South Australia:
 - » State Appropriations

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 October–December 2024:

- Four output reports were submitted to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT) for the project.
- Four progress reports were submitted to the Government of SA under the Landscape Priorities Fund.
- Supported the development of the project *Kangaroo Island - Farming towards the Future* with the Australian Government.
- Published the [Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Emergency Response Framework for Natural Assets](#) and associated maps on the Board's website.
- Developed and submitted the [Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Annual Report for 2023-24](#) to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water.

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:

- 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.
- Compile a comprehensive database on the board's achievements over the last three years to be used in an evaluation to inform the development of the next landscape plan.

Image right: Environmental Education Officers from the Kangaroo Island and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Boards, Deb Laver, Cindy Kakoschke and Rosheen Blumson with the art work created by the KICE students on the day as the future voices of Kangaroo Island (Dan Clarke).



8
reports submitted to
project funders

- 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

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 October–December 2024:

Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants

- Farmers from Cassini protected 2 ha of native vegetation burnt in the 2019-20 bushfires and replanted the area with 1,200 native plants to improve biodiversity.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Support KI Grassroots Grants participants with their projects.
- Review the KI Grassroots Grants funding program to ensure it is offering and delivering something that is useful to the community, achieving good on-ground outcomes that deliver on the KI Landscape Plan 2021-26 and using transparent, fair, easy to follow processes.

1,200
native plants planted and
protected over 2ha

- 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

Image below: Young, newly germinated seedlings beginning to grow at the KI Native Plant Nursery on 4 December 2024.



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 agricultural pests and weeds, growing and monitoring soil health and plant nutrition, grazing management, feed budgeting, using biological stimulants and fertilisers

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 Jo Sullivan
8553 2476
jo.sullivan@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 pig, goat and deer reports

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



Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator

- » soil monitoring and soil health
- » demonstration and trial sites
- » shelter belts and revegetation
- » sustainable land management

Contact Jim Mead
0437 172 877
jim.mead@sa.gov.au



Feral cat control

- » control of feral cats
- » feral cat trap hire

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