



Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

April — June 2022

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 April to 30 June 2022 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 seven 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 over the next 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: Landholder Janet Hall collecting her native plants from the KI Native Plant Nursery with Jo McPhee.

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 April–June 2022:

- Spatial mapping layers were created for dam capacity, channel extent and watercourse slope for a surface water model being developed to assist landholders with water security planning.
- Seven erosion structures were installed on two properties to remediate unstable erosion heads and protect streambanks from impacts from the 2019-20 bushfires along 4.5 km of affected Stun'Sail Boom River.
- Analysed and reported on the *Environmental Assessment of Water Management Options for KI* project. This project will improve the science of, and refine the policies in, the [KI Water Affecting Activity Control Policy](#).

Community engagement:

- One demonstration site has been established and two others are being developed to promote water security works.
- Maps for use in water security planning were given to interested landholders.
- Nine Water Affecting Activities (WAA) permit applications were received, including multi-location permits for 42 sites for culvert upgrades along Hog Bay Road, and multiple creek crossings on fire tracks, in a single permit.
- Advised 30 people about water resources management, the requirement for WAA permits and development applications.
- Assisted forestry managers to begin understanding their landholder responsibilities with respect to water resources management.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Construct a third water security demonstration site.
- Analyse the water level, vegetation and macroinvertebrate monitoring data collected to develop the water security plans.
- A new water administration platform '[mywater](#)' has been released for testing by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW). mywater is an on-line system and customer portal for managing water, including applying for permits and licenses, and tracking their progress.



7 erosion structures installed to protect Stun'Sail Boom River

1 demonstration site established to promote water security

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
- Australian Government:
 - » Future Drought Fund – NRM Drought Resilience Grant
 - » Bushfire recovery package for wildlife and their habitat

Image below: Erosion control structure installed to protect streambanks on the Stun'Sail Boom 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 April–June 2022:

Declared weeds:

- Destroyed over 2,000 African boxthorn plants along roadsides between Kingscote and Penneshaw, American River and Emu Bay.
- Follow-up post-fire weed control was undertaken on arum lily over 2.5 ha to stop it invading Flinders Chase National Park and Kelly Hill Conservation Park.
- Follow-up post-fire weed control was undertaken on bridal creeper over 354 ha to prevent it invading Kelly Hill Conservation Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area, Mt Taylor Conservation Park and Latham Conservation Park. After many years of control, surveying only is now required for new bridal creeper plants on western KI.

Other significant weeds:

- More than 5,000 rats tail grass (*Sporobolus species*) plants were controlled along KI roadsides. This weed is unpalatable to stock and can have significant impacts to farming. It is becoming more abundant on most of KI's main roads.
- Over 5,000 Cape Leeuwin wattle plants were destroyed from roadsides in Haines and MacGillivray. Spread by birds, this environmental weed is becoming more significant on KI.

Tasmanian blue gum (TBG) wildlings:

- Volunteer groups and contractors have collectively completed 99 ha of initial control work and 23 ha of follow-up control to remove any new or missed wildlings.

Declared animal management

- Sightings of a pair of Canadian geese (*Branta canadensis*) flying over Island Beach, Nepean Bay and Redbanks were investigated. These geese are a declared pest under the *Landscape SA Act 2019* and cause significant damage to pastures and crops. They were introduced to New Zealand but have not become established in Australia to date.



5,000
rats tail plants found and removed from roadsides

2
Canadian geese sightings investigated

25
people attended a follow-up Pc workshop

354 ha
bridal creeper controlled in outliers on western KI

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 Land Levy
- Government of South Australia and Australian Government:
 - » National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements through the Minister of Primary Industries and Regional Development
 - » Department for Infrastructure and Transport
- Australian Government:
 - » Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery

- During April, the Board received reports of a rabbit sighting at Penneshaw. Rabbits are a declared animal on KI as the island is free of rabbits, and their establishment would significantly threaten the island's environment and agricultural enterprises. This sighting is now the subject of an ongoing investigation.
- Work on the eradication programs for feral cats and feral pigs continued (see reports on pages 6, 7 and 8).

Phytophthora cinnamomi (Pc)

- Supported the launch of Flinders University's KI Citizen Science Project which will include Pc surveillance by citizen scientists, and PCR testing by Flinders University data to help update Pc mapping on KI.

Community engagement:

- A workshop was held on 9 May 2022 for 25 key KI stakeholders to provide an update on recent advances in Pc research and testing protocols. The Pc fieldwork hygiene protocols were presented and distributed to participants. Plans and priorities for future Pc surveys on KI, and sample collection and testing regimes using the new PCR test for Pc, were also discussed.
- A Tasmanian Bluegum Community Weeding Day was held in conjunction with Trees for Life on 15 May 2022 on western KI.
- Presentations were given at the on-line forum *Kangaroo Island Ecological Recovery Community Update* on 25 June about feral pig eradication and TBG wildling control.
- The KI Weeds Officer assisted landholders to identify weeds and understand their responsibility for weed management.
- KI Landscape Board staff gave five landholders advice about Pc testing, control options, and hygiene protocols to minimise spread.
- Declared animal and weed information was shared with the KI community through three Facebook posts about: Pc spread, control and hygiene protocols, detections of Canadian geese on KI and a TBG community weeding day.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Ongoing seasonal control of priority weeds across KI, including one-leaf Cape tulip and bridal veil.

Image left: Hand removal of bridal creeper at Kelly Hill Conservation Park in June.

Image right: Controlling African boxthorn along KI roadsides.



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 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 April–June 2022:

- Eradication work continued over the Dudley Peninsula.
- 72 feral cats were culled this quarter by KI Landscape Board staff using cage traps and soft jaw foot-hold traps, over 2,939 trap nights for cage traps, and 909 trap nights for soft jaw foot-hold traps. 51 feral cats were captured in cage traps and 21 feral cats were captured in soft jaw foot-hold traps.
- A feral cat trapping blitz from has been operating since 24 June and will be completed on 4 July 2022 by Board staff and the community working together to cover the whole of the Dudley Peninsula at once. The blitz in covering the whole 384 km² of the Dudley Peninsula. The results of the blitz will be reported in the September progress report.
- 191 remote camera traps were deployed across the Dudley Peninsula to survey for feral cats and other threatened wildlife. These cameras recorded the presence of feral cats, which was then used to guide eradication efforts, particularly around mopping up behind the eradication front.

Image below: New feral cat traps ready to be deployed in the Dudley Peninsula trapping blitz.



72
feral cats culled across the
Dudley Peninsula

31
landholders trapped feral
cats during the blitz

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

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

Community engagement:

- 31 landholders participated in the feral cat trapping blitz across 5,500 ha and countless others generously provided access to their properties.
- Staff from the feral cat eradication team presented a stall at the Penneshaw markets on 3 April to answer any questions, update the community of the program's progress and encourage their support for the feral cat trapping blitz.
- The feral cat team met with the Nature Foundation and some of their supporters on KI to showcase the successes of the program to date.
- The team used 10 social media posts to promote the program about: how to donate to the program or sponsor a 4G remote camera; the feral cat trapping blitz; feral cat and brushtail possum interactions, translation of Feral Free Kangaroo Island video into Spanish; movement of a feral cat recorded by remote cameras across the Dudley Peninsula; publication of the benefits of using Curiosity® feral cat bait in hard to access areas in a scientific article published by CSIRO Wildlife Research; and a stall at the Penneshaw Market on 3 April. See www.facebook.com/FeralFreeKI/

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Workshops with Steve Austin, canine training and behaviour specialist, will occur on KI between 18–20 August to train handlers and their dogs in humane and ethical wildlife detection dog techniques to support feral cat eradication on Kangaroo Island.
- The aim for the whole team this winter is to continuously trap as much of the Dudley Peninsula as possible, to reduce 'leakage' of feral cats back behind the eradication front line.
- Once the warmer months appear (and all 210 4G connected cameras are deployed across the Dudley Peninsula), the team will reassess where to establish the rolling front line and continue feral cat trapping on western Dudley Peninsula.

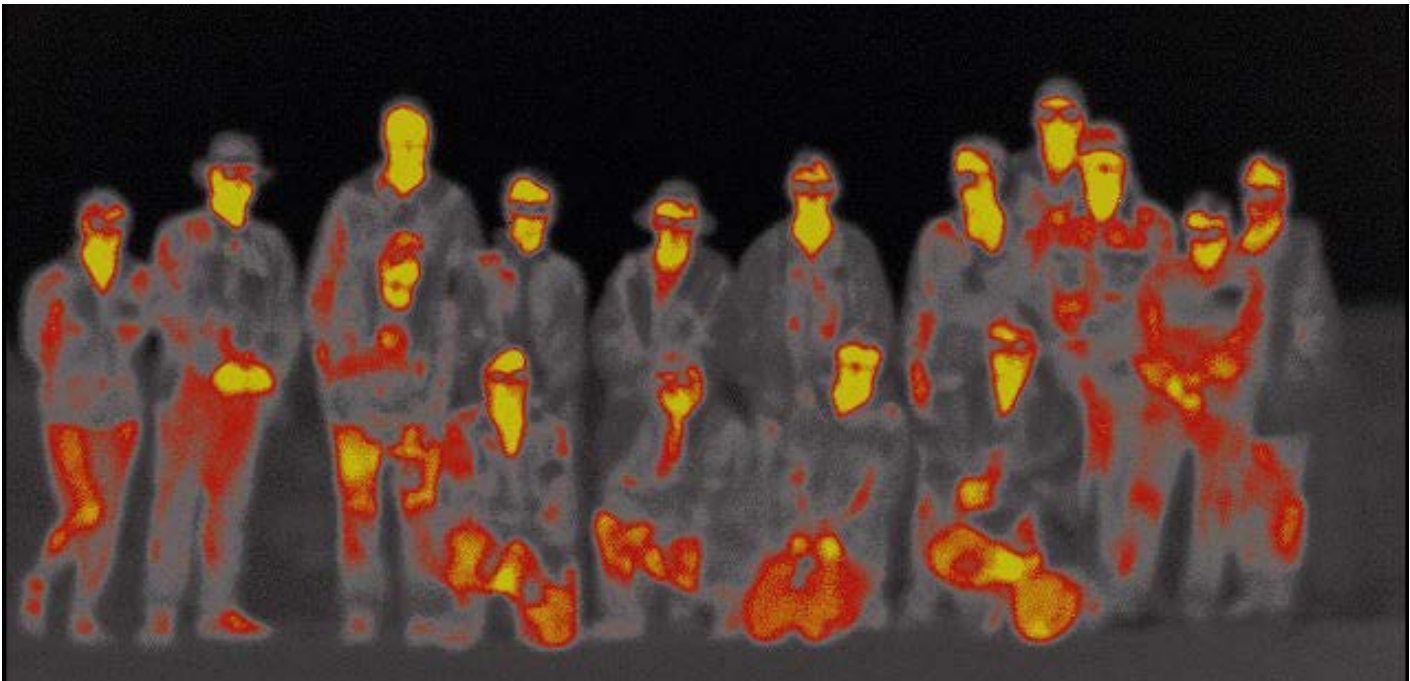
3,848
trap nights for feral cats
(no. traps x no. nights)

191
remote cameras deployed
to detect feral cats

Funded by:

- Government of South Australia:
 - » Landscape Priorities Fund
- Australian Government:
 - » Regional Land Partnerships
 - » Smart Farms Small Grants
 - » Bushfire Wildlife and Habitat Recovery Fund
 - » Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery
- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
- Members of the public

Image below: Supporters of the Nature Foundation on their recent visit to KI photographed through thermal binoculars.



Feral Pig Eradication Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements April–June 2022:

- KILB control officers responded adaptively with their control activities to feral pig sightings. KILB control officers spent considerable time searching for feral pig sign, establishing and maintaining free-feed sites, and monitoring feral pig activity using camera traps.
- Feral pigs were poisoned where possible.
- Six feral pigs were destroyed by KILB Control Officers. Of particular note was the destruction of a boar known to KILB staff, that for many years had only been infrequently sighted and had evaded detection and destruction.
- The Feral Animal Control Officer destroyed an additional 21 feral pigs during the Thermal Assisted Aerial (TAAC) feral pig cull on KI in April as part of the DEW Aerial Marksmen Team.
- Farmers have reported to our KILB Control Officers that for the first time they are not seeing feral pig diggings. Instead a high number of farmers are surprised to find echidnas turning over their paddocks.

Community engagement:

- The Control Officers engaged with 33 landholders across central and western KI to undertake control, monitor for feral pig sign and discuss different aspects of the Feral Pig Eradication Program.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- The Feral Animal Control Officer will participate in the TAAC operation across western KI from July to September.
- On-ground control work will continue, 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: A busy echidna turned over almost half a hectare on this farm recently.



27
feral pigs destroyed

33
landholders supported with on-ground 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:
- Government of South Australia
 - » National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements through the Minister of Primary Industries and Regional Development

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 April–June 2022:

- Seedling propagation for the 2022 planting season is now complete and landholders are collecting their ordered plants. Over 55,000 of the 57,000 plants propagated are ready for planting. This was a great feat as the nursery was over-capacity and over-crowding affected plant survival through fungal diseases, fungus gnats and watering issues. Due to the great number of orders there has been no spare stock for walk-in customers this season.
- Propagation has begun for the 2023 planting season. Seed from winter species has been collected, including Christmas bush (*Bursaria spinosa*) and native pines (*Callitris* species). Cuttings have also been propagated, including pale turpentine bush (*Beyeria lechenaultii*), sea box (*Alyxia buxifolia*) and Correa species.

Community engagement:

- Jason Selmon from the construction company Bitu-mill initiated the *KI Community Recovery Ride*. Participants rode their bicycles from Adelaide to the KI Native Plant Nursery via Cape Jervis and the ferry. Six companies were involved, each donating \$2,000 to the nursery fund for fire-affected land holders. The ride raised \$12,000 for the KI Native Plant Nursery.
- Three sessions were presented to middle primary students about local bush food plants at KI Community Education, Kingscote Campus.
- Nursery staff attended a Propagation Workshop at Goolwa Community Nursery with other community nursery managers and staff from the Seed Conservation Centre.
- Nursery staff met with the Team leader for Aboriginal Health at the Cook Centre to give advice about plants for a sensory garden in the Cook Centre Grounds.
- Nursery staff visited several sites to give advice about weed management, revegetation and planting garden beds, including the Dunes Golf Course, Middle River Homestead and Kingsgate Haven at American River.
- Nursery staff have also given advice to many KI landholders through phone calls, emails and clients directly visiting the nursery. This is usually to advise on the most suitable plants for their projects.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Continue receiving orders and propagating native plants for planting in the late autumn/winter in 2023.
- Continue to seek funding to move the nursery to a larger site.

55,000
native plants ready for planting for revegetation projects

3
sessions with primary students about local bush food plants

- 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:
- Australian Government:
 - » National Landcare Program Regional Land Partnerships
 - » Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery
 - Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
 - Collette Travel

Image below: KI Native Plant Nursery staff Veronica Bates and Jo McPhee.



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 April–June 2022:

- A mix of 800 KI native flowering plants were planted over 1 ha adjacent to The Islander Estate vineyard to attract beneficiary insects on 26 June 2022. 12 local volunteers helped with the plantings.
- Established two demonstration Integrated Pest Management (IPM) trials. The demonstration site landholders worked with IPM technologies to develop IPM strategies for their properties and their works have begun.
- Developed an action plan for sustainable agriculture on KI with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and AgKI for 2022-23.
- Appointment of Cassandra Douglas-Hill as Landscape Officer – Soils.

Community engagement:

- Hosted a *Weather, Weeds and Burgers* presentation on 4 April with Darren Ray, Applied Consulting Climatologist on 4 April 2022. 52 people attended. The presentation included the expected date(s) for break of the season, expected amounts of autumn, winter and spring rainfall and the predicted temperature for those seasons. The workshop also included a presentation on identifying weeds by Chris Brodie from the SA Herbarium.
- Dr Mary Cole from Agpath and Mary Retallack from EcoVineyards presented an IPM *Healthy Soils Seminar* at Bay of Shoals Winery on 5 May 2022. Many of the over 30 attendees indicated an interest in learning more about biochar and making bio stimulants.
- Assisted three landholders to trial soil amendments for both pasture and horticulture farming with the information from the *Healthy Soils Seminar*.



1 ha
planted near vineyards to
attract good insects

92
people attended 2
workshops

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:
 - » National Landcare Program Regional Land Partnerships
 - » Smart Farms Small Grants Program

Image below left: Jenny and Will Stanton analysing soil with Dr Mary Cole at their demonstration site.

Image below right: Building compost at Bay of Shoals Winery.

Image far right: Mary Retallack presenting at the Healthy Soils Seminar.

- Continued to assist landholders to make compost and biostimulants following information from the *Healthy Soils Seminar*. For example Bay of Shoals Winery was assisted to make a compost tea in preparation for use in spring. The method employed was based on information provided by Dr Mary Cole , Kim Deans, Reinventing Agriculture and Nicole Masters, Integrity Soils. Bay of Shoals was also assisted to make compost windrows using local waste materials and on-farm resources.
- Assisted Bay of Shoals Winery to select potential species for mid-row ground cover and soil improvement. The spring and autumn species selected were trialled previously in a CSIRO study conducted on KI.
- Supported the Rural Solutions SA Senior Land Management Consultant to give technical advice on 40 soil tests to fifteen farmers about addressing soil health constraints relating to soil acidification. This included recommended lime sand applications.
- Developed and posted two web pages relating to trends and projected future changes on Kangaroo Island due to climate change. See <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/about-us/climate-change-and-kangaroo-island>
- Developed a web page about Natural Sequence Farming (NSF) to give information to landholders about NSF, and promote the opportunity for landholders to receive subsidised NSF training. See <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/land-and-farming/managing-soil-pasture-livestock/introducing-natural-sequence-farming>
- Developed a KI Integrated Pest Management planting guide to give landholders a practical guide of local Kangaroo Island native flowering plants that can be grown to attract beneficial insects for primary production. See <https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/landscape/docs/ki/30-ki-building-res-ag-ipm-plant-guide-06-22.pdf>

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Facilitate the development of a KI *'Biochar community of practice'* and a *'DIY bio stimulant community of practice'*.
- IPM workshops with Dr Paul Horn and Rebecca Addison from IPM Technologies for vigneron and local farmers on 24 August.
- Compost and microbes course and one on one consultations with Dr Mary Cole on 13-14 September.
- September Q&A style workshop with AGF Seeds and Biosys Agribusiness to provide farmers with the practical advice to improve soils using cover crops, mixed species for pasture renovation, biostimulants and biological applications for large scale pasture applications.
- Develop a soils book specific for Kangaroo Island.



3 web pages
posted about
climate change
and NS Farming

40
soil tests subsidised for
15 farmers

KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland Threatened Ecological Community Recovery Program

Overview:

This project will improve the condition, extent and connectivity of remnant KI Narrow-leaved Mallee woodland community patches through direct investment in threat mitigation actions and empowering landholders to undertake best practice management of narrow-leaved mallee on their properties.

Key achievements April–June 2022:

- Four landholders protected 149.2 ha of KI narrow-leaved mallee woodland from stock grazing and trampling with 13 km of fencing.
- One landholder revegetated 0.36 ha of KI narrow-leaved mallee woodland to strengthen corridors between remnant vegetation patches. The revegetation was protected with guards, as well as existing fencing. Tubestock was used to revegetate the woodland.
- Project management tasks were undertaken to manage current on-ground works projects under the 2021-22 funding round and begin the next 2022-23 funding round.

Community engagement:

- Technical advice was given to 31 farmers, 20 lifestyle property owners, seven government officials and two botanists. Advice was largely to do with revegetation planting and protection fencing, but also included advice to several landowners about ecological restoration of

KI Narrow-leaved Mallee using the pollarding and burning techniques. Advice also related to rehabilitation of degraded land adjacent to KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland, threatened species within KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland, weed control, vegetation clearance associated with dams and development and management advice for vegetation under Heritage Agreement.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- On-ground Works landholder project applications for 2022-23 will be assessed and prioritised. We received 33 applications, totalling over \$370,000 worth of projects.
- Follow-up bridal veil monitoring and control work will be undertaken in 1000 ha of high-value Nationally Threatened Plant Habitat. When the area was surveyed in 2021, more than 2,700 individual plants were identified and removed.

Image right: KI Narrow-leaved Mallee regenerating following pollarding as outlined in the landholder's vegetation management plan.



149.2 ha
KI narrow-leaved mallee
woodland protected

60
people advised about
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:

- Australian Government:
National Landcare Program
Regional Land Partnerships

Community grants programs

Overview:

These grant programs support the KI community to undertake on-ground actions to benefit the natural resources of Kangaroo Island. Grants reported here include the KI Landscape Board Grassroots Grants and Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants.

Key achievements April–June 2022:

Kangaroo Island Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants

- 198 km of fencing has been installed by 28 landholders to protect 2009 ha of burnt and regenerating native vegetation, some of which contains threatened species.
- Round 2 of the Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants is currently open to protect burnt and unburnt vegetation and revegetation projects within the 2019-2020 firescar. This round is open until 31 October 2022, or when all funds have been allocated.
 - » An on-line application form is available at: www.bit.ly/3uCpgm4

Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants

- The 2022-23 KI Grassroots Grants round closed in May. Sixteen applications were received totalling \$101,962. Applications were assessed and nine were funded valuing \$48,988 to:
 - » Protect and restore an old watercourse with year 10 and 11 KI Community Education students.
 - » Improve 100 ha through weed control and establishment of perennial pastures.
 - » Plant new shelterbelts of native vegetation to shelter stock and create habitat.
 - » Add a filmed researcher interview to educational signage highlighting the terrestrial and marine life at Emu Bay.
 - » Restore coastal mallee habitat for coastal and bush birds and other native species at Shoal Bay.
 - » Support the KI Childrens Services Bush Kindy program to engage children in educational outdoor activities.
 - » Restore fences protecting native vegetation that were burnt in the bushfire to create stock shelterbelts and native habitat.
 - » Install owl nest boxes around the Dudley Peninsula to encourage barn owls to reduce mice and rat numbers following the removal of feral cats.
 - » Support longitudinal citizen science surveys of dolphins on KI.

Community engagement:

- The KI Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants were re-advertised to all landholders through Facebook.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- The KI Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants will continue to run until 30 November 2022.

Image right A recently completed fence protecting regenerating native vegetation funded through the KI Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants.

2009 ha
regenerating burnt native
vegetation protected

9
Grassroots Grants projects
funded for 2022-23

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 Land Levy
- Government of South Australia:
 - » State Appropriations
 - » Minister for Environment and Water
- Australian Government:
 - » Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery



Glossy black-cockatoo Recovery Program

Overview:

This project will deliver emergency interventions for SA glossy black-cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*) affected by bushfires to assist with their recovery, including protecting glossy black-cockatoo (glossy) nests from predators to improve nesting success.

Key achievements April–June 2022:

- Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area was extensively searched for active glossy black-cockatoo nests in natural tree hollows over five days. Three new nests were found and their canopies were pruned and corrugated iron collars placed around their trunks to protect them from common brushtail possums.
- 18 ha of glossy feeding habitat was planted by nine landholders.
- 155 known natural nest hollows and nest boxes were visited to record nest occupancy and breeding success at 16 breeding sites across KI. There were 77 nest attempts in 2022 with 73% of these successfully rearing a nestling to six weeks of age. This nesting success rate is much higher than the 20% recorded previously in unmanaged nests in the 1990s. 58% of all nesting attempts occurred in areas with unburnt drooping sheoak feeding habitat.
- To continue the long-term monitoring program, 34 nestlings between 5-10 weeks of age were banded.
- To add to a long-term dataset on glossy black-cockatoo individuals' movement and survival, staff recorded the band numbers of adult birds at feeding and nesting sites over a period of 12 months, whenever possible.
- Three monitoring regimes were successfully undertaken to provide baseline data including:
 1. **Galah exclusion:** Nest boxes were closed to galahs once glossies finished breeding in them to prevent galahs nesting there. Cameras recorded galah visitations and found closing glossy nest boxes during the galah breeding season significantly reduced galahs visiting the nest boxes during the next glossy breeding season, however, it did not eliminate all disturbance. This looks to be a promising, non-lethal method of reducing disturbance by galahs to nesting glossy black-cockatoos.
 2. **Drooping sheoak seedling regeneration growth:** Results showed seedlings in thinned plots had significantly higher growth rates over a 10 month period than seedlings in non-thinned plots. This indicates drooping sheoak seedling density may impact on time until cones are produced for glossies to feed on.
 3. **Thermal properties of nest boxes:** Temperature loggers on natural tree hollows and artificial nest boxes recorded temperature inside and outside the nest. When the summer temperature was over 30°C, natural hollows were 3.5°C cooler than outside, but artificial nests were only 0.48–0.83°C cooler. In winter when the temperature dropped below 10°C, natural hollows were 1.78°C warmer than outside, whereas artificial hollows were only 0.95–1.09°C warmer. This is particularly concerning for glossies who begin nesting in summer and early autumn and will be monitored further.

18 ha
glossy feeding habitat
planted by 9 landholders

73%
nest attempts reared a
glossy over 6 weeks old

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

Image below: A temperature logger attached to the side wall of a nestbox. A 2-3 week old glossy black-cockatoo nestling is sleeping in the bottom of the nest.

Image far left: An example of the height of seedlings in thinned plots. This seedling germinated two years ago.

Image far right: Volunteers planting glossy feeding habitat at Murray Lagoon.



Community engagement:

- Twelve people attended a glossy black-cockatoo planting day and information session with Friends of Parks volunteers at Murray Lagoon. 100 drooping sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) seedlings were planted to increase glossy feeding habitat.
- Fourteen people planted 300 drooping sheoak seedlings in a shelterbelt on a farm to increase glossy feeding habitat.
- Project staff visited five landholders to help them choose appropriate planting sites and advise them on planting techniques and appropriate planting timing for drooping sheoaks. This engagement was important as it was with landholders who do not already have glossy black-cockatoo habitat on their properties. It resulted in new landholders becoming engaged with the project and subscribing to the Chewings e-newsletter which promotes project outcomes.
- Project staff were interviewed and filmed while monitoring and banding glossy black-cockatoos by SkyNews. See: <https://www.news.com.au/national/wildlife-recovery-continues-on-fireravaged-kangaroo-island/video/0df1eef21187e170f29a310f5beed52>
- A Chewings e-newsletter was published in June 2022 and sent to 300 people. See link: <https://bit.ly/3AgPnKL>.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Maintenance of nest boxes after the glossy nesting season. This includes closing nest boxes in high galah areas, treating nest boxes with a feral bee deterrent spray and servicing monitoring equipment, such as cameras.
- The annual glossy black-cockatoo population census (various dates between 19-30 September 2022).
- Installing new nest boxes in high demand areas where there are low amounts of natural nesting habitat, including American River and Dudley Peninsula.



34
glossy nestlings
banded

155
nests checked for
breeding success

Funded by:

- Australian Government: Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery
- World Wide Fund for Nature Australia

Kangaroo Island Dunnart Recovery Program

Overview:

This project will support the recovery of the Kangaroo Island dunnart following the 2019–20 bushfires by implementing key priorities of the *2011 Recovery Plan for the Kangaroo Island dunnart* and the 2019 draft *Conservation Advice for the Kangaroo Island dunnart*.

Key achievements April–June 2022:

- This quarter the KI Dunnart Recovery Team (the team) surveyed 90 sites as part of a long-term monitoring strategy for the KI dunnart to create a measurable baseline for the future. This involved re-surveying 76 sites and establishing 14 new sites within the known range of the KI dunnart to consider variables including:
 1. burnt versus un-burnt habitat
 2. time since fire
 3. vegetation type
 4. understorey complexity.
 - » These autumn surveys detected KI dunnarts at 25 sites on 346 individual occasions.
- The Team controlled 121 feral cats across 23,596 hectares to protect priority fauna species on Kangaroo Island, including the KI dunnart. 116 feral cats were caught in cage traps and soft jaw foot-hold traps over 6,061 trap nights and five through ground shooting.
 - » This control was undertaken across two distinct management units in western KI.
 - » In each management unit, trapping began along roadsides, establishing a perimeter around the management unit, and then progressed into forestry and private properties.
 - » The combined management units are the frontline of feral cat control, which has progressed eastward from the parks and reserves on the western end of the island since the 2019-2020 bushfires.
 - » To improve efficiency camera trap arrays were deployed along roadsides, forestry blocks and in private properties two to three weeks prior to trap installation to gather information on feral cat presence and movement. The cameras were set along travel-ways known to be frequented by feral cats.
 - » The resulting images provided information on individual feral cats (identified by pelage) and their movements, leading to more strategic and targeted trapping effort. The photos helped to confirm the removal of individual feral cats and the presence of new incursions to the area.
- In partnership with Zoos SA, the team successfully participated in a KI dunnart trapping and radio-tracking project using a new and simplified trapping technique.
 - » Ten KI dunnarts were successfully captured, of which nine were male and one was a sub-adult female.
 - » Three of those males and the female were caught together which challenged our previous understanding that dunnarts are solitary.

346
KI dunnart detections
at 25 sites

10
KI dunnarts captured
and 3 tracked

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:

- Australian Government:
 - » Environmental Restoration Fund
 - » Bushfire Wildlife and Habitat Recovery
 - » Regional Fund for Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery
- Landcare Australia and National Landcare Network
 - » Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants Program



- » Each individual was measured and weighed with a small genetic sample taken, before being released.
- » Three individuals were fitted with radio collars and tracked for five weeks. Their movements have given valuable insights into preferred den locations, home range, behaviours and a snapshot into the social lives of multiple dunnarts.
- » For the first time ever a sequence of two KI dunnarts together was captured in one video clip.

121
feral cats removed from KI
dunnart habitat

23,596 ha
of KI dunnart habitat
protected from feral cats

Community engagement:

- An article regarding the new feral cat trap alert system being used by the team was published in the Sunday Mail on 3 April 2022. See link: <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/news/new-trap-alert-system-a-game-changer-in-protecting-kangaroo-island-wildlife>
- A *Feral cat control KI west update* was emailed to participating landholders and partners in April.
- The KI Dunnart Recovery Team presented at the on-line *Kangaroo Island Ecological Recovery Community Update* on 25 June to share the success of their work with the community. Their presentation highlighted key findings and identified future priorities for KI dunnart recovery.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Analyse the autumn fauna monitoring survey to determine if there have been changes in KI dunnart occupancy since the fires.
- Continue strategic feral cat control within KI dunnart habitat.
- Support landholders to use the Trap Alert system to monitor their feral cat traps.

Image below left: Captured male KI dunnart. Image below right: The team recording data on a captured KI dunnart. (M Stokes)



Oyster Reef Construction Program

Overview:

This project will build a series of 20 small, native oyster shellfish reefs close to Kingscote and American River to provide important habitat for premium recreational fishing species and to contribute to the national shellfish reef restoration initiative. The reefs, once placed on the seabed, will be initially seeded with native oyster larvae (spat) and will also provide a substrate for wild spat to settle.

Key achievements April–June 2022:

- Spat collectors installed in Western Cove during the native oysters (*Ostrea angasi*) spawning season were monitored on-site throughout the quarter. Results indicate evidence of angasi oyster settlement on all collecting materials, with particularly high densities on terracotta tile and shell collectors, followed by ceramic and timber.
- Due to delays in constructing the reef foundation at the new reef sites, collected spat was not used to seed the reefs this season. As a precaution, collectors floating in the water column were dropped into deep storage where they are more protected from more extreme winter weather conditions, and the spat can continue to grow. The spat collection locations have been regularly monitored by snorkel, boat and from the beach to ensure collectors have stayed in place, particularly after intense weather events.

Community engagement:

- A workshop was held with the KI community in June to build oyster spat collectors and learn about the oyster reef restoration project’s aims and methods. 21 people attended the workshop including local residents, those interested in the project from other areas of Kangaroo Island and school aged children. Many other people indicated they are interested in future workshops but were unable to attend in this instance.



66
sets of spat collectors
monitored

150
spat collecting baskets
prepared

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:

- Australian Government:
 - » Fisheries Habitat Restoration

Image below left: Alex Comino, Project Officer Coasts, examining a ceramic spat collector.

Image below right: Ceramic spat collectors growing oyster spat and other organisms.



- » Activities included filling baskets with shell and roping them together in sets ready for installation.
- » The display of collector types, maps of the selected sites and photographs of the spat collected for the reefs generated good discussion on the project’s approach to collecting wild native spat, use of materials and collaboration with local organisations.
- » 150 oyster collecting baskets were prepared on the day.
- An article was published in *The Islander* to update the local island community on the oyster reef restoration project’s progress since June 2021. See: <https://www.theislanderonline.com.au/story/7680942/ki-landscape-boards-native-oyster-reefs-to-be-built-this-autumn/?cs=1525>
- An article was published in the *SA Fishing* magazine in June 2022 to introduce the project to the important target user group of recreational fishers. The article provided information on the selected sites and benefits of oyster reefs for fishers and other members of the community. Topics covered included the history of oyster exploitation in South Australia, spat collection and reef construction methods and community and fisher input to the project’s planning.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Deploy new oyster collecting baskets in Western Cove during the upcoming angasi spawning season from spring 2022.
- Construct reef foundation and add smaller reef elements by SCUBA (Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) in spring 2022.

21
people attended the spat
collecting workshop

2
media articles
published

Image below: Participants building spat collector baskets at the recent workshop.



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 April–June 2022:

- Implemented action plans based on a series of communications audits with Board members, staff and local stakeholders and the approved *Annual KI Landscape Board Communications Strategic Plan* which set up objectives and key results to be initiated and achieved by the end of 2022.
- Implemented internal protocols and documents including the Annual Board Communications Calendar, Annual Project Communications Calendars, Communications and Media Template, Communications and Media Outreach Approval Process and Key Stakeholders Mapping.
- Continued to make use of the weekly communications channel the 'Weekly with Wei' in order to enhance internal communications. Expanded the recipients to some stakeholders on the island and state-wide. This is currently in the format of emails which may evolve into different shapes and forms of communications in the future.

Community engagement:

1. Media

1.1 International media

- 24-06-2022 United Daily Podcast Episode 69: ['From The President's Spokesman to Kangaroo Island Communications Coordinator: Wei Yin's New Chapter in Life'](#) (UDN.com)

1
KI Landscape Board Communications Strategic Plan being implemented

4
international, national and state media articles published

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

Image below left: Veronica Bates talking about KI bush foods at Kingscote Campus.

Image below right: Participants listening to Mary Retallack at the Healthy Soils Seminar.



1.2 National/state media

- 03-04-2022 [KI's Cat Traps Go Hi-Tech](#) page 22 (Sunday Mail)
- 28-04-2022 [Wildlife recovery continues on fire-ravaged Kangaroo Island](#) (Sky News)
- 17-06-2022 [Kangaroo Island's dunnarts were hit hard by bushfires. Now feral cats threaten them with extinction](#) (ABC News)

1.3 Local media

- 01-04-2022 [All the way from Taiwan to Kangaroo Island, meet Wei Yin and his family](#) (The Islander)
- 17-05-2022 [Three simple concepts to understand carbon farming: Kangaroo Island Landscape Board](#) (The Islander)
- 26-05-2022 [Kangaroo Island Landscape Board's 'Healthy Soils Seminar' in time for Autumn](#) (The Islander)
- 02-06-2022 [Leg-banding season for Kangaroo Island glossy black-cockatoo chicks](#) (The Islander)
- 10-06-2022 [Kangaroo Island Oyster reef projects progressing with local meetings](#) (The Islander)
- 16-06-2022 [First Nations cultural burning workshop on Kangaroo Island](#) (The Islander)

2. Facebook

- 35 posts with reach and engagement rate growing.

3. Newsletter

- Assisted with the review and editing process of the June edition of e-newsletter [Chewings](#).

4. Brochure and poster

- Assisted the review and editing process of project outreach material in relation to Feral Cat Eradication Program, Oyster Reef Project and grants.

5. Community engagement events

- Assisted in production of visual assets for project events for sustainable agriculture, feral cat eradication and oyster reefs.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Further emphasis on video production to promote board activities and achievements.
- Curation of Nature Festival on KI in October and off-island opportunities for the KI Landscape Board.
- Exploration and assistance in fundraising events.



6
local media articles published

35
articles posted on Facebook

Funded by:

- Australian Government:
 - » National Landcare Program
 - » Regional Land Partnerships
- 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 April–June 2022:

- Submitted output, annual and outcome reports for the following projects to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT):
 - » Core Services
 - » Recovering the KI Narrow Leaved Mallee Woodland Threatened Ecological Community through local landscape action
 - » Creating a safe haven for the KI dunnart and other priority threatened species by eradicating feral cats from the Dudley Peninsula
 - » Building resilient agricultural systems on Kangaroo Island
 - » Supporting the recovery of the KI dunnart through conservation and management actions
 - » South Australian Glossy Black-Cockatoo Post-fire Recovery
 - » Controlling feral cats to protect priority fauna species on KI
 - » Supporting the post-fire recovery of the Glossy Black-cockatoo on KI through conservation and management actions
 - » Helping threatened species on KI to recover from the 2019-20 bushfires through on-ground actions
 - » Building native oyster shellfish reefs to improve fish habitat on KI.
- Project Work Orders, Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plans and program logic developed for two new projects:
 - » Prioritising on-ground actions for the Endangered Australian sea lion
 - » KI Echidna monitoring, protection and recovery network
- Received an audit report from the Australian Government which stated: “The administration of common requirements for the delivery of core and project services was supported with appropriate governance and financial management processes. Documentation reviewed demonstrated good record keeping, and an understanding of the common requirements as outlined in the services agreement...This included a high standard of project planning and coordination, and a consistent approach to monitoring and evaluation across RLP projects.” Please note RLP is Regional Land Partnerships.

Community engagement:

- Assisted the Communications and Media team and project staff to update the KI Landscape Board website. See www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki
- Assisted the Communications and Media team and project staff to develop posters, web pages, media articles, factsheets, newsletters 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.
- Finalise the KI Landscape Board MERI plan to measure the success of the KI Landscape Plan in maintaining or improving the condition of KI's landscapes.

11

reports submitted to project funders

2

new projects supported to begin

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:
 - » National Landcare Program
 - Regional Land Partnerships

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 Narrow-leaved mallee

- » advice on how to manage KI narrow-leaved mallee
- » grants available to protect and revegetate KI narrow-leaved mallee woodland

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



Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator

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

Contact Cassandra Douglas-Hill
0437 172 877
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 ferret permits
- » feral goat and deer reports

Contact Bronwyn Fancourt
8553 2476
bronwyn.fancourt@sa.gov.au



Feral pig control

- » control of feral pigs
- » feral pig trap hire
- » feral pig reports on eastern KI

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



Feral cat control

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

Contact James Smith
0447 155 115
james.smith5@sa.gov.au