



Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

July — September 2023

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 July to 30 September 2023 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	<p>Priority: A connected community at the centre of decision making</p> <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with all sectors of the community to improve the island's landscapes Making decisions based on the best available scientific, local and traditional knowledge Understanding, valuing and taking care of the natural environment and cultural heritage
 BIODIVERSITY	<p>Priority: Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity</p> <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding the structure and function of habitats and ecosystems Protecting biodiversity to minimise species loss Improving our understanding of the environment and the beneficial role it plays
 ECONOMY	<p>Priority: Sustainable primary production and the island's economy</p> <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the health of the soil, water and biodiversity that supports our economy Strengthening the viability of primary production through sustainable practices Working in partnership with industry to ensure the island's economy continues to prosper
 WATER	<p>Priority: Effective water management</p> <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing water resources sustainably and equitably for all users Improving water quality in the island's catchments and wetlands Protecting aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems
 PESTS	<p>Priority: Effective terrestrial and marine pest management</p> <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling and, where possible, eradicating weeds, pests and diseases Strengthening KI's biosecurity arrangements Managing the impact of overabundant native species

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Cover image: KI Landscape Board staff and families helping the Wheatons to restore KI narrow-leaved mallee woodland in MacGillivray.

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 July–September 2023:

- Two KI Water Policy Sub-committee meetings were held. Meeting topics included an overview of the current policy, the review process, deciding community feedback survey questions, runoff projections and how the Water Affecting Activities (WAA) policy sits within the *Landscape Act SA 2019*.
- Measured streamflow seven times at a range of sites and water levels and used the historical streamflow measurements to improve the six rating curves. Rating curves are site specific and enable flow to be calculated from monitoring water level.
- Maintained a network of 12 monitoring sites after some sites were damaged from high flows in June and July. These sites continuously measure water level, water temperature, salinity and flow.

Community engagement:

- Began the 'KI Water Affecting Activity Control Policy Feedback Survey'. This survey is seeking information from the community about the effectiveness of KI's water affecting activity control policy and suggestions for change.
- Advised approximately 15 people on property hydrology, creek crossings and the WAA permitting process.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Review the KI Water Affecting Activities policy taking into account community survey feedback, additional monitoring records, mapping layers, changes to legislation and the 'KI Ecologically Sustainable Water Take Limits project final report'.



1
community survey about WAA policy began

12
water monitoring sites repaired after high flows

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 left: High water flows in July caused the Cygnet River to flow over the bridge downstream of Stokes Bay Road. Trees and branches were pushed over and the water level sensor damaged. The sensor has been reinstalled.

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 July–September 2023:

Declared weeds

- Board staff joined forces with KI National Parks and Wildlife Service staff to search for and remove bridal creeper from Flinders Chase National Park. The vegetation was very dense making it difficult to traverse and search the 120 hectare area of the historical infestation. Only four small plants were found over the entire area. Bridal creeper control in Flinders Chase National Park began in 2012 when it was a significant infestation. It is great to see only a small number of plants remain.
- Outlier infestations of bridal veil were controlled at American Beach, American River, Brownlow, Wallers Road and Redbanks Road. 10,000 plants were destroyed over 118 hectares.
- 20 yellow burrweed (*Amsinckia species*) plants were controlled along Min Oil Road in the only infestation known to be on KI.
- One-leaf cape tulip is ready for control on KI now. Board staff have been controlling one-leaf cape tulip along roadsides.
- A Livestock SA Bushfire Recovery Innovation Grant supported the investigation of using current drone, remote sensors and machine learning technology to improve mapping of African boxthorn. The experienced team at AirborneLogic conducted the study and found African boxthorn could be identified during the growing season using a hyperspectral camera and machine learning. It is hoped that this technology will one day be able to be used to map and control African boxthorn in difficult terrain more efficiently.

Tasmanian bluegum wildling control

- A process to prioritise properties for Tasmanian bluegum wildling control was developed.

120
ha searched for bridal creeper with 4 found

10,000
bridal veil plants removed

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Image this page: Board and NPWS staff removing bridal creeper together at Flinders Chase National Park.

Image next page: The KI Landscape Board with Iain Elgin of AAGIM — Kilands to discuss Tasmanian bluegum wildling control.



Declared animal management

- All 10 domestic pig owners across Kangaroo Island, have now been checked and permitted to keep domestic pigs.
- A rabbit was reported in American River. Following investigation no signs or evidence of a rabbit were found.
- Work on the eradication programs for feral cats and feral pigs continued (see reports on pages 6, 7 and 8).

Community engagement:

Declared weeds

- A new weed wiper from Redback is available to assist landholders to control one-leaf cape tulip. Contact the Board if you have cape tulip in a grazing paddock and would like to borrow it.
- Six landholders have hired the weed wiper to control one-leaf cape tulip on their properties so far this season.
- Animal and Plant Control Officers responded to 16 public inquiries about weed identification and control methods.
 - » Five people sought information about bridal creeper rust.
 - » Four people wanted plants identified.
 - » Four people reported a weed.

Tasmanian bluegum wildling control

- The Board met with Iain Elgin of AAG Investment Management (AAGIM — Kilands) on 23 August to view areas where Tasmanian bluegum wildlings have been controlled and discuss control methods.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Declared weeds

- Continued seasonal control of declared weeds, including one-leaf cape tulip, salvation Jane, horehound, montpellier broom, African boxthorn and gorse.

Tasmanian bluegum wildling control

- Contractors will begin Tasmanian bluegum wildling removal in October.
- Trees for Life will begin Tasmanian bluegum wildling control along roadsides in October.
- Previous roadside control of Tasmanian bluegum wildlings will be analysed to identify target areas for volunteer effort.



10
landholders permitted to keep domestic pigs

16
people assisted with weed management

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Levy
- Government of South Australia:
 - » Landscape Priorities Fund
- Livestock SA — Bushfire Recovery Innovation Grant

Feral Cat Eradication Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements July–September 2023:

- Eradication work continued over the Dudley Peninsula with 132 feral cats removed.
 - » 125 feral cats were culled by KI Landscape Board staff over 30,325 trap nights using primarily cage traps.
 - » 7 feral cats were removed by Felixer™ Grooming Traps from remote areas of the Dudley Peninsula this quarter.
- To increase trapping efficiency across large areas simultaneously, all traps have been retrofitted with Celium trap monitoring technology. This technology will reduce the time taken to check traps by 80%, and the number of staff and vehicles from four to two. This allows the same trapping effort to be applied continuously, freeing staff and resources to apply more targeted control tools and techniques as the program moves towards complete eradication on the Dudley Peninsula.
- The eradication program has scaled up operations to cover 100% of the Dudley Peninsula with traps managed 7 days a week to maximise control efforts.
- To enable this staff have been working an alternative roster to ensure continuous trapping over the cooler months when feral cats can be more active.

Community engagement:

- The annual community Feral Cat Trapping Blitz was conducted over 14 days in June and July.

Images below: A feral cat capture photographed during the Feral Cat Blitz on the Dudley Peninsula.



132
feral cats culled across
the Dudley Peninsula

21
landholders participated
in Feral Cat Trapping 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

Funded by:

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

- » 21 Dudley Peninsula landholders worked with Board staff to jointly manage 386 traps across 38,000 ha.
- » 13 feral cats were removed over 5,164 trap nights (number of traps x number of nights they were open).

Future directions and upcoming events:

- The project will build on the successful Celium installation to further increase the efficiency and levels of community participation in trapping programs. This will be achieved through investigating auto-dispensing lures, which could negate weekly trap rebaiting, and remotely activated trap locking mechanisms that make traps inactive during off-target activity periods, e.g. when goannas forage in summer.
- To increase feral cat surveillance we will be expanding the 4G-connected cameras network with another 100 cameras to provide continuous and comprehensive coverage across the entire 384 km² of the Dudley Peninsula and the buffer zone 5 km west of the isthmus feral cat exclusion fence. This will provide a higher confidence of detecting feral cats even at very low densities.

Image below: Dudley Peninsula residents setting a feral cat trap during the Feral Cat Trapping Blitz.



386
traps managed over
38,000 ha in Blitz

Feral Cat Trapping Blitz
held over
14 days

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

Feral Pig Eradication Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements July –September 2023:

- The Feral Animal Control Officer continued to track, monitor and pursue feral pigs on foot. At the start of this quarter at least three boars were known to be left on western KI.
 - » Over this quarter fresh evidence of other feral pigs was found, including a sow with three young piglets and another feral pig in a different location.
- Water samples were collected to test for feral pig eDNA. This is being undertaken in watercourses to locate and track remaining feral pigs.
- The Feral Animal Control Officer participated in an aerial cull for feral deer on the Limestone Coast in September, as part of the Department for Environment and Water Aerial Marksman Team.
- The feral pig camera monitoring network was inspected and serviced throughout the monitoring area. This system has greatly assisted in targeting aerial effort.

Community engagement:

- During the reporting period, the Feral Animal Control Officer engaged with 15 KI landholders 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 assist with on-ground control work, focussing on searching for signs of feral pigs, establishing and monitoring free-feed stations, maintaining the 4G camera network and responding to feral pig detections with targeted baiting and ground shooting.



Image right: View from the helicopter during a thermal assisted aerial cull.

6
new feral pigs found

15
landholders assisted with feral pig control

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Levy

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 July–September 2023:

- Plant propagation has continued with cuttings collected and prepared and seed sown for winter and early spring germinating species sown.
- Almost all of the 167 orders for 2023 have been collected.
- New orders and species lists for the 2024 planting season have been collated.
- Seed collection continued.

Community engagement:

- Volunteers donated 80 hours cleaning seed, weeding and washing pots.
- Conducted several site visits to assist landholders with their projects.
- Coordinated and attended visits to previous planting sites with staff from the Friends of National Parks and Wildlife and Nature Conservation Society of SA.
- Two year 7 classes from KI Community Education (KICE) Kingscote Campus attended four sessions at the nursery to learn about nursery operations and propagate their own seed.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Map seed collection sites and continue entering data into seed bank data base.
- Engage volunteers with seed collection to increase their knowledge.
- Purchase materials for a volunteer to make our own seed cleaning machine for the nursery.
- Host a Propagation and Revegetation Workshop at Cygnet Park and the KI Native Plant Nursery with Michelle Haby in October.

80
hours donated by volunteers to the nursery

2
year 7 KICE classes had 4 sessions at nursery

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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



Image left: Year 7 KICE students propagating their own seed.

Sustainable Agriculture Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements in community engagement

July–September 2023:

Property Management Planning

- The Soil Management Module was presented to Property Management Planning (PMP) participants by Ed Scott from the Soil and Land Co. on 1 and 2 August. This module provided education and training on:
 - » physical, chemical and biological health of soil and how land management practices can influence these factors positively
 - » soil and landscape interpretation
 - » analysing soil tests
 - » identifying and understanding limiting factors and practical advice on how to address these with suitable management techniques
 - » sustaining soil quality across the agricultural and environmental regions
 - » Visual Soil Analysis techniques
 - » developing soil management plans.
- Soil pits were excavated on two properties and visited to observe and discuss the soil profile, the physical, chemical and biological test results and appropriate management strategies.
- Five participants received one-on-one financial training with consultant Beck Burgess on 12 and 13 September. This was an extension of the previously held financial module and enabled participants to further develop their financial management skills.
 - » Participants received personalised advice and training on general financial literacy, cash flows and forward budgeting, general analysis, goals, financial business planning and bookwork.

Soil extension project

- The Soil Extension Officer has been working with farmers and vignerons to trial different biological soil treatments and practices on their properties:
 - » Woodlana Station has offered to become a demonstration property and trial methods to overcome soil restraints and erosion issues. A soil moisture probe will be installed to help monitor water in the soil profile and the results of deep ripping with nutrients and biological amendments.



22
people attended
soil management
PMP module

5
people received one-on-one
financial training

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

- » False Cape Winery has been using a hydrospray unit to spray dichiondra under their vines with a mix of medic and clover to reduce grass and thus fuel loads over summer.
- » Edenvale Pastoral have been assisted to brew and spread compost tea across their pastures. Soils have been sampled and the Soil Extension Officer is working with the farmers to determine the best approach to increase desirable plant species and reduce weed species while improving soil health.
- » Tim Chirgwin has been assisted to create biochar and undertake a trial using salt bush fodder crops and perennial grasses.

- Attended a Soil biology forum at Clare where connections were established with experts and farmers who have tried various agricultural techniques to maintain soil cover and improve nutrient and water holding capacity while maintaining or improving yield.
- Collaborated with Naracoorte seeds to discuss potential seeding and pasture renovation techniques. A representative visited several properties on KI to give technical advice to farmers.
- Attended a Growing SA conference in Adelaide where the Soil Extension Officer met with numerous organisations including Meat and Livestock Australia.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Property Management Planning

- A Pasture and Grazing Module will be delivered on 17 and 18 October by Pinion Advisory.
- An Animal Health Module will be delivered in December.
- Participants who have properties impacted by salinity will receive specific training on the management of water, soil and pastures on salt affected land in December.
- Participants will have the opportunity to receive soil management training from Ed Scott over the coming months. This training will enable participants to receive more property specific advice and further develop the soil management component of their property management plans.

Soil extension project

- Soil moisture probe workshop on Friday 27 October.
- Continue work on KI Soils ute guide with other landscape boards, Soil Science Australia and SA Drought Hub.
- Work with Mike Walsh and Amanda Shapel to trial CropBiolife to increase soil carbon.



Image previous page: Participants at a soil pit with Ed Scott from Soil and Land Co. during the Soil Module of the Property Management Planning course.

Image this page: Soil Extension Officer Cassandra Douglas-Hill explaining soil qualities to participants undertaking the Soil Module of the Property Management Planning course.

4
landholders assisted to
manage soils

2
soil pits excavated for
PMP module

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 July–September 2023:

- Funding guidelines, procedures, application and assessment forms, and project database were developed for the KI Habitat Recovery Project.
- Applications for on-ground works projects, to protect remnant vegetation through fencing and restoring habitat by revegetation, were sought from 25 July until 5 August 2023.
- 27 applications were received with a total funding value of \$238,963.30. The total potential outcomes of these applications were 487.9 ha of remnant vegetation protection and 15.6 ha of habitat restoration.
- Following site visits (detailed below) and a desktop analysis of the applications, the On-ground Works Assessment Panel convened to prioritise funding for projects. 13 projects were recommended for either full or partial funding, comprising eight remnant vegetation protection projects and five habitat restoration projects. Priority was given to projects benefiting threatened species or communities. These projects will protect 232.6 ha of native vegetation and restore 4 ha of habitat.
- Vegetation structure and composition data relating to the KI Dunnart Recovery Program was analysed to create a list of representative vegetation types present at KI dunnart monitoring locations. These data will be used to model potential KI dunnart habitat across KI.

27
applications received for
on-ground works funding

13
projects to receive
on-ground works funding

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

Image below: Mixed sugar gum and stringybark woodland to be protected by an On-ground Works Project.



Community engagement:

- The new round of On-ground Works funding was advertised in *The Islander* and through social media. A targeted email was sent to 44 landholders who had previously undertaken On-ground Works projects, or had expressed interest in applying for funding in 2023-24.
- Site visits were conducted for all 27 on-ground works applications and details of projects discussed with landowners. Where appropriate, advice was given on how to improve aspects of projects to provide the best possible outcomes.
- Site visits were also conducted with seven other landholders to provide technical advice. This related to general property management, revegetation planning, erosion management, pollarding of KI narrow-leaved mallee and fencing.

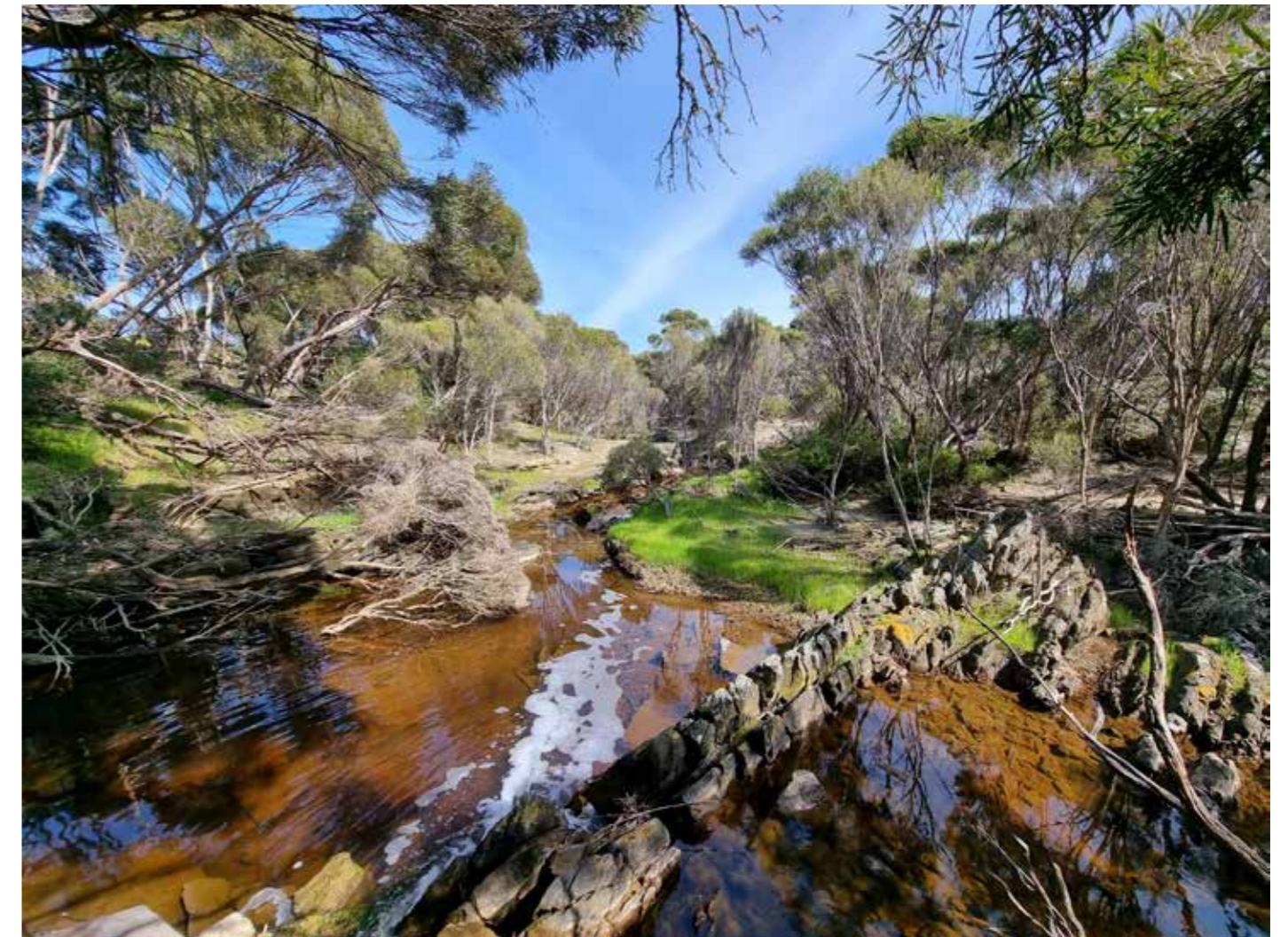
Future directions and upcoming events:

- Obtain final approvals for the prioritised on-ground works projects and send letters of offer to successful applicants.
- Assist Threatened Plant Action Group volunteers to protect the threatened Beyeria bush-pea (*Pultenaea insularis*) by controlling weeds and constructing fencing enclosures around populations of plants.

34
landholders were assisted
with technical advice

1
set of data analysed
for modelling
KI dunnart habitat

Image below: Riparian KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland to be protected by an On-ground Works Project.



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 July–September 2023:

4,000 sheoaks were planted across 36 properties on Kangaroo Island to increase glossy black-cockatoo feeding habitat.

- The largest planting site this year was at Middle River, where 900 sheoaks and 250 diverse natives were planted along the lower reaches of the Middle River. Over 90% of drooping sheoak habitat burnt in the 2019-20 bushfires in the area surrounding this planting. It is anticipated that the new planting will provide additional food in about 7-8 years for this flock.
- Uptake for the free sheoak scheme is still high four years post-fire.

All nest boxes from Stokes Bay to the far east of Dudley Peninsula were closed off for the spring season and sprayed with insect deterrent at the time of closing. This is to prevent nest boxes being used for breeding by pest species such as little corellas and galahs, and to stop feral honey bee swarms occupying nest boxes.

- Cameras on high-use nest boxes were retrieved and photo data downloaded. This will be analysed slowly over the summer period.

The 2023 glossy black-cockatoo population census was conducted throughout September. The key results for 2023 were:

- The population count was 453, almost identical to the 2020 count immediately post-fire. This is further evidence population growth has stalled post-fire, but remains stable.
- The majority of this year's fledglings were recorded from Cygnet River east (Cygnet River, American River and Dudley Peninsula).
- Despite a high number of nestlings fledging in the Stokes Bay area, very few survived to census time indicating high mortality in this area after fledging. Landholders observed wedge-tailed eagles taking glossy black-cockatoos indicating raptor predation could be an issue in this area.
- Further west, the number of pairs breeding in a given breeding season remains much lower than pre-fire.



4,000
drooping sheoaks planted
for glossy food

453
glossies counted during
annual census

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

Community engagement:

- Project Officer Karleah Berris gave a presentation to Years 1 to 4 at Kangaroo Island Community Education (KICE) on threatened woodland birds of Kangaroo Island.
- Year 7 students from KICE Kingscote constructed striated pardalote nesting boxes in Design and Technology in Term 3, using materials provided by the Woodland Bird Project. Most students opted to take home their boxes and hang them there. They were given a fact sheet on how to install their pardalote boxes at home by KILB staff.
- Oodnadatta Aboriginal School students constructed and decorated 14 crimson rosella nest boxes for the Kangaroo Island Woodland Birds Project. As part of this project, Project Officer Karleah Berris gave the students an on-line presentation on the woodland birds of Kangaroo Island, to complement their learning about different ecosystem types in Australia. The nest boxes have now arrived on Kangaroo Island and look fabulous! These will be installed in areas where crimson rosellas are using glossy black-cockatoo nest boxes (i.e. Middle River and De Mole River areas).

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Installing new bioacoustics recorders to monitor woodland bird diversity in revegetation sites.
- Installing crimson rosella nest boxes on western KI.
- Opening glossy black-cockatoo nest boxes on eastern KI in December 2023.
- Attending the Australasian Ornithological Conference in late November 2023, to give an oral and poster presentation on our post-fire work. As part of this, staff will be attending seminars on the use of bioacoustics technology to better monitor woodland bird diversity.

14
crimson rosella nest boxes
given from Oodnadatta
Aboriginal School

36
properties planted
glossy habitat

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Members of the public



Images: Previous page: Board staff celebrating completing planting a site with glossy habitat at Middle River.

This page right: Nest boxes constructed and decorated by Oodnadatta Aboriginal School students, which will be installed on Kangaroo Island for crimson rosellas.

Kangaroo Island Habitat for Biodiversity Project

Overview:

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

Key achievements July–September 2023

- A long-term monitoring plan for the KI dunnart has been developed based on the past three years of work undertaken by the Board.
- Data collected over the past three years of the KI Dunnart Recovery Program has begun to be analysed. A preliminary occupancy analysis has been run in partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature. A dataset has also been prepared to develop a species distribution model.

Community engagement:

- Paul Jennings presented *Climate ready refuges: Can artificial refuges support the recovery and survival of the Kangaroo Island dunnart following a severe bushfire event?* at the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Climate Adaptation 2023 conference in July.
- [A video](#) was produced about the KI dunnarts use of artificial refuges and is available on the [Board's YouTube channel](#). The associated media release was published in numerous national and state newspapers and Paul Jennings was interviewed on ABC Radio Adelaide and Channel 7 News.
- Members of the KI Dunnart Recovery Team visited Melrose Track in Flinders Chase National Park to view the KI dunnart artificial refuges.
- 49 feral cats were captured over 12,661 trap nights within key threatened species habitat.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Undertake spring surveys of KI dunnart long-term monitoring sites.
- The NESP Climate Systems Hub 2024 Climate Adaptation Intervention calendar will feature the KI dunnart artificial refuge work.
- Present on the past three years work of the KI Dunnart Recovery Program at the Board's Knowledge Sharing Day on 1 November.
- Target key locations within Flinders Chase National Park for feral cat control with KI NPWS.

Image: Paul Jennings presenting at the NESP conference.



3
years of KI dunnart being analysed for use

1
presentation given at Climate Adaptation Conference

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

Improving Coastal Habitats Project

Overview:

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

Key achievements July–September 2023

- Post-construction, autumn round of Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) footage was analysed. All oyster reef datasets collated.
- Preliminary findings on the oyster reef restoration have been collated, including materiality, community engagement, oyster metrics, fish biodiversity and abundance.
- Little penguin census data collected by the KI NRM Board between 2006 and 2014 has been collated.
- Spat collectors across Eastern and Western Coves and the new reefs were maintained over three field days.
- Interpretive oyster reef restoration sign for project has been finalised.

Community engagement:

- A presentation was given to year 11 and 12 Outdoor Education students at KICE's Kingscote campus regarding the fisheries habitat restoration project and oyster reef restoration approach.
- Information about the new oyster reefs was posted [on facebook](#) and an email was sent to project supporters. A media release about the reefs was published in *The Islander* and Alex Comino was interviewed by ABC North and West radio. The [Board's web page](#) was also updated.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Translocation of collected native flat oyster spat to reef sites.
- Investigate the effect of using natural reef sound recordings through acoustic speakers on settling oyster larvae. This will be trialled in partnership with AusOcean and KICE Outdoor Education students.
- Printing and installing boat ramp and interpretive signage about the new oyster reefs.
- Map and assess potential sites for little penguin, sea lion and seagrass restoration sites.
- Analyse BRUVs footage data collected in autumn.



oyster spat collectors maintained over 3 days

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

Image below: King George whiting swim around one of the tile modules making up the new American River oyster reef.

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 July–September 2023:

Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants

- A farmer in Duncan installed 330 m of fencing to protect a 0.66 ha revegetation corridor between two creeks which they planted with 350 plants, and replaced 1,170 m of Landcare fencing burnt in 2020 bushfires to protect two blocks of native vegetation 4.6 and 0.5 ha in size through a grant from 2021-22.
- A landholder in Duncan mapped areas of erosion, installed 900 m of fencing around 5 ha of a hill top to reduce rate of erosion, revegetated 1.1 ha with 1,300 native plants, controlled weeds over 1.1 ha and installed photopoints to record revegetation through a grant from 2021-22.
- A farmer in Duncan created and protected three shelterbelts and planted 1,000 native plants within them through a grant from 2022-23.
- KI Childrens Services presented KI Bush Kindy to 60 preschoolers and connected them with KI bird projects and undertook activities through a grant from 2022-23 including:
 - » identifying bush birds through 9 surveys at Cygnet Park and uploading data collected to the Birdlife Australia database
 - » printing 660 Birds of KI booklets and distributing 61 of these to KI preschoolers
 - » painting and installing 60 bird boxes at family homes across Kangaroo Island with support from Birdlife Australia, Raptor Domain and Kangaroo Island Dance School
 - » going on an excursion to Raptor Domain
 - » creating bird-friendly habitat at the Kingscote kindy through the installation of bird houses and planting of bird-friendly native plant species.
- A farmer in Seddon protected 7.94 ha of regenerating native vegetation and windbreaks from stock by replacing 2.238 km of fencing burnt in the 2019-20 bushfires through a grant from 2022-23.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Support KI Grassroots Grants participants with their projects.

Image right: Kindergarten children from KI Children Services participating in Bush Kindy. (Image: KI Children Services)



13.7 ha
native vegetation
protected

60
KI preschoolers
participated in bush kindy

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

Planning and Evaluation Team

Overview:

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

Key achievements July–September 2023:

- Submitted output, outcome and annual 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
 - » Building native oyster shellfish reefs to improve fish habitat on KI
 - » Prioritising on-ground actions for the Endangered Australian sea lion
 - » KI Echidna monitoring, protection and recovery network.

Community engagement:

- Assisted the Communications and Media team and project staff 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.



22
reports submitted to
project funders

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

Images below: Kindergarten children from KI Children Services bird watching and creating bird masks through a KI Grassroots Grant.

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 July–September 2023:

1. Media

- ABC Rural Reporter Caroline Horn spent a day with our team and published a [national online story](#) about the success of our glossy black-cockatoo banding season.
 - » The story was also aired on the [Australia Wide ABC radio program](#).
 - » An [ABC Australia Instagram](#) post about David the cranky glossy black-cockatoo featuring our Project Officer Karleah Berris has reached 116,000 views.
 - » Karleah also featured in an extended live interview on ABC Radio Adelaide Mornings with presenter David Bevan.
- A media release about the success of corrugated iron shelters for the KI dunnart was picked up by Australian Associated Press (AAP) and published in dozens of newspapers/online sites across Australia, from Perth to Launceston and the Canberra Times.
- Coasts Program Officer Alex Comino featured on the front-page of the national glossy *Signals Magazine*, published by Australian National Maritime Museum. A four-page spread detailed the work it took to start the KI oyster reef restoration project.
- A story published on the [InDaily website](#) about our barn owl nest project has been shortlisted in the Regional Showcase Awards, which is supported by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions.

24
social media posts

Glossy video viewed
116,000
times

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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- 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 Board
- Government of South Australia:
 - » State Appropriations



2. Social media

- 24 [Facebook posts](#) covering the feral cat trapping blitz, use of Celium cat trap technology on the Dudley Peninsula, new dunnart project video, Property Management Planning events, update on the oyster reef restoration, ABC coverage of glossy black-cockatoo banding, KICE students visiting the native plant nursery, multiple surveys, on-ground works funding, and the Landscape Board staff planting day.
- A [video about the success of artificial refuges](#) for KI dunnarts was published on our YouTube channel and watched over 650 times across our social media channels.
- A [Facebook post](#) about the Board's staff planting day reached almost 3000 people.

Community engagement:

1. Media

- 23/08/23: [Left-footed, monogamous, cranky Kangaroo Island glossy black cockatoo population grows](#) (ABC Online)
- 23/08/23: [David the Kangaroo Island glossy black-cockatoo nestling sees the world for the first time](#) (ABC News Videos)
- 20/07/23: [Barn owls deployed to Kangaroo Island](#) (Australian Geographic)
- 01/09/23: [Wireless trap technology closes the net around KI's feral cats](#) (The Islander)
- 25/07/23 [Humble iron sheets a lifesaver for endangered dunnarts](#) (Canberra Times)
- 25/07/23: [Endangered Kangaroo Island dunnarts take shelter under tin-roof refuges](#) (The Islander)

Future directions and upcoming events:

- A community knowledge sharing day will be held at the Ozone Hotel on November 1 detailing the work and success of some of our major projects over the past five years.
- Complete a video about volunteers from Trees for Life assisting our work in removing blue gums wildings from roadsides.
- Promote a report about the impact of diseases spread by feral cats to the KI sheep industry.



20+
media articles
published

3,000
people viewed Board
planting post

Image previous page below left: KI Landscape Board staff and families helping the Wheatons to restore KI narrow-leaved mallee woodland in MacGillivray.

Image this page below right: The KI Landscape Board with Iain Elgin of AAGIM — Kilands to discuss Tasmanian bluegum wilding control.

How we can help you



KI Native Plant Nursery

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

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



KI native vegetation

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

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



Soil Extension Officer

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

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



Water management

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

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



Weed control

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

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



Pest animal control

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

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



Feral pig control

- » control of feral pigs
- » feral pig 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 Paul Jennings
8553 2476
paul.jennings@sa.gov.au