



# Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

October — December 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 October to 31 December 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 eight members, including a Chair, Andrew Heinrich. They have developed a *Kangaroo Island Landscape Plan 2021-2026* (the Plan), which combines community values, local knowledge and scientific evidence into a strategic road map to guide how the Board will work in partnership with the community and investors to support the recovery and management of Kangaroo Island's landscapes into the future. The Plan aims to strike a balance between productivity and profitability, and looking after the environment to maintain biodiversity. The plan contains five regional priorities, each with a suite of focus areas to guide the actions for the Board and the wider regional community for five years.

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

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

# Water Resources Management

## Overview:

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

## Key achievements October–December 2023:

- Community survey responses and feedback, project learnings, monitoring, scientific investigations and legislation changes have been used to draft a revised Water Affecting Activity (WAA) Control policy.
- Contributed to the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Landscape Board Science Water Planning Meeting where information was shared and priorities discussed for water management across SA.

## Community engagement:

- Collected and summarised community feedback from the 'KI Water Affecting Activity Control Policy Feedback Survey'.
- Assessed one Development Application and one Water Affecting Activity Permit.
- Advised approximately 10 people and consultants about property hydrology, forestry transition and WAA permitting process.

## Funded by:

- Government of South Australia:
  - » State Appropriations

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Refine the revised draft Water Affecting Activity Control policy with the Board Water Policy Sub-committee and the State Government.
- Continue to review the KI Water Affecting Activities policy, focussing on incorporating additional monitoring records, mapping layers and the 'Kangaroo Island Ecologically Sustainable Water Take Limits project final report'.
- Continue to test the new on-line water administration platform 'mywater'.

Image right: A deep pool downstream of the Middle River Reservoir has returned to its cobble base substrate after it completely filled with ash and silt following the 2019-20 bushfires. A high flow event in June 2023 scoured most of the silt and ash deposits.



**10**  
people advised about water management

**1**  
WAA development application & permit assessed

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

# Invasive Species Control Program

## Overview:

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

## Key achievements October–December 2023:

### Declared weeds

- 2,000 one-leaf Cape tulip plants were controlled along roadsides in the Hundreds of Gosse, Cassini, Haines and Menzies.
  - » A further 20,000 one-leaf Cape tulip plants were controlled over 122 hectares to prevent the weed from entering Kelly Hill Conservation Park.
- 2,000 African boxthorn plants were controlled along roadsides in the Hundreds of Dudley and Menzies.
  - » AirbourneLogic conducted a positive study to map African boxthorn using remote sensing, drone and AI technology. Hyperspectral and RGB imagery was able to identify African boxthorn most of the time in good light. More work is needed before scaling up for commercial use.
  - » Kangaroo Island is on the waiting list for African boxthorn bio-control.
- A report of yellow burweed (*Amsinckia* species) at Nepean Bay was investigated. 200 plants were found and mapped. Yellow burweed is uncommon on Kangaroo Island. **If found please report it to the Board.**
- 20,000 horehound plants were controlled along roadsides in the Hundreds of Dudley and Menzies.
- 1,000 salvation Jane plants were controlled in the Hundreds of Menzies, Haines, MacGillivray, Duncan, Cassini, and Dudley.
  - » Landholders at Western River Cove have been working hard to control salvation Jane over the last few years and their results can be seen.
  - » However, salvation Jane continues to increase in other areas on KI, with several new infestations found each year. **Please report new sightings to the Board** so they can be controlled as soon as possible.
- 500 fennel plants were controlled along Hog Bay Road near Pelican Lagoon.
- 10,000 bluebell creeper plants were controlled along Crabs Road, Gregors Road, East West Highway One and Wedgwood Road.

**122**  
ha controlled for  
one-leaf Cape tulip

**1,000**  
salvation Jane 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 below: African boxthorn removal on Dudley Peninsula.



- Initial control of the summer weeds khaki weed and caltrop was completed.
  - » Only 10 khaki weed seedlings have been found at Reeves Point this season.
  - » Only 200 caltrop seedlings have been found at American River and no caltrop has been found at Penneshaw this season.
  - » **Please report any suspected khaki weed and caltrop plants to the Board.**
- The invasive iridaceous bulb black flag (*Ferraria crispa*) was found at Reeves Point, two sites at Brownlow and on Mitchell Drive, following a public report. Over 200 plants were controlled.

### Tasmanian bluegum wildling control

- Tasmanian bluegum wildlings were controlled along Church Road, Coopers Road, Baxters Road, South Coast Road, Warner Track, Mount Taylor Road, Gosse Ritchie Road, Johncock Road, and on four high priority private properties by contractors and volunteers.

### Declared animal management

- New applications for domestic pigs were received and a report of pigs outside of their enclosure was investigated and resolved.
- Work on the eradication programs for feral cats and feral pigs continued (see reports on pages 6, 7 and 8).

## Community engagement:

### Declared weeds

- The weed wipers were lent to four landholders and two weed wipers were sold.
- Animal and Plant Control Officers responded to 33 public inquires about weed identification and control methods.
  - » Four people sought information about bridal creeper rust.
  - » Two people wanted plants identified.
  - » Two people reported a weed.

### Tasmanian bluegum wildling control

- 18 Trees for Life volunteers participated in working bees donating over 1,000 hours to remove Tasmanian bluegum wildlings from Kangaroo Island, using loppers and drill and fill, over two weeks.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

### Declared weeds

- Continue summer weed control of caltrop and khaki weed, gorse, blackberry, horehound, and bluebell creeper.

### Tasmanian bluegum wildling control

- Continue Tasmanian bluegum wildling removal with volunteers and contractors.



Yellow burweed (PIRSA)

Salvation Jane (C Wilson)

Khaki weed (PIRSA)

Caltrop (WA Dept Agriculture & Food)

Black flag (Wikipedia)

**1,000**  
hours of bluegums  
control by 53 volunteers

**33**  
people assisted with  
weed management

### Funded by:

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

Image below: Tasmanian bluegum wildling removal using brushcutters.



# 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 October–December 2023:

- Eradication work continued over the Dudley Peninsula with up to 38 feral cats removed.
  - » 25 feral cats were culled by KI Landscape Board staff over 2,088 trap nights primarily using cage traps.
  - » 13 feral cats were targeted by Felixer™ Grooming Traps at remote areas of the Dudley Peninsula this quarter.
- During October and November the team focused on installing the Celium trap monitoring technology on all cage traps and in establishing network coverage across the entire Dudley Peninsula. This included validating the network over two weeks to verify performance and confirm all triggers were reported. During this time the network accurately detected 100% of trap triggers from over 1,500 trap nights.
- A comprehensive camera network has been established to monitor trends in KI echidna and southern brown bandicoot populations on the Dudley Peninsula, including presence/absence, detection frequency and occupancy, in response to feral cat eradication.
  - » Between 1 July and 20 December, KI echidnas were recorded from 30% of the 4G cameras on 200 separate occasions. Activity increased between July and September coinciding with the breeding season. The highest numbers of echidnas were found on private property and in conservation reserves with continuous native vegetation.
- No southern brown bandicoots were detected from the 4G camera network, or the intensive camera network set up where they were previously found. Few contemporary records exist for this species on the Dudley Peninsula and it may no longer be present here.

Images below: A bush stone curlew and KI echidna photographed by the comprehensive remote camera monitoring network.



**38**  
feral cats culled across  
the Dudley Peninsula

**100%**  
trap triggers detected by  
Celium during trial

### 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

- Between 1 July and 20 December bush stone curlews were recorded from 39% of 4G cameras on 2,085 separate occasions, with the highest numbers found on private property and in conservation reserves.

## Community engagement:

- Staff from the Feral Cat Eradication Program were involved in a series of meetings, workshops, presentations and symposiums including:
  - » Meeting with the National Feral Cat Taskforce.
  - » Presenting to the Kangaroo Island Council and at the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board knowledge sharing session.
  - » Presenting to the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water and the Hon. Susan Close MP, Deputy Premier of South Australia and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, during their visit to KI.
  - » Presenting to the Landscapes SA Operations Manager Field trip.
  - » Receiving the 2023 SA Regional Showcase People's Choice Award for the article about installing barn owl nest boxes on Dudley Peninsula: [Barn owls join fight against Kangaroo Island pests.](#)

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Installing Celium technology is expected to improve efficiency by 70–80%, through reducing the time taken and number of staff required to check traps each day. As a result the number of traps used will be increased and more specialised control tools will be used to target and remove feral cats. The extensive 4G camera trap array, which is linked to eVorta Artificial Intelligence (AI), will be used to provide near real-time feral cat detection data.
- Case studies will be tested using a decision tool to inform response to feral cat detections/sightings towards the end of eradication.
- Engaging with landholders to help with planning for the feral cat exclusion fence and isthmus management zone.

Image right: Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water with Paul Jennings, KI Feral Cat Eradication Team Leader and his detector dogs Murra and Jager. Image from Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP.



**1**  
Regional Showcase  
People's Choice award  
won

**30%**  
cameras recorded  
KI echidnas on Dudley

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 being delivered in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and KI National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The achievements below are a record of the direct contributions made by Landscape Board staff.

## Key achievements October–December 2023:

- The Feral Animal Control Officer continued to track, monitor and pursue feral pigs on foot, through the remote camera network and using thermal equipment.
- Five feral pigs are known to remain in areas which are virtually inaccessible due to the thick regrowth of native vegetation post-fire.
- Evidence of individual feral pigs have now been found in four other locations within Flinders Chase National Park.
- Water samples were collected to test for feral pig eDNA. This was undertaken in watercourses to locate and track remaining feral pigs. However, this technique is no longer being used as it has been proven to be inaccurate and unreliable.
- The feral pig camera monitoring network was inspected and serviced throughout the monitoring area. This system has greatly assisted in targeting aerial effort.

## Community engagement:

- During the reporting period, the Feral Animal Control Officer engaged with 20 KI landholders to undertake control, monitor for feral pig sign and discuss different aspects of the Feral Pig Eradication Program.

## 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.
- A Thermal Assisted Aerial Cull will be undertaken in early February.

Image right: One of the new sows recently found.



**5**  
known feral pigs remain &  
more evidence found

**20**  
landholders assisted with  
feral pig control

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Levy

# Kangaroo Island Native Plant Nursery

## Overview:

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

## Key achievements October–December 2023:

- Plant propagation continued: seed was sown and seedlings transplanted, to prepare for 2024 orders.
- 31,000 KI native plants (including 14,344 for fire affected landholders) have been ordered for 2024. Approximately 10,000 extra plants will be grown for public sales.

## Community engagement:

- Volunteers donated 95 hours collecting seed, transplanting seedlings and filling pots.
- Attended Kingscote and Parndana shows with KI native plants for sale and information about the KI Native Plant Nursery.
- Presented a propagation and revegetation workshop in October with Michelle Haby from Aenigma Natives. 13 people attended the workshop which was held at the KI Native Plant Nursery and the Kangaroo Island Rare Plant Garden.
- Attended a native plant identification and seed collection workshop at the Kangaroo Island Rare Plant Garden in November.
- Conducted several site visits to assist landholders with their projects.
- Visited year 7 students from KI Community Education (KICE) Kingscote Campus to advise them about how to continue to care for their seedlings and where to plant them in the school grounds.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Increase the range of plant species being propagated.
- Continue to update seedbank data base and storage systems.
- Continue to engage volunteers with plant identification and seed collection to increase their knowledge.
- Increase promotion of public sales in 2024.

Image right: Participants at the propagation and revegetation workshop at the Kangaroo Island Rare Plant Garden.



**31,000**  
native plants ordered to  
plant in 2024

**13**  
people attended  
propagation workshop

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

### Funded by:

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

# Sustainable Agriculture Program

## Overview:

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

## Key achievements in community engagement

### October–December 2023:

#### Property Management Planning

- The Pasture and Grazing module was presented to Property Management Planning (PMP) participants by Pinion Advisory on 17-18 October and covered:
  - » understanding the relationship between plant requirements, leaf emergence rates and pasture growth
  - » plant morphology and the relationship with pasture quality, pasture quantity and plant persistence
  - » measuring and predicting pasture growth
  - » allocation of pasture on a dry matter basis
  - » variations in pasture quality throughout the season
  - » the relationship between stocking rate and pasture utilisation
  - » animal requirements for maintenance, growth, pregnancy and lactation
  - » feed budgeting and planning
  - » marginal cost and marginal revenue decisions associated with feeding pasture.
- The Animal Health Module was presented by Charlie Mintz from KI Veterinary Clinic and Simon Edwards from Willunga and Aldinga Veterinary Services on 6 December and covered:
  - » footrot and other stock diseases on KI
  - » nutrition: summer deficiencies and energy intake, focus on sheep, focus on cattle
  - » important trace elements for stock
  - » animal requirements
  - » reproductive health and testing.
- A pasture weeds training afternoon was delivered by AgInnovate on 5 December and focussed on strategies to manage silvergrass and capeweed in pastures and related decision making.



**3**  
PMP modules & training  
afternoons presented

**3**  
workshops delivered to  
KI landholders

#### 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

## Soil extension

- A workshop exploring how soil moisture probes assist with decisions about water use, cropping, pasture, seeding, and grazing was presented by George Dryson in October at Woodlana. Data from installed soil moisture probes has already saved large amounts of irrigation water at Bay of Shoals resulting in an improvement to their vines.
- Three KI landholders were supported to attend a field trip to the workshop *Optimising Plant Health* on 30 November in Finnis, SA. Presenter Harriet Meller, a microbiology researcher, talked in depth about the relationship between soil chemistry, biology and plants, and gave solutions to improve drought resilience.
- A workshop focused on improving productivity on salt impacted land was delivered by Dr Jason Emms on 13-14 December. A soil demonstration site was visited and a presentation given on the first day. On the second day four landholders were assisted to identify areas where planting saltbush would and would not be beneficial, and to explore alternative species including natives, fodder shrubs and perennial pasture species.
- The Soil Extension Officer worked with Oli Madgett (FarmLab) and Amanda Shapel from the SA Research and Development Institute (SARDI) on their project that is developing technologies to reduce the cost of obtaining a baseline for soil carbon on farms. During the project soil will be sampled from over 400 farms across Australia, including five KI landholders operating with two different land use practices. See [AgriFutures](#) and/or [FarmLab](#).
- The Soil Extension Officer continued to assist and work with landholders, including those at the seven demonstration sites:
  - » A winery was supported to test for sap to verify data collected from soil tests and moisture probes with assistance from Jenny Stanton.
  - » A landholder with cropping was assisted with their soil moisture probe data. It was also verified with soil samples taken to a depth of 1 metre.
  - » One of the demonstration sites was supported to manage their saltland and weeds to prepare for planting perennial pastures.
- The Soil Extension Officer attended a conference in Launceston on extension practice. This was an excellent opportunity to network and gain contacts to assist us in present and future projects.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

### Property Management Planning

- Participants will have the opportunity to receive soil management, pasture and grazing management and animal health training over the coming months. This training will be delivered to small groups of participants with similar needs and approaches and/or one-on one, and will provide more property specific advice to support the development of their property management plans.

### Soil extension project

- Continue to work with Adelaide University on biological testing for demonstration sites.
- Continue to work with False Cape Wines on their soil analysis for their demonstration Shiraz which has dichondra and medics planted under vine.

*Image previous page: Participants at a soil moisture probe workshop in October.*

*Image this page: A participant at a saltbush workshop with Dr Jason Emms in December.*

**7**  
landholders with  
demonstration sites

**5**  
KI farmers soil to be  
sampled in national study



# Kangaroo Island Habitat Recovery Project

## Overview:

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

## Key achievements October–December 2023:

- The Threatened Plant Action Group were assisted to protect the threatened *Beyeria* bush-pea (*Pultenaea insularis*) within Beyeria Conservation Park. Four enclosures were constructed around groups of plants to exclude native herbivores and remove browsing pressure. The KI Landscape Board donated fencing wire and posts for this project.
- Thirteen landholders were offered, and accepted, support to undertake their on-ground works projects.
- Australian and SA Government officials were advised about the abundance and distribution of three threatened plant species (sweetheart leaves *Olax obcordata*, KI spider-flower *Grevillea muricata* and *Pultenaea insularis*). The listing advice for these species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* is currently being revised.
- Seed was collected with the KI Native Plant Nursery Manager from a range of plants including mallee box *Eucalyptus porosa* and satin daisy-bush *Olearia minor*, which are both extremely rare on Kangaroo Island.

## Community engagement:

- The Project Officer liaised with the KI Council regarding threatened plants growing along roadsides. In the future the Project Officer will assist the KI Council to identify sensitive areas with threatened plants before the KI Council undertakes scheduled road maintenance works.
- Native vegetation management plans were produced for two landholders. These plans will assist with:
  - » pollarding two KI narrow-leaved mallee shelterbelts in the Menzies area
  - » establishing a rehabilitation strategy for remnant vegetation in the Cape Willoughby area of the Dudley Peninsula.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Develop protocols to monitor the outcomes of on-ground works projects to evaluate their long-term effectiveness and determine if they are achieving their intended outcomes.
- Re-evaluate the impact of high risk weed species to threatened plants and identify focus areas for weed control to prepare for future weed control work.
- Publish the Narrow-leaved Mallee Management Guidelines for Landholders.

**4**  
enclosures constructed around threatened plants

**2**  
vegetation management plans produced

### 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: Seed was collected from the extremely rare satin daisy-bush *Olearia minor* for growth at the KI Native Plant Nursery.*



# 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 October–December 2023

- 60 long term monitoring sites were installed for surveying KI dunnarts in spring.
- Trapping for KI dunnarts began at the 13 artificial refuge sites.
  - » Two rounds of trapping have been completed.
  - » One KI dunnart was captured at a new location and there has been lots of evidence (scats) of KI dunnarts using the refuges.
- Seven feral cats were captured over 1,118 trap nights within key threatened species habitat around the Cape du Couedic area.

## Community engagement:

- Three presentations were given during the quarter:
  - » Paul Rogers, Biodiversity Manager, presented a summary of the past four years of work on the on the KI Dunnart Recovery Project at the community knowledge sharing event at the Ozone Hotel.
  - » The Hon. Minister for the Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek MP and Susan Close MP Deputy Premier of South Australia and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water visited the West Melrose KI dunnart study site with the KI Dunnart Recovery Team in November.
  - » Chantelle Geissler Project Officer, Feral Cat Control presented on the Stokes Bay Feral Cat Trapping Blitz at the *NSW Vertebrate Pest Management Symposium* held in Dubbo in October.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Synthesise baseline and post-fire recovery biodiversity project datasets collected as part of the three-year KI dunnart recovery project to better map the distribution of key threatened mammals and identify priority areas for on-ground actions.
- Trial different materials to improve the thermal properties of artificial refuges for small mammals in burnt environments.

*Image: KI endemic brown tree frog (*Litoria sibilus*), found sheltering in the drift-line roll attached to the end stake (in picture background), whilst packing it up.*



**60**  
KI dunnart monitoring sites installed

**7**  
feral cats captured around Cape du Couedic

### 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

# Kangaroo Island Woodland Bird Recovery Project

## Overview:

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

## Key achievements October–December 2023:

### 2023 glossy black-cockatoo census results:

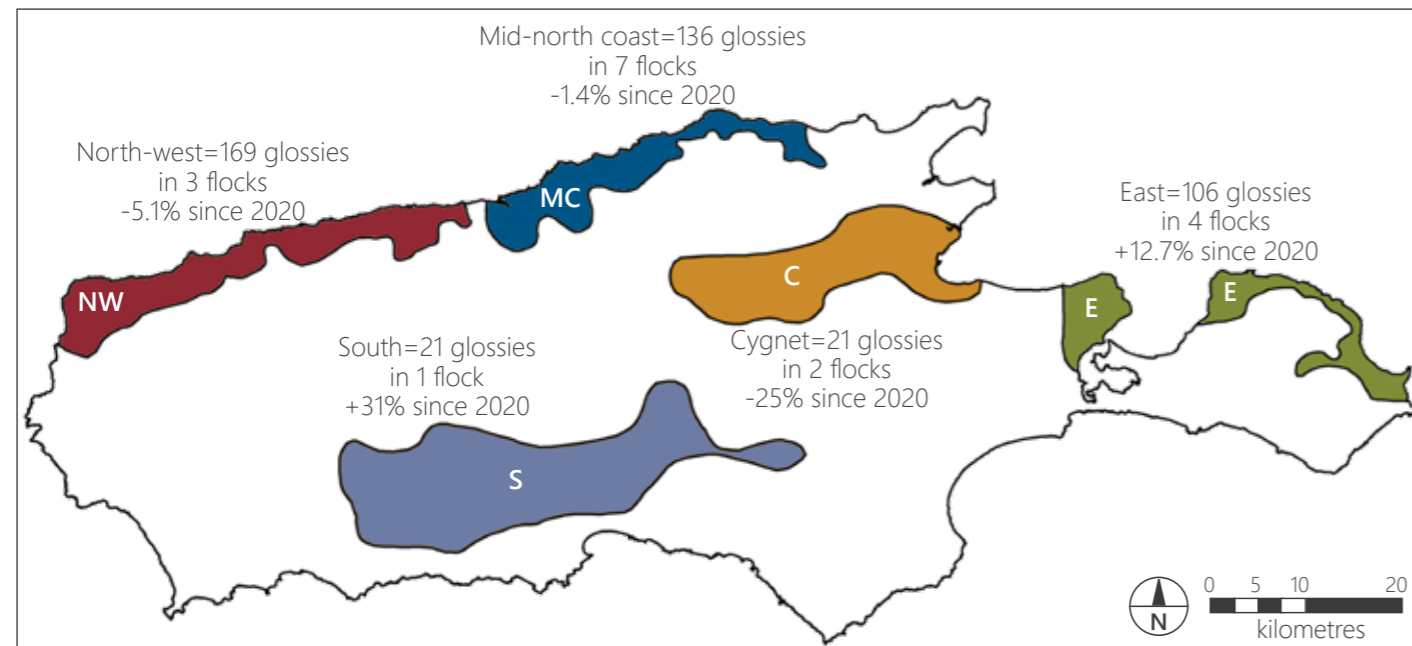
- 453 glossy black-cockatoos (glossies) were recorded during the 2023 census, almost identical to the 2020 count of 454 post-fire. However, this total does not tell the whole story.
- There have been regional declines along the fire-affected north coast of KI since 2020, and very low survival of fledglings in 2022 and 2023.
- However, this is being offset by the increasing eastern population (American River and Dudley Peninsula) due to ongoing work over the last decade providing and maintaining nest boxes and controlling and excluding pests at nest sites.

### 2023 glossy black-cockatoo breeding season results:

- Once again nesting success was high (~60%) however, fewer nests are being recorded in fire-affected areas.
- Despite high survival in the nests, fledglings seem to have very low survival after fledging in fire-affected areas based on census results. It appears the lack of canopy in sugar gum forests post-fire has left young glossies more vulnerable and exposed to predation by raptors e.g. wedge-tailed eagles.

### On-going work:

- Nest boxes closed to exclude pests were re-opened and maintained in December and re-sprayed to deter bees to prepare for the 2024 glossy breeding season beginning in late January/early February, and peaking in March.
- Crimson rosella nest boxes built and decorated by students from Oodnadatta Aboriginal School have begun to be installed with remote cameras above them to record nest box activity and use. Installations began in the De Mole River and Stokes Bay areas, where crimson rosellas have nested, or tried to nest, in glossy boxes.



**453**  
glossies counted during  
annual census

**33**  
volunteers gave 300 hours  
to 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

*Image below: Map of 2023 census and breeding season results for glossy black-cockatoos for each of their flock areas.*

- New acoustic recorders were installed at two biodiverse planting sites to record spring bird species. Acoustic data collected will be used to train an AI program 'Kaleidoscope' to identify KI bird acoustic data, to assist with developing a revegetation strategy for woodland birds in the future.

## Community engagement:

- 33 volunteers contributed around 300 volunteer hours to the census, with about half of those hours thanks to a UniSA student Chris Callaghan and Charles Darwin University PhD student Trish Mooney, who helped with daytime habitat searching as well as evening counts.
- During the census more than 48 different properties were searched over three weeks and all landholders were wonderfully accommodating.
- Karleah Berris, Glossy Black-Cockatoo Recovery Program Manager, presented at the 2023 Australasian Ornithological Conference in Brisbane on the post-fire recovery work for glossy black-cockatoos on KI, and a 10 year dataset from the leg-banding program. Board staff explored other technology being used on bird projects with a view to incorporating some into KI projects in the future.
- An on-line presentation on the crimson rosella nest box program was given to Oodnadatta Aboriginal School students.
- A KICE year 12 student was assisted to investigate glossy black-cockatoo recovery as part of a SACE project.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Trial of 'Hollow hog' tree hollow creation tool in a collaborative project with Birdlife Australia who have received a grant to purchase the tool and associated equipment. KILB staff will trial the tool from January–June both on the ground and at heights in trees. If successful, this tool could revolutionise habitat augmentation in KI forests for native hollow nesting woodland birds.
- Trial of free AI image recognition software 'MegaDetector' to process nest box camera data and compare with manual processing. If successful images will be processed much faster in the future.



**60%**  
glossy nests successful  
this season

**48**  
properties searched  
during glossy census

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Members of the public

*Image below left: Woodland Bird Recovery Team with their poster at the Australasian Ornithological Conference.*

*Image below right: Installed crimson rosella box with monitoring camera.*



# 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 October–December 2023

- Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) survey footage was collected at Kingscote and American River reef and reference sites in spring.
- Native flat oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) spat was collected from sites across Eastern and Western Coves and translocated to the new oyster reef sites near Kingscote and American River.
- An island-wide little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) census was undertaken for the first time since 2014. Sub-colonies were surveyed at Kingscote, Penneshaw, Emu Bay, Cape Willoughby, Antechamber Bay, Browns Beach, Vivonne Bay, Seal Bay, Cape Cassini, Stokes Bay, Snellings Beach and Western River Cove.
- Following the island-wide little penguin census, sites were selected and prioritised for future interventions, including habitat improvement through weed and pest control, and installation of climate-ready artificial burrows.
- Suitable sites were also selected for sub-tidal, multi-species, habitat restoration trials following a desktop mapping exercise.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Deployment of the new monitoring rig onto the Kingscote oyster reef in partnership with AusOcean and KICE Outdoor Education students.
- Installation of interpretive signs about the oyster reefs at the Kingscote and American River boat ramps.
- Collection of BRUV footage from new reefs in autumn with analysis in spring.
- Conduct oyster metrics surveys of Kingscote and American River restored reefs.
- Conduct another little penguin census during autumn.
- Select sites and designs for Australian sea lion climate ready shelters at Seal Bay.



Image right: Little penguins surveyed at Penneshaw in November.

**12**  
sites surveyed for little penguins across KI

**32**  
hours of BRUV footage collected at oyster reefs

### 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

# Community grants programs

## Overview:

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

## Key achievements October–December 2023:

### Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants

- Farmers in Duncan constructed, fenced and planted 965 native plants over 1 hectare to create a shelterbelt to reduce erosion, create habitat for native birds and animals and provide a wind break for livestock. This was undertaken through a grant from 2023-24.
- Birdlife Kangaroo Island revegetated two hectares of land on the northern shore of Shoal Bay by planting 600 native plants to improve coastal and bush bird habitat and prevent erosion and weed invasion in a coastal area. This was undertaken through a grant from 2022-23.
- Kangaroo Island / Victor Harbor Dolphin Watch involved 150 volunteers in 10 photographic surveys at Dashwood Bay and North Cape to gain a greater understanding of common bottlenose dolphins and shortbeaked common dolphins. This was undertaken through a grant from 2022-23.

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Support KI Grassroots Grants participants with their projects.

Image this page below left: Volunteers identifying dolphins from fin photographs during a Kangaroo Island / Victor Harbor Dolphin Watch data analysis workshop. Image: Kangaroo Island / Victor Harbor Dolphin Watch

Image this page below right: Kangaroo Island Birdlife volunteer Ken Grinter with revegetation the group has undertaken over 2 ha in Shoal Bay.



**2**  
community groups supported through grants

**150**  
volunteers participated in citizen science

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

### Funded by:

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



# Communications and media

## Overview:

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

## Key achievements October–December 2023:

### 1. Media

- The Board held a special knowledge sharing event at the Ozone Hotel in Kingscote in November. Detailing the work and learnings from our major projects over the past five years, the full event was captured on video and is available to watch on the Board's [YouTube channel](#).
- Our Feral Cat Eradication Project won the People's Choice Award at the [2023 SA Regional Showcase Awards](#) at Beresford Estate in November. The award was instigated by a media release and video produced by the Board about our barn owl nest project and provided to InDaily, who published a feature story and embedded the video on their website. Feral Cat Eradication Officers Emily Reynolds and Nathan Lennane attended the awards night and collected the fantastic trophy. The Regional Showcase Awards are supported by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions.
- A [short video](#) about volunteers from Trees for Life assisting our work in removing Tasmanian blue gums wildlings from roadsides was released on our YouTube channel.

**15**  
social media posts

**3**  
videos created and posted on YouTube

### 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: KI Landscape Board Knowledge Day.



- General Manager Will Durack featured on ABC radio's Country Hour talking about the work being done to control Tasmanian blue gum wildlings.
- The [Threatened Species Commissioner](#) posted on Facebook and Instagram about the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board joining her in Adelaide on Kurna land to demonstrate how the Celium Trap Alert technology works. This technology has been used to great effect in the Kangaroo Island Dudley Peninsula feral cat eradication project, and the Commissioner praised the work of our team and expressed excitement about the success of the new technology.
- Feral Cat Eradication Project Leader Paul Jennings featured on ABC Country Hour giving an update about our feral cat eradication work on the Dudley Peninsula.

### 2. Social media

- 15 posts on our [Facebook page](#) covering the Board's hosted events such as the [Knowledge Sharing Day](#), soil probe workshop, a propagation and revegetation workshop, Landscapes SA blogs and updates, the Threatened Species Commissioner post about our work, our win in the Regional Showcase Awards, native plant nursery vouchers and an end of year Christmas message.
  - A Facebook post about our win in the [SA Regional Showcase Awards](#) reached over 2,000 people.

**1**  
SA Regional Showcase Award for Board story

**2,000**  
people viewed Board Showcase Award post

### Funded by:

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

Image this page below right: Nathan Lennane and Emily Reynolds receiving the People's Choice Award at the 2023 SA Regional Showcase Awards.

## Community engagement:

### 1. Media

- 15/11/23: [Native plant knowledge now a growth industry on Kangaroo Island](#) (*The Islander*)
- 08/11/23: [KI Landscape Board hosts 'special knowledge day' with updates on oyster reefs, dunnarts, feral cats, sustainable farming](#) (*The Islander*)
- 23/10/23: [Learn about work of Kangaroo Island Landscape Board at special event](#) (*The Islander*)
- 04/10/23: [Fewer feral cats in landholder traps is a sign predator numbers are on the retreat](#) (*The Islander*)

## Future directions and upcoming events:

- Confirmation of proposed regular monthly radio slot with ABC North and West for Board staff to talk about a current project or event being run on KI.
- Media and promotions planning for the hosting of the 2024 Island Arks Symposium on Kangaroo Island.



# Planning and Evaluation Team

## Overview:

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

## Key achievements October–December 2023:

- Submitted an output report to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT) for the project: *Kangaroo Island feral cat eradication*.
- Submitted a report to the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation to support the KI Native Plant Nursery assisting bushfire-affected landholders.
- Supported the Board's tender process to become a Regional Delivery Partner for Kangaroo Island and join the Australian Government Panel of Regional Delivery Partners for Environmental Protection, Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Services for 2023-28.

## 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.

**2**  
reports submitted to  
project funders

**1**  
tender successfully  
submitted and awarded

### Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

### Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

*Image below: Stacey and Caleb Pratt in front of the shelterbelt they have created for multiple benefits.*



Stacey and Caleb Pratt

# 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