



Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Progress Report

April — June 2024

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

This is the vision of the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board (the Board). This report captures the work undertaken through Board projects from 1 April to 30 June 2024 to deliver this vision.

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

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Priority: A connected community at the centre of decision making Focus areas: |
| COMMUNITY | <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 |
|  | Priority: Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity Focus areas: |
| BIODIVERSITY | <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 |
|  | Priority: Sustainable primary production and the island's economy Focus areas: |
| ECONOMY | <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 |
|  | Priority: Effective water management Focus areas: |
| WATER | <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 |
|  | Priority: Effective terrestrial and marine pest management Focus areas: |
| PESTS | <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 |

Contents

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|
| Environmental Education Program | 3 | KI Habitat Recovery Project | 10 | Communications and Media | 16 |
| Invasive Species Control Program | 4 | KI Woodland Bird Recovery Project | 12 | Planning & Evaluation Team | 18 |
| Feral Cat Eradication Program | 6 | KI Habitat for Biodiversity Project | 13 | How we can help | 19 |
| Sustainable Agriculture Program | 8 | Improving Coastal Habitat Project | 14 | | |
| KI Native Plant Nursery | 9 | Community Grants programs | 15 | | |

Cover image: KICE work experience students Arlen Pledge and Travis Anderson assisting Hannah Byrne-Willey with a KI dunnart survey.

Environmental Education Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements April-June 2024:

- Deb Laver has been appointed to the position of Environmental Education Coordinator (EEC). She has started engaging with the Board and KICE staff to prioritise the level of support, resources and activities to be delivered as part of this role.

Community engagement:

- The EEC attended a staff meeting at each campus to engage with teachers and explain the program and how they can connect with it.
- A survey was created and distributed to KICE staff seeking feedback on the type of resources they need and what has worked well in the past. This information will be used to plan this new program.
- A survey was created and distributed to KILB staff to find out how they have engaged with schools in the past and the resources that would assist them to engage with schools in the future.
- The EEC has connected with Environmental Education Coordinators from other landscape boards who have been very happy to share their existing resources with the Board for the EEC to adapt for KI use.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Organise a mini-twitchathon for KICE students to coincide with the KI twitchathon.
- Coordinate activities for National Science Week which has the theme of *Species Survival – More Than Just Sustainability*.
- Deliver a professional development session for teachers in relation to the new resource kit being developed about birds.

Image right: Environmental Education Coordinator Deb Laver with support from KI Land for Wildlife, talking about using cameras to find threatened species (KI Childrens Services).

40
teachers advised about Environmental Education Program

2
surveys of KILB and KICE staff to develop program

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

- Funded by:
- Government of South Australia:
 - Landscape Priorities Fund



Invasive Species Control Program

Overview:

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

Key achievements April–June 2024:

Declared weeds

- Follow up control of Cape Leeuwin wattle infestations was undertaken across central and western KI where it germinated after the 2019-20 bushfires. Only 112 plants were found at the 38 sites. Some sites had no Cape Leeuwin wattle at all, indicating the post-fire control of this weed has been very successful.
- The cut and paint technique was used to control 115 sweet pittosporum, 835 tree lucerne and 3,380 Cape Leeuwin wattle plants along roadsides in the hundreds of Haines and Macgillivray, totalling 160 hours of roadside control.
- Over 1,960 kg of bridal veil corms were physically removed from 7.6 km of roadside vegetation along the Hog Bay Road and American River Road, and some of the side roads leading into them, totalling 210 hours of roadside control.
- Follow up control of bluebell creeper was undertaken along Three Chain Road, Milkys Road and Barretts Road using the cut and paint technique. Only seven plants were found, which is a significant reduction from last year.
- Salvation Jane was sprayed along Sheriden Track at Western River Cove after the autumn/winter rain. This on-going control is effectively reducing the number of salvation Jane plants found in spring and summer each year.
- A report of madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*) was investigated in Kingscote and a sample collected.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Almost all private lands adjacent to Tasmanian blue gum (TBG) plantations, as well as the majority of roadsides invaded by TBGs, have been cleared of TBG wildlings. 620 ha of TBGs were cleared from 80 sites by five contractor groups.
- The dry autumn resulted in some TGB wildlings browning off over riparian slopes immediately downhill from plantations. These TBG wildlings will be monitored as they may still re-grow from their lignotubers.
- Some areas of TBG wildlings are now beyond manual control. In these situations the TBGs are:
 - » over 10 m tall with 20 cm diameter trunks
 - » plantation trees and larger wildlings that have begun flowering and seeding
 - » growing in native vegetation which is so dense it is not physically possible to access.

Declared animal management

- The Feral Animal Control Officer investigated a report of domestic pigs escaping from their property following a gate being left open. This was quickly resolved.
- A report of feral pig diggings near Bark Hut Road was investigated. The diggings were found to be the result of KI echidnas.
- Work on the eradication programs for feral cats and feral pigs continued (see reports on pages 6, 7 and 8).

Feral pig eradication program

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

370

hours of roadside
weed control

1,960

kg bridal veil corms
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

Community engagement:

Declared weeds

- Animal and Plant Control Officers responded to nine public enquires about weed identification and control methods.
 - » three people wanted a plant identified
 - » four people sought weed control advice.
 - » two people reported a weed.

Declared animal management

- The Feral Animal Control Officer responded to 11 landholders inquiries relating to domestic goat and pig management on their properties.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Over 60 volunteers from Trees for Life have participated in five week long work efforts to remove TBGs from KI.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Declared weeds

- Continue the weed control program targeting arum lily, bridal veil, bridal creeper and Cape tulip.
- Conduct a weed risk and feasibility assessment, and review declared weeds and priority weeds.

Tasmanian blue gum wildling control

- Continue Tasmanian blue gum wildling removal with contractors focussing on finishing off roadsides and revisiting private lands adjacent to plantations to carry out follow-up control.

Declared animal management

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



Image below: Weed contractors working along roadsides in Haines and MacGillivray controlling sweet pittosporum, tree lucerne, Cape Leeuwin wattle and bridal veil.

60

Trees for Life volunteers
controlled blugums

11

people assisted with
permitted animal
regulations

Funded by:

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

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 the island. The program is being led by the KI Landscape Board in partnership with the KI Council, Nature Foundation and many other partners.

Key achievements April–June 2024:

- The program is currently delivering its most intensive knockdown of the feral cat population. Winter and spring trapping and baiting is aiming to achieve a more than 60% reduction in population, which is required for eradication success. This target is currently on track with 226 feral cats removed since 29 April, 2024. Using Celium trap monitoring technology, more than 650 cage traps are being managed by the field team and landholders across the entire eradication zone, with a further 150 traps currently being deployed, as part of a second wave of winter trapping effort.
- Feral cat activity and individuals are being monitored to measure changes in population and inform targeted removal of known cats using 264, 4G enabled, camera traps linked to eVorta AI image analysis software. These AI linked cameras have increased the efficiency of the program by more than 80%, due to near real-time access to images and the rapid and accurate identification of target species. On average our camera network receives 20,000 images per day with 98% of these correctly classified by eVorta AI and a small number verified by staff.
- The program is currently applying and refining tools that will be used to remove feral cats when population levels are low, including the use of thermal optics and drones and hunting/detection dogs.
- Approvals have now been given to upgrade the feral cat barrier fence. This will be our best defence to prevent re-invasion. Works will commence within the next few months.
- Policy changes to remove barriers to effective feral cat control, more stringent domestic cat management, and a last cat policy have institutional support and are now progressing.

Community engagement:

- Community support for the program remains high. On KI, over 99% of landholders support, or are actively participating in the program. This includes allowing access to their properties, supporting the use of control tools, reporting sightings of feral cats, or trapping and removing feral cats themselves.



Images: Dudley landholders Andy Gilfillan (left) and Glen Willson (right) participating in the Community Trapping Blitz.

226
feral cats culled across
the Dudley Peninsula

650
feral cat traps across
Dudley Peninsula

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

- In June AgKI funded a Landholder Led Feral Cat Trapping Blitz. This aimed to minimise feral cat impacts on primary producers and their livestock through strategic trapping on privately owned properties. 35 landholders participated in the blitz, running 115 feral cat traps on their properties over 3,100 trap nights. This supported the largest feral cat trapping winter program on the Dudley Peninsula to date. KILB staff were available seven days a week to assist landholders with their queries and euthanase any feral cats caught. The majority of participating landholders have committed to continue trapping throughout the winter period.
- Feral Cat Eradication Program staff members presented at both the Penneshaw Progress Association and the Community Centres Working Group meetings in May, to give an update on program progress and engage interested blitz participants.
- A Feline Hotline, "Call in a Cat", was established with a dedicated phone number for residents and tourists to phone in with any cat sightings on the Dudley Peninsula.

35
Dudley landholders
participated in blitz

264
4G eVorta linked cameras
across Dudley Peninsula

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

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Over summer, when it becomes more difficult to cage trap feral cats, an extensive soft-jawed leg hold trap array linked to the Celium trap monitoring network will be used. This will be complimented by cage traps, Felixer grooming traps, drone assisted thermal ground shooting and hunting/detection dogs.
- The program will continue to refine these eradication tools and their application to make them more strategic and efficient before using them in the comprehensive winter/spring program in 2025, which will aim to reduce the remaining feral cat population by more than 80%. This level of population reduction is essential to achieve eradication. Understanding how and when to use the right tools will be essential in the final stages of the eradication program.
- An exciting new integrated data platform is currently being developed using real-time data by Ethosenvironmental. The platform will provide innovative geospatial tools to manage challenges, visualise data, inform management decisions and streamline field operations using ArcGIS and Safe's Feature Manipulation Engine (FME) platform.



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

April–June 2024:

Property Management Planning

- 20 participants have completed their Property Management Plans. They have also submitted proposals to implement the on-ground works identified in these plans and have received funding to support the work.

Soil extension

- The Soil Extension Officer assisted five landholders with their demonstration sites:
 - » A farmer in Cassini was supported to deep rip and spread lime. The resulting sub surface water is being monitored with a soil moisture probe.
 - » A farmer in Gosse was supported to plant perennial pastures and a cover crop using biochar and inoculated seed to improve results.
 - » A farmer in Menzies was supported to seed his salty paddock with perennial pastures and effective microbes for compacted sodic soils, to improve productivity on marginal land. He used a soil aerator for paddock preparation.
 - » A farmer in Gosse was supported to seed around his lagoon with five different combinations of perennial pastures to see which species works well on water logged soils. He is also trialling the difference between applying a foliar fertiliser versus a soil based fertiliser.
 - » A farmer in MacGillivray was supported to foliar fertilise on their demonstration site with assistance from Jenny Stanton.

Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator

- Jim Mead has been appointed as the Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator for Kangaroo Island.

Carbon Farming Outreach Program

- Carbon Outreach Officers (COOs) are now working in all eight landscape regions across SA. All SA landscape boards are collectively developing individual work plans for their region.
- Alex Comino has been appointed as the COO for KI.
- The COO will deliver workshops and provide one-on-one support to workshop attendees over two years.

Future directions and upcoming events:

Soil extension project

- The demonstration sites will be bear results in the next 12 months and these will be promoted with case studies and details of the interventions undertaken.
- Design four new demonstrations in conjunction with the University of Adelaide.

Carbon Farming Outreach Program

- COOs will meet in early August to finalise the content of their work plans.
- 24 Landscape SA staff will attend a tailored version of the University of Melbourne's Carbon Neutral Farming course on 15 and 16 August.

20
property management
plans developed

5
farmers supported with
soil demonstration sites

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

Kangaroo Island Native Plant Nursery

Overview:

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

Key achievements April–June 2024:

- The KI Native Plant Nursery opened to the public on 2 May for people to come and collect their ordered plants and for public sales. It will continue to be open on Tuesdays from 9 am to 1 pm and Thursdays from 9 am to 4.30 pm until August 31.
- Approximately 36,000 plants have already been ordered for 2025. This includes 14,800 plants for bushfire affected landholders, 1,900 for on ground works projects and 3,000 for the Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program.
- A new remote Wi-Fi irrigation system has been installed. This enables changes to the watering system to be made via an app when the nursery is unattended.

Community engagement:

- Two year 10 work experience students from KI Community Education (KICE) Kingscote Campus, spent a day in the nursery helping with weeding and seed cleaning.
- Volunteers donated 60 hours assisting with weeding and cleaning seed.
- Jo McPhee, KI Native Plant Nursery Manager, visited KICE Kingscote Campus to help them develop a planting plan for their front carpark.
- The Nursery Manager also attended a cutting propagation workshop at Clayton Bay Community Nursery.
- New customers were assisted with their revegetation projects through site visits and species list recommendations.

Future directions and

upcoming events:

- Seek funding for a new hothouse for propagating cuttings.
- Seek opportunities to work more closely with threatened flora recovery.
- Continue to experiment with and document different propagation techniques.

Image right: KICE work experience students Arlen Pledge and Travis Anderson cleaning seed during work experience at the KI Native Plant Nursery.

36,000
native plants ordered for
2024-25

60
hours donated to the
nursery by volunteers

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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



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 April–June 2024:

- Three on-ground works fencing projects were completed in the Newland and Gosse regions of KI. These projects combined constructed 4.7 km of fencing to protect 117.7 ha of remnant native vegetation, including a freshwater lagoon, from stock grazing.
- A broad range of spatial datasets were analysed and 24 maps produced for the KI Landscape Board Emergency Response Preparedness Plan. The maps covered natural assets, landscape features, threatened ecological communities and threats from natural disasters.
- Dieback of Beyeria bush-pea (*Pultenaea insularis*) was monitored in a subset of plants along Elsegood Road. The dieback has not worsened since it was initially assessed in December 2023. Fortunately some plants exhibited slightly less dieback, which may indicate that they're starting to recover. Further monitoring is planned for late spring.
- Funding has been gained to protect threatened plant populations from priority high-risk asparagus and woody weed species. The work will focus in the Haines-MacGillivray region.
 - » Working with the Animal and Plant Control Officer, priority weed species have been identified for control and current known distributions analysed through desktop spatial analysis.
 - » Weeds being targeted include, but are not limited to: olive, sweet pittosporum, cotoneaster species, tree lucerne, bluebell creeper, mirror bush, Cape Leeuwin wattle, bridal veil and bridal creeper.

Community engagement:

- The Project Officer has been working with the KI Council regarding road maintenance works. Threatened plants along roadsides at risk from roadworks were identified and flagged to prevent them from being inadvertently impacted along numerous roads in the Dudley, Haines and MacGillivray regions.
- Advice was given to one landholder wanting to establish a new vegetation shelterbelt in the Haines region. The landholder was particularly interested in incorporating threatened species into the revegetation.



117.7
ha of native vegetation protected

24
asset maps produced for the KI Board Emergency Response Framework

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

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

Image below: Fencing to protect regenerating, burnt native vegetation in Gosse Ritchie.

- Advice was given to one landholder regarding fencing to protect riparian vegetation from stock grazing and to rehabilitate an area affected by salinity in the Newland region. A rehabilitation plan is currently being prepared.
- A Vegetation Management Plan was produced for a landholder in the MacGillivray region to enable them to pollard an ageing KI Narrow-leaved Mallee shelterbelt. This ecological restoration work will be supplemented with additional revegetation. This is a continuation of restoration works undertaken by the landholder since 2019.
- Advice regarding fencing of native vegetation shelterbelts was given to a landholder in the Seddon region.
- An article was produced for the 2024 PIRSA AgKI Trials Booklet. This article outlined some of the KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland restoration work the project has been involved in and information for landholders who wish to conduct ecological burns on their property and how this can benefit ageing vegetation.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Final inspections of existing landholder on-ground works revegetation projects will be undertaken as they are completed. Now that winter rains have started to fall, conditions are becoming favourable for tree planting.
- Rapid assessment weed distribution surveys will be undertaken to inform follow-up control works.
- Begin control works for priority weeds.

9
priority weeds to be targeted in threatened plant habitat

4
landholders supported with advice on native vegetation management



Map left: Areas that have been prioritised for weed treatment to protect threatened plant populations.

Priority weed treatment areas

- Priority Weed Record - Existing
- Threatened Plant Location
- Road
- Priority Treatment Area



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 April–June 2024:

- Staff are continuing to test the HollowHog hollow creation tool to create new hollows for woodland bird species. They have:
 - » Had an in-person training session with the HollowHog inventor Matt Stephens to show how to safely set up and operate the tool.
 - » Trialled the tool at ground level on fallen logs and created crimson rosella log hollows, which have been installed at one site.
 - » Developed new Safe Operating Procedures for use of the tool at heights.
- All 19 glossy black-cockatoo nesting sites with nest boxes have been monitored and maintained. This included:
 - » Surveying all nest boxes and natural hollows at all 19 sites to

determine what species are using them.

- » Banding 42 nestlings to add to the long-term mark-recapture dataset project.
- » Maintaining nest trees including pruning two canopies, replacing five tree collars, treating bees in one hollow, placing bee deterrents in three nest boxes and removing and cleaning one nest box that had duck eggs in it.



Community engagement:

- 18 landholders and volunteers accompanied staff during nestling banding. This gave members of the community a fantastic opportunity to see a glossy nestling up close and for landholders to see the importance of the habitat we manage on their properties.
- 21 different landholders were contacted and engaged during nest monitoring and maintenance work on their properties and gave feedback on nesting activity there.
- Two Year 10 KICE work experience students accompanied project staff in the field to band nestlings and observe the bee control work undertaken in nest trees.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Planning for the annual Glossy black-cockatoo census in September and beginning the woodland bird bioacoustics monitoring.
- Installing hollow log nests created with the HollowHog tool.
- Removing bee hives from glossy black-cockatoo nest trees.

Image above: Nest hollows created using Hollow Hog. Below: KICE work experience students Arlen Pledge and Travis Anderson with a glossy nestling.

19
glossy sites
maintained

42
glossy nestlings
banded

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
- Members of the public

Kangaroo Island Habitat for Biodiversity Project

Overview:

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

Key achievements April–June 2024

- The 2024 autumn threatened mammal surveys have almost all been completed across 70 sites, with six sites remaining. Data from these surveys will now be run through Megadetector AI software to reduce processing times.
- A problem with camera trap surveys is the large volume of images generated. Often many of the images do not contain animals but were triggered by moving vegetation on windy days, or shadows on hot days. Methods of streamlining our image processing has been investigated, in the light of a plan to re-process images from 2020-2023 to find threatened mammals and birds apart from KI dunnarts.
- Megadetector AI software was investigated for image processing. 227,418 images were analysed containing 2,696 images of threatened species, including southern brown bandicoots, KI echidnas and threatened woodland birds. Megadetector AI identified 199,629 images as not having any threatened species, which saved staff 87.8% of their time that they would have normally had to spend processing the images.

Community engagement:

- Engaged with four landholders to conduct the 2024 autumn surveys on their properties.
- Two KICE Year 10 students participated in the 2024 autumn surveys for a day, and were lucky enough to trap KI dunnarts.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Analyse image data from the 2024 autumn surveys for all priority mammals.
- Compile baseline data from the 2020-2023 camera trap surveys for other priority species to add to KI dunnart dataset including southern brown bandicoots, KI echidnas, Rosenberg's goanna, pygmy possums and feral cats.
- Analyse the temperature logger data from artificial refuges, to determine if thermal paint enhances the thermal suitability of refuges in warm weather.

Images: Photographs of a pygmy possum (left) and southern brown bandicoot (right) processed by Megadetector AI software.



64
KI dunnart monitoring
sites completed

227,418
images processed to
detect threatened species

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 key coastal habitats and threatened species to provide information and direction for current management actions, with a focus on the Board's newly constructed native flat oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) reefs and little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) colonies. It will also lay the groundwork for future coastal habitat actions to enhance Kangaroo Island's coastal ecosystems.

Key achievements April–June 2024

- In autumn the Board completed a whole-of-island little penguin census during the first clutch of the breeding season for the first time.
- Feral cats were controlled adjacent to little penguin breeding habitat at Emu Bay, Antechamber Bay, Cape Willoughby and Penneshaw.
- A report comparing the KI little penguin whole-of-island census in November 2023 with previous censuses in 2011, 2012 and 2013 was published. Comino, A., Lashmar, K., Berris, K., Byrne-Willey, H., Leigh, S., and Rogers, P. (2024). [Population status of little penguins \(*Eudyptula minor*\) on Kangaroo Island in 2023](#). Kangaroo Island Landscape Board. Kingscote.

Community engagement

- An article in *The Islander*, three ABC radio interviews and one ABC 24 TV interview were published to update the local, state-wide and national community on KI's little penguin population status, their threats and current and future management actions.
- An interpretive sign on the Board's oyster reef restoration project was installed along the esplanade walking trail in Kingscote. The sign includes seascape drawings by a local artist and information on native flat oysters, our community led approach to restoration, and a QR code linked to our website.
- A monitoring rig constructed through a partnership between AusOcean and the Year 11 and 12 Outdoor Education students at KICE was installed on the Board's Kingscote oyster reef site. This solar powered rig will measure sea surface temperature and is connected to a camera pointing over the reef modules that streams video to YouTube in real time. The streaming link will be publicly launched soon.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Conduct a little penguin census in October 2024 to compare population estimates during the second seasonal clutch of chicks to those from 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2023.
- Improve little penguin colony coastal habitat by removing old and defective structures, controlling weeds and redirecting walking paths where appropriate.
- Survey oyster metrics at the Kingscote and American River restored reefs.

Image right: Little penguins nesting in a burrow at Emu Bay during breeding season in autumn.

4
media interviews given about KI little penguins

1
monitoring rig installed on Kingscote oyster reef

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 April–June 2024:

Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants

- The 2024-25 KI Grassroots Grants opened on 1 April and closed on 6 May.
 - » 24 applications were received, ranging in value from \$1,021 to \$21,500 (the minimum and maximum amounts being offered was \$1,000 and \$8,000 respectively).
 - » The total value of the applications for 2024 was \$165,712.
 - » Seven individual landholders and three community groups have been awarded \$55,997 to deliver their projects.
 - » The successful projects focus on a variety of landscape management issues including: constructing a weather station at KICE Parndana Campus, protecting and revegetating native vegetation including along a watercourse, supporting landholders with their analysis of feral cat images taken during trapping using eVorta AI, demonstrating successful revegetation at a Nature Festival of SA event, completely fencing the Parndana Community Garden, establishing shelterbelts, restoring and protecting KI Narrow-leaved mallee woodland and using a large-scale vermicomposting system on a productive farm.
- A farmer on the Dudley Peninsula constructed a 900 m fence along the northern side of Deep Creek to protect 5 ha of new and existing native vegetation, prevent water erosion and improve water quality and stock management through Grassroots Grants funding from 2023-24.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Assist successful 2024 KI Grassroots Grants participants to begin their projects and access their funding.

Image below: Dudley farmer Lachie Harvey with the new fence protecting his watercourse for revegetation.



10
successful applicants granted \$55,997 through KI Grassroots Grants

5
ha native vegetation on watercourse protected

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 April–June 2024:

1. Media

1.a 10 articles were published in *The Islander* over the quarter:

- 4/4/24: [KI landholders learning to care for remnant native vegetation](#)
Promoting workshops for Heritage Agreement landowners and others to learn more about how to better care for remnant native vegetation, facilitated by the Board, Native Vegetation Council and Tress for Life.
- 25/4/24: [\\$53,000 in grants for KI](#)
Promoting the opening of the 2024 Grassroot Grants through an interview with past recipient, KI sheep farmer Lachie Harvey.
- 16/5/24: [Time to desilt dams as big dry hits Kangaroo Island](#)
Timely reminder for landholders about desilting dams and the Board's Water Control Policy.
- 16/5/24: [Feral cat blitz begins with a bang on Dudley Peninsula](#)
Report on the beginning of the annual winter feral cat blitz with an interview with KI sheep farmer Andy Gilfillan who supports the Board's feral cat eradication program and participated in the AgKI funded landholder trapping program.
- 16/5/24: [Registrations now open: Island Arks Symposium on Kangaroo Island](#)
Promotion of opening of registrations for the Island Arks Symposium VIII.
- 23/5/24: [Native Kangaroo Island plants available from the Landscape Board](#)
Promotion of seasonal opening of KI Native Plant Nursery and the native plants available for public purchase.
- 30/5/24: [Little penguin colonies in decline across Kangaroo Island, except at Emu Bay](#)
Results of the Board's whole-of-island little penguin survey.
- 6/6/24: [Experience of a lifetime for Kangaroo Island students of nature](#)
Summary of activities that KICE students undertook during their work experience week at the Board.
- 20/6/24: [Reminder of permit requirements for keeping domestic pigs on KI](#)
The Board issuing a timely reminder about the permit process for keeping and transporting domestic pigs.

Image below: Paul Jennings and Chantelle Geissler from the Feral Cat Eradication Program presenting to the Penneshaw Progress Association.



14
social media posts

10
media articles published locally

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

5
interviews given to radio, television and on-line

7,524
people viewed
Feral Cat Blitz post

Funded by:

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

- 27/6/24: [Dudley Peninsula landholders help trap 187 feral cats in winter blitz](#)
The Board thanking community members for their help to eradicate feral cats across the Dudley Peninsula and the Pelican Lagoon isthmus.

Two interviews were given to ABC North West radio:

- 14/5/24: Paul Jennings, Project Leader Feral Cat Eradication Program, was interviewed about the new suite of technology deployed in the annual, winter, feral cat eradication blitz.
- 19/6/24: Alex Comino, Coasts Project Officer, was interviewed about the results of the Board's whole-of-island little penguin survey.

Three interviews were given to ABC media:

- 26/6/24: Alex Comino, Coasts Project Officer and Chantelle Geissler, Feral Cat Spatial Networks Project Officer, were interviewed about the results of the Board's whole-of-island little penguin survey and the impact of feral cat predation on little penguins. ([ABC News on-line](#))
- 26/6/24: Alex Comino, Coasts Project Officer, was interviewed about the results of the Board's whole-of-island little penguin survey. ([ABC News 24 \(television\)](#))
- 26/6/24: Alex Comino, Coasts Project Officer, discussed the results of the Board's whole-of-island little penguin survey. ([ABC 891 radio](#))

2. Social media

- 14 posts on our [Facebook page](#) reached 159,000 people, up 133% from last quarter, with 76 new followers, up 61% from last quarter. The Facebook post thanking [Dudley Peninsula landholders](#) for their efforts to trap feral cats in the annual winter blitz was viewed by 7,524 people. The posts covered the Dudley feral cat blitz, sustainable agriculture events, little penguin survey KI Native Plant Nursery, Penneshaw Progress Association presentation, available grants, employment opportunities, Island Ark Symposium and workshops.

Community engagement:

- The Feral Cat Eradication Program was supported during May and June.
 - » A comprehensive overview of the Feral Cat Eradication Program, a summary of the progress of the Feral Cat Blitz and a fridge magnet with a 'Feline Hotline' were delivered via post office boxes at American River and Penneshaw.
 - » Paul Jennings and Chantelle Geissler from the Feral Cat Eradication Program were supported to present to the Penneshaw Progress Association and the KI Council's Community Centres Working Group meetings.
 - » The Board partnered with the KI Council and PIRSA to develop an information flyer about the feral cat eradication program outlining the Council's by-laws regarding domestic cat ownership for residents.
- Information sheets about de-silting dams and dam management were developed and distributed at PIRSA's 'What we do before it rains' event in May.
- Planning for the Island Arks Symposium was supported from April-June.

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Promotion of the Island Arks Symposium and media engagements with the Threatened Species Commissioner.
- Thank you event for Dudley Peninsula landholders involved in feral cat blitz.
- Partner with AgKI, PIRSA and KI Council to develop a suite of communications about permit processes for dam construction and enlargement.
- Partner with PIRSA to develop a guide for invasive weeds on Kangaroo Island.
- Develop promotional materials to support the KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodland and threatened plant restoration program.

Planning and Evaluation Team

Overview:

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

Key achievements April–June 2024:

- Submitted an output report to the Australian Government through their on-line reporting tool (MERIT) for the project: *Kangaroo Island feral cat eradication*.
- Supported the development of three projects with the Australian Government:
 - » *Towards a feral free Kangaroo Island: eradicating feral cats from a priority island ark* (Natural Heritage Trust: Recovery Actions for Species and Landscapes)
 - » *Improving the condition of the Kangaroo Island Priority Place - Saving Native Species funding in the Kangaroo Island NRM region* (Saving Native Species: Priority Places - Procurements)
 - » *Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator – Kangaroo Island* (Natural Heritage Trust: Climate-Smart Agriculture Program - Sustainable Agriculture Facilitators).
- Supported the development of the *Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Emergency Response Framework for Natural Assets*. Four workshops were held to develop the framework:
 1. Board staff workshop held on 4 April to review actions previously identified and prioritised for terrestrial biodiversity, coast and marine biodiversity, agriculture and governance.
 2. Agency stakeholder workshop held on 4 April to identify any overlaps, gaps and potential leveraging of high priority actions amongst key agencies.
 3. Community stakeholder workshop held on 4 April to identify any overlaps, gaps and potential leveraging of high priority actions amongst key non-government organisations and community groups.
 4. Board staff and agency stakeholder workshop on 17 April to identify any overlaps, gaps and potential leveraging of high priority actions amongst key agencies.
- Supported the planning of the Island Ark Symposium VIII which will be held on Kangaroo Island from 26-29 August and hosted by the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board. See <https://www.islandarksymposium.com/>

Community engagement:

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

Future directions and upcoming events:

- Promote and prepare for the Island Ark Symposium VIII.
- Assist projects with reporting and monitoring requirements and liaise with the Australian Government and project staff to meet contracted requirements for projects.
- Seek funding to continue KI Landscape Board project work.

3
reports submitted to
project funders

4
workshops held to
develop emergency plan

Links to KI Landscape Plan

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

Funded by:

- Australian Government
- Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

How we can help you



KI Native Plant Nursery

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

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



KI native vegetation

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

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



Soil Extension Officer

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

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



Water management

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

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



Weed control

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

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



Pest animal control

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

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



Feral pig control

- » control of feral pigs
- » feral pig reports

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



Feral cat control

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

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