

Eurong Bush Regeneration Week Diary 25th July to 1st August 2015



The team at Hammerstone Sandblow with the bed of a once perched dune lake to the right and the sea and encroaching vegetation in the background

Work Summary

- There were 9 in the team. Most were from South East Queensland but two had come from interstate — one from Warrandyte (Victoria) and another from Bunbury (Western Australia)
- During this most productive week the team delivered 295.5 hours of on-ground work.
- Additional assistance (not included in hours) was contributed by David Anderson and the Eurong Resort.
- A preparatory trip two weeks prior to this week included others from far afield and that made the work input for this week far more productive.
- There were 14 weeds that were subject of major focus and another 21 weed species that were dealt with incidentally during the course of the week.

The week is a continuation of a program supported by the Burnett Mary Regional Group that began in August 2011 and was the 14th such program since then

While Eurong continues to be the main focus work done in other areas included the Wangoolba Creek barge landing area (weeding and planting of more than a dozen new trees to landscape this area) Central Station (Wabby Lakes track (Rats-tail) and incidental weed removal at other sites visited during the week

Day 1
Saturday 25th July
Brisbane to Eurong

The program had some inauspicious omens when a couple of days before the trip Maree realized that she was unable to shake off the flu that had plagued her for a week. The same day Fearless Leader was in Sydney to learn that the drivers licence that he had held for 59 years and 10 days was suspended for twelve months as a result of cyclists crashing into him.

Neither of these problems daunted the willing team of workers who were ready to apply themselves to the task of weed control in Eurong and who had come from far and wide to be part of the team. With two potential drivers for TAHKA cancelled out, the problem was how to get the rest of the mob up to Fraser Island. The problem was resolved through a call to Dave who had come across the continent from Bunbury to assist. Although he had never driven in sand before, he didn't demur when Fearless Leader asked if he was willing to drive TAHKA. It transpired that on his side of the continent Dave drives a 6 tonne truck to help him run his business.

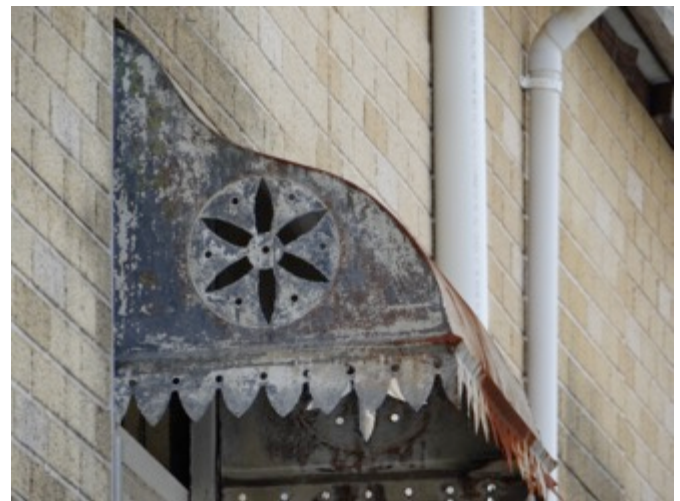
Thus it was we were all able to set off on schedule. Su picked up Gray had returned from Warrandyte in Victoria to throw his hand in again. They went on to rendezvous with Roger at Mooloolaba. Heather and Marnie came up from Redlands and Helen from Mt Cooth-tha helped make up the load for David to competently negotiate to Yandina where they caught up with Roger, Dray and Su for morning tea.

There were nothing exciting as they made their way on to Maryborough except for David for the first time seeing sugar can growing. They made up for it in Maryborough as they found a team of men preparing Queens Park for its great monthly event the Sunday fair where they all out their scale model locomotives to take people for rides around Queens Park on their trains. It was a pleasant lunch but then they indulged in a pedestrian examination of the Doon Villa precinct with its rich legacy of Queensland architecture.

Then after a quick refuel they were off to Mary River Heads for the placid crossing of Great Sandy Strait. However while the road surface was firm after recent rains the ride across Fraser Island on the bumpy sand track was far from placid

A minor surprise awaited us at Eurong when we found "Talinga" occupied by another group. However within an hour we were happily ensconced in "Weerona" and indulging in a very Happy Hour

followed by curried fish with Wombok salad followed by cake prepared by Su's mate Tiomi.



Some of the most decrepit and neglected older homes of Maryborough had gems of creative vernacular architecture, such as this use of galvanized iron.

Day 2
Sunday 26th July
Eurong and Southern Lakes

It was a warm welcoming golden cloudless morning to greet us at Weerona. After breakfast there was some morning orientation until morning tea. This started at the shed where people were introduced to the resources we had to assist us. Then we moved forward to follow up the area between the road and the northern dingo fence and introduced some of the key target weeds.

Then followed the Demonstration Garden area before moving down past the generator shed to Problem Corner where there was another pedestrian foray to discover and assess what weeds existed and the work required to address the problem. They hadn't progressed far along the esplanade when they discovered some huge Sisal plants on the beach side of the dingo fence. They then followed up to observe the work done on the Singapore Daisy that has been remarkably successful.

A pleasant surprise awaited in Second Valley when it was noted that for the first time in a decade there had been no obvious deposition of Garden waste in Jarvis Street although the same could not be said for Easton Street in the main part of Eurong.

The next stop was to assess how it would be possible to deal with the difficult Dragon fruit problem on the way out of Second Valley. The Dragon fruit is weighing down a landmark fig tree and threatens to overwhelm it. We started work to eradicate the Dragon fruit from the big fig by cutting the root and by feeding it on 100% Roundup. We

will assess how successful this has been in October and follow up with the most appropriate treatment.

After smoko three teams set out in different directions. The Women's team led by Su started work at the toilet block end working towards the Dingo grid eliminating Coral Creeper. They made meticulous progress finding larger plants that had evaded earlier treatment but the majority being small plants easily removed. They will return to the job tomorrow.



Hunting coral creeper was the largest task undertaken in a very productive week

Roger and David mixed up 50 litres of Roundup for the anticipated spraying program over the next few days. Once mixed they scoured the land beyond the dingo fence looking for Coral Creeper. They found some dense patches in full bloom but mostly they found small seedlings that have possibly germinated since Chris sprayed this area in May. Between them they dispersed some 10 to 12 litres of Roundup working in an area that stretched north-east of the pedestrian gate in the Dingo fence not far from the toilet block.

After smoko Fearless Leader and Gray went to work the area west of the dingo fence. They had been alerted to some large lantana outside the Deer Farm. However it took 90 minutes for them to reach and conclude the Deer Farm area because of the obscurity of many of the main offensive weeds. They found for example, many Cocos palm seedlings in unexpected places and we suspect that these are being dispersed by flying foxes. Later in the day Gray even found (what we thought were) Cocos Palms near Lake Boomanjin that seems like a very odd turn-up.

Although the main objective was lantana and they found some very large specimen totalling about two dozen they also found about two dozen Easter Cassia. As they walked the roadside between the dingo grid and the Deer Farm. Also in the mix were 50 or so Brazilian nightshade plants. Another find

was the many potential plants for potting or replanting.

Hours Worked:

8 x 5 (7.30 to 12.30)	40
Su afternoon extra	4
Total	44



Worm castings painted the road down-cutting

Day 3

Monday 27th July

Eurong and Wabby Lakes

There had been an early morning shower but the weather remained warm now warm clothing being required. However the rain delayed to proposed spraying program until after morning tea. Thus instead of the spraying Roger and David joined Gray and F.L on a clean-up quest. They collected rubbish from out of the bush and around Easton Street and then headed down towards problem corner.

However before reaching the Bus Wash they engaged in some removal of Green Panic before continuing on. That proved to be quite significant. At Problem Corner they removed more Green Panic that had not been covered by the May Working group. With that accomplished they realized that there was now surprisingly little Green Panic left in the main part of Eurong and the elimination of Green Panic is now an achievable goal, possibly within a year.

They also worked on eliminating all of the remaining Clivias in Problem Corner while F.L. liaised with Jacqui from Drop Bear Tours on their remarkable clean-up around their premises in Second Valley, particularly the elimination of sea of Painted spurge and on advice for establishing a garden. With a full load of garden waste and weeds they went to the dump. Then while F.L went to the QPWS office to liaise and negotiate the opening of a critical gate in the dingo fence to access weeds the men continued

follow-up from the last trip by watering the plants that had been put out in May and a were doing well.

F.L. returned in time for morning tea with the whole troop and with the news that Maree was on her way up the beach from Rainbow Beach courtesy of Discovery Tours. In the morning session the women Helen, Heather, Marnie, Heather and Su continued to thoroughly clean up the bush between the toilet block and the Dingo grid. They continued that work after smoke starting to work their way from the Dingo grid to the bus-wash facility with equal thoroughness and later in the day Su returned to put in another four hours of work in the vicinity of the bush wash facility. Maree arrived during this session and joined the group



Maree works on Ratstail frass along the quad Track to Wabby Lakes

After smoko while Dave and Roger went back to spraying especially a large area of Brazilian nightshade, Gray and F.L went off to use the gate in the dingo fence to access the agaves (sisal) that could be seen from inside the dingo fence. There were about a dozen specimens but the opportunity to access the area outside the dingo fence encouraged them to look further. They did find lots of coral creeper that had survived one attack of spray with Roundup in May 2014. Looking further beneath the lantana they found a large nest of Sisal. That led to a war on lantana to see what else could be exposed. They were weary but on their way to the dump decided to check out an area where Sisal had previously been discovered. Here was an even

bigger nest. They took a trailer load of more than 50 sisal plants to the dump

It was a weary group that gathered for a really delicious lunch.

After lunch we left at 1.30 pm for the walk to Wabby Lakes because Fearless Leader had a sneaky plan to combine work with Pleasure. However it was heavy work eliminating Giants Rats-tail an alien weed that was rapidly spreading along the former walking track that has been based on evidence spread by the QPWS Quad because it is found along the quad track but not the former walking track.

At 3.00 pm after really tiring work with 14 plastic bags filled the Fearless Leader called a halt to any further weeding as otherwise the group would miss out on reaching Wabby Lakes. The area weeded mainly was the section between 25°28'5" S and 153°08'32" E (Where the walking track and Quad track join inland from the beach) and 25°28'3" S and 153°08'35" E (In the patch of ancient melaluecas).



Ironstone nodules formed from the iron in the cell membranes of dead cyanobacteria

We continued on to the lake taking note of the cryptobiotic crust, formation of ironstone peoples, mychorriza, dissection of a perched dune lake, Aboriginal artefacts and the capacity of melaluecas to survive to great age and to great height in their battled to avoid being engulfed by sand. It was a great walk but Fearless Leader was staggered when Roger confess to being too "buggered" to be able to also walk around the lake. We managed to stagger home across the dunes pausing for a cup of tea at the beach.

Hours Worked:

8 x 5 (7.30 to 12.30)	40
8 x 1.5 (1.30 to 3.00)	12
Su and Maree extra	6
Total	58

Day 4**Tuesday 28th July****Eurong, Central Station, Boorangoora**

We began work at 7.30 am and worked at Eurong until 9.00 am or a little later. Helen potted volunteer Cassuarinas ready for transplanting to the Wangoolba Creek ferry landing. Su pursued her passion battling Coral Creeper, a work that she continued for the remainder of the whole day. Marnie and Heather resumed work on weeding of the Demonstration gardens.

Maree and the four men went to work on the lantana encountered outside the Dingo Fence. During the course of this work carried out with chainsaw and painted with Roundup the clearing revealed more sisals and clivias that were efficiently despatched by Gray. However the others discovered hidden away amongst the Banksia a nest of at least 50 Easter Cassia ranging from seedlings to large plants impossible to up root that were dealt with by chainsaw and roundup paint on the stumps.

It was very satisfying work that had to be put aside to fit the day's schedule of Morning tea at Central Station and lunch at Lake McKenzie (Boorangoora). The team except for Su who worked on throughout the day on Coral Creeper then set off to Central Station.

**Angiopteris at Central Station**

At Central Station the team continued on previous work on Rats-tail and Clivias until 11.30 when they headed off to explore the natural beauty of Wangoolba Creek. The main area focussed on was in the FIT's Day Use area between the car-park and the path down to the Angiopteris. Six large bags of rats-tail were collected and later taken back to Eurong. 27 bulbs were collected from new areas discovered but there had been no recruitment off all of the areas previously weeded except for one site near the Treatment plant where another 8 bulbs were found.

The team then walked through to Pile Valley where vehicles were waiting to take them to lunch at Lake McKenzie (Boorangoora).

Not a lot of weeding was done there this time but Rats Tail Grass and Cobblers Pegs were removed near the eastern toilet block.

On the way to Ungowa and fens a stop was made to observe some spectacular colour sand beside the road that seemed to come from worm castings.

The access to the fens was daunting as the accumulation of vegetation since the last fire was almost impenetrable. Three attempts were made but nobody was able to reach a definitive flank and all agreed that it was a very special environment. The visit to Ungowa was much more pleasant until the sea of Rats-tail in the camping area was noted. It was a very satisfying day.

Hours Worked:

8 x 4 (7.30 to 11.30)	32
Su 7.30 to 5.00 pm	8.5
Total	40.5

**Disintegrating Ungowa jetty on Great Sandy Strait****Day 5****Wednesday 29th July****Eurong and Kirrar Sandblow**

The day began with a Su and the women continuing on the removal of massive amounts of Coral Creeper from the area between the bus-wash and the Dingo Fence. It was extremely steep and challenging but after two days of Su's efforts it was finally purged. We await with some alarm though to see what sort of impact the spraying of the resort's grey water is going to have on our efforts to eliminate Coral creeper.

Roger and David though went to work with the backpacks working outside the dingo fence to flush out and kill any other Coral creeper plants. When

they reached the furthest point from the dingo fence they marked the area with a horizontal marking tape which we hope is the furthest that Coral creeper has become established.

Maree, Gray and F.L. set off to work along the Esplanade in front of Second Valley. Gray indulged in some road-work confirming his Mother's predictions that he would end up becoming a road worker through lack of application of his intellect. After removing many 50 to 100 painted Spurge in seed head he then Joined F.L to cut the Mother-in-laws tongues and paint them. Meanwhile Maree was doing a thorough clean up following up the May spraying by using a hand spray to clean up any Singapore daisy that miss the May hits. This all continued until smoko when the whole group joined up at the Surfside units to bask in the sunshine.

Following smoko Su and Helen returned to finish up their work on the slippery slope with several bags of Coral creeper removed.

Meanwhile Maree was joined by Marnie and Heather to deal with a small area near Problem Corner that was a sort of island ringed by tracks. They found many more Coral creeper and a surprising number of small sisal plants all of which were sent to the dump.

Meanwhile the men explored the area of Problem Corner where Gray discovered about another 100 Clivia Lily bulbs. There was a small infestation of Mother-in-laws tongues that were physically removed with their rhizomes and another 10 Sisal plants. They also found two freshly germinated coconut palms. Roger and David sprayed the Syngonium and thoroughly searched the area over the brown of the hill where an Umbrella tree and a few Easter Cassia were found but nothing much more serious. The morning ended with the purging of Crows-foot from the area of lawn that FIDO had helped to establish near the Surfside units.

There is a problem in this part of the resort with the dumping of lawn clippings and garden waste. It is proposed to locate another composting bin for lawn clippings in this vicinity on the October trip.

It was a full and satisfying morning with a large sweep from the Bus wash to the Esplanade and along the Esplanade to Second Valley being cleared of most major weeds. However Maree discovered along the Esplanade between the Pub and the Resort shop a lot of Singapore daisy

After lunch while Su was insistent on weeding the Demonstration garden prior to distributing woodchip. The rest of the group went off to explore the wonders of the awesome Kirrar sandblow but on their way to and from couldn't resist the temptation

to remove some of the lantana. They returned to "Weerona" well before Su finished her weeding.

Hours Worked:

8 x 4 (7.30 to 12.00)	36
Su (7.30 to 5.00 pm)	8
Total	44



Sand-blasted wood, lateritic cappings and wind-swept mobile sand characterize Kirrar Sandblow

**Day 6
Thursday 30th July
Eurong and Indian Head**

The morning was warmer with a westerly as we set off after breakfast for two hours of work prior to taking advantage of the 1.30 pm low tide to head up to Indian Head (Takky Woorroo).

Because the Resort had supplied another load of woodchip for the Demonstration Garden, Roger, David and Su set to work neatly spreading this woodchip to suppress further weeds. Alas Su forked one of the irrigation pipes. After that they went outside the dingo fence on the Second Valley side and found Coral Creeper on the very steep slope

The women though went to work on the median strip between the Resort and the front Dingo fence. They cleaned out lots of rubbish including many coconuts including some that had germinated. An assortment of weeds were encountered including some reshooting lantana, Clivias, Syngonium, Chinese lantern, and Morning Glory amongst others. A large patch of Singapore Daisies and another patch of Green Panic was sprayed with about 5 litres of Brush-off. The women were justifiably proud of their work and achievement

Gray and F.L. went to work on the Plateau area working on Coral Creeper and working their way down Singapore Alley. Their work though was helped with the assistance of the Fraser Island

Association’s David Anderson who introduced Mark from Drop Bear Tours who is also keen to assist the weeding effort. The treatment of Coral creeper seedlings with hand sprayed roundup turned F.L’s hands blue.

The Earth Shook: Most had returned to Weerona by 9.43 am for smoko when the felt the Earth move as a result of an earthquake measuring 5.0 centred about 35 kilometres off Indian Head on the very edge of the Continental shelf. The shake made news headlines around the region because it was felt from Gladstone to Brisbane and there are predicted to be more shocks. However it wasn’t quite the once in a Blue Moon event because the Blue Moon is scheduled for the morrow

The team set off later than planned an unsurprisingly returned later than planned. They did stop at Eli Creek and ascend Indian Head and in both places couldn’t resist plucking some weeds. There is certainly plenty of scope at Indian Head. After replacing a flat tyre at Indian Head they then went on to Waddy Point for lunch in the day use area. After a brief skirt past Waddy Point itself and a sticky-beak at the housing in Orchid Beach they then made their way south. It was further delayed when TAHKA became bogged due to someone forcing it from the firmer track.

There was a pause for an ice-cream and refreshments at Happy Valley and we arrived back about 4.45 pm. There was an assessment of the work done and the work remaining and a liaison with Bob Burnett, the Maintenance Manager of the Resort about matters of mutual concern including the dispersing of grey water into the bush areas and the impact on weed growth as well as the disposal of garden waste and lawn clippings.

Hours Worked:

9 x 2.0 (7.30 to 10.00)	18
Total	18

**Day 7
Friday 31st July
Eurong — Blue Moon Day**

Having had a light work day yesterday to fit in the run up to Indian Head today everyone was out ready to go at 7.30 although some women who were hiding away to clean their teeth missed the Starter’s Call.

The Women went to work in Singapore Alley where they completed the cut and paint of all of the Mother-in-laws tongues and had a big clean up of Coral Creeper. For nine hours they worked dilligently throughout the day eliminating Mother

in-laws tongues, Coral creeper and sundry weeds in and adjacent to Singapore Alley. Maree also donned the backpack and sprayed the Plateau area above the fire station that is at the head of Singapore Alley.

Three Stages of the destruction of the Evil Palm

A “before” photo on page 10 of this Diary shows the palm festooned with dead fronds and adjacent to the entrance to Jarvis Street. It took five men a whole day (40 man-hours) and two chainsaws to bring down the 31 stems of this very prickly plant



The above two photos were taken at lunch-time. Ten trailer-loads of frond and trunks were removed.



Five triumphant tree fellers astride the stumps

The men meanwhile were facing up to the challenge of removing a cluster of palms in Second Valley adjacent to the Fire Station. At first it was assumed that this was a cluster of evil Cocos Palms. However nowhere is there any reference in describing Cocos Palms that mentions to 6 to 8 cm needles (sharp multiple spikes) growing for the first lower metre at the base of the 3 metre leaves. This was an evil and unforgettable characteristic for the five men who worked to eradicate this tree that had a base of 31 stems some reaching to ten metres.

Work on this evil monster was extremely challenging and despite fatigue after the morning's effort the men could not resist the challenge and so after lunch were eager to resume. David Anderson returned with his chainsaw and in total contributed 8 solid hour of work that obviously met with the approval of the community judging by the comments and the number of inspections. Throughout the removal stage it was considered to be a Cocos palm.

As well as stripping each log of its leaves and then cutting the logs down to manageable billets, the whole plant/s were then conveyed to the dump. Ten piled high trailer loads were removed to the dump but in the end the whole site was clean except for the remnants of the 31 stems that will be continually monitored.

Both the men and the women worked exceptionally hard from 7.30 to 12.30 and from 2.00 to 6.00 making 9 hour days. Their work was augmented by a mammoth 9 hour day by David Anderson who contributed his chainsaw and his expertise with it as well as hid labour. It was a very productive and satisfying day

Hours Worked:

9 x 9 (7.30 to 12.30 and 2.00 to 6.00)	81
Total	81

Note: This tally does not include the great contribution by David Anderson.

Day 8
Saturday 1st August
Eurong to Brisbane

For most the day started at 5.00 am ready for a 6.00 am breakfast. Despite some aversion to such an early start there was eagerness to get away before 8.00 am because a very well planned operation was proposed to landscape the Wangoolba Creek barge landing. As it was we got away much earlier and paused only briefly to farewell one of our colleagues, David at Central Station. David planned and was well prepared to stay on the island for another five days for walking part of the Great Walk which was

another reason to come from the other side of the continent.



The team planted, weeded and watered while waiting at Wangoolba Creek ferry terminal

At Wangoolba Creek the work was carried out with military precision. Holes were dug although not as deep as we would have wished because of an underlying layer of compacted gravel. The young plants were placed in the holes, marked to avoid them being trampled or run over, watered and supplied with additional sand to help them get better established. As the trees grow we expect them to transform the appearance of this site. The significance as demonstrated when the barge arrived. About that 20 vehicles drove off and five busloads of people walked off the ferry. This was the point of arrival that morning for more than 300 people on that ferry and judging by the vehicle line up at Mary River Heads when we got there another 100 or more on the next ferry load. Wangoolba Creek is therefore a most important introductory site to World Heritage Fraser Island and first appearances count, which is why FIDO is attempting to improve the outlook at this critical landing and departure point to the island.

We drove nonstop to Tin Can Bay where we unloaded Maree and some gear that she will use for the next trip in October before a pleasant lunch at Norman Point before dispersing and making our respective ways home from that point.

Hours Worked:

8 x 1.25 (8.00 to 9.15)	10
Total	10

Summary of Weed Progress in Eurong

The work carried out during the week 25 July to 1 August was focussed on 13 main weeds in the vicinity of Eurong township, but with weed encounters in other places are also described. Here the main species attacked elsewhere was Giant Rats-tail grass. This summary describes the progress in dealing with each of the main offenders.

Coral Creeper: This was the main weed dealt with during the week occupying about a third of the total weeding effort and resulting in three or four trailer loads in total of weeds taken to the dump. All of the area from Easton street to the dingo fence and down to the western dingo grid has been cleared and then back along the hillside between the Great Walk sign and the Generator shed. Other infestations east of the Resort's "Surfside" Units were purged both inside and outside the dingo fence. Treatment also continued on a further large infestation in an area due east of and above the Fire Station.

The areas outside the dingo fence on the north side have been thoroughly purged for isolated occurrences of Coral creeper. There are still many coral creepers in Eurong and a large seed bank that may be triggered following the installation of a new grey-water distribution system for the Resort. It will require constant monitoring and continual follow-up to control.



Monitoring Shot Problem Corner July 2015

Lantana: The area between the dingo grid and the Deer Farm western gate has been purged of lantana. Lantana has also been removed from outside the Dingo fence in the proximity of Problem Corner. Isolated plants were removed elsewhere on sight. There is now almost no Lantana inside the Eurong Dingo Fence although one large plant between Problem Corner and Singapore Alley is very obvious. Lantana focus in Eurong now needs to be directed towards the area between the dingo fence and the beach

During a walk into Kurrar Sandblow a number of lantana were uprooted but many more remain. At least a start has been made.

Sisal: More than 50 plants were removed close to Problem corner where a major outbreak was noted in 2005 with large sisals dispersing seed and propagants. This will continue to require follow up especially along the dingo fence inside and out. During the course of the week more than 100 plants were discovered and removed

Easter Cassia: These are now incredibly isolated and hard to find in Eurong but in the various activities more than 50 were removed almost all outside the dingo fence on the western side of the village. However another 50 or more were discovered and despatched outside the dingo fence near Problem Corner.

Brazilian Nightshade: Like Easter Cassia these are removed in sight and becoming increasingly less common in areas worked but a large seed-bank remains and more follow-up is required

Green Panic: A year ago it seemed so improbable that we could eliminate all Green panic in Eurong. However now as a result of progressive elimination in the Easton Street area, progressive spraying by David Anderson in Second Valley and more recent work (Spraying and manual removal) between the Roundabout and Problem Corner that now seems possible within a year.

Singapore Daisy: Maree's spraying effort with Brush off in May has had a remarkable success. Maree continued to follow up the large infestation with hand spray of Brush-off on outliers that were missed in the May spraying. However Maree discovered a large infestation of Singapore Daisy in the area between the shop and the dingo fence and this has now been treated with Brush off spray.

Dragon Fruit: Until now FIDO has dealt only with the ground spreading Dragon fruit in front of the O'Dwyer house. We have observed the sprawling invasion of the fig tree at the back with some awe, but the collapse of a large Cypress under the weight of Dragon fruit near the Walk residence prompted us into action. A soak of Roundup by cut roots is being trialed but the cutting off of all connection of the plant by roots with the ground may also work. This needs to be assessed in October.

Clivia: In the vicinity of Problem Corner there were three of bags of bulbs collected. These were from the area below the monitoring pole and outside the dingo fence close to that. At Central Station 35 bulbs were collected but recruitment only at one site nearer the Treatment plant and none anywhere else.

Syngonium: The most intractable weed we have encountered so far is syngonium. However it was observed that it had been knocked back by the spraying in May and acting on David Anderson's advice it was decided to spray it again because repeated spraying may gradually overcome it. That treatment is now applying to Problem Corner.

Brazilian Cherry: Only a couple of Brazilian cherries were dealt with on this trip. They were two outside the late Peter MacDonald's house but we were requested not to continue with these. However we did remove several seedlings in the Second Valley. It remains a subject of great concern as long as any remain in the village.

Mother-in Law's Tongues: The main area of concern is in front of the Daniels House although it is noted that there has been a deliberate planting on the road embankment behind the O'Dwyer House. The area between the monitoring posts outside Daniel's House were trialled with Cut and Paint. The slashing by a cane knife followed by immediate spraying two weeks previously seems to have had great effect. Thus it was resolved to continue this treatment for the remainder of the patch. A smaller infestation at Problem Corner was manually removed. This area has now been identified as Singapore Alley.



The Challenge: This is a Dwarf Date Palm that isn't a dwarf and has gone Feral on Fraser

Dwarf Date Palm: From the very first FIDO weeding operation in the early 1990s FIDO has been concerned about trees escaping from the townships into the bush. We had a salutary lesson of the possibilities when we found what we thought was a Cocos palm volunteer beside our vehicle at Lake Boomanjin. Many similar palms with very distinctive juvenile leaves have turned up in odd places because the seeds seem to have been dispersed by Flying foxes. Thus these palms is potentially one of the most threatening plants on Fraser Island. Thus when we were encouraged to remove the main adult trees in Eurong the

opportunity was eagerly accepted. The problem of undiscovered seedlings dispersed throughout Fraser Island though remains. It was only after research that we discovered the identity of this palm and it seems we have handled it and the volunteers the right way

Rats-Tail grass: While we haven't yet encountered Rats Tail grass in Eurong we have had major issues with it at other sites. We bagged 14 bags full of Giant's Rat-tail on the Quad track leading into Wabby Lakes. This heightened awareness led us to deal with the continuing but diminishing problem at Central Station. We also observed and dealt with some in the Lake McKenzie Day Use area although others remain there. This trip included a visit to Ungowa where we noted a very heavy infestation of Rat-tail in the campground there.

Others

Many weeds exist in Eurong that fit into the "Others" Category. These are weeds that are not as threatening or urgent at this stage of the program but they are dealt with whenever and wherever encountered.

During the week 25 July to 1 August we noted 21 "Others" we encountered in Eurong alone. These included: Asparagus fern, Purple Splash, Painted Spurge, Mother of Millions, Umbrella Tree, Mossman River Grass, Cobblers Pegs, Ragweed, Fish-bone fern, Coconut Palms, Gomphrena, Siratro, Corky Passion Vine, Mile-a-minute, an unknown succulent (probably an Aloe), Nightshade, Sideratusa, Cape honeysuckle, Climbing Asparagus, Pink Periwinkle, Crows Foot and various other alien grasses. Samples of all of these as well as other unknown weed species were removed in the course of the week's work.



The weeding week was blessed with wonderfully warm weather uncharacteristic of July. However it brought with it very early Spring weather and wonderful flowerings of orchids such as these Greenhoods

Preliminary Visit and Work



Jo-Jo at work on the Demonstration Garden

Between 10th and 14th July Fearless Leader and Su (Brisbane) with Jo Jo Gala and Kimmi from Lismore, Uncle Long Nose from the Northern Territory and Poo from Thailand were based at *Talinga* Eurong. It was a reunion of old friends. While engaging in a more general inspection of the island they fixing the Coomboo rain gauge they contributed to the various FIDO projects including Eurong. It was a great group that produced some superb photographs by Uncle Long Nose. It also resulted in this working bee being better planned.

During the five days the work undertaken by the six included:

- Weeding of the Demonstration Gardens preparatory to covering with woodchip.
- Installation of photo monitoring stations in front of Second Valley overlooking the Esplanade
- Reinstatement of the photo monitoring station at Yellow Corner (Refer to diary September 2013)
- Taking photos as part of the progressive monitoring program at the above locations as well as Easton Street, Problem Corner and Lake McKenzie (Boorangoora).
- A trial using slash and spray on the Mother-in-law's tongues and Aloe plants near the Daniels House (now known as Singapore Alley).

Hours worked for the Eurong Program

Su and Jo Jo and Kimmi (3 x 8 hours) Monitoring program Jo-Jo, Poo, F.L., and Long Nose (4 x 4 hours)

Total **40**