Kangaroo Island Landscape Board 2023–24 project achievements supported by the Nature Foundation

LANDSCAPE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
KANGAROO ISLAND

Feral Cat Eradication Program

100% of Dudley Peninsula covered by feral cat eradication zone

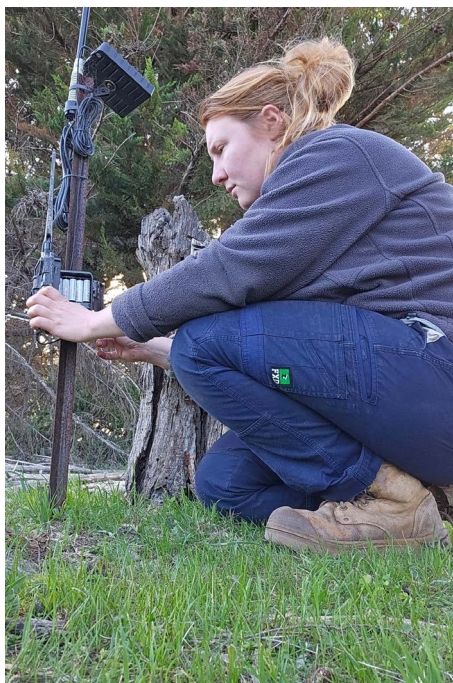**447** feral cats were removed from Dudley Peninsula

264 remote cameras use AI to survey for feral cats and threatened wildlife

The Feral cat eradication program scaled up operations with traps deployed across the entire Dudley Peninsula, managed seven days a week to maximise control efforts. Over 99% of landholders on the peninsula support or actively participate in the program.

- 447 feral cats were removed using cage traps over 64,244 trap nights.

- To increase trapping efficiency across large areas simultaneously more than 650 cage traps were fitted with Celium trap monitoring technology and were managed by the field team and landholders across the entire eradication zone.

- 264 4G enabled, camera traps linked to eVorta AI image analysis software were deployed across the peninsula. 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 feral cats. This camera network was also used to monitor trends in KI echidna and southern brown bandicoot populations on the Dudley Peninsula, in response to feral cat eradication.

- Two community trapping events were held:
  - » An annual community Feral Cat Trapping Blitz was conducted in July 2023 where 28 landholders managed 56 traps over 588 trap nights.
  - » Agriculture KI (AgKI) and Meat Livestock SA supported a Landholder Led Feral Cat Trapping Blitz in June 2024 where 35 landholders managed 115 Celium connected cage traps on their properties over 3,100 trap nights.

- A feline hotline '*Call in a Cat*' was established to provide a dedicated phone number for residents and tourists to phone in with cat sightings. This proved highly successful, with 18 calls received, which helped direct efforts to remove these feral cats.

See link: https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/native-plants-and-animals/managingpests/kangaroo-island-feral-cat-eradication-program

Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program

Glossy nests monitored and maintained at 19 sites

33 volunteers counted 453 glossies during annual census

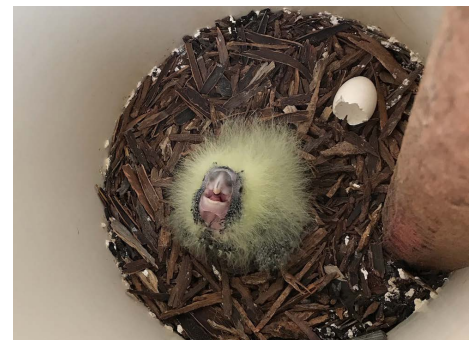**4,000 glossy food trees planted over 36 properties**

This project delivers strategic on-ground management actions to assist the recovery of key woodland bird species post-fire.

- The annual glossy black-cockatoos (glossy) census found a minimum population count of 453 birds.
  - » Glossy black-cockatoos have declined regionally on the fire-affected north coast of KI since 2020, and fledglings had a very low survival rate in 2022 and 2023.
  - » However, the eastern population (American River and Dudley Peninsula) is increasing due to work over the last decade providing and maintaining nest boxes and controlling and excluding pests at nest sites.
  - » 33 volunteers contributed 300 hours to the annual census and 48 property owners provided access to survey sites.
- Glossy black-cockatoo nests were maintained at 19 sites and three new nest boxes were installed. 21 landholders were advised of nesting activity on their properties.

- Nest boxes were closed in spring and re-opened in summer to deter breeding by pest species and were treated to prevent feral honeybee invasions.
- 42 glossy black-cockatoo nestlings were banded with assistance from 18 volunteers as part of the long-term mark-recapture dataset project.
- 4,000 sheoaks were planted on 36 properties to increase glossy black-cockatoo feeding habitat.
- Acoustic recorders were deployed at two biodiverse planting sites to record spring bird species to train an AI program to identify KI bird acoustic data.
- A tree hollow creation tool was trialled to create climate resilient hollows for woodland bird species.
- Students from KI Community Education and Oodanadatta Aboriginal School created nest boxes for threatened woodland birds.

See link: https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/native-plants-and-animals/supportingbiodiversity/glossy-black-cockatoo-recovery-program

Kangaroo Island Native Plant Nursery

45,000 KI native plants grown for **173** landholders and groups

Volunteers donated 315 hours to helping the nursery

15,024 KI native plants given to **42** bushfire-affected landholders

The KI Native Plant Nursery propagated 45,000 plants as tubestock for the 2023-24 growing season. 37,000 plants were grown for orders for 173 individuals and community groups.

- 150 KI native plant species were grown via seed germination and cuttings from local KI material. Many of these species are listed as threatened at either the national, state or regional level.

- 42 landholders were supplied with 15,024 trees and shrubs to help re-plant native vegetation and shelterbelts burnt in the 2019-20 bushfires.

- Volunteers donated 315 hours to assist with seed cleaning, transplanting and thinning seedlings.

- The Nursery Manager supported the local school KI Community Education through:
  - » four student sessions held at the Nursery
  - » hosting two work experience students
  - » visiting students at the school to assist to plan school plantings.

- 13 people attended a propagation and revegetation workshop held in partnership with the KI Rare Plant Garden.

- The Nursery Manager assisted KI landholders and businesses, via phone calls, emails, 10 site visits and clients visiting the nursery, to plan their revegetation and garden projects. Advice included the best KI native plants to use on their property and the best methods to use for successful growth.

- A new remote Wi-fi irrigation system was installed enabling remote control of the watering regime

See links:

- https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/land-and-farming/ki-nativeplant-nursery

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4-ueDbv_uU&t=6

Thank you

The Kangaroo Island Landscape Board thanks the Nature Foundation for their on-going support in 2023-2024.

This support has enabled valuable work on Kangaroo Island removing one of the largest threats to biodiversity and agriculture, supporting threatened species, growing biodiversity and assisting our community.

This work has been undertaken with funding sourced by the Nature Foundation and other organisations including the Australian Government, Government of South Australia, and Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife.

The Kangaroo Island Landscape Board looks forward to continuing to work with the Nature Foundation into the future.

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