

PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR EASTERN QUOLLS ON NORTH BRUNY ISLAND

PROJECT UPDATE JANUARY 2022



QUARTERLY PROGRESS (NOVEMBER-JANUARY)

It has been another busy quarter for the team with progress on feral cat trapping, community engagement, and feral cat research across Bruny Island. To date, 69 feral and stray cats have been removed from the project area. Feral cat research, led by Biosecurity Tasmania has seen information collected on habitat use by feral cats and a refining of techniques to monitor eastern quolls.

FERAL AND STRAY CAT TRAPPING UPDATE

A lot of work has gone into trapping over the last quarter, with Bruny Farming employees setting feral cat traps at 77 sites across north Bruny. Trapping for stray cats, which is run jointly by Bruny Farming and Kingborough Council, also occurred around the hotspots of Simpsons Bay and Alonnah. Four cats were removed from these areas, highlighting the significant numbers of stray cats still moving around these settlements despite sustained control efforts.

At this time of year many of north Bruny's feral cats congregate in and around shearwater colonies to prey upon the birds that have returned from their migration. To prevent damage to the shearwaters' delicate burrows, trapping within the colonies is not permitted during this period, and will recommence after the birds migrate in late April. This may have contributed to lower numbers of cats captured last quarter (compared to previous quarters), as trapping was limited to areas with less cat activity. It is expected that trap success will increase in the coming months when shearwaters begin migrating north and the cats are hungry.



Leisha, setting cat traps on north Bruny Island.

DOMESTIC CATS UPDATE

Kingborough Council and community members have been working hard to protect Bruny's wildlife from the impacts of roaming domestic cats and 71% of households with cats and 81% of registered households with cats are now fully compliant with the Bruny Island Cat By-Law.

Last quarter the Bruny Island Men's Shed installed a cat enclosure at one household, to give their cat outdoor access, while keeping their cat and local wildlife safe. A big thanks to the Men's Shed for their support. Cat netting was also provided to another three households who were building their own enclosures.

Roaming domestic cats remains an issue on Bruny. One cat was found lost in Lunnawanna in November. Luckily its microchip and registration with Council allowed that cat to be quickly reunited with its owner.

Members of the community have been active in reporting stray cat sightings using the Feral Scan App. All sightings are followed up, and in locations where the program is not actively trapping, the council and Bruny Farming are able to work with local residents to set traps. The first public sighting of a cat north of Barnes Bay was reported in October which focussed monitoring and trapping efforts in the area. Anyone wishing to report a feral cat sighting on Bruny is strongly encouraged to and can do so [here](#).



Members of the Men's Shed installed a cat enclosure.

NEW ABORIGINAL LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICER

We're excited to be supporting Nicole King as she embarks on her new role as a Trainee Aboriginal Land Management Officer with the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Cooperation (SETAC). As part of her role, Nicole will assist Bruny Farming with feral cat management activities on Bruny Island. She'll also assist Kingborough Council with community engagement regarding cat issues, and other natural resource management work through the Kingborough Multiplicity. Nicole will also have the opportunity learn about cultural land management, including fire management in Bruny, supported by SETAC.

This position is funded by Kingborough Council and by NRM South through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (Environmental Restoration Fund) and is supported by Bruny Farming and SETAC. Welcome Nicole!



Nicole King with individuals from key contributing organisations; (L to R) Conrad Daniels (Bruny Farming), Rosie Hohnen (NRM South), Nicole King (SETAC), Jaime Currie (SETAC), Todd Nation (NRM South), Kaylene Allan Kingborough Council, Jon Doole (Kingborough Council)

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Supporting organisations



Project partners



This project is supported by NRM South through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (Environmental Restoration Fund). It is delivered in partnership with Bruny Farming, Biosecurity Tasmania, Kingborough Council, Ten Lives Cat Centre, and weetaoona Aboriginal Cooperation.

- Record sightings of feral cats on Bruny Island via FeralCatScan. [Visit the website](#), download the free smart phone app or contact Kingborough Council 6211 8200 / kc@kingborough.tas.gov.au to report a cat sighting.
- Trap for feral cats on your property. Contact Kingborough Council's Cat Management Officer on 03 6211 8284 or kallan@kingborough.tas.gov.au for more information.
- Protect domestic cats, livestock and wildlife by complying with the Bruny Island Cat By-Law.
- Find out more about [the project here](#).
- Have a question about cat management on Bruny? Email Rosie Hohnen rhohnen@nrmsouth.org.au