

A lush forest scene with a stream, tall trees, and green grasses. The text is overlaid on the image.

Collaborating with the Butchulla Community
to protect K'gari (Fraser Island, Queensland)

Sue Sargent, Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance
and Tilly Davis, Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers



FRASER ISLAND
NATURAL INTEGRITY ALLIANCE

Established in 2005, the Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance or FINIA is an informal collaborative partnership of land managers, the Butchulla community and NGOs that collaborate to achieve FINIA's vision: To protect Fraser Island's natural integrity, ecological assets and unique beauty through collaborative management, community education and targeted rehabilitation works.



Established in 2014, the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC are the authorised representatives of the Butchulla People, the Native Title holders, traditional owners and custodians of K'gari (Fraser Island). Under the organisations objectives, the BAC also serves to protect, manage, maintain and monitor Butchulla country and Aboriginal cultural heritage.



Established in 2018, the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers are part of the Queensland Government's Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Team. They undertake NRM and cultural activities across Butchulla country including K'gari and the Great Sandy Strait. In 2020, Tilly Davis was appointed as the team's first Biosecurity Officer, funded by a Commonwealth Australian Heritage Grant.

Butchulla Country, Culture & CommUNITY

Butchulla Lore:

Minyang galangoor gu, djaa kalim baya-m
(what is good for the land comes first).

Minyang waa nyinang, waa bunmalee
dhama-n

(do not touch or take what does not belong
to you).

Wangou nyin gamindu biralunbar, nyin
wama-n

(if you have plenty you must share).

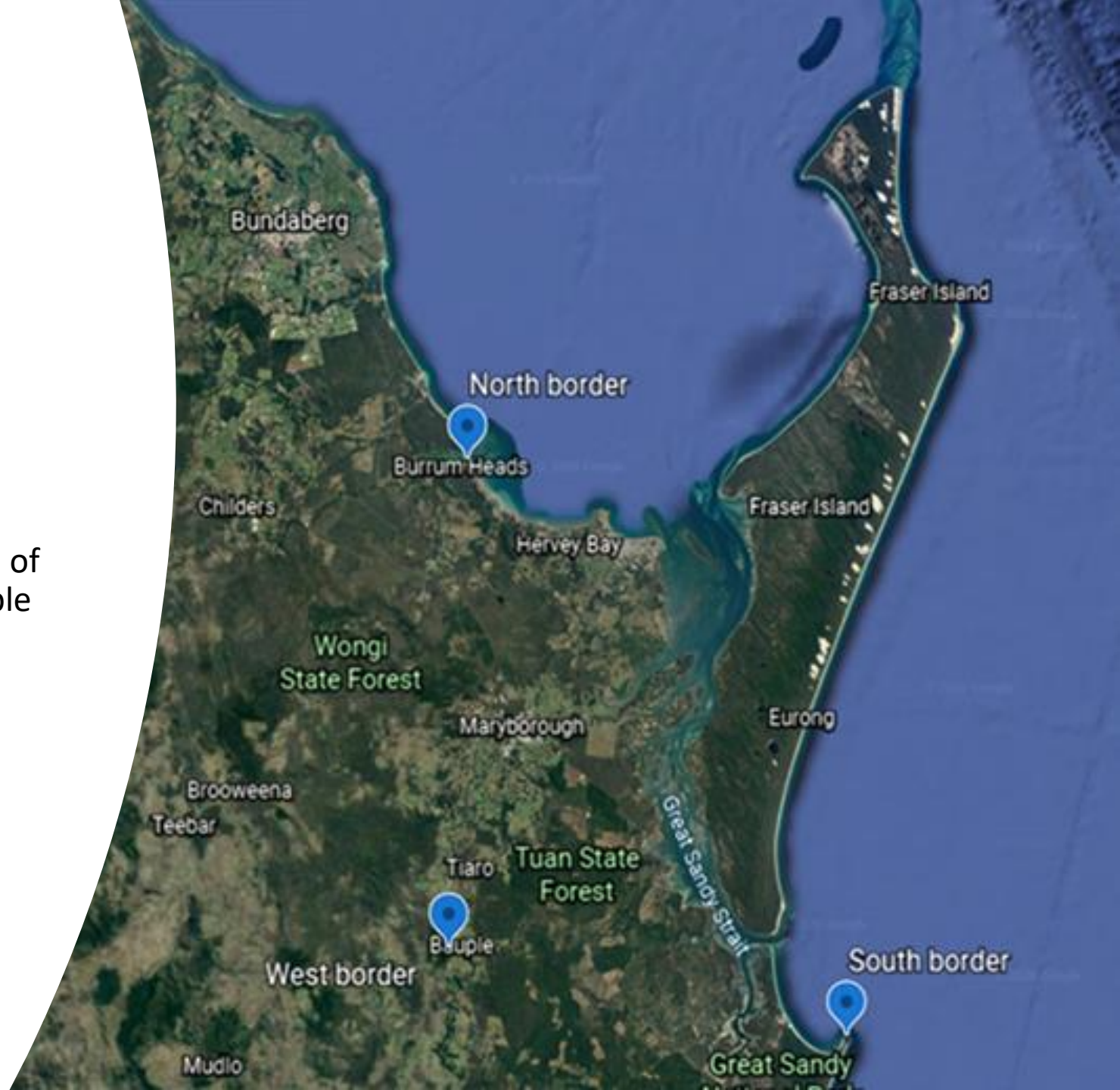
Galangoor nyin (thank you) to Butchulla
community linguist, Aunty Joyce Bonner, for
the translation.



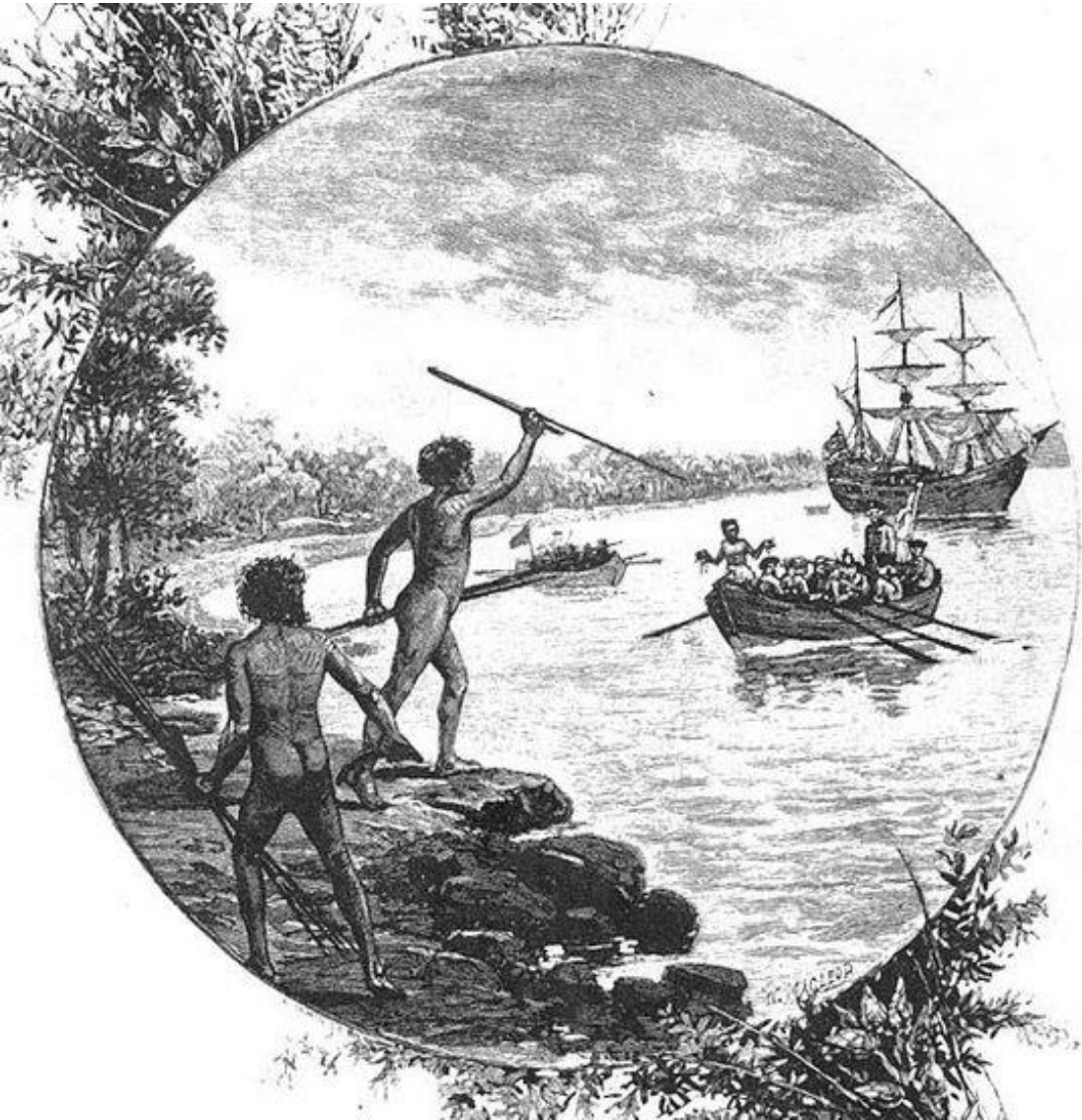
Coloured sand art depicting the Butchulla creation story with the creation spirit, Yindingie. Artwork by the Butchulla Land & Sea Rangers for the Junior Ranger Program

Butchulla Country

Butchulla country ranges across K'gari (Fraser Island) & the adjacent mainland, from around Double Island Point in the south to the mouth of the Burrum River in the north, & west to Bauple Mountain.



Free, Prior and Informed Consent – it's black and white



Biosecurity is a modern concept and although pests may have entered Australia prior to 1770, the introduction and spread of weeds, pests and diseases has greatly accelerated since then.

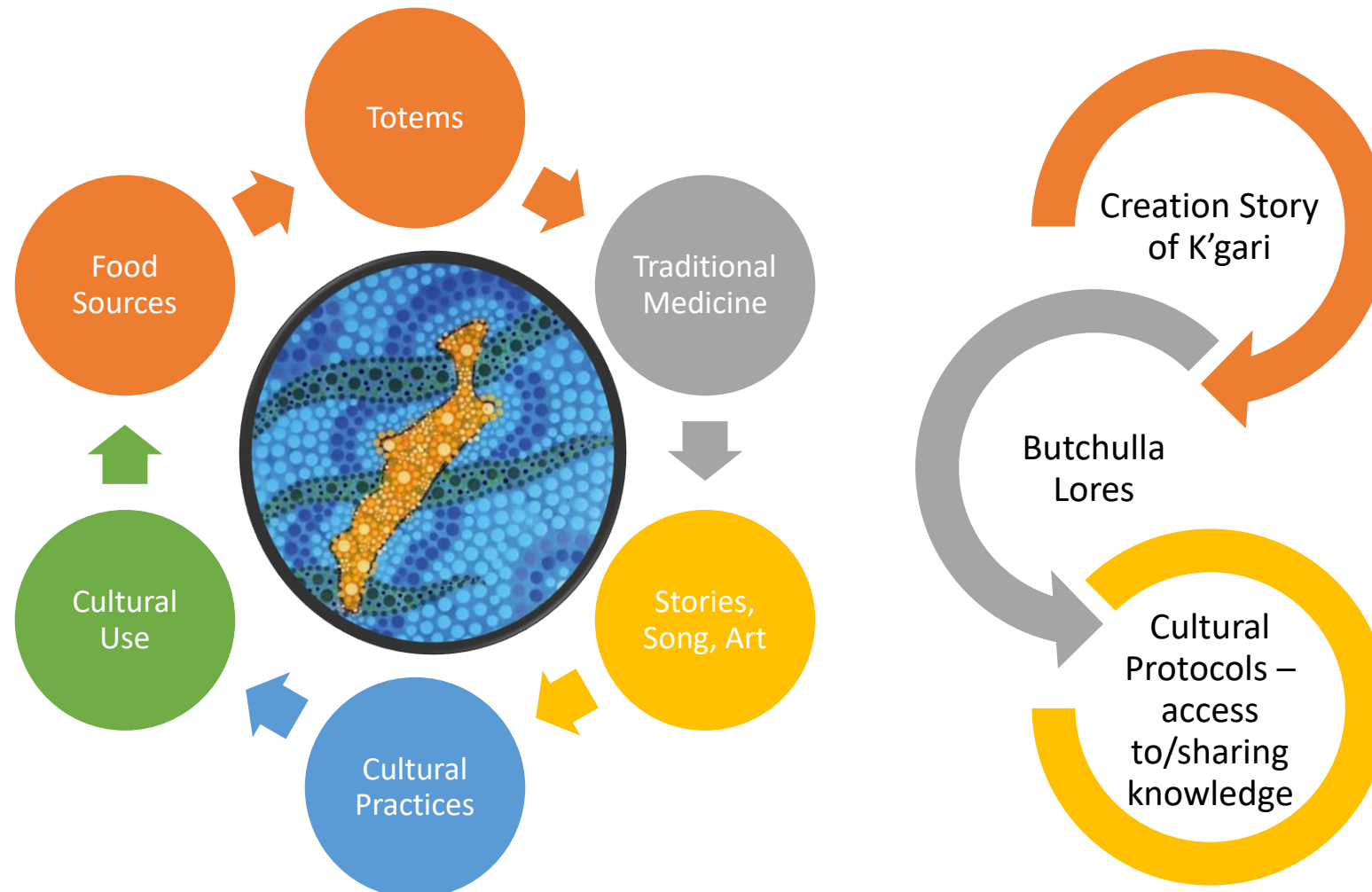
Like biosecurity, *Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)* is also a relatively new (albeit overdue) concept.

Genuine engagement and developing a **shared understanding** are the first steps in the co-management process – recognising the strengths of different knowledge systems.

An engraving from the late 19th-century depicting Gweagal men confronting a British landing party in 1770 on the shores of the Kurnell Peninsula, NSW

A broad look at 'cultural significance'

When the term Cultural Heritage is used, we break that down into tangible and intangible heritage. But how is this applied to a biosecurity perspective?

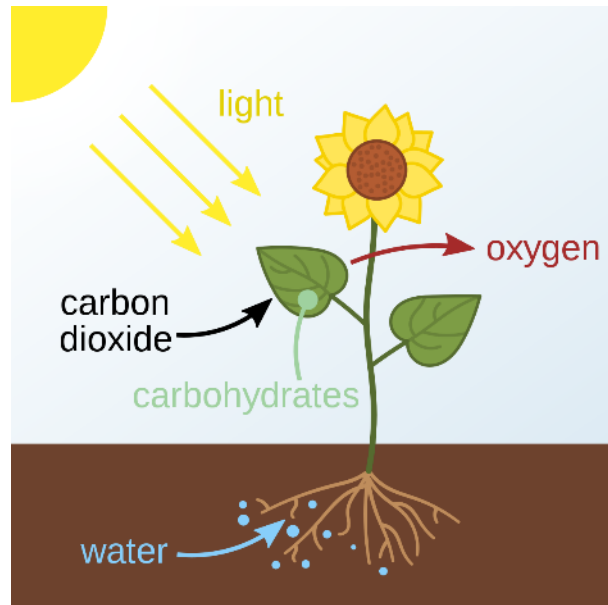


“YOU CAN’T SEPARATE THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF K’GARI – THE ISLAND, HER SAND, WATERS, LAKES, PLANTS, ANIMALS... IT’S A WHOLE. IF ONE PART OF HER IS SICK, THE WHOLE ISLAND IS SICK AND HER PEOPLE, WE ARE SICK TOO.” - AUNTY JOYCE BONNER

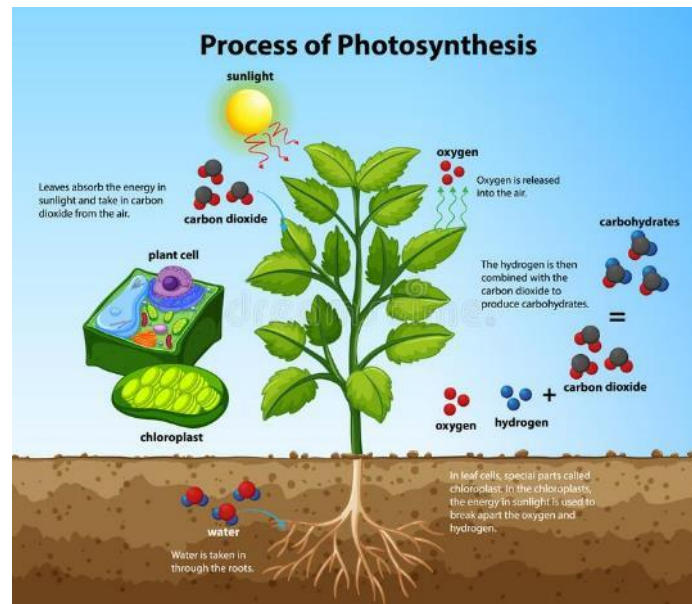
A layered approach to knowledge



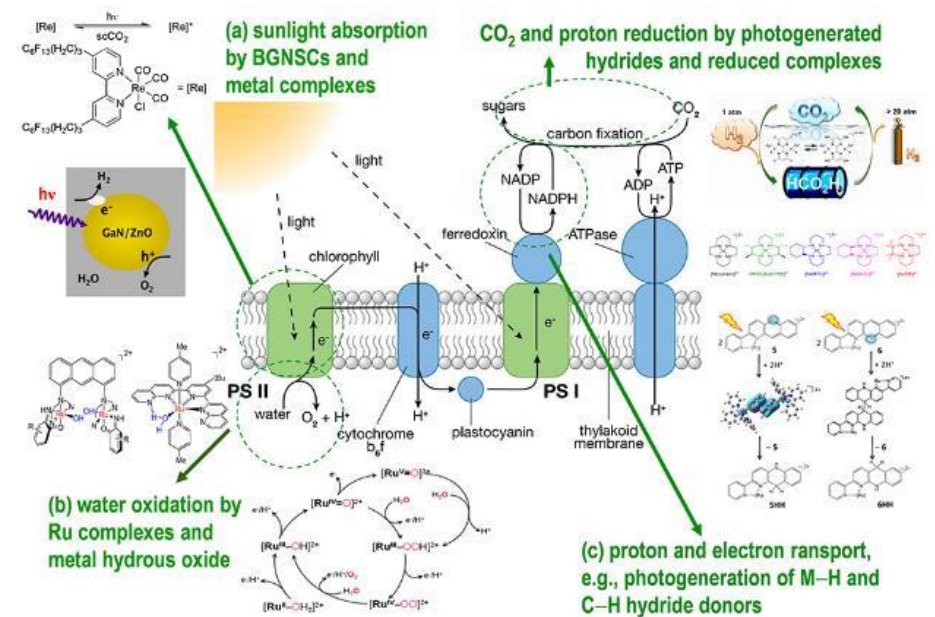
Why?



Primary Education



Secondary Education



Tertiary Education

What is the value of engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?

- **Shared knowledge and understanding** – adding a cultural systems or landscape-based approach to scientific knowledge
- **Collaboration** – working together on Country to monitor, protect and conserve shared values
- **Custodianship** – surveillance, monitoring, seed collection and management
- **Co-management** – recognising Native Title and the rights and responsibilities of Butchulla people to protect, manage, maintain and monitor Butchulla country and cultural heritage (and derive economic benefit from this)





The Enemy – Myrtle Rust

Myrtle rust is a rust fungus from South America.



Our Mission – Caring for Country

As traditional custodians of this country, we share a responsibility to honour our first Lore, minyang galangoor gu, djaa kalim baya-m (what is good for the land comes first).

Galangoor nyin (thank you) to Aunty Joyce Bonner, Butchulla community linguist, for the translation.



Myrtle rust attacks trees & shrubs of the Myrtaceae family. Many of these trees & shrubs are edible, medicinal & culturally significant to the Butchulla community. Myrtle rust threatens the health of our country, the habitats of our fauna & our ability to practise culture.



What has this meant for K'gari?

- **Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance** – weed and pest management work on K'gari by FINIA partners including the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers
- **Myrtle rust management** – training, establishing monitoring points, identifying and mapping shared species of concern, and germplasm collection supported by the DAF and APBSF
- **Future Pest project** – minimising the risks of new priority pests, weeds and pathogens supported by the Australian Government's CEBO and the University of Melbourne



Thank you/Galangoor nyin

We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of our partners for K'gari (Fraser Island) biosecurity projects including:

- Dr Ian Thompson, Australian Government's CEBO,
- Dr Terry Washe and Dr Kelly De Bie, University of Melbourne's Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis,
- Dr Geoff Pegg and Dr Louise Shuey from the Queensland Government's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries,
- Department of Environment and Science,
- Australian Plant Biosecurity Science Foundation, and
- FINIA's community partners such as the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation.

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