

Four Wheel Drive Association K'gari Clean Up 2026 – Event Report

The Four Wheel Drive Association returned to K'gari from 8–11 May 2026 to celebrate the 25th year of the annual K'gari Clean Up Event. This milestone event brought together 24 clubs, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters for another successful weekend dedicated to preserving one of Queensland's most iconic natural environments.

This year, we proudly welcomed back Club 4x4 Insurance as our Diamond Sponsor and celebrated ARB's incredible 25 years of continuous support of the event. A total of 695 members and sponsors attended across the weekend, with approximately 350 vehicles participating in the clean-up effort. Volunteers covered the eastern beach from Ngkala Rocks to the Manta Ray Barge landing area, removing debris and rubbish washed ashore.

Friday – Welcome and Registration

Friday saw members and sponsors arrive at Eurong Village to register and settle in for the weekend. Rangers from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and the Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC) welcomed attendees, providing valuable information about K'gari's cultural significance, wildlife, and environmental values. Representatives from ARB and Custom Lithium were also on hand to greet participants and support the event activities.

Following registration, attendees travelled to their allocated camping areas where many spent the afternoon exploring the island, relaxing, and enjoying the natural beauty of K'gari.

Saturday – Northern Clean Zones

Saturday marked the beginning of the northern clean-up operations, with 13 clubs and 15 sponsors assigned to areas stretching from south of Ngkala Rocks to Yidney Rocks. Cleaning activities commenced at 8:00am and continued through until midday. Participants then delivered collected rubbish to the weigh station located at Guruman Camp Zone.

The northern zones collected an impressive total of 1.7 tonnes of rubbish.

Following the morning's efforts, participants gathered at Orchid Beach Trading Post for a thank-you sausage sizzle held from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. The Bundaberg 4WD Club generously cooked and served more than 250 sausage sizzles, along with cold drinks, in appreciation of everyone's hard work throughout the day.

Sunday – Southern Clean Zones

Sunday's clean-up operations focused on the southern sections of the island, beginning at 8:00am. A total of 11 clubs and their supporting sponsors participated in the southern clean-up effort, working from south of Yidney Rocks down to the Manta Ray Barge area. Collected debris was delivered to the weigh station at Wongari Camp Zone, where volunteers recorded an outstanding 3 tonnes of rubbish removed from the coastline. Tangaroa Blue Foundation once again assisted by sorting and categorising debris to identify its origin for inclusion in the national marine debris database. This important data contributes to ongoing research and future strategies aimed at reducing rubbish washing onto Australian shorelines.

Thank You Dinner and Celebrations

The weekend concluded with a memorable thank-you dinner at Cathedrals on Fraser commencing at 3:00pm on Sunday afternoon. The evening was expertly hosted by Roslyn Buerckner, who kept guests entertained with humour, activities, dancing, and children's entertainment throughout the event. Attendees also enjoyed an exceptional prize pool generously donated by the event's 2026 sponsors.

Michael Patch Camp Oven Experience provided five delicious main meal options and two desserts for the large crowd. With more than ten years of experience catering for major events, Michael and his team ensured all guests were well fed in a timely manner, with many even enjoying second servings.

The evening concluded at approximately 8:30pm, with smiling faces, lasting memories, and a shared sense of achievement after another highly successful K'gari Clean Up event.

A very special thank you must also go to Ray Doolan, President of 4WD QLD Association, for all his efforts over the weekend. Ray's ongoing dedication, leadership, and support played a significant role in ensuring the success of this milestone event.

Cleaning up K'gari since 2001

Club Name & Sponsors	Distance of Clean Zone	Total Weight of Waste Collected (KG)	Strange & Unusual Items Found	Weight per person
4WD Adventure Club/Twin Rivers/Custom Lithium/Bullys Offroad	5.8	109.6	0	3.54
All 4x4 Gold Coast	4.3	156.8	Toilet Seat	7.84
Bayside Offroaders\Ironman\Outback Armour\GME	6.8	950.48	Massive Ropw	36.56
Brisbane 4WD Club	13.9	541.29	Sealed pill bottle	16.92
Bundaberg 4WD Club\Supafit\Anaconda	7.3	77.43	Toilet	2.04
Fraser Coast 4WD Club\Anaconda\Outback Armour\MC	7.9	423.8	Beacon	10.60
Gold Coast 4WD Club\TJM	7.2	164.54	Rusted	4.84
GWM Tank Club of QLD	2.1	461.28	Esky	57.66
Ineos 4X4 Club	3.9	116.56	Whiskey Bottle	6.86
Lockyer Valley 4WD Club/Opposite Lock/Black Bear	4	122.69	Toilet inlet from Boat	6.46
Mitsubishi 4wd Club\Downs\Maxtrax	2.8	86.03	Dutch tin of cookies with biscuits	5.06
Moreton Districts Offroad Club\Fleet Crew\Repro	6.4	181.26	Pirate ship ladder	10.07
North Brisbane 4x4 Club/Redlands	2.6	67.6	Action figure leg	3.22
North Coast 4X4 Club	5.8	212.4	Barrel	10.62
QLD 4X4 Club\ARB\Fulcrum	10.4	279.1	Toilet ball float	5.47
QLD Nissan Patrol 4WD Club\Sons Adventure\Croc Hinge	7.5	345.86	Ladies Underwear	12.35
South East QLD Deaf Club/Yokohama/Club 4x4	2.8	81.86		4.55
Toyota Landcruiser Club QLD\Kaon	12.2	405.61	Intimate sleeve	10.14
Total	107.3	4784.19		10.01

Event Summary

- 25th Annual K'gari Clean Up Event
- 24 participating clubs
- 695 attendees
- 350 vehicles involved
- 4.7 tonnes of rubbish collected
- 25 years of support from ARB
- Diamond Sponsor: Club 4x4 Insurance

Sponsor Acknowledgement

The Four Wheel Drive Association would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our valued sponsors and supporters who helped make the 2026 K'gari Clean Up Event such a success.

A special thank you to our Diamond Sponsor, Club 4x4 Insurance, and to ARB for celebrating 25 years of ongoing support for this incredible event.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:

Club 4x4 Insurance, ARB, Custom Lithium, Fraser Coast Regional Council, Anaconda, Sons Adventure, Roof Racks Galore, FleetCrew, ArcPoint Industries, Ironman 4x4, MAXTRAX, Fulcrum Suspension, TJM 4x4 Equipment, Bowden's Own Car Care, KAON, Opposite Lock, GME, SupaFit Seat Covers, Bully's Offroad, REDARC Electronics, Ergon Energy, REPCO, Electronic Rust Proof Systems (ERPS), Outback Armour, McCormacks 4WD, Outback Equipment, Black Bear Tyres, Superior Engineering, Dunn & Watson, Australia Zoo, Cruisemaster, Off Track Wines, Yokohama Tyres, Galangoor K'gari Retreat, Bundaberg Rum, Cathedrals on Fraser, Manta Ray Barges, Sealink Fraser Island Ferries, Orchid Beach Trading Post, Tangaroa Blue Foundation, Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC), and the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services).

Your continued support, generosity, and commitment to protecting the environment of K'gari plays a vital role in the success of this annual event and helps ensure the preservation of this unique destination for future generations.

The Four Wheel Drive Association would also like to thank all clubs, volunteers, Rangers, BNTAC representatives, and community partners who contributed to the success of the 2026 event. Together, your efforts continue to make a meaningful difference in preserving the natural beauty of K'gari for generations to come.