

Inside this edition

	Page
➤ FINIA Turns TEN!	1
➤ Eurong's New Nature Trail	3
➤ K'Gari's Six Dune Systems	4
➤ Propagating Natives instead of Weeds	5
➤ Call for Survey Takers—Iconic Dingo Project ..	5
➤ FINIA Participates in BMRG Video Case Study 6	
➤ A Little More about Pandanus Dieback.....	7
➤ Fraser Island to Benefit from Green Army	8
➤ Weak Links Push Migratory Birds Towards Extinction.....	8
➤ Weed of the Month.....	10
➤ Situation Vacant	11
➤ Dates for your Diary	11
➤ Funding opportunities.....	12

A very warm welcome to the first edition of the FINIA newsletter for 2016, keeping FINIA members up to date with the current FINIA projects.

Your next FINIA meeting will be held on **Tuesday 9 February 2016** in the **School of the Arts Building meeting room**, <https://goo.gl/maps/bmvMYhagCyP2> in Kent St, Maryborough (which is across the road from our normal meeting spot). You go upstairs, turn right and head to the far end. The meeting starts at 10am and finishes at 2pm (lunch will be provided).

Please email any agenda items to contactFINIA@gmail.com

FINIA CELEBRATES ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY!

In late 2005, a small group of dedicated people spent two days visiting weed sites on the internationally significant Fraser Island World Heritage Area in a workshop facilitated by the Burnett Mary Regional Group. The group consisted of land managers – Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (National Park), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (Unallocated State Land), the local council, the Cooperative Research Centre for Weeds, the National Parks Association of Queensland, Fraser Island Defenders Organisation and Sandy Cape Lighthouse Conservation Association as well as Butchulla participants Malcolm Burns, Jo Jo Gala and Marie Wilkinson.

After those two days, it was clear to the group that weeds were just one of many issues threatening the Outstanding Universal Value of this UNESCO-listed site. Following the workshop, the Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance (FINIA) was formed with a goal to protect and restore the island's natural integrity. The FINIA team developed an action plan that provided



FINIA partners gathered recently at Dilli Village to celebrate a successful 10-year partnership to help protect and restore Fraser Island's natural assets.

a framework for ongoing cross-tenure collaboration among the group's participants and project partners.

Work commenced on addressing the issue of the spread of 'garden escapees' around the townships of Eurong and Happy Valley and the historic Sandy Cape Lighthouse that quickly became invasive weeds in the adjoining National Park. In addition to on-ground work to control weeds like mother-in-law's tongue, Easter cassia, abrus and asparagus fern, FINIA partners also conducted workshops and awareness-raising campaigns to increase awareness and understanding of the damage these non-native, invasive weeds can cause to the island's unique ecological environments.

As the partnership grew, so did the dedicated effort by group participants and their volunteers. FINIA collaborators 'branched off' to lead several other initiatives, including native seed collection; propagation and revegetation (starting with 'Plant me instead' replacement programs); pest management of the Jamella pandanus leafhopper and cane toad; marine debris clean-ups; research to address fire, dingo management and increase the knowledge of the island's unique patterned fens and swamp orchids; erosion and rainfall monitoring; education and awareness (with a newsletter, website and Facebook pages); and cultural heritage mapping in conjunction with the Fraser Island World Heritage Area Indigenous Advisory Committee (which won the Queensland Landcare Award 2015 for Indigenous Land Management).

Members of FINIA gathered on the island recently to celebrate 10 years of collaboration and to review the group's achievements—enjoying some generous sponsorship by the University of the Sunshine Coast. Mr John Sinclair AO, a long-standing advocate for Fraser Island, said that after 10 years, it was a good time to



FINIA members observe release of the Jamella biocontrol on a Fraser Island Pandanus

reflect and plan the next decade, with a recent workshop held at Dilli Village, where it all began. 'FINIA provides a great vehicle to get things done. It's overcome a number of issues that hampered on-ground work in the past, but also ensures that we all communicate more effectively', said Mr Sinclair. 'FINIA is the catalyst that holds us all together and makes things happen', added Butchulla elder, Glen Miller. 'Without FINIA, it's unlikely that we would have been able to achieve the success we have and the range of projects that FINIA now supports'.

The BMRG's Conservation Partnership Manager and current FINIA Chair, Sue Sargent, was a participant in the

original workshop. 'FINIA has been an incredible vehicle for the World Heritage Area and thanks to the support of the island's land managers Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Fraser Coast Regional Council, continues to thrive, picking up awards along the way'. 'In 2011, the model was even showcased at an international conference as "the key to successful holistic weed management on Fraser Island" by Dr Alison Shapcott from the University of the Sunshine Coast—where it attracted considerable attention'.

Looking forward, although the environmental problems continue to grow, so does the strength of the partnership, with 15 partners now part of the group. FINIA's success to date is a great example of how a supported and engaged groups of stakeholders can work together to genuinely address long-term land management issues. And as for what the next decade may hold? Well aside from more work with weeds and pests, education and awareness, FINIA is currently planning a BioBlitz to be held in 2017.

FINIA would like to formally acknowledge the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, the University of the Sunshine Coast (catering sponsors) and Kingfisher Bay Resort Group for their support of our tenth anniversary event.

Chris Stone, BMRG

Eurong's New Nature Trail

A comprehensive Site Visitor Capacity Study in 2008 identified Eurong as the most visited site on all of Fraser Island (K'Gari). It is the main hub for all the island's visitors. This is one of the motivations for FIDO's intensive efforts to improve the natural integrity of this very important site by controlling the weeds. It is why FINIA chose Eurong as the site for the Demonstration Garden Project, which aims to encourage landholders and residents to grow plants native to Fraser Island on their lots rather than propagating and spreading alien plants, many of which have turned into weeds.

In 1963, prior to any National Park being created on Fraser Island, over 250 hectares of Eurong were set aside as a township reserve. None of this reserve, which extends 1.6 kms inland with a 1.6 km beach frontage, is included in the Great Sandy National Park. The National Park Ranger Station is not part of the township reserve. Some remarkable natural features of the township reserve include wetlands and sandblows and a diversity of ecosystems. Preserving Eurong's natural integrity is critical to the natural integrity of the National Park that surrounds it on three sides.



***Eurong 1985.** FIDO's interpretative Nature Walk covers what was three decades ago an active sandblow (see white patch at the left of the photo). This former sandblow is now in the process of colonisation by vegetation. FIDO will be interpreting the vegetation and landscape between the Resort and the houses of Residential Valley.*

Between the two valleys, one of which is occupied mainly by the resort site and the residential valley where most of the village's houses are located, are the remnants of sandblows that were very active when the village was surveyed in 1963. After getting on top of the weeds in this Unallocated State Land, FIDO is embarking on an ambitious and most interesting project to establish an interpreted nature walk that describes the connection between climate, soil and vegetation. This will help visitors and residents to better understand the vegetation patterns and how they are largely related to soil development.

The interpretation on this fascinating easy 10 to 20-minute stroll explains one of the keys to understanding the development of the diversity of K'Gari's vegetation patterns. The impact of sandblows on *Melaleuca* growth will be a special feature of the walk, which shows entombed and exhumed *Melaleucas* that may be thousands of years old.

John Sinclair (AO), FIDO

K'Gari's Six Dune Systems

In this FIDO Backgrounder, rhyme describes the nexus between K'Gari's soil formation and vegetation types



Dune System One,
*The soil has just begun
With A and B little or none
And the ecosystem is underdone.*



Dune System Three,
*Has many a Blackbutt tree;
Richer horizon B and nutrients the key;
The forest resulting is grand to see.*



Dune System Two,
*Bs got a darker hue;
Eucalypts are now in view,
But soil development has much to do.*



Dune System Four,
*Gets the highest score;
B horizon is further below the floor;
It supports rainforests and much more.*



Dune System Five,
*The ecosystems losing its drive;
Tall trees shrink just to stay alive;
Roots can't reach the B, though they strive.*



Dune System Six,
*The ecosystem is in a fix;
Tall trees have turned into Mallee sticks;
Reaching deeper nutrients defies all tricks.*

John Sinclair (AO), FIDO

Propagating Natives instead of Weeds

Since Fraser Island's World Heritage nomination was prepared 25 years ago, the number of identified weeds has grown from 40 to 200. Most of the additions to the weed list are garden escapees or alien grasses and pasture plants.

Most of these alien grasses and pasture plants have arrived on K'Gari as hitchhiking seeds stuck in the under-bodies of vehicles that haven't been cleaned adequately before going to the island, or in the luggage and freight brought inside those vehicles by island visitors. This is evident by the fact that the epicentres for the invasion of almost all of the grasses and pasture plants, such as Green Panic and Siratro, are in the township or camping reserves. By diligence, we are whittling away at these weeds that arrived essentially as stowaways.

A more difficult challenge is countering the weeds that were deliberately taken to Fraser Island as garden plants. Landholders sought to establish hardy plants that could thrive on the island with little care or attention when they were absent for long periods. Thus they came up with a group of plants that were ideal to survive if they got loose in the Fraser Island bush. Roses and many of the more classic garden plants just can't survive on Fraser Island. However, garden plants like Clivias, Coral Creeper, Singapore Daisy, Easter Cassia, Mother-in-Law's Tongues, Glory Lily, Mother of Millions and Fish-bone Ferns, which looked attractive around the houses and required little care, all escaped their garden enclosures and ran riot on the island. Because these plants are so hardy they are now very difficult to eradicate.



Coolumb-based volunteer, Suzanne Wilson, gathering seed for the Eurong QPWS nursery. These are attractive plants that can be grown by Fraser Island landholders.

Landholders are being encouraged to plant and cultivate attractive native plants. However, sourcing those plants has been a major problem. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has a nursery, but lacks the staff to operate it as a supplier of plants on demand to landholders who are told not to take any plants at all onto the island.

Now, as another FINIA collaboration, FIDO and the Fraser Island Association are building up a stock of plants to entice landholders to opt to grow natives that are grown from seed collected on the island, and which, with a little tender loving care to establish them, can do just as well as the weeds we are working to eliminate. As well as purchasing pots and other nursery supplies, FIDO has been scrounging cleaned used pots and recruited a very experienced seed collector to help build up the nursery.

The resorts at Eurong and Happy Valley have set the tone by purging their properties of weeds and establishing wonderful rich gardens of natives. FIDO is prepared to cooperate with other landholders to replace exotic plants with plants from the Eurong Nursery as part of a long-term strategy to reduce weeds on Fraser Island.

John Sinclair (AO), FIDO

Call for Survey Takers – Iconic Dingo Project

The University of the Sunshine Coast's DSITIA-funded 'Iconic Dingo: Valuing their future on K'gari-Fraser Island' project is very keen to secure the views and perspectives of all FINIA members as they finalise the data-gathering stage of their project. Essentially we are a small team of humanities and social science scholars who are exploring how different stakeholders perceive the dingo and the stories they hold.

The project aims to interpret existing K’Gari-Fraser Island visitor and human–dingo interaction data provided by QPWS partners and gather new data on the way various stakeholders and interests value and expect to interact with dingoes.

This research identifies socio-cultural values and their interstices with geo-spatial human–dingo interactions and incidents. Such values and interactions will be used to improve communication planning for the QPWS and advise on the contested perspectives on the K’Gari Fraser Island dingo. The team includes a range of expertise from literature and humanities, social science, spatial science and communications including Angela Wardell-Johnson (Environmental Sociology, Curtin University), Jen Carter (Geography, USC), Umi Khattab (PR, Media Studies and Communication, USC), and is led by Clare Archer-Lean (Literature, Environmental Humanities, Critical Human Animal Studies, USC).

There are two ways interested FINIA members can assist. The first and most important is to fill in the broad stakeholder survey. It takes approximately 15–20 minutes to complete (less if you are experienced on the island). The survey is designed to be completed during a trip to the island so if members can complete it based on their last trip that would be excellent. The link to access the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L56XXDL>

The team encourage you all to fill in the survey to ensure balanced reporting to QPWS and to insure the integrity of wider publications and impacts out of the project. Sue Sargent also has print copies, or Clare Archer-Lean, the project leader, can post out print copies. An additional way to help is to send ideas/positions/opinion to Clare on carcher@usc.edu.au. The key focus questions we would like you to respond to via email are:

1. Participants’ opinion of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services’ (QPWS) Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy (FIDMS) and key education messages
2. How participants feel about conservation of the dingo and their cultural value
3. Whether the FIDMS is effective in meeting its objectives
4. Suggestions on improving strategies and effectiveness of communication to the public

We are very grateful for your assistance. It is important that we provide a balanced report of diverse groups’ perspectives.

Dr Clare Archer-Lean, USC

FINIA Members Participate in BMRG Video Case Study

How can you prove that a group is more than just the sum of its parts? This is one of the questions the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) recently posed when asked what their organisation contributes and how their sustained support can actually enhance delivery through regional partnerships?

To answer the question, FINIA members participating in the Tenth Anniversary Workshop on Fraser Island were asked to reflect on what 10 years of FINIA had meant to them for the delivery of programs on Fraser Island (K’gari). Their responses were recorded by Luke Barrowcliffe of GoorieVision (also a FINIA collaborator) and are currently being edited into a 5-minute promotional video (case study) about the Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance, its origin and activities.

So, is the sum greater than its parts? Well, without wanting to spoil the video, it was pretty clear that all the interviewees believed that FINIA had improved collaboration and cooperation and made a huge contribution to delivery on Fraser Island.

The video, which will be released shortly, will be made available on the BMRG and FINIA websites. So watch that space! A big thank you to everyone involved in the production, including Ross Peddlesden who provided the professional voiceover for the video, and our amazingly talented cast.

Sue Sargent, Burnett Mary Regional Group

A Little More about Pandanus Dieback

By now I'm sure the vast majority of the readers of the FINIA newsletter are aware of the Pandanus dieback occurring in Pandanus populations in South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales, and the severe dieback currently occurring on Fraser Island. Many will also be aware of the leafhopper primarily responsible for the dieback (*Jamella australiae*).

When a new *Jamella* outbreak occurs in the absence of the parasitoid wasp (*Aphanomerus nr. pusillus*), the leafhoppers breed to immensely high infestation levels and spread rapidly. The ensuing fungal pathogens and secondary detrimental insects decrease plant health, resulting in rapid and high mortality rates. Recent observations on the Sunshine Coast and at Agnes Water have uncovered over five non-native secondary insects (garden and agriculture escapees) greatly contributing to plant mortality.

While many predatory insects prey on *Jamella* adults and nymphs, only the parasitoid wasp has proven effective in mitigating the dieback. The wasp's high predation rates on the leafhopper's eggs (often upwards of 80%) lowers leafhopper numbers, greatly reducing the rate at which the outbreak spreads, and prevents the decline in plant health. In this way, the wasps act as prevention, rather than as a cure.

Environmental factors such as prolonged periods of drought or wet

weather and cold winter temperatures also influence the predator/prey

balance and subsequently the health of Pandanus populations. For Pandanus that are under severe stress, like the many thousands on Fraser Island, direct intervention in the form of leaf stripping or pesticide control is at present the only tested method to assist in their survival. Sadly, it is likely that more Pandanus will succumb until the wasp has been released and become naturalised throughout all parts of Fraser Island.

In recent years, there has been limited state-wide awareness raising, monitoring, research and action carried out to protect these iconic, culturally significant, and arguably the most important coastal ecosystem keystone species. Coastal beaches and coral islands from Gladstone north to Townsville are at risk of new outbreaks. With early detection of new *Jamella australiae* outbreaks and prompt release of *Aphanomerus nr. pusillus*, Pandanus dieback can be greatly mitigated.

To manage these outbreaks successfully, collaboration between local councils, parks, indigenous groups and environmental groups is required. Annual monitoring, localised wasp translocation, physical intervention and research into co-contributing insects are also essential. The challenge is coordinating all of these responses across multiple land tenures in an increasingly resource limited environment. Who are you going to call?

Joel Fostin, Student, University of the Sunshine Coast



Infected Pandanus leaf - note the egg rafts of 60-80 eggs and newly emerged leaf hoppers (white dots)

Fraser Island to Benefit from Commonwealth Funding for Green Army Projects

The Fraser Island Defenders Organization has been provided with funding as Project Host as a result of Green Army funding for two projects from the Department of Environment and Heritage. The Service provider for these projects will be Conservation Volunteers Australia.

The project, Restoring the balance in weed and erosion management on Fraser Island, will commence in late February and again in mid-August and run for 20 weeks. The six participants will range from 17 to 24 years old, and will be provided with training, including Occupational Health and Safety, First Aid, chemical use and the management of small motors. They will gain hands on skills in weed management, erosion control and will be fortunate to have advice and information from the QPWS rangers who will direct the work plan.

The participants will have their training at Hervey Bay and spend four days a week on Fraser Island working on different parts of the island. Other potential work may include:

- Easter Cassia management around Happy Valley and south to Yidney scrub
- Jamella – egg raft collection (and wasp release if training were provided), monitoring and leaf stripping
- Giant Rat's Tail Grass control
- Eurong nursery – plant propagation and re-potting, including of Pandanus
- Great Walk track maintenance
- Track building
- Site stabilisation through erosion control and weed management on Indian Head (Takky Wooroo).

The project provides a unique opportunity to have work carried out on Fraser Island over the period of a year that would possibly take many years otherwise.

The team will work with a number of different groups on the island, including the Butchulla people, to learn about the culture and management of the island.

Libby Gardiner, Regional Manager Southern Queensland, CVA

Weak Links Push Migratory Birds towards Extinction



*The Far Eastern Curlew are suffering rapid declines from loss of habitat along their flight path between Siberia and Australia.
Photo: Dirk Hovorka.*

University of Queensland scientists are calling for greater international collaboration to save the world's migratory birds, with research finding more than 90 per cent of species are inadequately protected due to poorly coordinated conservation efforts.

The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions (CEED) research team found many species of migratory bird were at risk of extinction due to habitat loss along their flight paths.

Dr Claire Runge, from UQ's School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, said more than half of all migratory bird species travelling the world's main flyways has suffered serious population declines in the past 30 years. "This is due mainly to unequal and ineffective protection across their migratory range and the places they stop to refuel along their

routes,” she said.

The research found huge gaps in conservation efforts to protect migratory birds, particularly across China, India and parts of Africa and South America.

Dr Runge said a typical migratory bird relied on many different geographic locations for food, rest and breeding. “So even if we protect most of their breeding grounds, it’s still not enough. Threats somewhere else can affect the entire population,” she said. “The chain can be broken at any link.”

Dr Runge said birds undertook remarkable journeys, navigating across land and sea to find refuge as the seasons changed. “This ranges from by bar-tailed godwit endurance flights exceeding 10,000 kilometres to the annual relay of Arctic terns, which fly the equivalent distance to the moon and back three times during their lives.”

The study found that 1324 of 1451 migratory bird species had inadequate protection for at least one part of their migration pathway, while 18 species had no protection in their breeding areas and two species had no protection at all along their entire route.

The team examined more than 8200 important bird and biodiversity areas internationally recognised as significant locations for migratory bird populations, finding that just 22 per cent were completely protected, and 41 per cent only partially overlapped with protected areas.



Roosting bar-tailed godwit. Photo: Drik Hovorka

Research team member and BirdLife International Head of Science Dr Stuart Butchart said establishing new reserves to protect unprotected sites — and more effectively managing all protected areas for migratory species — was critical to ensure the survival of these species.

UQ School of Biological Sciences Associate Professor Richard Fuller said the study highlighted an urgent need to coordinate protected area designation along the birds’ full migration route. “It won’t matter what we do in Australia or in Europe if these birds are losing their habitat somewhere else, as they will still perish,” he said. “We need to work together far more effectively around the world if we want our migratory birds to survive into the future.”

The study, *Protected areas and global conservation of migratory birds*, is published in *Science*.

Reproduced, with thanks, from UQ News,
<https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2015/12/weak-links-push-migratory-birds-toward-extinction>

Weeds of the Month – Please keep your eyes open for these!

Inspections in Fraser Island townships continue every May and November, with great work occurring with the volunteer groups and residents.

There are still plants being brought over from the mainland seen without any known quarantine. Please think before bringing plants to the island to reduce the potential for spreading disease and pests.

We are hoping that we have tackled most of the large broad-leaved peppers in Happy Valley, but if anyone knows of any more please let us know. This also applies with the spotting of Easter Cassia and umbrella trees in Eurong.

This work could not be achieved without all FINIA associates' assistance. Thank you.

Sisal hemp (Local Law No. 3)

Agave sisalana

- A succulent plant from Mexico, originally cultivated for its fibre.
- Tough rosette of thick sword-shaped, smooth-edged leaves to two metres.
- flowers green/yellow on a long central stem to over 5m
- Rhizomes sucker from the base and plantlets grow from flowering stem.
- found in rocky hillslopes, roadsides, beach dunes and older gardens.
- Carefully hand remove and bag when small.
- Chemical control by applying glyphosate through stem injection or cut, scrape and paint. Apply picloram and triclopyr (e.g., Access) at 1:60 mix with diesel using basal bark method (PER11463).
- Before using any herbicide, always read the label carefully and apply strictly in accordance with directions on the label.



Look out for—Sisal hemp



Native alternative—Swamp Lily (Crinum sp.)

Situation Vacant: Green Army Participants Wanted for Dream Job in Paradise!



Conservation Volunteers Australia is currently seeking six Green Army participants for their project, *Restoring the balance in weed and erosion management on Fraser Island (Phase 1)*, commencing in late February for 20 weeks.

Participants will stay 4 days per week on Fraser Island (K'Gari) and will also be provided with all the tools, personal protection equipment and training required for each project. If you know someone (or are) aged between 17 and 24, who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident that would like to be a part of a team that will make a real difference to the environment in our local community, please encourage them to apply.

Participants are paid an allowance while gaining skills, training and experience that can help them enter the workforce, improve their career opportunities or further their education and training.

The Green Army is an Australian Government initiative open to young people, including Indigenous Australians, school leavers, gap year students, graduates and job seekers, who are looking for employment to develop skills, undertake training and gain experience in the delivery of conservation. Local transport to the project site is also provided.

For more information or to apply, please check out CVA's website:
<http://conservationvolunteers.com.au/green-army/queensland/>

Submitted by Conservation Volunteers Australia

Dates for the Diary

What: **FINIA Meetings**
Where: Maryborough and Fraser Island (TBA)
When: Tuesday 9 February, Tuesday 10 May, Tuesday 9 August and Tuesday 8 November 2016
For: Regular catch up meeting for FINIA partners with a mixture of agenda items raised by participants and guest speakers.
Cost: FREE
More info: contactfinia@gmail.com or call Sue Sargent on (07) 4181 2999.

What: **FIDO Weeding in Happy Valley**
Where: Happy Valley, Fraser Island
When: 6-12 March and 8-14 May 2016 (Sunday to Saturday)
For: Peter Shooter will be leading two trips to help tackle the heavy weed infestation in and around Happy Valley. A group of 8 will share one of the comfortable holiday houses in Happy Valley. The group will focus on containing a particularly aggressive weed with poisonous seeds, *Abrus prectorius Var Africanus* that is heavily impacting on the vegetation but isn't found anywhere else on Fraser Island. The group aims to tackle the *Abrus* to prevent seeds being set for another crop of this virulent weed.
Cost: \$200
More info: John Sinclair - john@sinclair.org.au or phone 0418 650 535

What: CVA Naturewise Conservation holiday – Fraser Island Conservation
Where: Departing and returning to Maroochydore
When: 14-18 March and 9-13 May 2016
For: 4 night's accommodation on Fraser Island, return transfers from Maroochydore, all meals. Maximum 7 passengers, Conservation Volunteers guide, conservation activities, scheduled sightseeing activities on Fraser Island
Cost: \$720 (camping)
More info: www.naturewise.com.au, bookings@naturewise.com.au or phone 1800 032 501

What: FIDO George Haddock Track Working Bee
Where: Fraser Island
When: 24-28 March 2016
For: This 4-day working-bee will be focused on maintaining the George Haddock Track in the northern part of Fraser Island over the Easter weekend. Volunteers should arrive on Thursday prior to Easter (24th March) and leave at the end of Monday 28th March. This trip requires bush walking so a high level of fitness is essential. Preference will be given to those with 4WD transport.
Cost: \$100
More info: John Sinclair - john@sinclair.org.au or phone 0418 650 535

What: Australian Heritage Week
Where: Fraser Island
When: 16-24 April 2016
For: Australian Heritage Week is an annual national celebration of Australia's unique heritage. It is an opportunity for all Australians to join together to celebrate our shared and special heritage. FINIA partners are encouraged to get involved with hosting a range of exciting activities during Australian Heritage Week to showcase Fraser Island to the rest of the country.
More info: <http://heritage-week.govspace.gov.au/>

What: FIDO Bush Regeneration at Eurong
Where: Eurong, Fraser Island
When: 23-30 July
For: Why not join FIDO for their next regeneration week scheduled for volunteers to work on weeds, nursery and the nature walk?
Cost: \$200
More info: John Sinclair - john@sinclair.org.au or phone 0418 650 535

What: Fraser Island ECO Excursions for Schools
For: ECOllaboration is also taking school bookings for ECO Excursions to Fraser Island. These excursions link to the Australian Curriculum for subjects in Science, Geography, Maths, History, Civics, Business, Arts, Health and Technology and also meets the cross curriculum priority of sustainability in the curriculum.
More info: For a personalised and fully costed experience contact jacqui@ECOllaboration.org.au or call (07) 5313 4059.

Funding Opportunities

What: Norman Wettenhall Foundation – Small Environmental Grant Scheme
For: Projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment. Objectives of the Small Environmental Grants Scheme (up to \$10K) are to support Australian biodiversity projects that are concerned with one or more of the following: monitoring/recording data, community education, community capacity building (training) and research/science. NWF has funded projects ranging from supporting local communities to maintain or restore habitat; to the production of education kits; and the publication and dissemination of research information.

When: February grant round is currently open.
Phone: (03) 5472 1316 - Elizabeth (Beth) Mellick, Executive Officer
Email: beth@nwf.org.au
Website: <http://www.nwf.org.au/>

What: Gambling Community Benefit Fund

For: One-off grants of up to \$35,000 (inc. GST) for not-for-profit organisations to help provide community services or activities that benefit the Queensland community.

When: Round closes 29 February 2016
Email: cbf@treasury.qld.gov.au
Phone: (07) 3247 4284
Website: <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/corporate/sponsorships-and-grants/grants/community-benefit-funding-programs>

What: Australian Geographic Society Sponsorship

For: Founded by Dick Smith, Each quarter up to \$15,000 is made available for Australian Geographic Society Project Grants. Funding provided by the Society for Project Sponsorship target all four Project Categories: Science, Community, Adventure and Environment. The society also offers seed grants between \$500 and \$3000.

When: Round closes 30 April 2016
Phone: (02) 9263 9825
Email: society@ausgeo.com.au
Website: <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/society/sponsorship/2013/11/apply-for-sponsorship>

What: The Mullum Trust

For: Supports projects which have significant, ongoing or catalytic environmental outcomes. Grants are available from \$100 to \$10,000. Projects with specific localised environmental outcomes are preferred, although projects which are locally based but have far reaching impacts are also encouraged.

When: Ongoing
Phone: Mr Ryan Neoh on (03) 9671 6658
Email: rneoh@deloitte.com.au
Website: <http://thetrusteeformullumtrust.myob.net/>

What: Cheaperthanhotels Fundraising and Sponsorship Program

For: Cheaperthanhotels offer a wide range of opportunities for sponsorship and fundraising support for community groups, non-profit organizations, schools, universities and sports clubs. Each organisation will be assessed on a case by case basis and you could gain anything from \$250 up to \$25,000 a year in funding.

When: Ongoing
Phone: (02) 8263 5111
Website: <http://www.cheaperthanhotels.com/sponsorship/>

For those of you that like Facebook – you may want to keep an eye on **Australian Grants and Awards** page who keep a watchful eye on additional funding opportunities as they become available:

<https://www.facebook.com/ausgrants>