FINIA

FRASER ISLAND NATURAL INTEGRITY ALLIANCE

Newsletter

Sustaining the natural integrity of Fraser Island together ***November 2018***

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Welcome to the final edition of the FINIA newsletter for 2018, keeping FINIA members up to date with Fraser Island news and current FINIA projects and what a year it has been. The 25th Anniversary of World Heritage and a Royal Visit.

Our next meeting is being held at Maryborough Town Hall on **Tuesday 13 November** from 10am to 2pm.

Thanks to our contributors and look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

K'gari (Fraser Island) Royal Visit

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex visited K'gari on 22 October 2018 to formally unveil a plaque dedicating the forests of K'gari to the Queens Commonwealth Canopy. This program recognises and aims to preserve significant forested areas found in Commonwealth nations, with K'gari and Bulburin National Park being the first two sites recognised within Australia. Prince Harry was welcomed to the island by Butchulla descendants during a smoking ceremony at Pile Valley before giving a speech to the gathered crowd stressing the importance of preserving World Heritage sites.

During his visit, Prince Harry visited the crystal clear waters of Boorangoora (Lake McKenzie) where he spent some time learning about its significance to the Butchulla people from Aunty Nai Nai Bird and Aaron Henderson. The Duchess then joined the Prince for a walk along the Kingfisher Jetty where they met and spoke to many of the large crowd that had gathered.

QPWS staff worked tirelessly over a number of weeks leading up to the visit, to present K'gari in the best possible light and ensure that the Duke and Duchess

HIS Royal Highness Prince Harry, the Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle and Annastacia Palaszczuk on K'gari

had an enjoyable visit to this unique island. Perhaps the greatest outcome of the Royal visit was that the Butchulla culture was showcased on an international stage. The world now knows that K'gari is indeed 'Butchulla country'.

Contributed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers hit the ground running

On August 6th 2018 the Butchulla Land & Sea Rangers Program (BLSR) commenced working and caring for Butchulla country. BLSR aim to contribute, protect and manage local cultural heritage values on Butchulla country, by protecting and preserving cultural sites and country, create opportunities to transfer traditional knowledge to future generations and insuring it is continued in the future.

BLSR feel strongly about developing strong partnerships and working collaboratively to reach common goals. BLSR have some strong developed relationships and look forward to building strong working relationships with other stakeholders to: rehabilitate land and water systems, restore natural landscapes, implement programs to control weeds and pests and help manage marine conservation and habitats.

BLSR Staff from left to right: Bottom: Blayde Foley and Norman Macdonald, Top: Harvey Warner Conway Burns & Corey Currie

The BLSR team have been work on K'gari (Fraser Island) and the mainland, connecting and learning about country and each other. They Engaged with elders, community and stakeholders to gain knowledge and guidance to maintain connections with country. BLSR aim to mentor, educate and pass on knowledge to future generations, guided by the Three Butchulla Laws:

1. What's good for the land comes first.
2. If you have plenty you must share
3. Do not touch or take anything that does not belong to you.

From Left to Right: Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers work with Dr Geoff Pegg learning how to monitor and record the potentially devastating Myrtle Rust, centre and right: Rangers record a culturally significant scarred tree.

BLSR Coordinator Conway Burns designed a "Working on Butchulla Country badge" that both the BLSR and QPWS Rangers display on their uniforms. This collaborate badge provide QPWS with a better view on country, Looking through Butchulla eyes.

The Badge represents Butchulla land and sea country.

The Djilgar (Black Wattle) represents Land, when it flowers, it tells our people, time to travel to K'gari. The Gaarbunya (Mullet), Daiarlee (Tailor) is on the move and plentiful.

Diamond Scaled mullet represents the sea, which is one of the Butchulla food festival totems. The rainbow colours on the Mullet represents Yindingie (The Creator Rainbow Serpent).

Narawi (Sea Waves) represents Korrawinga (Great Sandy Straits) Buthu (Endo Pacific Bottle Nose Dolphin) is also a totem for the Butchulla people.

Look Listen Connect Country!!

Article contributed by Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation's Land and Sea Ranger Team.

Conway Burns (BLSR) and Marc Dargusch (QPWS) proudly displaying the "Working on Butchulla Country" badge on their uniforms. Step closer to co management on K'gari.

Scientists to follow up Cooloola BioBlitz moth

The discovery of a new species of Boronia Moth during the Cooloola BioBlitz brought one of Australia's leaders in scientific research to Cooloola next Month to follow up the discovery.

In his day job, Prof Doug Hilton AO is Director of the illustrious Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Australia's oldest medical research institute but he has a private passion for entomology where he specializes in studying a group of uncommon moths, some of which are crucial for pollinating Boronias.

When he provisionally identified the small moth new to science as a *Pseliastis sp.* (Heliozelidae) last month Prof Hilton immediately began making arrangements to visit Cooloola to see the newly discovered moth in its habitat. Prof Hilton was in Rainbow Beach from 5th to 7th October and also presented a talk about the significance of the moth and their role in the ecology at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall. This event was sponsored by the Gympie Regional STEM Hub as part of their Science in the Pub, Halls and Cafes program.

Emeritus CSIRO entomologist Dr Don Sands who accompanied Prof Hilton, who collected the first specimen of the new moth species, said that although this moth is only a few millimetres long, it may hold the key to saving threatened Boronias including the Wide Bay Boronia which is endangered because they are not being well pollinated to set viable seed.

Detailed taxonomic examination of 700 spider specimens by one of Australia's leading spider experts, Robert Whyte, has already revealed 37 new species through one weekend of field collection. Whyte is looking forward tothe next BioBlitz proposed to be held in a different season, late Autumn — 17th to 19th May 2019.

Cooloola Coastcare's Dr Lindy Orwin who is coordinating the opportunity for the public and citizen scientists to learn from the visiting experts with the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation said that the BioBlitz had help generate an increasing amount of interest in local communities as well as in the scientific community and this was an opportunity to bring both interests together.

"With another BioBlitz on the agenda for next May, we expect the both the community and scientific interest in understanding more about the rich natural resources of Cooloola to continue attracting increasing interest around Australia with many more new scientific discoveries likely," Dr. Orwin said.

Also exciting is Robert Whyte's report on the Cooloola BioBlitz's Spiders, with indications that it has discovered 37 new species. An initial report is attached to this newsletter, with Robert predicting the final report will be double or triple the size of the current attachment.

Cooloola Bioblitz was an initiative of Fraser Island Defenders Organisation and Cooloola Coastcare

Utilisation of stranded marine fauna washed ashore on K'gari (Fraser Island), Australia, by dingoes

For those of you interested in keeping up with current research, this paper was recently published in the Australian Journal of Zoology by Linda Behrendorff, Luke K.-P. Leung and Benjamin L. Allen. Stranded marine fauna have been identified as a potentially significant food resource for terrestrial carnivores, but how such subsidisation influences terrestrial species ecology is not well understood. We describe the dietary and behavioural responses of dingoes (Canis familiaris) to the occurrence of large-animal marine strandings (e.g. dead cetaceans, marine turtles and pinnipeds) between 2006 and 2016 on K'gari (Fraser Island), Australia, to better understand the trophic links between marine and terrestrial systems. A total of 309 strandings were recorded during this period (~3.1 strandings

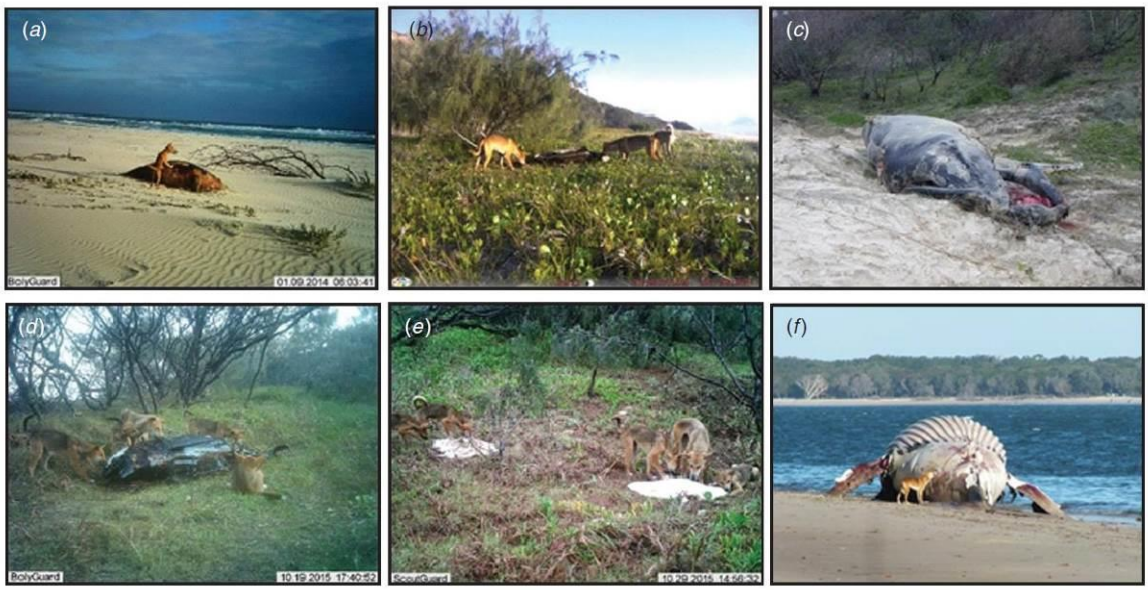

Fig. 1. Example photos of dingoes feeding on the (*a*) dugong at Waddy Point, (*b*) green turtle at Maheno Camping Zone, (*c*) humpback whale at Guluri Camping Zone, (*d*) melon-headed whale at Wongai Camping Zone, (*e*) two stingrays at One Tree Rock Camping Zone and the (*f*) humpback whale at Coolooloi.

per month), yielding an annual average of 30.3 tons of available carrion to the 100–200 dingoes present on the island. Carcass monitoring with camera traps showed that dingoes used carcasses almost daily after a short period of decomposition. Whole packs of up to seven dingoes of all age

classes at a time were observed visiting carcasses for multiple successive days. These data demonstrate that large-animal marine subsidies can be a common, substantial and important food source for dingoes, and that the estimated daily dietary needs of roughly 5–10% of the island's dingo population were supported by this food source. Our data suggest that marine subsidisation can influence terrestrial carnivore diet, behaviour and abundance, which may produce cascading indirect effects for terrestrial ecosystems in contexts where subsidised carnivores interact strongly with other species.

FIDO Eurong Bush Regeneration

The FIDO Eurong Bush Regeneration Volunteers take some time out at Pile Valley

Between 21 to 27 October, 2018, the group of 10 volunteers contributed 239.5 volunteer hours of work in the Eurong precinct and Central Station where follow up work was carried out to eliminate Clivea and Gloriosa lillies.

The group carried out maintenance of the nursery, collected much new propagation material, sowed more seeds in readiness for upcoming programs including planting Cypress to screen off the Deer Farm, planted out many seedlings and potted up more plants from tubes, cleaned pots and expanded the capacity of the nursery.

The team relocated plants in the Pandanus nursery from the northern side of Easton Street to the southern side to take advantage of the Resort's amended grey water irrigation regime.

60 plants from the nursery were planted out around the village as part of the bush regeneration program and other plants distributed to private Eurong landholders.

The group had a major achievement in the lantana attack south of Eurong freeing up many native plants and eliminating three (3) Cocos Palms and breaking through the former wall. They carried out extensive manual weeding particularly in the vicinity of Problem Corner to Singapore Alley to eliminate Coral Creeper, Singapore Daisy mother of Millions, Sisal lantana and Basket Asparagus and manually weeded the Coral Creeper and lantana outside the northern dingo fence.

A flush new growth of Green Panic fringing the south of the resort and in Easton street precinct were also managed. Finally, the Nature Walk was tidied up, reinstating one deliberately removed barricade.

Report submitted by John Sinclair, FIDO

FIDO Happy Valley Weeding Trip

Note: This program was originally sponsored by the National Landcare Program that has now abandoned funding support for any Bush Regeneration programs or any other programs in the Fraser Island (K'gari) World Heritage area. Therefore this program was entirely underwritten financially by FIDO that was committed to the program before being advised that there would be no funding for the 2018-19 financial year. Continuing this program has eaten significantly into FIDO's financial reserves but FIDO is determined to continue to ensure that all the gains made by Peter Shooter's 19 teams since 2014 aren't lost allowing weeds to flourish uncontrolled in Happy Valley and environs.

Induction at Happy Valley Day 1. Peter Shooter on left

Held between the 5th and 11th August 2018, 9 volunteers worked a minimum of 4hrs per person per day. Total in-excess of 180 hours.

Abrus precatorius var africanus

We are in the 'mopping up' phase with this species, endeavouring to ensure there is minimum seed set to avoid reinfecting the areas we have been working on since 2014. We revisited all the areas inside the dingo fence covered by our MOU as well as areas North and South of the village as well as North West and West of the village with the exception of the area West of the dingo fence between the grid on the Yidney Scrub Road and the grid on the Yidney Rocks Bypass road. We will inspect that area in November. In all of these areas the population is now very low, with all but no plants of seed-bearing maturity.

This species will flower and set seed in its first year. A very small amount was discovered carrying seed which we collected.

Across all the areas, small emergent plants were hand pulled. This was more difficult this trip as the soil was very dry. They pull much easier after rain. Plants that would not pull were foliage sprayed with 1.5% Roundup, mostly with hand held sprays, some with backpacks.

Mopping up is an on-going process that will continue for some time until hopefully the species is eliminated. There is still a very heavy population in the section managed by the Council program in the middle of town. This area always carries a huge load of seed and was the case in August. This is frustrating as there is no doubt that the seed is dispersed by birds. I have drawn this conclusion from my observations at Happy Valley as well as on the Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane. This is also recorded in the literature.

With this in mind, having a huge seed source in the middle of town is disheartening, given the lengths we have gone to in eliminating the species, which as far as we know is still restricted to Happy Valley. Our aim and hope is to prevent its expansion to others areas of the island.

Wherever an Abrus plant has set seed the seed are collected and the site marked with flagging tape and position noted on the GPS to be monitored in the future for any seedlings

It is also disheartening to see the area north of the Ambulance Station that we previously worked on, has become reinfected. There is now a substantial population of mature plants in that area that will seed in the next season.

There is a need for discussions with all stakeholders, in regard to the ongoing control program of this species. I hope a meeting can be arranged between stakeholders to address the ongoing control of this plant. If we can't at least get the seeding level down, then our almost 5 years of very effective work will have been to no end.

Easter Cassia *(Senna pendula var glabrata)*

This was the second target species again this trip, following our collaborative Cassia Blitz with the Fraser Island Association in April/May. The main target areas were the second valley North

of the Ambulance Station and East of the Yidney Rocks Bypass road. While we removed huge amounts in both these areas, there is still a lot more to be done. These will again be the target areas in November. Again, where possible, we pulled by hand. Where not possible, stems were cut low to the ground with long handled cutters or in the case of very large plants with a reciprocating electric saw. The butt was then squirted with 100% roundup.

Changed landscape resulting from removal of Cassia and Lantana
When we started this work, large areas were so heavily infested with Easter Cassia and Lantana that penetration was impossible. Both species had grown long sprawling branches that intertwined and frequently fell over, rooting where they touched the ground. This was especially so East of Yidney Rocks Bypass Pass Road. We have been progressively clearing tracks to locate and destroy Abrus and extending the eradication of Cassia and Lantana as we went.

Large areas are now relatively free of these two weeds, and the landscape is completely changed. Movement through the area is now relatively easy and native plants are responding well. At the beginning, the task was very daunting and seemed hopeless. It has been a huge job, but the results are now very rewarding.

Report submitted by Peter Shooter, FIDO

Zero Chemical Fraser Coast CEP Project Report

August - Volunteers and FCRC Staff : 7 contributing 59 hours
October - Volunteers and FCRC Staff : 13 contributing 140 hrs

During both working bees, volunteers along with FCRC staff worked intensively on our FCRC CEP sites. Boardwalk Green Panic (*Panicum maximum var. trichoglume*) was trimmed along length of the boardwalk, around to the carpark and toilet block. Painted spurge *Euphorbia cyathophora* removed from along Happy Valley Drive, Postan St and the area below helipad. Along the boardwalk, the very dry conditions had exposed single *Abrus precatorius subsp africanus* seeds that originated from the vines we worked in 2014.

FCRC's CEP hard working volunteers at work in Happy Valley

For the first time there were domestic tomato plants *Solanum lycopersicum* scattered some distance along the boardwalk from the SE beginning of the Green Panic (*Panicum maximum var. trichoglume*) section to just before half way along. All were removed and fruit collected (just fruited). Thousands of *Abrus precatorius subsp africanus* seedlings, along with some seed pods and single seeds were removed from the follow up sites next to fence below the helipad and up to the top of the ridge and along to the NW edge of our work area and to the SE 20m beyond the gen shed on Warry St.

The team also carried out follow up removal of Easter cassia, *Senna pendula var.glabrata*, small broad-leaved pepper tree, *Schinus terrbinthifolius*, Brazilian nightshade, *Solanum seaforthianum*, morning glory, *Ipomea indica*, domestic passionfruit, *Passiflora edulis*, corky passion vine, *Passiflora suberosa*, mile a minute, *Ipomoea cairica*, Singapore daisy, *Sphagneticola trilobata* and lantana, *Lantana camara*.

Report prepared by Bree Jashin, Team Leader

The Value of Anecdotal Stories

People tend to 'pooh-hoo' anecdotal stories of personal observations of environmental changes on the basis that they lack scientific proof and objectivity. Yet in an example of double standards they are happy to accept some 'good news' anecdotal stories they hear about changes such as the ecosystems adjusting to cane toads because some birds disembowel them or that in places some vulnerable reptiles or mammals survived encounters with cane-toads. It is strange that that people should give credibility to stories they want to hear, but dismiss stories they are uncomfortable with.

Fishermen are always good for anecdotal stories and rarely will they report that their contemporary fishing experiences are equal to or better than in the past. The truth is that anecdotal stories have a very important part to play in helping enhance our ecological understanding. I hope that my anecdotal stories might be noted as something more than rambling observations.

Because I might have the longest living memory of environmental observations on K'gari, these need to be placed on the record while I am still able. I plan to record a series of articles for the FINIA Newsletter based on 50 years of observation. Many I am able to back up with written and photographic records. I plan a series of articles to try to demonstrate the decline and adverse ecological changes on K'gari. These are just a few anecdotal stories I have oft-repeated but few people are willing to listen to.

Article submitted by John Sinclair, Fraser Island Defenders Organisation

The appearance of Beach Spinifex on K'gari

Most people accept that Beach Spinifex (*Spinifex longifolius)* is natural to K'gari. I don't. I can recall seeing it for the first time in the early 1970s. The appearance of the roly-poly seed dancing along the beach swept along by wind when I first saw it was unforgettable. During the 1970s and early 1980s, I led FIDO safaris that were able to travel and camp wherever we could. We frequently camped along K'gari's eastern beach, beside lakes, in the rainforest and Top End. 35mm slides (now slightly mouldy) taken during this period show the northern parts of the foredunes free of Beach spinifex. Instead the most memorable features were lines of hummocks parallel to, but back, from the high-water mark built around communities of *Sesuvium portulacastrum*. These hummocks are not commonly-seen today as a result of the dominance of Beach Spinifex occupying that frontal foredune niche.

"For decades modern visitors to K'gari (Fraser Island) thought I was imaging things when I said that Beach Spinifex (Spinifex longifolius) had only appeared on the island in my lifetime. This Photograph of the South Waddy Point Beach in the early 1970s shows an area devoid of both Casuarinas and Beach Spinifex. The hummocks above the high tide mark are built around Sesuvium portulacastrum."– John Sinclair, FIDO

I recently noted that the Pipits that were once so common along K'gari's beach front have declined dramatically in numbers. I associate this with the intrusion of Beach Spinifex changing their habitat and the demise of the Sesuvium hummocks. It inspired me to hunt out old photos and to write a children's story about "Peter the Pipit's Prophesy" to illustrate how important anecdotal stories and observations are un understanding K'gari's ecology. That kids' story carries a very significant message for adults on why it is important to preserve the memories of our youth.

Since writing that story I found further confirmation of the demise of the Pipits. On a WPSQ field outing in October 1968 Pipits were on the Bird List. I recall that they were the most common bird seen along the foredunes between Wabby Lakes and what is now Dilli Village. 48 years later despite the intensive effort put into bird-watching over the BioBlitz week (compared with just 24 hours of observations on the WPSQ trip), no Pipits were observed. The observers were based at Dilli Village and patrolled the beach daily.

"Hummocks of Sesuvium portulacastrum along K'gari's foreshore were once common but have become increasingly rare since the appearance of Beach Spinifex. They are so uncommon now that when I saw some great examples in August at North Spit, I had to photograph them for the record." – John Sinclair - FIDO

Much more attention is needed into not the new species that can be added to the list but to the disappearance of species from the list and the reasons for it. Hummocks of *Sesuvium portulacastrum* along K'gari's foreshore were once common but have become increasingly rare since the appearance of Beach Spinifex. They are so uncommon now that when I saw some great examples in August at North Spit, I had to photograph them for the record.

Article submitted by John Sinclair, Fraser Island Defenders Organisation

A plant out of place – the Beach Almond

A weed, they say, is a plant out of place. Well the Beach almond *(Terminalia catappa)* a.k.a. Indian almond or Tropical almond, is out of place on Fraser Island. It's a native of Asia, Africa and tropical northern Australia, and has been found in Eurong and Happy Valley and thus qualifies as a weed.

The trees can reach about 35 metres and are known for their shady canopies and typically are found on tropical beach fronts like the one above.
David Anderson came upon a Beach Almond in Eurong's residential valley which was only about six metres high by following my nose ... literally. His olfactory senses were assaulted by a sickly, offensive odour and he traced the smell to the flowering specimen on the corner of Anderson Street and Williams Avenue.

Fraser Coast Regional Council's Juliette Musgrave identified it for him before David located five other smaller trees in the area.

David suggests that although it's not on the council's pest list, after recent evidence, he believes it should be. The Beach Almond drops thousands (no exaggeration) of seeds and the germination rate is prolific. The seeds are like coffee

beans in size and shape and they form a mat under the parent tree. The trees in Eurong were removed over three years ago, but the seedlings keep coming up.

David gave his unsuspecting brother Michael the task of weeding them out when he came to the island to assist in the Cassia Blitz. It kept him occupied for quite some time.

At the time of the FINIA meeting held on the island earlier this year, a number of Beach Almonds were identified in Happy Valley. They are in the area behind the public toilet block. When they eventually flower, their "perfume" might be mistaken for an odour coming from the sewerage system. The fruit apparently is popular with parrots (with no sense of smell?) like rainbow lorikeets and sulphur-crested cockatoos.

Seedlings are coming up in the Anderson's yard and elsewhere in the Eurong residential valley a good distance from the parent tree. The Beach Almond has a very long tap root making larger specimens difficult to pull. Even the seedlings, like the one pictured, have log tap roots reaching for the water table.

Once established, the trees grow rapidly but the good news is that they do take a long time to reach maturity, flower and produce fruit. John Sinclair has reported to QPWS that there is one growing within the fenced eating area at Lake McKenzie.

The Beach Almond has the potential to become a major pest in the K'gari National Park. If it manages to reach the flowering stage, its "perfume" is likely to put visitors off their lunch.

Article contributed by David Anderson, Fraser Island Association and FIDO volunteer

Biological Controls Are Working

Unfortunately, there are an increasing number of injurious agencies finding their way to or threatening the natural integrity of K'gari (Fraser Island). Recent records include Myrtle Rust, and feral fauna including foxes and pigs as well as new weeds and the Jamella Leaf-hopper. Fortunately, some of these and other adverse impacts are being in part countered by biological controls.

The discovery of the Boronia moth as part of the 2018 Cooloola BioBlitz opened the eyes of many botanists established and aspiring to the importance that sometimes the most miniscule organisms can have on environmental health.

The loss of Pandanus has been arrested by the release of a parasitic wasp not much larger than a grain of sand.

A more significant and less noticed biological control has been the slow but progressive demise of lantana on K'gari.

There have rarely been silver bullet biological controls such as the parasitic wasp on the Jamella leaf-hopper that is saving K'gari's pandanus. Another silver bullet was dealing with the cactus invasion particularly of Queensland' Brigalow and mulga lands where it was invading at the rate of acres per minute. Prickly pears (mostly Opuntia stricta) were imported into Australia in the 19th century and progressively became widespread invasive species, rendering 40,000 km2 (15,000 sq mi) of farming land unproductive. The moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum* whose larvae eat prickly pear, was introduced

in 1925 and almost wiped out the population. The few surviving cacti became host for the moth and their larvae so that whenever the prickly pear population builds up the biological control kicks in. Given the horrific history of Prickly Pear there is a human compulsion to eradicate the very last Cactus. This is notable on K'gari (Fraser Island) because it leads to needless pain and difficulty when it is only a matter of time before the Cactoblastis will get around to dealing with it.

Article contributed by John Sinclair, FIDO

Lantana Control on K'gari

This raises the issue of where biological controls of weeds are slowly working without any single silver bullets and the progressive retreat of K'gari's lantana. At least 15 years ago, we became aware of the failure of lantana to recolonise areas at Eurong where we had removed it. We then started to observe the thinning out of the lantana in the bush. As we examined ailing lantana bushes we observed saw leaves with rust, leaves with leaf miners and leaves that had been attacked by insects chewing them up.

Biological control of lantana is a long-term control option and has had mixed results. The objective is to reduce plant viability and prevent its further spread by stressing plants and reducing seeding processes. In some cases, it has resulted in die-back of the lantana plants.

Since 1914, 31 biological control agents have been introduced to Australia to try to control lantana. Seventeen have established, with several insect species causing seasonal damage, reducing the vigour and competitiveness of lantana in some areas. Of these 5 are bugs, 5 are moths, 4 are beetles and 3 are flys. In addition, rust is now also working.

Establishing biological control for lantana has been made difficult because Australia's lantana is comprised of several hybrid cultivars that don't exist in the native Central American habitat. Another obstacle in many areas is that the climate, especially cold winters knock back the populations of some insects. Some populations have been wiped out while it takes time for populations to rebuild when the weather warms up. Luckily enough predators seem to thrive in the more equitable weather on K'gari that is helping to control and reduce Lantana.

FIDO's Happy Valley volunteer groups working in Happy Valley are now so confident of the impact of the biological control based on their observations, that they have dropped the priority of Lantana as a pest weed in Happy Valley. This is further evidence that biological control is working.

The biological control is working around Eurong where these weeds are more spaced out although is making little dent on the larger thickets. It is for this reason that FIDO has initiated "Lantana Attacks" to thin out the thickest lantana and give the biological agents more opportunity to work.

FIDO volunteers attack the lantana by uprooting where possible but where not they use the cut and paste technique. They are making great inroads on one of the worst infestations.

Article contributed by John Sinclair, FIDO

Give yourself a Pest Workout: Brazilian Cherry

The juicy fruits of the Brazilian Cherry are irresistible to birds that rapidly spread this environmental weed

The Brazillian Cherry (*Eugenia uniflora*), an environmental weed, is a medium height shrub native to South America, Brazilian Cherry has a dense rounded habit with oval leaves, pointed tips and red new growth. It grows 3-6m tall and forms dense stands outcompeting native plants.

Characterised by succulent ribbed orange/red fruits that can be easily spread by birds, small mammals and water. Found in older style gardens along foreshore and riverside areas, it was often used as an ornamental garden plant. Control with a registered herbicide like glyphosate, cutting the shrub and pasting stumps within 20 seconds.

For more information, please contact Council Biosecurity Officers for positive identification and for further info.

Saturday 31st August 2019

8th Biennial K'gari (Fraser Island) Conference

*This Event is a collaboration between the **Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation** and the **Fraser Island Defenders Organisation***

Fraser Coast Campus, University of the Sunshine Coast

Community, Culture and Collaborations

The one day conference runs 9.00am to 5.00pm. Allowing visiting guests to join a whale-watching trip before heading home on Sunday.

Four sessions 9.00am to 5.00pm

Session 1 Community: will cover aspects of K'gari that have important implications for the whole community. **Steve Biddulf**, internationally acclaimed social psychologist and advocate for wilderness experiences, and Keynote speaker for this session. He is author of 10 Things Girls Need Most, Raising Girls, Raising Boys, Complete Secrets of Happy Children and The New Manhood.

Session 2 Culture: covers a range of issues the K'gari has on our culture, with a heavy emphasis on Butchulla culture. **Wayne Blair** prominent Butchulla actor of national standing, ("Redfern" & other TV series & plays) & producer of the movie "The Sapphires").

Session 3 Collaborations: covers the many collaborations working to manage the K'gari and protect its World Heritage Outstanding Universal Value. It is planned to have speakers from Federal, State and local government and other K'gari stakeholders will participate in this session.

Session 4 Open Community Forum: This session will operate along the lines of ABC's Q&A with members of the audience invited to sibmit their questions to the panel. It will be free and open to the public.

Further conference details will be posted at www.fido.org.au as they are established.

Island Impressions While Weeding

***A**ngophora Action Absorb Abandoned Avocado Accept*
***B**lueberry ash Butterflies Brazilian nightshade Boronia*
***C**omb fern Climate Coral Creeper Cuttings Companions*
***D**rongo Dump Dig Dazzle Dingo Dugong*
***E**urong Epiphytes Eucalypts Energy Ebb Exotics*
***F**igs 4WD Full Moon Fence Frigate birds Fraser Island creeper*
***G**loriosa lily Giants Grubby*
***H**appy hour Heat & Humidity Hormones Hibiscus*
***I**ndefatigable Impact Insects Idealists*
***J**oint effort Jobs Judicious Jumpy*
***K**irrar Kauri Kama Kingfisher bay*
***L**ake McKenzie Late Summer Laurels Locals Lantana*
***M**onitor Mossman River grass Microplastics Miracles*
***N**URSERY Native Sarsaparilla Not idle*
***O**pen-minded Optimistic Orchard swallowtail*
***P**lant Pool-time Picnics Praying mantids PLANET*
***Q**uandary Quantify Quiet*
***R**evegetation Relic Rain Ranger Russ*
***S**and blow Spinifex Sweaty Skinks Shells Stock*
***T**ALINGA Tourists Tip Tools Tasks Topography Toilets*
***U**mpteen Underbrush Unforgettable*
***V**OLUNTEERS Varied eggfly*
***W**eeding Ninjas Woody Wonderland Waves*
***X**cursions Xanthorrhoea*
***Y**akka (hard) Yowie Yorkies*
***Z**ornia Zzzz*

Contributed by Maria Miller, FIDO Volunteer, February 2018

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

As many of you would be aware, the Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance (FINIA) is a non-incorporated, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation for its partners. As a non-incorporated organisation, we rely on our partners to support our activities for the Fraser Island (K'gari) World Heritage site, with no dedicated funding to support our meetings, administration and barge tranfers. Without this generosity, FINIA's activities would be far more challenging, so we would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their generous support:

Fraser Coast Regional Council – who provide a venue for our meetings.
QPWS – who are sponsoring the catering for the November meeting.
Kingfisher Bay Resort Group – who support many of our on-ground activities with subsidised barge fees.

Add to this our amazing contributors, volunteers and donors—a special place attracts special people. Thanks to you all for making FINIA work.

Dates for the Diary

What: **Weed Management**
Where: Happy Valley, Fraser Island
When: 18-24 November 2018.
For: Peter Shooter leads these trips to help tackle the heavy weed infestation in and around Happy Valley. A group of up to 8 will share "Kurrawa", a comfortable holiday house in the centre of Happy Valley. The group will work to contain 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. As the Abrus is coming under control the team will be increasingly turning to eliminate large woody weeds Easter Cassia and Lantana. Fitness is needed to carry heavy chemical backpack sprays across steep terrain.
Cost: $200 ($100 for concessions) to subsidise costs.
More info: For more information or to download an application form, please check out FIDO's website www.fido.org.au.

Funding Opportunities

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 99 is now open and closes at 11.59pm on 30 November 2018
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: **Opportunity for on-ground work or research to benefit Queensland National Parks**
For: The National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) is calling for applications for a grant worth $2,000 to undertake national park on-ground work or research. This grant is made possible thanks to a much-appreciated bequest from Jim Cuthbertson, and initial matching funding from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. The proposed project must address at least one of the following, listed below in order of priority:

- improve the conservation value/resilience of one or a number of parks;
- strengthen the science and evidence base of one or a number of parks or park proposals;
- advance community knowledge of, or connection to, Queensland's national parks.

Applicants may be Honours, Masters, PhD students, or volunteers. Projects for max. 2-years. Six monthly progress and a final report are to be provided by the recipient.
When: Please complete the application form available here no later than 5pm on **30 November**.
Email: Return to admin@npaq.org.au

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 flora and fauna conservation and threatened mammal conservation 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: Opens 3rd December 2018 (Funding in February 2019)
Phone: (03) 5472 1316 - Elizabeth (Beth) Mellick, Executive Officer
Email: beth@nwf.org.au
Website: http://www.nwf.org.au/

What: **Ian Potter Foundation**
For: Sustainability, preservation of biodiversity and landscape-scale conservation are important and complex challenges addressed in this program area. Our Environment & Conservation program aims to support Australian urban and rural communities to better manage our natural resources and preserve biodiversity in the face of challenges such as land degradation, limited water resources and climate change.
When: Expression of Interest opens on 25 March and close on 19 April (for mid-September) 2019.
Phone: (03) 9650 3188 – Louise Arkles
Email: admin@ianpotter.org.au
Website: http://www.ianpotter.org.au/home

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 targets all four Project Categories: Science, Community, Adventure and Environment. The society also offers seed grants between $500 and $3000.
When: Applications are now taken throughout the year for sponsorship rounds.
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://thetrusteeforthemullumtrust.myob.net/