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Welcome to the third edition of the FINIA newsletter for 2019.

It's been a time of adjustment as we celebrated and acknowledged the gaps left by both John Sinclair and Maree Prior. A huge thank you to everyone that stepped up and helped fill a gap – large or small.

Clearly, this newsletter is a little smaller – so we would welcome your articles, snippets and photos for the November issue.

The Editor

Preparing for the Biennial K'gari (Fraser Island) Conference



Keynote speaker, Steve Biddulph

One area where there has been a huge amount of collaboration is the upcoming 8th Biennial K'gari (Fraser Island) Conference. The conferences, which were initiated by FIDO in 2004, are unique in the World Heritage space, and have been an excellent tool for stakeholders and researchers to share knowledge and information about K'gari.

Hosted by University of the Sunshine Coast at its Fraser Coast Campus (161-179 Old Maryborough Road) on Saturday 31 August, this year's event is themed *Community, Culture and Collaborations*. The event is itself a collaboration between the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation.

The Conference will feature leading social psychologist and advocate for wilderness experiences, Steve Biddulph, author of *Ten Things Girls Need Most*, *Raising Girls*, *Raising Boys*, *Complete Secrets of Happy Children*, and *The New Manhood* will address the delegates with his speech entitled: *Growing Up And The Wild*.

The conference and cultural festival will run from 9.00 am to 5:00 pm with plenary sessions during the day. It allows out of town guests to enjoy a whale-watching trip before heading home on Sunday.

Bookings can be made via EventBite with costs on \$106.59 (including fees and GST) for general participants and \$64.39 for concessions – pensioners, students, BAC and FINIA members. The organisers have even organised a special rate for accommodation in Hervey Bay at the Best Western Ambassador Motor Lodge, 296 Esplanade, Pialba, QLD 4655. Just mention or use the promotional code: fido.

8th Biennial K'gari Conference: Community, Culture, Collaborations

Keynote Speaker:

Steve Biddulph (Author & wilderness advocate)

Other topics include:

Dune systems, Mary River

Dispersal Models,

Aboriginal Carbon

Foundation, Biosecurity,

Butchulla updates, Bio Blitz

recap, Tributes, Q & A forum

<http://fido.org.au/conferences/>



Organised by:



With sponsorship from:



Date claimer →

Saturday 31st August 2019

9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Hervey Bay ~ University of the Sunshine Coast ~ Fraser Coast Campus

Butchulla Land and Sea Ranger Biosecurity Training

In May, the four Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers along with Conway Burns and Chantel Van Wamelen undertook Biosecurity training in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries forest health staff. Presenters included Suzy Perry, Janet McDonald, Louise Shuey and Geoff Pegg.

The training was held over two days in Brisbane - with Day 1 being held at the Ecosciences Precinct and the Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens and Day 2 was spent examining damage and checking field plots at Tallebudgera Valley.

Rangers learnt to identify myrtle rust, the destructive wind-borne fungus recently discovered on World Heritage-listed K'gari (Fraser Island) and its potential to impact on a range of ecologically and culturally significant plant species.

The team also learnt how to establish field monitoring plots to check the ongoing health of K'gari's forests now included under the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy initiative.

As part of the training, DAF Biosecurity and Forest Health officers will work with the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers and DES to develop a training manual. In the future, subject to funding availability, it is hoped that this will be developed and distributed for use by other Environment agencies and interest groups.



Chantel Van Wamelen, Butchulla Land and Sea Ranger Corey Currie and Conway Burns (left to right) learning how to identify and record myrtle rust in the field

The next block of training will be conducted on K'gari in August.

Article developed in conjunction with Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the World Heritage Unit.

Snake-a-LIVE!!!!

Working and living on K'gari offers various unique opportunities for wildlife encounters.

Some are memorable for all the wrong reasons. Antechinus-chewed holes in a stored canvas swag! The bush rat who enjoys the odd vehicle wiring chew and nesting material in the battery box! How about the huntsman spider as big as your hand, felt just before you turn on the light switch in the dark! The brown tree snake that's decided the vehicle sun-visor is the best place to rest before you jumped in the driver's seat and pull it down to retrieve the keys!

The odd shoe stolen when left outside the door is nothing compared to the recent Dundubara staff experience of a complete power outage throughout the base and campground for a number of hours during the fully-booked school holiday period.

Smoke rising from the generator junction box revealed the grizzly sight. A curious spotted python looking for a warm place to dwell sadly got more heat than it bargained for.

A huge thank you to Garry and Shane who immediately barged across in unsavoury beach conditions to save everyone from a cold shower and an early night.

Article and image contributed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Great Sandy National Park



The sad and sorry end for this spotted python

In the Spirit of Cooperation

It's been a good season for weeds on Fraser Island. Some heavy falls of rain in June with regular showers for the rest of the month and into early July. Then the sun came out to encourage growth.

The weeds loved it.



Team work in action clearing basket asparagus at Residential Valley, Eurong

So, it was great having extra hands to help get on top of some problem weeds in Eurong's Residential Valley.

FIDO volunteers were at Eurong in the week of July 21-27 and they gave a morning of their valuable time to help with infestations of basket asparagus (*Asparagus aethiopicus*) and coral creeper (*Barleria repens*).

David Anderson had been chipping away at basket asparagus on the road reserve and USL on the ridge between Ungowa Road and the dingo fence for years, but the task was getting beyond him.

Many of the plants were enormous and tangled in the undergrowth. There were also plenty of seedlings which had sprouted in areas where David had previously removed large plants.

On Thursday, July 25, Su Dawson and five men helped David to target the basket asparagus. David had added Brazilian nightshade (*Solanum seaforthianum*) and Easter cassia (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*) to the target weed list.



The colourful and pervasive weed, coral creeper

Seven volunteers put in a total of 14 hours removing these and other isolated weeds they found. In the first two hours, they pulled 195 basket asparagus, 52 Brazilian nightshade and 23 Easter cassia (two large plants and seedlings).

Other weeds included: Mother-in Laws tongue (*Sansevieria trifasciata*), cocos palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), and Mossman River grass (*Cenchrus echinatus*). The team finished in time for morning tea and scones that Marion Anderson had prepared.

After morning tea, work resumed tackling a coral creeper infestation on the road reserve and USL on the corner of Jarvis and Buffy Streets. This highly-invasive plant, a native of Africa, has taken a firm hold along the ridge between Eurong's resort valley and the residential valley. It has moved out into the USL outside the dingo fence on the edge of the sand ridge.

David has been targeting coral creeper on the ridge on the corner of Jarvis Street and Williams Avenue spraying emerging seedlings by the hundreds on a regular basis. However, for a variety of issues, he had not been able to get to the corner inside the fence since before Christmas and could not believe how rapidly it had spread. With the help of the FIDO volunteers, the team pulled countless plants and seedlings in a one-and-a-half-hour blitz.

"There is still much to do, but the efforts of the FIDO volunteers have made the task a lot easier. My thanks for the great weeding work FIDO

puts in around Happy Valley and Eurong and especially for the assistance they have given me, " -David Anderson.

Article and photos contributed by David Anderson

A Helping Hand from Jeff Poole and WordPress

Some of you may have spotted a disruption in services on our website over the last couple of months? The problem came about when our Domain name (which had originally been purchased by another organisation) was cancelled by them.

Luckily for FINIA, we had a well-planned safety net in place, with the FINIA website content actually hosted by WordPress. But with no link between the domain name and the WordPress site, it was impossible for people to find our pages.

After several attempts, some detective work (and some very helpful domain hosts), we managed to track down the last organisation to hold the domain and secured it again for FINIA.

Reconnecting the domain to the website, was undertaken by our original website builder – Virtual Media Officer, Jeff Poole – who kindly assisted us to get FINIA back on line.

Grateful thanks to Jeff and those members who called or emailed to let us know we had a problem. It was great to know how many people actually check in on our website regularly.



www.finia.org.au back up online

FIDO's Weed Eradication Program - Happy Valley

FIDO's Happy Valley weeding program has been running for many years. Peter Shooter took up the co-ordinator role in early 2014, and the team have been doing four week-long trips per year since then.

The team remove a range of weed species each trip, but have focused their attention on two species. Both were introduced to the island as garden plants and have escaped. Our aim is to bring the population to as low a level as possible, to prevent them spreading into the National Park.

Between June 9 and 15, FIDO's Bush Regeneration Program again targeted Happy Valley. Coming from all over Southern Queensland, the group's volunteers split into two teams and put in over 140 hours of hard work over the week.

Team 1, consisting of Chris Breitenbach, Larry Holenhaus and Sanja Shooter worked in difficult terrain, requiring a high level of fitness. Team 2, consisting of Peter Shooter, Barry Smith, Zela Bissett and Sophie Munns also worked in some difficult terrain, but generally not as gruelling as Team 1's.

Team 1 did extensive eradication of Easter Cassia (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*) towards the North East of the Happy Valley Unallocated State Land (USL).

The method involved hand pulling for the vast majority of plants. Where larger plants could not be pulled, they were cut low with bush saws or long handled cutters and the butt coated with 100% Roundup (glyphosate). In the main this was applied with a wick wand rather than by a hand held spray applicator, as we have used previously.

They also worked on areas of Abrus (*Abrus precatorius* var. *africanus*) that had been found in the North East region of the USL during the May trip. Seeds were collected, climbers pulled down out of the canopy, small seedlings hand pulled and the larger plants that could not be pulled were foliage sprayed with 1.5% Roundup.



Newly discovered Abrus outbreak towards the West of the USL. Picture shows clusters of red seeds.

Occurrences of Abrus communities and mature individual plants were both GPS recorded and tagged with fluoro pink flagging tape for follow up on future trips.

This team undertook extensive exploration of outlying areas of USL looking mainly for outliers of Abrus. While most exploration was done on foot, this was greatly assisted by an agreement by DNRME, who have responsibility for USL, to give us access to their internal chained off service roads. This greatly assists our ability to thoroughly explore the 250ha of USL surrounding Happy Valley.

Outbreaks of Abrus were discovered towards the Western extremities of the USL. Climbing plants were pulled from the canopy, seeds were collected and communities and individuals GPS recorded and marked with fluoro flagging taped. They will be eliminated next trip.

In time we aim to survey the entire USL to detect and eliminate Abrus, to prevent it encroaching into the National Park.

As Team 1 explored the USL looking for Abrus outliers, they also hand pulled or 'cut and pasted' Easter Cassia they came across. Team 1 did an extraordinary amount of very productive work in very difficult conditions.

Team 2 searched all the areas we have responsibility for inside the dingo fence looking for emergent *Abrus* seedlings. In the main these were hand pulled. Because there was good rain immediately before this trip, some larger plants could be hand pulled, with care being taken not to break the stems off at the crown. Broken off plants regrow from the remnant roots. Slightly larger plants that would not hand pull were spot sprayed with 1.5% roundup from small held spray bottles. No seed-bearing plants were located in these areas.

This mopping up process was extended to outside the dingo fence either side of the Western Happy Valley (Yidney Scrub) Road; West of the dingo fence between the Happy Valley Road grid and the grid on Yidney Rocks Bypass Road, and beyond the Yidney Rocks Bypass Road on either side of the road.

Team 2 also eradicated a few remaining small *Cassia* and emergent seedlings in all these regions as well as basket asparagus (*Asparagus aethiopicus* var. *sprengeri*). These were dug out and hung in trees to die. A number of other weeds including Mickey Mouse plant (*Ochna serrulata*), Brazilian nightshade (*Solanum seaforthianum*) and Mossman burr (*Cenchrus echinatus*) were eradicated from these areas.

Team 2 cleared a large area of *Cassia* West of Yidney Rocks Bypass Road in an area not previously visited. A considerable amount remains to be eradicated. Some *Abrus* was detected here, and foliage sprayed.

Team 2 revisited a valley on the Eastern side of Yidney Rocks Bypass Road that had been totally infested with *Lantana*, *Cassia* and *Abrus*. It had been largely cleared on previous trips. The weed infestation in this valley had been so thick, we took the decision on earlier trips to leave some *lantana* to provide habitat for native wildlife and prevent erosion. This will be taken out as regrowth occurs. Young *Cassia* and *Abrus* seedlings were removed. Very encouraging regeneration of several native species is occurring at this site.

After consultation with the immediate neighbours, a large clump of broad leafed pepper-trees (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) was removed in the May trip at the end of Owen Street. This left a denuded area subject to erosion. After consultation with the immediate neighbour the area was replanted with 15 local shrubs and ground cover tube stock grown at the FIDO run nursery at Eurong, and three Young *Pandanus*. A number of cuttings of Coastal Pigface (*Carpobrotus glaucescens*) were also planted. FIDO also removed a large stand of mother-in-law Tongue (*Sansevieria trifasciata*) from this area.

This trip FIDO collected a plastic shopping bag of seed pods for the week. (Slightly less than 2kg). This almost all came from new discoveries well away from the village. On earlier trips, up to 9 large black bin liner bags was collected per trip. This indicates we are winning the battle to control this invasive weed.

Nursery Seed Collection



FIDO's Suzanne Wilson operates the nursery at Eurong that provides plants for any resident, business or group on the Island. All the plants produced in the nursery are grown from local stock. We now have approval to collect planting material for the nursery from USL on K'gari.

This trip we collected a bag of ripe *Pandanus* seed for the nursery. This is very valuable as K'gari's *Pandanus* have been decimated by an introduced leaf hopper of recent years. Many have died. It is important that we produce plenty of seedlings to replace losses of this iconic local plant.



Flagging new infestations of *Abrus* to be targeted later this year

Outwit, outplay, and outlast – persisting in the pest war!



The bright yellow flowers of Easter cassia

Easter Cassia (Local Law No. 3) *Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*

Native to South America, Easter Cassia takes the form of a rounded bush 1.5 to 5m with mid green compound leaves and rounded leaflets.

It has distinctive bright yellow flowers that occur mainly in March - May. Hence the name Easter Cassia. These are followed rounded pea –like seed pods. Easter Cassia is found in older style gardens and easily colonises disturbed areas and invades bushland.

Control by removing and bagging seed pods, hand removing seedlings and cut and paint mature plants with a registered herbicide. A great alternative plant for gardens is the Beach Aspen *Acronychia imperforata* or Wallum Banksia *B.aemula*, *B.integrifolia*.

Crab's Eye Creeper (*Abrus precatorius* subsp. *Africanus*)

Originating in Africa (hence the subspecies name of Africanus), this plant is a creeper that will extend into the canopy of trees and shrubs and block out all the sun light, leading to the weakening of the plant it grows on and sometimes death.

It has an attractive bright green compound fern like leaf, insignificant mauve flowers, and clumps of very attractive but very poisonous bright red seeds that can stay on the plant for well over a year.

To the best of our knowledge, Crab's Eye is only present in and around Happy Valley, and we are very keen to ensure it does not extend its range.



Crab's Eye Creeper's poisonous, bright red seeds

Both these species had heavily infested Happy Valley when the weeding program commenced. There are very few left on the land that FIDO manages, both in the village and the immediate surrounds. FIDO remove all the plants we encounter, but especially mature seed producing plants and follow this up by removing all new seedlings. This way we remove the plant from the environment over time.

Contributed by Peter Shooter, Coordinator, Happy Valley Weed Eradication Program, FIDO

Garden Escapee from Africa and Asia: Glory Lily

The Glory Lily (*Gloriosa superba*) is a perennial herb with climbing stems up to 4m that die off over winter, with long lived underground tubers. Leaves are shiny green, narrow with 2cm long curling end tendrils. Flowers are showy yellow/orange and/or red with “petals” turned back to expose stamens. October to May. Fleshy ovoid capsules with many red seeds.

Spread by garden waste, birds and humans. Glory Lily loves coastal habitats and tolerates nutrient poor soils.



The showy flowers of the Glory Lily – African and Asian pest

Control by manual removal (using gloves for protection) seed pods and digging out tubers and rhizomes removed completely.

Chemical control in December and then February before fruiting and seasonal dieback using Glyphosate & water 1:50(20mL/L) + metsulfuron methyl @ 1.5g/10L water (with non-ionic surfactant.).

Please note glory lily is highly toxic to humans, native mammals and livestock.

Garden alternatives: Scrambling lily (*Geitnoplesium cymosum*), Wombat berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*), Christmas bells (*Blandfordia grandiflora*), False sarsparilla vine (*Hardenbergia violacea*), Dusky coral pea (*Kennedia rubicunda*).

Article contributed by Juliet Musgrave, Fraser Coast Regional Council

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 transfers.

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.

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy – catering sponsor for the August meeting

Kingfisher Bay Resort Group – who support many of our on-ground activities with subsidised barge fees.

Automattic - sponsors of the FINIA Website – helping us to make K'gari (Fraser Island) a better place.

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

Dates for the Diary

What: Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance Meetings
Where: Town Hall, Maryborough
When: Tuesday 13 August and Tuesday 12 November
For: For all FINIA members and supporters. Quarterly meetings are a great chance to catch up and share what's happening or should be happening on Fraser Island (K'gari).
Cost: Free (although we always appreciate a sponsor for morning tea and/or afternoon tea).
More info: Please contact the Chair, Sue Sargent on 0429 462 041 or email contactfinia@gmail.com.

What: 8th Biennial K'gari (Fraser Island) Conference
Where: University of the Sunshine Coast (Fraser Coast Campus), Hervey Bay
When: Saturday 31 August
For: Community, Culture and Collaborations – this event is a collaboration between the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation.
Cost: \$106.59 (including fees and GST) for general participants and \$64.39 for concessions – pensioners, students, BAC and FINIA members
More info: For more information and links to the registration page, please check out the FIDO website or click on this [link](#)

What: **Bush Regeneration and Monitoring**
Where: Happy Valley, Fraser Island
When: 27 October-2 November (Sunday to Saturday)
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: \$300 (\$200 for concessions) to subsidise costs.
More info: Please send any questions to weeding@fido.org.au. To make a booking via Eventbrite, please click on the link for the date(s) of interest above. For concessions, please pay the full \$300 and then apply for a \$100 refund from FIDO.

What: **Bush Regeneration and Monitoring**
Where: Eurong, Fraser Island
When: [13-19 October](#) (Sunday to Saturday)
For: FIDO has been conducting weeklong weeding-bush regeneration programs in Eurong since 2005. These have progressively transformed Eurong and dramatically reduced weed threats. Based at Tallinga, the former Sinclair family home in Eurong Village, work will focus on weeding, bush regeneration, building the capacity of the Eurong nursery and continuing FIDO's on-going environmental monitoring programs. The program will be led by Suzanne Wilson and is supported by Eurong Resort, providing dinner for the volunteers each night.
Cost: \$300 (\$200 for concessions) to subsidise costs.
More info: Please send any questions to weeding@fido.org.au. To make a booking via Eventbrite, please click on the link for the date(s) of interest above. For concessions, please pay the full \$300 and then apply for a \$100 refund from FIDO.

Funding Opportunities

What: **Looking After Country Grant Program**
For: The Looking after Country Grant program provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups with grants of up to \$75,000 for projects that conserve the environment and cultural heritage on country. The program, previously named the Indigenous Land and Sea Grant program, supports on-ground environmental and cultural heritage projects and encourages collaborative partnerships in looking after country.
When: Funding closes at 11.59pm on 9 August 2019.
Email: landandsea@des.qld.gov.au
Phone: (07) 3330 5553
Website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/conservation/community/land-sea-rangers/grants-program>

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. To increase access to funding, the GCBF will be having 5 funding rounds starting from the 2019–20 financial year, beginning with Round 102.
When: Round 102 is now open and closes at 11.59pm on 31 August 2019.
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: 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 1st October 2019 (funding in November 2019)

Phone: (03) 5472 1316 - Elizabeth (Beth) Mellick, Executive Officer

Email: beth@nwf.org.au

Website: <http://www.nwf.org.au/>

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://thetrusteeformullumtrust.myob.net/>