

Sustaining the natural integrity of Fraser Island (K'gari) together February 2020

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Welcome to the first FINIA newsletter for 2020. As always, there's been lots happening on K'gari over the last 3 months with lots of news, updates and articles submitted for your information and consideration.

I couldn't let this opportunity pass without mention that sadly it's been almost a year since we lost Dr John Sinclair AO, who was one of the founding members of FINIA. I thank you all for helping to keep his passion and legacy strong.

The Editor

Building Skills, Building Knowledge



Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers join staff and students from the University of the Sunshine Coast to look at K'gari's water quality (Photo: BLSR)

When the Butchulla Land and Sea Ranger team expressed an interest in learning more about the water quality of K'gari's streams and lakes, the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) had no hesitation in offering their assistance.

Over 100 lakes have formed in depressions between K'gari's dunes and many freshwater streams flow off the slopes of the dunes to the sea. The lakes are 'perched' high above sea level on a substrate of pure silica sand which influences their water chemistry (Timms 1986).

Although sandy substrates are typical of marine environments, it is relatively unusual to find so many freshwater habitats which have substrates entirely of sand. There have been previous studies of lakes on

K'gari (e.g. Arthington et al. 1986, Arthington and Hadwen 2003, Moss 2016) but little has been published on K'gari's streams.

A pilot survey of four streams and two lake ecosystems on K'gari was undertaken in November 2019. The survey's primary objectives were to conduct an assessment of the water quality of the wetlands for basic physicochemical parameters, invertebrate fauna and flora and to introduce the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers to basic freshwater survey techniques.

Water samples were collected, and field observations were made at six sites Eli Creek, Wyuna Creek, Wanggoolba Creek and Gerroweea Creek along with Boorangoora (Lake McKenzie) and Lake Garawongera.



Collecting invertebrates using a dip net (Photo: BLSR)

Water temperature, conductivity, pH, salinity and dissolved oxygen were measured at each site using a handheld probe. The team also identified the dominant riparian vegetation and noted substrate types, leaf litter cover, canopy cover and aquatic vegetation before a rapid survey of the aquatic invertebrates was undertaken using a dip net. Fauna were identified in the field as far as possible and some samples were taken back to the lab at USC for further identification using a 10-40X magnification dissecting microscope. Freshwater invertebrates exhibit a range of tolerance to pollution and other habitat degradation and so the presence or absence of taxa typically reflects the health of the aquatic environment.



Identifying invertebrate finds (Photo: BLSR)

As for the results? All the sites were slightly acidic (pH 4.8-5.88) in line with previous studies. They were all high in oxygen and very low in salinity, indicating that even the coastal streams were not affected by marine intrusion at the point and time of sampling.

All sites had substrates entirely of sand. Some had a covering of leaf litter and detritus. Eli Creek showed signs of erosion downstream of the bridge due to the activities of tourists floating downstream on the current, with Boorangoora (Lake McKenzie) another site with a high number of tourists. Wanggoolba Creek also had heavy tourist traffic, but the tourists appeared to remain on the boardwalks and at the time of sampling they were not observed to enter the water. Wanggoolba Creek is a site of cultural significance for the Butchulla people because it used to be the site of a women's' birthing area. As such, men are not meant to visit Wanggoolba Creek.

Despite the generally good quality of the water and lack of disturbance of the lakes and streams, all sites had a surprisingly depauperate aquatic fauna, with low numbers of abundance and species diversity, possibly due to the unstable, sandy substrate. Only 24 species were identified – mostly zooplankton, shrimps, yabbies and insects. All the insects found had flying adults – some of these adults are aquatic such as the Coleoptera and Hemiptera (beetles and bugs), but others are terrestrial – living in the water as juveniles, but then emerging to fly away as adults to mate and lay eggs (e.g. dragonflies – Odonata and mayflies – Ephemeroptera).

The most diverse fauna was observed at Wanggoolba Creek, Central Station. This was the only site where leaf shredding invertebrates were found (leptocerid caddisfly larvae). The diverse riparian vegetation with tall trees provided both shade and a source of food (leaves), which would be broken down by shredding invertebrates and the nutrients made available to other stream inhabitants such as mayfly nymphs and shrimps.

The presence of Cyanophyta (blue-green algae) which was observed in the two lakes, can be an indication of nutrient enrichment.

The investigative team comprised the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers - Chantel Van Wamelen, Corey Currie, Myles Broome, Blayde Foley and Jodie Rainbow, with Wayne Tobane, Louise Roberts, Dakota Broome and Kadar Blake, along with Professor Cathy Yule and assisting students Brittany Elliott and Ashley Rummell from USC.

This was an excellent opportunity for the USC researchers to learn about the ecology and cultural significance of K'gari from the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers. They were taught about the vegetation types, fire management, sources of food, the background to sites of significance, stories of the formation of K'gari – all of which greatly enriched their experience and their appreciation of the island.

Article contributed by the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers with the University of the Sunshine Coast

Bernie Shakeshaft, Australia's 2020 Local Hero

Over the years, K'gari has attracted some pretty special characters. One of these, Bernie Shakeshaft, who works with at-risk teenagers in Armidale to help them on the path towards employment and further education and training, has been named this year's Australian Local Hero in the Australian of the Year Awards.

Bernie is the founder and CEO of BackTrack Youth Works in Armidale, NSW. He has spent the past 25 years working and living out his passion, catching wild dogs and wild kids. For many years he lived in the Northern Territory learning his trade in remote areas, learning the lessons of life in the bush and surrounded by wise and skilful Aboriginal men and old school stockmen.



In 2006, with his children growing up and forging their paths in life, he was determined to turn his vision of working with the most disadvantaged young people in our communities into a reality. To keep them alive, out of jail and chasing their hopes ;

Making a difference: Bernie Shakeshaft with two dogs who are part of his BackTrack program. Photo: Umbrella Entertainment

Under Bernie's leadership, BackTrack has forged a new beginning for over 1000 young people. Bernie takes great pride in how his vision of giving young people having a hard time a new life journey and a new beginning, is now spreading across NSW with mentoring other communities to get started using the same successful tools that have had remarkable results in Armidale.

Introduced to K'gari by the late John Sinclair AO, in the 2000s, Bernie and the BackTrack team also went on to work with QPWS. The BackTrack team helped track dingoes, identified the scale of feral cats and participated in groundsel management on the island.

Congratulations Bernie – you genuinely are a local hero.

Great Sandy National Park Wildfires

The wildfires that have affected much of Australia these past months didn't spare the Great Sandy National Park either. Both the K'gari (Fraser Island) and Cooloola sections of the park experienced wildfire events during this time, including one wildfire on the island and five wildfires within Cooloola.

The hot, dry conditions experienced over a prolonged period in the region made for challenging times for fire crews. Dry lightning strikes were attributed to the cause of many of the fires. However unfortunately one fire in Cooloola was the result of the careless disposal of campfire embers.



Aerial photo of K'gari fire taken on 4 December 2019. Picture: QFES

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff were assisted by the Queensland Fire Emergency Service including through the deployment of volunteer rural fire brigades, crews from the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers, and when fire threatened mainland plantations, Hancock Queensland Plantations crews.

With welcome rain now here, we hope similar relief is soon felt in the rest of our fire-affected country.

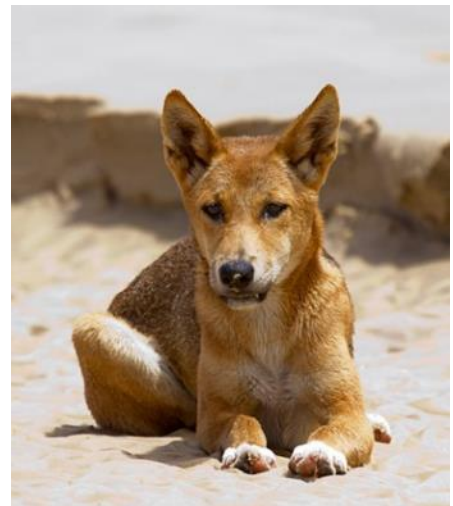
Contributed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Be Wongari Safe on K'gari

The Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation is reminding visitors to Please be “Wongari (Dingo) Safe” on K'gari (Fraser Island).

Please respect our wongari, give our wongaries space, K'gari's THEIR place.

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Campers are being urged to keep sites clean, lock up food, camp in fenced areas and avoid running because it can "trigger a negative dingo interaction."
- The wongaries have a naturally thin physique. They DO NOT need you to feed them.
- School holidays mean children if you're taking children to the island, keep them close. "It only takes a few minutes for a child to get out of sight."
- The best way to appreciate Wongari is from a distance – their life and your safety depend on wongari remaining wild and naturally wary of people.



Attracting the attention of a wongari is a criminal offence in Queensland and carries penalties. People who feed or attract the attention of wongari can be fined or prosecuted. Maximum fines of \$10,676 and minimum on-the-spot fines of \$2,135 are now in place for those who break the law.

Visitor safety and animal welfare is our top priority, if you are visiting K'gari remember, don't get caught out—be wongari safe. For more information, please check out the Department's [website](#).

Article submitted by Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation

Working collaboratively to ensure 'Dingo-safe' behaviour

QPWS, Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers, Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation staff and QLD police staff are committed to ensuring 'dingo-safe' behaviours from everyone on K'gari. This holiday period reported lower visitation numbers, but camper briefings and compliance are still required to ensure people are 'Dingo-safe' during the busy period.



Make sure you're following the rules to keep you and K'gari's wongaries safe (Photo: Linda Behrendorff)

Recent media attention highlighted dingo-human interactions and high-value fines for feeding and attracting dingoes on K'gari. With the wongari breeding season approaching, effective joint messaging by all stakeholders promotes the united front necessary to achieve wongari conservation and risk mitigation.

Members of the public are also assisting by reporting wongari sightings, interactions and inappropriate human behaviour to dingo.ranger@des.qld.gov.au

Article contributed by QPWS

ReefClean in Butchulla country

In early December last year, Butchulla Land and Sea rangers participated in a training day with *ReefClean* partners Conservation Volunteers Australia. A marine debris clean and audit was completed at Eli Creek, a popular local fishing spot and unfortunately a dumping ground for residential waste.

Over 200kgs was removed from the tidal creek with each item counted, categorised and inputted into the Australian Marine Debris Initiative Database (AMDID) as part of the 5-year *ReefClean* project lead by Tangaroa Blue.

Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers will now be able to use their training to report through data for all of their clean-ups that they regularly do as caring for the Burnett Mary region. The recently released AMDID app makes recording data and even taking photos of found items easy enough for everyone to do, even during your morning walk.



Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers uploading marine debris information onto AMDID app (Photo: ReefClean)

The *ReefClean* project launched in October 2018 – June 2023 and is funded by the Australian

Government's Reef Trust until June 2023. The *ReefClean* project is designed to deliver actions that:

- reduce the volume of marine debris generated in or entering the Great Barrier Reef that may impact listed threatened and migratory species, such as dugongs and turtles, and ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef, and
- increase awareness in Reef catchment communities about the issue of marine debris and actions they can undertake to prevent litter from entering Reef waterways.

ReefClean activities include community clean-up events, monitoring clean-up events, school engagement activities, community presentations and displays, source reduction workshops and projects and reporting and data analysis and are delivered across the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and its catchment covering all 6 NRM regions (Cape York, Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsundays, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary).

Article contributed by Linda Fahle, CVA/ReefClean in conjunction with the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers

'Cat-astrophe' on K'gari (Fraser Island)

Rangers in the field come across many different curiosities like this feral cat (*Felis catus*) skull. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P) Ranger, Wayne and Butchulla Community rangers, Dwight and Tingira, came across the skull on a western firebreak during recent cultural activities.



QPWS&P Ranger, Wayne Minniecon, with the cat skull (Photo: QPWS&P)

This skull had unusually small white teeth for its size and a small puncture in the top.

Although prohibited on K'gari (Fraser Island), cats are regularly 'captured' on monitoring trail cameras and via paw prints tracks across the island, though they are rarely sighted. Originally thought to have arrived with shipwreck victims and lighthouse keepers, each cat is capable of consuming large quantities of native wildlife in their lifetime. They also compete with wongari (dingoes) for food.

Wayne's sighting will be added to the QPWS&P local observation database for feral animal species and WILDNET to monitor and assess feral cat distribution across K'gari.

If you see a feral animal, tracks or remains, please advise QPWS&P with details and an image if available to assist in keeping country healthy.

Article contributed by the NRM team, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships, Great Sandy National Park

The Great Sandy Island History – K'gari (Fraser Island)

The documented early history of the people of the *Great Sandy Island* is incomplete and always open to debate and discussion.

In western society, 'Invisible Heritage' (a term used in archaeological theory) refers to sites and landscapes where past occupation, events or other cultural activities have failed to leave enduring tangible evidence in the environment.

Bringing together Indigenous perspectives with contemporary research is a difficult process as Indigenous and western knowledge systems more than often possess conflicting beliefs. One of the most challenging things for an Indigenous group attempting to exert its tradition and culture is to retain its credibility.

After European settlement, much of the evidence of the *Great Sandy Island* and its peoples' way of life was destroyed, either intentionally or through ignorance.

The Butchulla/Badtjala people were governed by lore established by the Council of Elders and generations of traditions. A Council of Elders comprised of a number of old men who were respected by their clans with only the eldest being afforded voting rights.

The Council of Elders oversaw visitors to the tribal lands, giving travellers permission to enter and telling them when to leave. The Council ensured both social and environmental lore were adhered to and was responsible for governing the totem system.

Using early accounts of recorded history, the Badtjala peoples were situated on the centre part of the island and the mainland, with the Ngulungbara peoples to the north and Dulingbara peoples to the south. Each group was divided into named clans.

It is believed the Badtjala people placed their dead on platforms to let their spirits greet their ancestors and then wrapped them in bark and lodged them in trees. The bones were then collected and stored elsewhere in either bark wrapping or dilly bags and stored in a sacred hideaway. This was because the sand would quickly erode the bodies or the dingoes would dig up the corpse and eat them.

Cultural revolutions of the late 60s and early 70s and the growth of environmentalism and feminism groups, along with the High Court Mabo decision and the resultant *Native Title Act* has affected Butchulla/Badtjala

cultural authenticity. Because of these influences into spiritual beliefs and ideological practices, it has been rendered into a 'New Age' style of folklore and legend.

The feminist movement of the 70s introduced the concept of a separate women/s business, spiritualism and places into what was a severely chauvinistic society. *Distorted History* has played a major role in today's Butchulla/Badtjala society.

The old traditional knowledge has an intrinsic value that can be revived by conscientious and honest research.

Article written by Ian Wheeler HH Dip PH Gundir-ru Traditional Badtjala Elder

Biosecurity Queensland and Sunshine Coast Regional Council target illegal weeds in backyard nurseries

- Biosecurity Queensland and Sunshine Coast Regional Council have seized more than 1,000 illegal cacti plants that were being propagated for sale by local backyard growers
- The plants are related to the prickly pear cactus and have the potential to spread in the same way, endangering the local environment, stock and native wildlife
- If you are planning to buy or sell plants, make sure they are not restricted or prohibited under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

Biosecurity Queensland and Sunshine Coast Regional Council officers have destroyed more than 1,000 invasive plants being propagated for sale by backyard growers that had the potential to become serious pests. Biosecurity Queensland Operations Manager Rob Cobon said most of the plants seized were cacti.

"Our staff, together with Sunshine Coast Regional Council officers have been on the lookout for people selling illegal plants either online or through local markets," he said.



*Luke Short, Vector and Pest Plant Officer from Sunshine Coast Regional Council, removing drooping tree pear (*Opuntia monacantha*) that were intended for sale.*

"The plants that we've seized are relatives to the prickly pear cactus, which decimated 60 million acres of land and sent many landholders broke.

"These plants have the potential to cause similar problems, are highly invasive, and their sharp spines can also cause injury to stock and native animals."

Sunshine Coast Regional Council is taking a proactive approach to preventing weed infestations from occurring by implementing a local Biosecurity Plan. Mr Cobon said the Biosecurity Act 2014 requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control.

"So, if you're planning to sell plants online or at your local market, please make sure that they're not restricted or prohibited," he said. "If these plants spread, they can cause serious damage to the local environment and stock and native wildlife."

If you have or think you know someone who is keeping or selling illegal plants, please contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Article submitted by Stacy Harris, Biosecurity Queensland

Editor's note: The introduction of all plant materials including plants, turf, soil, compost and mulch to K'gari poses a risk to the biosecurity of the island, with garden weed escapees one of the most significant problems faced by the World Heritage property. If you believe you have a problem plant in your garden, please contact Fraser Coast Regional Council or FINIA for assistance.

Zero Chemical K'gari FCRC CEP Happy Valley

Hello from our FCRC CEP team. We continue to make progress in the ecological restoration work of our CEP sites in Happy Valley on World Heritage K'gari. We are all very pleased with the staged transitioning we have achieved through practicing Zero Chemical methodology and the strategic use of healthy 'weeds' - our sites and their biodiversity speak for themselves.

To appreciate the density and scale of *Abrus precatorius subsp. africanus* on sites we have recently gained access to work, I have included two photographs of one of those sites taken on 30th March 2017, the day we began work and more recently the 3rd July 2019 for comparison.

30th March 2017



3rd July 2019



As well as *Abrus precatorius subsp. africanus* a range of other invasive species were also present.

This once beautiful site, as I had previously known it, had suffered cumulative degradation over the years through clearing, the spraying of pesticides and the activities of unhygienic operational equipment and vehicles creating disturbance conditions perfect for pioneering weed species to proliferate - Easter cassia (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), Brazilian nightshade (*Solanum seafortianum*), corky passion flower (*Passiflora suberosa*) and painted spurge (*Euphorbia cyathophora*), despite all this, there remained a strong presence of native vegetation, native seed bank and native recruitment for us to work with. Our CEP team's work in the restoration of this site is ongoing as with all of our sites.

Article submitted by Bree Jashin, Team Leader, Zero Chemical K'gari FCRC CEP

WEED WATCH ALERT – Peruvian Primrose

Native to South America, Peruvian primrose (*Ludwigia peruviana*) is a small shrub that has become a serious pest weed in wetlands around Sydney. Peruvian primrose has not yet been found in Queensland but was recently located in Northern NSW.

Peruvian primrose is a prohibited invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

- Perennial wetland shrub up to 3m tall.
- Flowers are up to 6cm wide with 4–6 petals, 1–3cm long, 1–3cm wide.
- Leaves are slightly toothed and alternate, 5–12cm long, 1–3cm wide.
- Fruit is reddish-brownish, 10–25mm long, 6–10mm wide.
- Seeds are numerous, light brown, 0.6mm–0.8mm long and spread by wind, water and birds.

The plant germinates in spring, grows rapidly in summer and flowers from late summer to autumn. Preferring wetland areas, the plant has the potential to become a pest if planted in aquariums or outdoor ponds and will form a pure stand that excludes native wetland plants and destroys the habitat of most native wildlife.

If you find a plant that you suspect may be Peruvian primrose phone 13 25 23. Do not interfere with the plant or remove its seeds or take flowers or cuttings until you receive advice from a DAF Inspector.



Article contributed by Juliet Musgrave, Fraser Coast Regional Council

Leave only footprints - update



*Tracks left by a possum on Mellong dune
Photo: David Anderson.*

In the November issue of the FINIA newsletter, we included a photo of some unidentified prints photographed on Mellong dune pictured by David Anderson when he accompanied FIDO's Chris Breitenbach to check the boundary of the unallocated State Land (USL) for weeds.

There was some debate about the owner of the prints – including one suggestion that it could be a red fox!

After having a closer look at the original photos. Neil Chay, Land Management Officer at DNRME in Maryborough, was able to identify a more likely suspect from the Tracks and Scats publication as being either a brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) or ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*).

Mystery solved and thanks for all your help, Neil!

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:



AUTOMATIC

Fraser Coast Regional Council – who provide a venue for our meetings.

Groups and organisations - that sponsor the catering for our FINIA meetings.

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.

Inaugural John Sinclair Memorial Lecture

As we approach a year after losing Fearless Leader and friend of Fraser Island (K'gari), Dr John Sinclair AO, his legacy continues through the work of FIDO and the members of FINIA.

The inaugural John Sinclair Memorial Lecture will be delivered by renowned conservationist Dr Aila Keto AO, Founder and President of the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society. FIDO hopes the John Sinclair Memorial Lecture will become established as an ongoing event providing a forum to inspire and increase awareness of significant environmental issues of the day.

To find out more or book your tickets, <https://fido.org.au/the-john-sinclair-memorial-lecture-2020/>





Fraser Island Defenders Organisation
FIDO, "The Watchdog of Fraser Island", aims to ensure the wisest use of Fraser Island's natural resources

John Sinclair's voice booms...

"Mission Critical"

Is saving our planet still possible?

The inaugural lecture honoring the outstanding contribution John Sinclair made to conservation will be delivered by renowned Conservationist, Dr Aila Keto AO, Founder and President of the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society.



Time:	2:00pm	
Date:	Saturday, 7th March	
Venue:	Masonic Grand Lodge 311 Ann Street, Brisbane	
Cost:	\$25 Includes canapés, champagne, wine, fruit juice, beer	
Bookings:	fido.org.au/the-john-sinclair-memorial-lecture-2020/	
Enquiries:	<i>Peter Shooter</i> President FIDO peter.shooter@gmail.com Ph: 0417 649 158	<i>Charmaine Foley</i> chsfoley@gmail.com Ph: 0400 880 375

Dates for the Diary

What: Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance Meetings

Where: Town Hall, Maryborough

When: Tuesday 11 February, 11 August and 10 November 2020

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:** **Inaugural John Sinclair Memorial Lecture**
Where: Masonic Grand Lodge, 311 Ann Street, Brisbane
When: 2 pm, Saturday 7 March 2020
For: Dr John Sinclair AO, founder of the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation (FIDO) died on 3 February 2019. FIDO is honouring the outstanding contribution John made to conservation generally, and Fraser Island (K'gari) in particular, by establishing the John Sinclair Memorial Lecture. This pioneering conservationist spent decades fighting first sand mining and then logging on K'gari before it was World Heritage Listed in 1992. The Inaugural Lecture will be delivered by renowned conservationist Dr Aila Keto AO, Founder and President of the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society. FIDO hopes the John Sinclair Memorial Lecture will become established as an annual event providing a forum to increase public awareness about the significant environmental issues of the day.
Cost: \$25 includes light refreshments
More info: <https://fido.org.au/the-john-sinclair-memorial-lecture-2020/>
- What:** **Bush Regeneration and Monitoring**
Where: Happy Valley, Fraser Island
When: 15 March to 21 March, 17 May to 23 May, 16 August to 22 August and 18 November to 21 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:** **Cooloola Bioblitz**
Where: Rainbow Beach
When: 20-22 March 2020
For: This 48-hour BioBlitz is open for teens to retirees. No natural history expertise is required because there will be very experienced mentors and leaders accompanying all the teams on their field excursions to help find, identify and document as many species as possible and provide information. Last year we discovered 41 NEW species unknown to science in just 48 hours! Organisers have identified specific habitats for close scrutiny by the various teams that range from the seashore to the high dunes, from the rainforest to the wallum heathlands and from the fens to the mangroves.
Cost: \$20 plus booking fee
More info: www.cooloolacoastcare.org.au/projects/bioblitz or contact Lindy Orwin, for Cooloola Coastcare and Fraser Island Defenders Organisation on 0478 039 322
Coordinator@CooloolaCoastcare.org.au
- What:** **FINIA Field Trip and Meeting**
Where: K'gari/Fraser Island (accommodation at Dilli Village)
When: Monday 11 - Tuesday 12 May 2020
For: Each year, the Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance holds an annual field trip to K'gari. These are an opportunity to identify progress on projects and for partners to collaborate and identify solutions to future issues.
Cost: Participation is open to all FINIA partners and is self-funded. Participants are encouraged to car-pool and share costs where possible.
More info: Please contact the Chair, Sue Sargent on 0429 462 041 or email contactfinia@gmail.com.

Funding Opportunities

What: Community Conservation Grant

For: The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife invites grant applications for conservation projects to assist in the protection of our native species, habitats, landscapes and cultural heritage. Grants are available for both field projects and education programs that have a direct outcome for nature conservation in Australia. This is a small grants round with a total pool of \$50,000 for allocation. Applications seeking up to \$10,000 that show value for money and include co-contributions will be given preference.

When: Funding applications are open now and close on 14 February 2020.

Email: fnpw@fnpw.org.au

Phone: 1800 898 626

Website: <https://www.fnpw.org.au/grants/conservation-project-grants>

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 five funding rounds a year with the next one being with Round 104.

When: Round 104 opens on mid-January and closes at 11.59 pm on 29 February 2020.

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: Queensland Citizen Science Grants

For: To support increasing public participation in Queensland scientific research, the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist is offering competitive Queensland Citizen Science Grants to conduct citizen science projects that tackle important issues in Queensland. You can apply for funding of up to \$30,000 (over three years) to boost community participation in research projects and to encourage researchers to work with Queenslanders.

When: Applications close 1 pm on Monday 9 March 2020.

Website: <https://www.chiefscientist.qld.gov.au/science-comms/citizen-science-grants/about>

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.

When: Opens 1 April 2020 (funding in May 2020)

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/>