



FINIA

FRASER ISLAND NATURAL INTEGRITY ALLIANCE

Newsletter

Sustaining the natural integrity of Fraser Island together *April 2012*

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Welcome to the second edition of the FINIA newsletter, keeping FINIA members up to date with the current FINIA projects. The next FINIA meeting will be held on **Thursday 3 May**, starting at 10:30am, at the Maryborough Town Hall 'Reception Room'. Please email any discussion items to Sue.Sargent@fauna-flora.org.

Garden Project



Roundabout garden at Eurong April 2012

FIDO has been leading the demonstration garden project at Eurong. On their recent trip over to Fraser Island in March they planted over 60 plants and put in almost 300 hours of work in the week. This was a tremendous effort from the ten volunteers. The weeding and planting done in and around Eurong is definitely noticeable and all those people that have been involved in the project should be congratulated for their hard work. Special thanks go to John Sinclair for organising the FIDO volunteers and to Michael Lowe who put in many hours of seed collection and nursery work while on the Island.

Volunteers are still wanted for FIDO's bush regeneration at Eurong 13-19 May. FIDO provides comfy accommodation and island tours. Volunteers contribute 20 hours work & \$200.

Eurong nursery

Last year the Fraser Coast Regional Council led a 'Fraser Island Home Garden' project as part of a larger FINIA project. There was a great response by the Fraser Island community in 2011, with about 1000 plants given away and planted on Fraser Island. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, as part of FINIA, has continued the project in 2012 by propagating plants at the Eurong QPWS nursery.



Seedlings in the shade house at Eurong April 2012

QPWS have had staff regularly working in the nursery and in the field collecting and planting seed. Michael Lowe from "Michael Lowe Environmental Services" has signed up as a QPWS volunteer to assist rangers in seed and cuttings collection. When he was over in March with FIDO for the Eurong Bush Regeneration Project, he teamed up with a QPWS ranger and shared his knowledge and expertise on the local flora. Unfortunately the bad weather kept other staff from utilising his knowledge further that week but future trips hope to use his expertise again.

Plants from the Eurong nursery are already being planted in gardens on Fraser Island. Some businesses have received and planted 60 native plants to replace their exotics. There are over 800 plants, representing over 20 different species now available from the Eurong nursery. Further advertisement of the native plants will be through the next edition of Sand Paper, which is distributed to all residents and rate payers of Fraser Island.



Seedlings in the shade house at Eurong April 2012

If any FINIA members are interested in volunteering by working on ground on National Park land or in the Eurong nursery, please contact the Eurong Ranger Base on: 4127 9128.

Jamella treatment



QPWS staff and volunteers stem injecting Pandanus south of Yidney Rocks February 2012

National Park but there was no evidence found of the wasp while undertaking the treatment on Fraser Island. There will be future control and monitoring of the Happy Valley precinct by FINIA and QPWS. Treatment of the other 50 infected sites located on Fraser Island will continue. Special thanks go to Bree Jashin for coordinating the workshop and for housing the FCRC staff and the QPWS NRM unit for purchasing two expensive sidewinder pieces of equipment.

Following the information workshop on Jamella last September a 2-day treatment and control working bee was set up by FIA/FINIA. Four FCRC Parks and Gardens staff, two QPWS volunteers, one FIA member/volunteer and two QPWS staff inspected and injected almost 40 plants on private land and road reserve and over 200 plants on Parks land. The team used chemical stem injections and leaf stripping to control infestations. The biological control, a wasp, has been confirmed in the Cooloola section of the Great Sandy



QPWS staff, stem injecting Pandanus at Happy Valley February 2012

Better Beaches



Better Beaches participants February 2012

All FINIA members that participated in the “Better Beaches” 4WD training agreed that they took something away from the day. For Sue Sargent – the concept of allowing the engine and not momentum to get you in and out of a situation was a take home message. “Dave reminded us that if you speed into a problem, you’ll end up getting bogged. If you drive in – you can always reverse out – simple, but brilliant!” Sue added.

Since 4WD’s are the preferred mode of transport on Fraser Island this type of training is not only beneficial to the drivers behind the wheel but also to the preservation of the beaches, fore dunes and sand tracks on Fraser Island. This was the second training session that had been offered free of charge by Dave Darmody and FINIA extend their appreciation to him for his time and expertise.

For more information on Dave’s training business, please contact Dave on 0417 761 610 or check out the website www.p7offroad.com.au

FINIA logo

The FINIA logo has officially been endorsed. The final artwork has been received from Jarray and FINIA can now start using this design on signs, posters and other interpretative works. Thanks go to all the FINIA members that expressed their opinions and ideas and a special thanks to our designer Jarray Ambrose who produced the logo totally free of charge.



Jarray Ambrose
Jarray Create – Graphic Design
Phone – (02) 4388 2854



FRASER ISLAND
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CVA Nature Wise, Fraser Island Dingoes

Last November CVA brought over 8 volunteers for a Nature Wise project. They assisted QPWS rangers to collect dingo scats as part of an ongoing dingo population study. The program was so successful that CVA is returning to Fraser Island from 15-19 May. Once again they will be collecting dingo scats to determine what dingoes eat on Fraser Island. QPWS hopes to have the results from the previous 174 scats already collected by CVA (52) and Fraser Island rangers (122) very shortly. For more information about the program please visit: www.conservationvolunteers.com.au .



Male Dingo enjoying the view in the rain on the Eastern Beach Fraser Island

Priorities Report

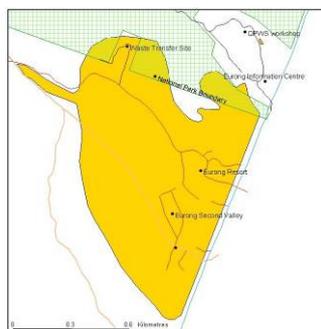
FINIA members were asked to list a maximum of five issues that they think are impacting on the natural integrity of Fraser Island. The table below shows the responses categorised under 11 main topics.

Issue	Total
Weeds, pests and diseases	8
Tourism and visitor issues	8
Impacts of 4WD's	6
Climate change	4
Dingo Management/education	4
Lack of cultural heritage used in Island management and tourism	3
Visitor information	3
Quality control/Biosecurity	2
Fire management	2
Management and understanding of unique biota/geomorphology and hydrology	1
Renewable energy technologies	1

From this feedback FINIA can now focus it's on ground efforts where the members think it is required the most. A more detailed report on feedback will be presented at the next FINIA Meeting.

Weed Profile

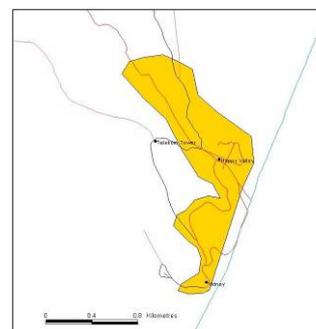
Easter cassia *Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*



Eurong distribution



Flowering Easter cassia



Happy Valley distribution

Easter cassia is native to South America. The shrubs are easy to spot this time of year as they are in flower. This weed is not classified under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, however it is classified as an environmental weed by the Fraser Coast Regional Council. It is a successful invader to disturbed sites. Its main distribution on Fraser Island is Eurong and Happy Valley, with small patches found at Indian Head, Orchid Beach, Sandy Cape and Moon Point. Easter cassia is controlled both chemically and physically. Methods include stump cutting, foliar spray, basal bark spraying and hand pulling small plants. There is no known biological control but Easter cassia is intolerant of fires. For further information go to: www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au.

Dates for the Diary

Training Opportunity: A Duty of Care: Collecting local seed, propagation and revegetation in “of concern” and “threatened” ecosystems.

Date: Saturday 28 April

Time: 9am – 3pm

Place: Gympie District Landcare

Bookings essential: Peter (MRCCC), 54824766 or mrccc@ozwide.net.au

For further upcoming BMRG supported workshops go to: www.bmrq.org.au .

UNAA World Environment Day Awards 2012

Each year, in support of United Nations World Environment Day (June 5), the United Nations Association of Australia recognises innovative and outstanding environmental initiatives and projects from across Australia through the World Environment Day Awards. In 2012, the Awards are held in support of the International Year of Sustainable Energy for all and United Nations World Environment Day 2012 'Green Economy: Does it include you?'. Entries close Friday 4 May 2012 and more information is available at awards@unaavictoria.org.au or by calling (03) 9670 7878.

FIDO Fraser Island Conference 2013

FIDO has already begun planning for its biennial Fraser Island conference tentatively scheduled for July 2013 to be held in Brisbane. The theme will be “Great Sandy - a Natural Laboratory”. FIDO is inviting scientists to nominate abstracts of papers they would like to present by the end of 2012. For more information, please contact John Sinclair john@fido.org.au .

Funding Opportunities

Go Green with Corporate Express Junior Landcare Grants Program

Fifteen projects deemed to be the best responses to the grants criteria will be chosen as the winning grant recipients and will each receive a Go Green Grant up to \$5000.

Who can enter?

- Primary and high schools across Australia including preschools and kindergartens.
- Youth groups including Scouts and Girl Guides and other community organisations that involve young people.
- Landcare, Coastcare and environmental groups that work in partnership with a local school.

All grants awarded will go to the school or partnering Landcare or environmental group.

Applications close on 1 May and more information is available from the website: www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/corporate-express-grant .

Community Heritage Funding

Up to \$15,000 is available for projects which preserve and make accessible Australian cultural heritage collections. The Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program provides grants of up to \$15,000 to community organisations such as libraries, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, multicultural and Indigenous groups. The grants are provided to assist with the preservation of locally owned, but nationally significant collections of materials that are publicly accessible including artifacts, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and audio visual material.

Applications close 4 May and further information is available at www.nla.gov.au/chg/index.html, by phoning 02 6262 1147 or by email at chg@nla.gov.au.

Jupiter's Casino Community Benefit Fund

One-off grants of up to \$150,000 are allocated to approved not-for-profit organisations to help them provide community services or activities that benefit the community. These grants are not intended to replace existing sources of support for these organisations.

The JCCBF has four annual funding rounds, the next closing on 31 May.

For more information, please check out the website: <http://www.olgr.qld.gov.au/grants/JCCBF/index.shtml> .

Gambling Community Benefit Fund

The Queensland Government established the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) in 1994 to provide funding to community groups in Queensland. One-off grants of up to \$35,000 are allocated to approved not-for-profit organisations to help them provide community services or activities that benefit the community. These grants are not intended to replace existing sources of support for these organisations.

Grants of more than \$35,000 are considered for more complex applications which have significant community benefit.

The GCBF has four annual funding rounds. The closing dates for applications are 28 February, 31 May, 31 August and 30 November. If your eligible application is not successful in the first funding round, it is automatically considered in the next funding round.

For more information, please check out the website: <http://www.olgr.qld.gov.au/grants/qcbf/index.shtml> .