



Newsletter

Sustaining the natural integrity of Fraser Island together. January 2012

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Welcome to the first edition of the FINIA newsletter. The newsletter is aimed to be electronically distributed two weeks prior to each FINIA meeting. It provides FINIA members with updates on the latest projects in informative articles and photos. It offers members the opportunity to contribute agenda items before each meeting. The next FINIA meeting will be held on **Thursday 2 February**, starting at 10:30am, at the Maryborough Town Hall 'Reception Room' (top right). Please email any discussion items to Sue.Sargent@fauna-flora.org.

FINIA Logo

It has now been six years since the Alliance was established. It has matured into an active and important part of natural resource management and the ecological protection of Fraser Island. There are twelve organisations that make up FINIA. It was decided that FINIA requires its own logo to advertise its achievements and assist in future interpretative works.

Thanks goes to all those members who put their creativity skills to work and made suggestions for the logo.

Jarray Ambrose from Jarray Create Graphic Design kindly offered his skills as a graphic designer free of charge. He has produced an eye-catching logo that represents all that FINIA stands for.

From email responses the logo has been enthusiastically endorsed and will now be used to promote all our projects

FRASER ISLAND
NATURAL INTEGRITY ALLIANCE

Display Garden Project



(Photo: Juliet Musgrave)



(Photo: Juliet Musgrave)

As the FINIA partners would be aware, we have been looking at the issue of introduced plants in the coastal settlements and garden “escapees” that can become weeds impacting on the island’s native plants. Following an idea raised through FINIA, a number of our members – Fraser Coast Regional Council, Fraser Island Defenders Organisation (FIDO), Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service and Cooloola Coastcare’s Michael Lowe have been working to establish a native plant display garden at Eurong.

Through the gardens we hope to change attitudes of some landholders with respect to using Fraser Island natives and the issue of dumped garden waste.

Taking plants established through FINIA’s nursery project (now managed by Fraser Coast Regional Council), along with the expertise of Michael Lowe and Juliet Musgrave, designs were developed for the gardens with the approval of the resort’s management using a selection of native plants including *Austromyrtus dulcis* (Midyim), *Dianella caerulea* (Blue Flax Lily), *Carpobrotus glaucescens* (Coastal Pigface), *Podolepis longipedata* (Podolepis), *Dodonaea viscosa* (Sticky Hop Bush), *Dillwynia retorta* (Healthy Parrot Pea), *Hovea acutifolia* (Forest Hovea), *Leptospermum polygalifolium* (Wild May), *Hibiscus diversifolius* (Swamp Hibiscus), *Allocasuarina littoralis* (Forest She Oak), *Dampiera stricta* (Wallum Dampiera), *Acacia ulicifolia* (Prickly moses), *Goodenia rotundifolia* (Round Leaf Goodenia) and *Zornia muriculata* (Zornia).

The FIDO team then worked from 14-18 November to remove the existing vegetation and plant three new gardens on the roundabout, the grassed area adjacent to the tennis courts and along Easton Street. Volunteers included John Sinclair, Michael Lowe, Tokiko Dawson, Jane Minor, Pat Turner, Russell Close, Helen Moriarty and Harold Charles with support from Fraser Coast Regional Council. Volunteers also weeded Corky passionfruit, Brazillian nightshade, Lantana, germinating coconuts, Green panic and Pangola grass.

In total the volunteers contributed 160 hours of work to the project with an additional 50 hours of in-kind support by the Council. The Eurong Resort has generously agreed to irrigate the plants until they can become fully established with a FINIA interpretive sign to be installed in 2012.

This has been a great initiative and another wonderful example of FINIA collaboration.

Better Beaches Training Opportunity

This project builds on a previous initiative conducted by the Burnett Mary Regional Group and CQ University in 2007-8 to develop a Code of Practice for 4WDs on foreshores (primarily to protect turtles and shorebirds). The Code was a highly successful engagement tool developed by regional 4WD clubs and non-club 4wders. The activity also empowered the participants with a new function, that of stewardship for the natural resources that they enjoy in this popular pastime.



(Photo Alana Kippers)

In addition to the series of documents and fact sheets, The “Better Beaches Training Program” has been developed by P7Offroad – Accredited Offroad Driver Training, the practical program includes both on beach and off beach delivery focusing on strategies and techniques which can be employed by recreational and commercial 4WD beach users. The project is supported by the Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

FINIA members have been invited to a special FREE Better Beaches training days on Friday 20 January and Monday 20 February in Rainbow Beach (meet in the Park opposite the Shell Service Station at 10am). To register for this training opportunity please contact Sue Sargent sue.sargent@bmrq.org.au or Alana Kippers alana.kippers@derm.qld.gov.au to book your spot!

Jamella

The Jamella workshop was held last September and the control response has continued from there. The outbreak around Happy Valley will be treated in early February, with FCRC and QPWS conducting collaborative management days. Each infected Pandanus will be assessed for the type of treatment required, whether it be injected using a sidewinder unit or leaf stripped or a combination of both techniques. The location of each infected Pandanus is recorded by GPS, the tree is photographed and comments recorded for future monitoring.



Infected Pandanus at Happy Valley (photo: Bree Jashin)

Myrtle Rust

Myrtle rust is a fungal disease that affects plants in the *Myrtaceae* family (including eucalypts, bloodwoods, bottlebrushes, paperbarks, tea trees, lilly pillies and water gums). The disease is spread by wind, human activity and animals.

Biosecurity Queensland has confirmed that myrtle rust has arrived in Hervey Bay. With its proximity to Fraser Island, an outbreak of the fungal disease is likely for Fraser Island in the near future. There has been community information sessions run in Hervey Bay and internal sessions to QPWS employees. As part of Rangers general duties, they are keeping a keen eye out for the arrival of the disease on Fraser Island.



Myrtle rust on *Rhodamnia* spp. foliage.
(Photo: Courtesy of Biosecurity Queensland)

Myrtle rust is recognised by spots or lesions that are brown to grey, they often have red to purple haloes that go all the way through the leaf. After 10-12 days after the plant has been affected, the masses of yellow-orange spores appear on the lesion surface.

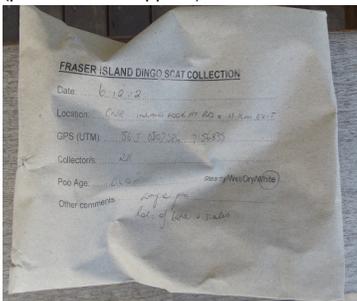
Myrtle rust has the potential to have a significant impact on Queensland's biodiversity. When visiting Fraser Island ensure that clothes, equipment and vehicles are clean.

The most important thing to remember is not to move any infected plant material when a suspected outbreak has been sighted. Avoid contact with any part of the plant. Take note of the plants location and if possible take photos. Report all suspected infected plants immediately to Biosecurity Queensland 13 25 23 or Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881. For more information on myrtle rust, visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Dingo Scat Collection



Dingo scat containing bone
(photo: Alana Kippers)



Collection bag (photo: Alana Kippers)

Stage III of the dingo population study started in September with QPWS staff collecting dingo scats. The first formal collection was conducted from 21 – 24 November 2011 with the Conservation Volunteers Australia *Nature Wise* Program. The program consisted of eight paying volunteers working alongside FIA and FINIA member Bree Jashin, a program leader, Jono Bateman and Queensland Manager of CVA and FINIA member, Mark Dwyer. The group were lead by QPWS Dingo Rangers, assisting in locating, collecting and educating the group on dingoes, dingo research and Fraser Island. The collection was conducted in various locations over the Island, ranging from inland firebreaks to beach zones and dunes. The group collected an amazing 52 scats over the three mornings of collection. The study is continuing with rangers collecting scats on their daily travels, with over 100 scats already collected Island wide. The first Nature Wise program on Fraser Island was such a success that another program has been advertised for 2012. Analysis of the dingo scats already collected is scheduled to start in the near future.

2011 Community Christmas BBQ



The food was cooked to perfection by the chefs on the day; Conway Burns (Butchulla and QPWS Ranger), Bree Jashin (FIA) and Craig Lindner (QPWS Ranger) (Photo: Bec Whyte).

Despite the bad weather, there were over sixty attendees at the 2011 Fraser Island Community Christmas BBQ. It was a joint effort this year with FIA and QPWS hosting the event. It was held on December 7 at the Happy Valley Resort, which was not officially open for business but was kindly offered as a venue for the event. The shelter it provided from the heavy rain was much appreciated by all that attended.

Residents provided a range of sweet and savoury nibbles that were pleasing to all. The Fraser Island Association put in a huge effort supplying most of the food for the event.

There was an enthusiastic response to the distribution of the last of the plants from the first round of the 'FINIA garden project'. Local residents vowed to plant the natives on their Fraser Island properties and all were very keen for the next round of plants to be propagated.

The Christmas BBQ was a great end of year celebration for the Fraser Island community.



Residents came from Eurong, Kingfisher Bay, Poyungan Rocks, Poyungan Valley, Yidney Rocks, Happy Valley, K'gari, Orchid Beach, Waddy (photo: Bec Whyte).

New Member

And one more makes thirteen. FINIA welcomes a new member to the Alliance, Fauna & Flora International (FFI). FFI's work spans across the globe, with over 100 projects in nearly 40 countries. They support biodiversity and a sustainable future for the planet. Their mission is to conserve threatened species and ecosystems all around the world. Their solutions are based on sound science and take into account human needs.

For more information on FFI visit their website : www.fauna-flora.org

We look forward to having an international organisation such a FFI support the work FINIA is doing on World Heritage listed Fraser Island.

Future Funding

Biodiversity Fund: <http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/biodiversity-fund-now-open/>

- The funding will help farmers and other land managers expand existing native habitat on their property.
- The funding will support farmers and other land managers to protect, manage and enhance high conservation value vegetation on their land.
- The funding will support farmers and other land managers to control the threat of invasive pests and weeds.

Applications for funding will close at 5pm AEDT Tuesday 31 January 2012.

Caring for our Country: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/>

Applications for funding are due by Monday 6 February 2012