

Inside this edition:

	Page
➤ Postans' Logging Camp Revisited	1
➤ Fraser Island's National Park Renamed K'gari	3
➤ FINIA Meeting Held on Fraser (K'gari)	3
➤ Research to Focus on Cruise Tourism	6
➤ We're Going to be Archived	6
➤ A Little Landscaping Improves Integrity	7
➤ Fraser Island Repository	7
➤ Final Straw—Subject for Deflation	8
➤ Where Have K'gari's Birds Gone?	9
➤ Where Has K'gari's Rainfall Gone?	9
➤ Persistence Paying Off	10
➤ Time Tide & Tourism Conference	11
➤ Dates for Your Diary	12
➤ Funding Opportunities	13

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the FINIA newsletter for 2017, keeping FINIA members up to date with Fraser Island news and current FINIA projects.

News also of a highly successful meeting and field trip to Fraser Island (K'gari) in March. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 May upstairs in the Town Hall Reception Room from 10am to 2pm. Please email any agenda items to contactFINIA@gmail.com

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

Postans' Logging Camp Revisited

A visit to Postans' Logging Camp by the Fraser Island World Heritage Advisory Committees in early March offered a glimpse for many into the logging heritage of Fraser Island (K'gari). John Sinclair relates his memories of Postans in the 1950s.

My first real opportunity to explore Fraser Island came to me in January 1958. This was my first time to visit Postans Camp. I was helping to trans-ship a load of recycled timber for Maryborough builder Len McConnell (aka Rockem) to the Poyungan Valley on the 'Back Beach'. Rockem had chartered Andrew Postans to take the timber from Urangan to and across the island to his house under construction. Rockem needed labour and I needed a break from service station work prior to returning to Gatton College.

The timber was ferried in dinghies out to Andrew Postans' launch at the Urangan Gravel jetty, which is now the Urangan Boat Harbour. It was a memorable and arduous task, taking hours. The most unforgettable part of the passage across was seeing the elegant large flocks of black swans taking off as we neared Poyungan Creek, just prior to being swallowed up in a wall of mangroves. As the tide dropped, we carried plank after plank up the bank to be loaded onto Andrew's truck.

Before we could set off, we detoured into Postans' Camp at the



*History of yesteryear at Postans' Logging Camp
March 2017 (Image Sue Sargent)*

top of the hill above the log landing. It was located up high to escape the biting midges that thrive on the western side of the island closer to the mangroves. By removing the trees around the camp and keeping the grass short, the site was afforded a breeze and provided little habitat for the midgies.

Andrew Postans had been in the same year as me at the Maryborough Boys State Intermediate and High School. We both left school before we were 16, to work in our respective family businesses. I worked in Dad's service station as a grease monkey, before seizing an opportunity to study agricultural science at Gatton College. Andrew on the other hand came from a family with a long history of working in the timber industry on Fraser Island (K'gari). His father (Andy) and his uncle (Laurie) had built up the largest base camp for their timber operations on the island.

I had just a brief chance to take in Postans' Camp, while Andrew sought out something needed for our journey across the island. There was then only one other timber contractor on the island, Joe Cunningham, whose base camp wasn't far away, at Bogimbah. When Joe left the island leaving the Postans with a monopoly on harvesting and hauling all the timber from the island, it wasn't hard for Joe's machinery and vehicles to migrate up to Postans' Camp, but that merger didn't happen until the 1970s.

When I first saw Postans Camp, it had more sophisticated accommodation than most timber contractors enjoyed. Many lived in bush timber, galvanized iron and bark dwellings in very rough conditions, whereas the Postans provided proper housing both for themselves and their workers. One exception was an old Brisbane bus that Andrew had acquired that he parked when working in more remote locations on the island to minimise the need to return to the base camp as often. Like the other machinery, this old bus remains rusting away at Postans Camp.



Postans' Bus on the shores of Lake Boomanjin in 1975 (it was towed there) & the same bus in Postans' Camp in March 2017 (images John Sinclair).

Andrew never tired of the adventure and excitement of working with big equipment in a challenging environment and experiencing this amazing island. He taught himself to fly and eventually replaced the launch with an aircraft to travel to and from Maryborough.

I got to know Laurie Postans much better than Andrew's father. On 31 December 1962, New Year's Eve, my wife and I as newly weds were enjoying a five-day break at Poyungan Valley. Laurie and friends were in the adjacent, more substantial, house when the eye of a small and unpredicted cyclone passed right over us, leaving us cut off from our transport home. Sadly, Laurie Postans was killed on K'gari only a few weeks later when a tree fell on him.

Back in 1958, I appreciated just how much Andrew loved the island as he drove us through Bogimbah Scrub. He stopped the truck, climbed to the top of the load, cut a water vine with his machete, and drank the fluid from it. That first crossing was an indelible introduction to the island.

Sadly, my relationship with Andy Postans changed from friend to foe in 1971, when FIDO began advocating that the whole island should become a National Park. He knew that would mean the end of Fraser Island logging. It would be another 20 years before logging ended. I was never invited, nor given the opportunity to return, to Postans' Camp from 1971 until 2017.

Fraser Island's National Park Renamed K'gari, Meaning Paradise

The national park that spans almost all of Queensland's Fraser Island has been renamed K'gari, a partial victory for traditional owners who are campaigning to rename the whole island. K'gari, pronounced 'gurri' and meaning paradise, is what the Butchulla people have always called the island, derived from its Dreamtime creation story.

Three signs with the new name will be installed at the heritage-listed island's three barge landings, where they can be seen by some 800,000 visitors annually.

'It's important because everyone, especially the Butchulla people, when they go over there and they step onto K'gari, Fraser Island, and see our signs, they will know that this is our country', said elder and Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation director Ms Bird.



One of the new signs, designed by ranger, Conway Burns

Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation secretary Christine Royan said the name change to K'gari is a good start, but does not go far enough. 'It's a wonderful feeling'.

The name has been changed from the Great Sandy National Park, which is being kept for the southern section of the wilderness area, located on the mainland. Ms Bird has been campaigning for nearly three decades to change the island's name. In 2011, the Government bestowed K'gari as the 'alternative' name. However, the corporation wants equal prominence, akin to the dual name Uluru/Ayers Rock, granted in 2002.

QPWS Ranger, Conway Burns, who is also a corporation director, designed the new *Welcome to K'gari* signs, which include the three laws of the Butchulla people: What is good for the country comes first; if you have plenty, you must share; and if it's not yours, you shall not take.

'The Butchulla people are very, very passionate about their country', he said.

Article sourced from ABC News and written by Jess Lodge

FINIA Meet on Fraser Island (K'gari)

1 & 2 March 2017

The March 2017 FINIA meeting, which was on held on Fraser Island, provided an excellent opportunity for the members of FINIA to see first-hand the work being undertaken on the island by teams of FIDO volunteers (supported by BMRG through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme), the Fraser Island Association [FIA], and the Fraser Coast Regional Council with the support of Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service.

Thursday the 2nd March saw the group arrive at Happy Valley in the mid-afternoon where the efforts that FIDO is undertaking to contain and control the weed *Abrus precatorius subspecies africanus* (Abrus) were viewed. The aim of the Happy Valley FIDO project is to kill as many existing Abrus plants as possible and to prevent further seeding, germination and regeneration, with the ultimate aim of eradicating Abrus entirely from this location on Fraser Island. This will help in the restoration of the natural integrity of Happy Valley and its immediate environs.

The teams of volunteers, led by Peter Shooter, have worked hard to survey and control the infestations of the Abrus. Peter was unable to attend the FINIA meeting, so our group was guided at Happy Valley by

regular FIDO volunteer team member, Chris Breitenbach. Chris has also been mapping all infestations found in Happy Valley and has been able to demonstrate through this mapping that the density of some of the infestations has been reducing due to the consistent control and follow-up undertaken by the FIDO weeding teams.



Abrus at Happy Valley – showing the invasive nature of the plant

Unfortunately, however, the teams continue to find new infestations of Abrus, which radiate from the epicentre of Happy Valley Village. Patterns emerging from the surveys indicate it is spread along the road corridors and it is also thought that maybe the seeds are spread by dingos, through the seeds being stuck/caught in their coats. FINIA saw first-hand the invasive nature of this plant (Photos 1 & 2) and viewed several of the sites where control has been undertaken. The FINIA party looked at one site (the Education block) where a February 2017 working bee, only one month earlier, had taken place to control the weeds, and found that Abrus seedlings had germinated and grown to at least 0.5m in length/height in that time.



Close up of abrus, showing the attractive red seeds

The next day (Friday 3 March), the group travelled to the National Parks depot to look at the nursery. This nursery was originally run by National Parks but the management of the nursery has now been handed over to FIDO. To ensure the natural integrity of Fraser Island, no propagation material is to leave the island or to be brought to the island, so all revegetation plants are raised on the island, from propagation material sourced there.

The nursery, managed by FIDO volunteer Suzanne Wilson, grows a range of plants from Fraser Island in a 50:50 sand vermiculite potting mix. Plants spotted growing in the nursery included foxtails, *Banksia integrifolia* (coastal banksia), *Ipomoea pes-caprae* (goats foot), *Casuarina equisetifolia* (coastal she-oak), *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (blueberry ash), and many others.

After travelling back down the beach to Eurong Village, the group viewed some of the work that has been completed through a project that FIDO has been working on for a number of years. The aim of the project is to restore the natural integrity of Fraser Island to Eurong Village. This has included transforming the landscaping plants in the village by removing the weeds and replacing them with native species from the area. This reduces the threat of environmental weeds escaping to the surrounding World Heritage Area and helps to protect its Outstanding Universal Values.

In collaboration with the Eurong Resort there has been a significant transformation of the area at the western entrance to the village. The project continues to collaborate with the management as well as with residents and QPWS to achieve this aim. The FINIA group viewed the demonstration gardens that FIDO has built at Eurong Village. Since the FINIA trip another garden has been commenced by FIDO at the resort.



Su Dawson (FIDO) in the 'green zone' at Eurong, which is now (virtually) weed free. Note shepherds crook orchids growing near ground level.

The impressive results of the work undertaken by FIDO in the area along the dingo fence at Eurong Village were also inspected. Eurong Beach Resort discharges their grey water along the dingo fence surrounding the resort. The lush conditions created have been ideal for a variety of weeds to flourish. These have included *Barleria repens* (coral creeper), a garden escapee, *Macroptilium atropurpureum* (siratiro), *Passiflora suberosa* (corky passionfruit), *Solanum seafortianum* (brazilian nightshade), *Solanum americanum* (glossy night shade) and *Panicum maximum* var. *trichoglume* (green panic). FIDO teams visit Eurong three times a year to undertake working bees, and John Sinclair and Su Dawson make trips in between the team working bees, to maintain the work completed by the teams. Consistent work inside the fence, including in the 'green zone', an area in which no chemical control has been undertaken, has seen a great result, including the natural regeneration of *Geodorum densiflorum* (shepherds crook orchid).



Shepherds Crook orchid growing at Eurong

After leaving the resort, the last stop before the 'formal' FINIA meeting (generously hosted by David and Marion Anderson of FIA) was the area in Residential Valley, or Second Valley, behind Eurong Resort, where the residents live. The group went for a walk with David Anderson, who showed us the areas where weed control of escaped garden plants had been undertaken over a number of years, and with great results. This work has been done in collaboration with FIDO, Fraser Coast Regional Council and National Parks. Here, coral creeper has been a problem, with many hours invested to control it, along with many other garden escapees. David was recently able to map the location of the infestations of weeds with GPS (loaned from BMRG), which will prove valuable for follow-up weed control work and maintaining a record of the locations of the infestations.

The large number of volunteer hours spent weeding and regenerating these areas of Fraser Island have made a significant difference, with a noticeable decrease of new weed incursions and a reduction of the density of existing infestations. Thanks, and full credit, is extended to all those who have freely given their time to this work.

Article submitted by Lynda Wills, Burnett Mary Regional Group

Research to Focus on Cruise Tourism

Cruise tourism has witnessed unprecedented growth rates amid greater interest in new destinations and ships' impressive array of features. There is some agreement within industry that the sector is likely to continue its growth trajectory given that many cruise tourists are sold on the idea of the all-inclusive and value-based pricing strategies employed by many operators.

From an academic perspective, cruise tourism promises economic and social sustainability, particularly from the perspective of emerging destinations. However, others contend that cruise tourism places significant pressures on island states, especially where pollution and waste disposal are concerned.

Dr Aaron Tham, a lecturer in tourism, leisure and events management with the University of the Sunshine Coast, is conducting research focused on the development of cruise tourism to Fraser Island (K'gari).

Despite its World Heritage listing, Fraser Island is extremely vulnerable to external stressors caused by tourism developments. Some studies suggest tourism activities may have negative environmental impacts, such as by altering dingo behaviour. The island is also grid-free, does not generate its own food source and can only be accessed by 4WD vehicles. This insularity of the destination reinforces its highly precarious relationship with tourism. This project investigates the impacts of cruise tourism on Fraser Island.



*P&O Pacific Aria cruise berthed off Kingfisher Bay Resort
(Source: Herald Sun, May 27, 2016)*

Participants are sought to be involved in an online survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XRYC5T3>.

and/or a phone/video interview. Your involvement will be instrumental to guide the management and monitoring of cruise tourism impacts as the frequency of cruise ships increases in 2017 and beyond.

For more information about the project, please contact Dr Aaron Tham on (07) 5456 5071 or email mtham@usc.edu.au.

We're Going to be Archived!

In March 2017, FINIA was contacted by the State Library of Queensland for permission to archive our website: FINIA Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance <https://finia.org.au/>

The State Library of Queensland aims to build a comprehensive collection of Queensland publications to ensure the availability of our documentary heritage both now and in the future. The State Library's commitment to preserving the documentary heritage of our state extends to contemporary electronic resources, including online publications and websites of lasting significance. This is achieved through participation in PANDORA, Australia's web archive.

PANDORA was established by the National Library of Australia in 1996 to enable the capture of and long-term access to Australian online publications. The State Library cooperates with the National Library in order to build and preserve a comprehensive collection of Australian online publications with a brief to enhance the Queensland presence in this national archive.

The FINIA website was selected for inclusion in the PANDORA Archive, and we have now granted the State Library a licence under the Copyright Act 1968 to copy the website into the Archive and to provide public

online access to it via the Internet. This means that FINIA has granted the Library permission to retain our publication in the Archive and to provide public access to it in perpetuity.

This means that all the stories and articles that you have generated will now become part of the history and fabric for Fraser Island (K'gari). The State Library also plan to take subsequent captures, to provide snapshots of the site over time.

For more information, check out Maxine Fisher's library blog: *Web Archiving: what's it all about?* It answers some frequently asked questions. This can be accessed at <http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/jol/2015/06/26/web-archiving-whats-it-all-about/>

Content contributed by Maxine Fisher, Digital Content Coordinator of Queensland Memory, for the State Library of Queensland

A Little Landscaping Improves Natural Integrity

Back in 2011, FINIA had a dilemma about how to use the nursery-raised plants using island genetic stock that needed planting out.

It was resolved to plant them at the western entrance to Eurong as a demonstration garden. Since then, as a result of increasingly closer collaboration between FIDO and the Eurong resort, the demonstration garden area has expanded significantly, changing and enhancing this side of Eurong.

It has been so impressive that FIDO was recently invited to do some landscaping inside the core area of the resort. Using 200 native plants from stock raised by FIDO in the QPWS Eurong Nursery, nine FIDO volunteers have created a new garden in front of the Tradewinds Units. Slowly but surely through landscaping, the Eurong Resort is fitting more comfortably into the natural environment.



The FIDO team proudly standing beside the new garden that is helping transform the landscape at Eurong Resort, the busiest hub on the island. A new 30-metre-long garden in the core area of the resort has been established with plants grown in the Eurong Nursery with the support of QPWS.

Submitted by John Sinclair AO, FIDO

Fraser Island Repository

The Fraser Island Repository is a project of the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC). The collection will, for the first time, gather in one place dispersed material relating to Fraser Island, particularly that held in government departments.

Through USC's interests in Fraser-K'gari, which include the Research and Learning Centre at Dilli Village and Fraser Coast campus, it became clear that there are significant historical documents, data, research reports, oral histories and photographs that, up until now, have not had a 'home'.

The librarians working on the 'Collection' are in the process of identifying material that is already collected somewhere, even if it is in an office filing cabinet. There are other important materials that should be collected and a start has been made with the donated collections of figures key to Fraser Island, such as John Sinclair AO, who began the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation in the 1970s. As a great deal of the political and activist activity around Fraser Island occurred during the 1970s, there may be other individuals who are 'maturing in years' who may hold private collections.

It is anticipated that the project and the accompanying materials collection will serve multiple goals. It will attract researchers from other institutions to collaborate with USC researchers on important research projects. USC is also hoping that the Collection will provide a central point for deposit of, and access to, Fraser Island resources for the broader region and the local community.

For more information or to liaise with the Repository Team about material you may want to archive, please contact Kim Walker kwalker4@usc.edu.au.

Submitted by Kim Walker, University of the Sunshine Coast

The Final Straw—A Subject for Deflation

Stranded wildlife is continually washed up on coastal and island regions throughout the state and a routine part of coastal ranger business. A variety of species, from marine mammals, turtles and birds, are routinely recorded by QPWS staff and volunteers. In most instances this allows for reporting of cause and trends to advise management of best possible practice and influence legislation, such as concerning go slow zones and fisheries.

In significant cases specimens are provided for necropsy for cause of death or current research into issues such as plastic ingestion or disease that may be affecting a broader population. On occasion, interesting finds are made that have the potential to influence the broader community into conserving species that they may have never seen or even heard of.

One such case has resulted in the conscious decision by a Gold Coast shopping centre to ban helium balloons after their branded balloon was found in a beach-washed carcasses of an endangered Grey-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrysostoma* collected by rangers from Fraser Island (K'gari). As a threatened species, it was sent to EHP and University of Tasmania PhD researcher Lauren Roman, who has been studying the effects of ingested plastics in seabirds.

The albatross had also ingested a plastic straw, the first such record of ingestion by an albatross recorded for the Southern Hemisphere. The general condition of seabirds that wash in are poor, with no body fat and wasted muscles—not an appetising meal for beach scavengers.

Although not so good for the albatross, this is a good outcome for conservation and highlighting the impact humans inadvertently have on a species that very little is known about. The message in this is that the notes, records and authorised collections taken from the field can have valuable outcomes for conservation.



Grey-headed Albatross stomach contents and balloon unwrapped (Photos courtesy of Fregetta Photography)

*Article contributed by Linda Behrendorff (RIC NRM)
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Great Sandy National Park*

Where Have K’gari’s Birds Gone?

During the first field trip by the Maryborough and Bundaberg Wildlife Branches to Fraser Island (K’gari) in November 1968, in 24 hours the group positively identified 65 species of birds. Admittedly, the trip was led by outstanding naturalist and keen birder, Eric Zillman.

Over five days of Easter, 49 years later, I became increasingly aware of the dearth of birds, despite doing considerable movement through the bush and along the beach. I estimate that I would have seen or heard only about 20 species. Many birds that were very common back in 1968, such as White-cheeked and Brown Honeyeaters, weren’t seen over Easter. I can recall times when I could identify the calls of about a dozen species in the dawn chorus before rising from my bed. However, as our base camp was in scrub near Lake Allom and not the beach, this subjective observation has set me on a quest to establish how accurate my assessment was.

I have been working along this walking track since 2010 and on other projects over the decades and have noted the dawn choruses becoming progressively more muted and the number of bird sightings becoming less frequent. This Easter, it really struck me just how few birds we were seeing and hearing. The matter was of such concern that I had a friend dig through the archival records of that field trip in the ‘Wambaliman’ newsletter where the records were published. In future visits to the island, I will be far more diligent about keeping bird lists, but I doubt that anyone will see 65 species in 24 hours on K’gari again, no matter how observant they are. My pessimism is based on recollections over half a century of extensive observations on this amazing World Heritage island.

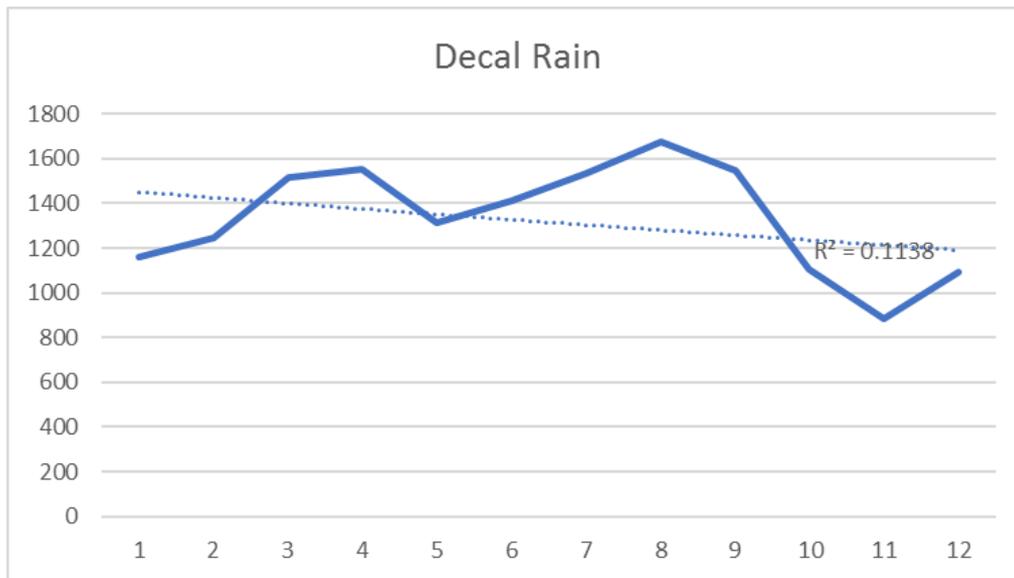
I believe that maintaining a database of K’gari bird sightings should also be a Citizen Science Project for FINIA for the next few years. FIDO plans to start a spreadsheet, using the 65 species listed in 1968, to compare this with subsequent bird lists garnered over visits to the island to see how more deliberate observations compare. Anyone keeping bird lists (or with any old bird lists for Fraser Island) should send them to me: john@sinclair.org.au.

Submitted by John Sinclair AO, FIDO

Where Has K’gari’s Rainfall Gone?

Citizen science has an enormous amount to contribute, as recently demonstrated when a Darwin mechanic discovered a new planet. Similarly, citizen science has a lot to contribute to our understanding of K’gari. For example, the driest year on record caused my son Keith and I to go poring over rainfall records. We thought that we would start with doing a detailed examination of Double Island Point, which is the closest place to the island with records going back for more than 100 years. What we found astonished us; it was a revelation.

When we started analysing the data from the Bureau of Meteorology site, we discovered that the rainfall at Double Island Point has been in a slow progressive decline since recording began. There have been annual fluctuations, which make observations difficult. By evening out these fluctuations to 20-year averages, we were able to get a more coherent assessment of the rainfall. Our surprise came when Keith applied a trend line to the rainfall. The graph below indicates that the trend of Double Island Point annual rainfall has fallen from more than 1400mm in the 20-year period beginning in 1891 to about 1200mm for the last period. This is a very disturbing trend and required further examination. By applying the same analysis to two other long-term weather stations close to K’gari, Sandy Cape and Maryborough, close to parallel trends were noted.



The implications for K’gari from this simple exercise are that we need to be preparing for a decline in annual rainfall. The unknown is by how much rainfall will fall. To help us in this, FIDO has embarked on a program to install online weather stations at more points around K’gari to give us a better understanding of rainfall distribution.

Submitted by John Sinclair AO, FIDO

Persistence Paying Off

FIDO’s Bush Regeneration program has been operating volunteer week-long weeding operations since 2005. However, the number of weeding operations has increased progressively from one in 2005 to 10 in 2016–17. This is to keep pace with the increasing threat, and number, of weed invaders.

Su Dawson has so far volunteered for more than 20 week-long trips from the very first in 2005. Over those years, she has refined plans to map and deal with the weeds of Eurong that are showing impressive results. She has mapped six priority weeds to be eliminated from the Green Zone. Another six priority weeds are being targeted in the Orange Zone, while a further nine priority weeds that are substantially under control (e.g. Lantana and Easter Cassia) need regular monitoring. There are now 42 weed species on the watch list.

Sadly, this list continues to grow as new weeds are imported innocently into this very busy island hub. Still, with persistence, Su aims to whittle away the 63 species and convert the Orange zones of Eurong to Green Zones that require only regular monitoring and maintenance work.



Happy Valley Abrus (photo Sue Sargent)

Another example of where perseverance is paying off is in Happy Valley, where, since the start of 2014 and over 10 working bees, Peter Shooter’s teams have progressively whittled away the Abrus over about 40 hectares and are slowly gaining the upper-hand.

While continuing to monitor and treat Abrus on sight, attention can now be turned to other priority weeds, along with a focus on Easter Cassia and lantana.

Submitted by John Sinclair AO, FIDO

Time, Tide and Tourism

7th Biennial Fraser Island (K'gari) Conference

FIDO's 7th Biennial Conference, to be held at the University of the Sunshine Coast on Wednesday 16 August, is intended to be complementary to a Fraser Island Symposium being organised by the University of the Sunshine Coast on 1 November. FIDO's conference is targeted more at laypersons with a special interest in Fraser Island, while the USC Symposium will appeal to a more academic audience.

The \$100 cost (\$60 for students and concessions) includes light lunch and morning and afternoon tea. Online registrations can now be made at: <http://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/fido>. Because the cost of catering for the conference exceeds \$40 per person, FIDO has to know exact numbers to be catered for in advance. Registration by 1 August is essential.

The theme is *Time, Tide and Tourism*. Time, because 2017 marks two significant landmark anniversaries for K'gari: sand mining ceased just over 40 years ago, and it is now 25 years since K'gari's World Heritage listing. Tide refers not only to the marine environment surrounding K'gari, but to the tide of events that are relevant to this unique island. Tourism has a big economic and political, as well as environmental, impact on K'gari and thus this focus.

The conference will be opened by Dr John Hookey, the man who led the Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry more than 40 years ago that stopped sand mining. The keynote speaker is Dr Martin Buzacott, whose paper 'Drawing Artistic Inspiration from the Landscape' is most relevant to one of K'gari's World Heritage values.

There will be two very impressive panels during the afternoon. The first will cover citizen science initiatives from the state of the weather to the birds and the bees, all relevant to K'gari; BioBlitz from the perspectives of various participants, librarians, specialists, citizen scientists, and the artists; and the role citizens can play in collecting weather and other data. Another panel will cover a range of volunteer programs from Sandy Cape to Great Sandy Strait to protect K'gari's natural integrity, most of which address pests, particularly weeds. Each panel should allow time for questions and discussion.

These biennial Fraser Island conferences are unique opportunities to network with others involved with K'gari and to learn from them. They are also gaining in popularity—the 2015 Sand, Sea, Sun Conference attracted almost a full house of 100. So, don't leave it too late to register!

This conference is sponsored by the Queensland Government and supported by FIDO, FINIA and the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Submitted by John Sinclair AO, FIDO

Autumn Weed—Easter Cassia

Inspections in Fraser Island townships continue every May and November, with great work occurring with the volunteer groups and residents.

There are still plants being brought over from the mainland, seen without any known quarantine. Please think before bringing plants to the island to reduce the potential for spreading disease and pests. We are hoping that we have tackled most of the large broad-leaved peppers in Happy Valley, but if anyone knows of any more please let us know. This also applies with the spotting of Easter Cassia and umbrella trees in Eurong.

Easter Cassia, *Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*, is native to South



Easter Cassia – flowering at this time of year

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.

Easter Cassia is a successful invader to disturbed sites. Its main distribution on Fraser Island is at 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

What: Weed Management
Where: Happy Valley, Fraser Island
When: 14–20 May, 6–12 August and 19–25 November 2017
For: Peter Shooter leads these trips to help tackle the heavy weed infestation in and around Happy Valley. A group of 8 will share one of the comfortable holiday houses in Happy Valley. The group will work to contain a particularly aggressive weed with poisonous seeds, *Abrus prectorius* var. *Africanus*, which is heavily affecting the vegetation and isn't found anywhere else on Fraser Island. Peter's groups continue their long-term battle to eradicate *Abrus* and prevent seeds being set for another crop of this virulent weed. 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.

What: Bush Regeneration and Monitoring
Where: Eurong, Fraser Island
When: 15–22 July and 22–29 October 2017
For: This program will be led by veteran bush regenerator, Maree Prior. It will be hosted at *Tallinga*, the former Sinclair family home in Eurong Village, and will focus on weeding, bush regeneration and building the capacity of the Eurong nursery as well as continuing FIDO's ongoing environmental monitoring programs. This program also includes the development of a Nature Walk within the village area. John Sinclair will be pleased to show volunteers as much of Fraser Island as is possible in the time.
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.

What: Fraser Island Conference—Time, Tide and Tourism
Where: University of the Sunshine Coast, Sippy Downs
When: Wednesday 16 August
For: The theme is Time, Tide and Tourism. Time, because 2017 marks two significant landmark anniversaries for K'gari. Sand mining ceased just over 40 years ago, and it is now 25 years since K'gari's World Heritage listing. Tide refers not only to the marine environment surrounding K'gari, but to the tide of events that are relevant to this unique island. Tourism has a big economic and political, as well as environmental, impact on K'gari and thus this focus.
Cost: \$100 cost (\$60 for students and concessions)
More info: For more information please check out FIDO's website www.fido.org.au.

Funding Opportunities

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: 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: Applications by invitation only in 2017.

Phone: (03) 9650 3188 – Louise Arkles

Email: admin@ianpotter.org.au

Website: <http://www.ianpotter.org.au/home>

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 93 is now open and will close on 31 May 2017.

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 to support Australian biodiversity projects that are concerned 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: May funding round opened on 21 March 2017 (get your application in quick!)

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

Email: beth@nwf.org.au

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

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/>

What: Cheaperthanhotels Fundraising and Sponsorship Program

For: Cheaperthanhotels offer a wide range of opportunities for sponsorship and fundraising support for community groups, non-profit organisations, schools, universities and sports clubs. Each organisation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and you could gain anything from \$250 up to \$25,000 a year in funding.

When: Ongoing

Phone: (02) 8263 5111

Website: <http://www.cheaperthanhotels.com/sponsorship/>

For those of you that like Facebook, you may want to keep an eye on the **Australian Grants and Awards** page, which keeps a watchful eye on additional funding opportunities and promotes them as they become available: <https://www.facebook.com/ausgrants>

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 or even website.

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.

Burnett Mary Regional Group – who pay our website hosting fees and are catering the May 2017 meeting.

WordPress – who have subsidised our website fees for the last 3 years, this year offering us a \$50 discount.

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.