

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

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Welcome August's issue of the FINIA newsletter. How are you going? I suspect we all look forward to applying hindsight to 2020 – and not necessarily with 2020 vision.

With K'gari now open again to visitors, the hard work continues. These are exciting times with new projects and participants in our projects.

As always, we work to protect and restore the natural integrity of the island for future generations. So many different people from so many walks of life all with one goal for K'gari.

The Editor

The timing and cause of formation of dunes in the Cooloola Sand Mass



Prof. Jamie Shulmeister and Prof. Allen Gontz examining an outcrop to select for OSL dating (Photo: Jamie Shulmeister)

The Cooloola Sand Mass is a large coastal dune field located between Noosa and Tin Can Bay. The dune field is made up mostly of parabolic dunes which are formed when a blow-out migrates inland through vegetation leaving a ridge with a parabolic shape behind – hence parabolic dunes. The scale of the dunes is hard to see on the ground as they are tree-covered and appear as hills on the landscape with the biggest being four or more kilometres long and several hundred metres high. The Cooloola Sand Mass is well known to science because of the work of Cliff Thompson and his team describing massively thick soils (megapodzols up to 30

m thick) formed on the older dunes that are believed to be the thickest soils in the world. Thompson and Bill Ward also mapped the dunes and showed that there was a remarkable sequence from very young and small dunes near the coast, through vast dunes over 200m high and rainforest-clad in the middle of the dune field to old, degraded dunes on the western side of the dune field near Tin Can Bay.

Our new work (Ellerton et al., 2020), along with the ages recently published by Walker and associates (Walker et al., 2018) finally provides a complete timeline for the dunes. The dune field is remarkably old with the oldest surface dunes dating to between 700,000 and 800,000 years (Cooloola and Awinya dunes of Ward). While some desert dunes in Africa are older, we believe these to be the oldest coastal dunes preserved anywhere on earth (allowing for K'gari to be a similar age). Combining evidence from the two papers, the main high dunes date to between 100,000 and 200,000 years old (Yankee Jack, Bowarrady, Garawongera dunes of Ward). Closer to the coast, the still impressive dunes date from 10,000 years old to currently active with younger dunes nested inside or west of the older dunes (Triangle Cliff, Station Hill and Cape dunes from Ward with a new series – Freshwater – identified by us (Patton et al., 2019)).



David Fink sampling for magnetics high on the bluff (Photo: Allen Gontz)

A quick examination of the ages shows that there were distinct periods when dunes formed. For the most recent series, in the last 10,000 years or so, there is a clear relationship between the formation of the younger dunes and the rise in sea-level at the end of the last ice age. What we believe happened was that as sea-level rose, the rising sea eroded old dunes and beaches in areas that are now underwater. The sand released from this erosion was fed onto the beach. This allowed big dunes to be built off the shoreline. Continued rises in sea-level until about 6500 years ago caused wave after wave of dunes to migrate inland ahead of the coast (which was also moving west). When sea-level rise stopped, the main dune formations stopped receiving new sand and finally ground to a halt. That did not entirely stop new dunes forming. Cyclones, fires and smaller changes in sea-level triggered the formation of the smaller coastal dunes in the last few thousand years by disrupting coastal vegetation and/or feeding more sand onto the beaches. The timing of formation of the high dunes (e.g. Yankee Jack dunes) strongly suggest that these dunes were also formed when the sea-levels were at or even higher than the present day. They appear to date to the last interglaciation (warm period/high sea-level at c. 125,000-80,000 years ago) or even the penultimate interglaciation (around 200,000 years ago).

In contrast, some of the older scientific work argued that dunes formed preferentially during ice ages because it was more arid in Australia. They suggested that weaker vegetation cover allowed dune activity to start. We can say with certainty that no dune systems at Cooloola are related to cold/arid periods such as the Last Glacial Maximum.

Finally, the oldest dunes are very old indeed. These date the first formation of the modern dune field. We have some ideas as to why the dune field may have started at about 750,000 years ago, but we are still writing these ideas up, and they need to be scientifically peer-reviewed. Watch this space. We also have results being written up from K'gari and will report on that in a later issue.

I would like to acknowledge the other major chronology paper from Cooloola recently published (Walker et al., 2018). By using the combined ages, we got a better story than would have been possible from either study alone. We also acknowledge the Kabi Kabi people on whose land we were working and the Butchulla people of K'gari. The core of this work is from the PhD thesis of Dan Ellerton. Work by another PhD student, Nicky Patton, is also important. Lots of students and colleagues have helped with the work. Staff at Queensland Parks have been extremely helpful and supportive over the life of the project. Thanks to all.

Contributed by Jamie Shulmeister, University of Queensland and University of Canterbury, New Zealand

K'gari to become a beacon of best practice in environmental biosecurity

Much of the effort of K'gari custodians and managers is dedicated to controlling the damage of invasive species that have established in the past, including myrtle rust, foxes, cats, and bitou bush.



Australian Government's Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer, Ian Thompson

A new project, supported by the Australian Government's Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer (CEBO) through the University of Melbourne's Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis, will develop tools and strategies for minimising the risks of new priority pests, weeds and pathogens running amok at K'gari. The EBO anticipates making outcomes available to managers of other conservation properties in Australia so that they too can better guard against unwanted pests, weeds and pathogens.

There are many factors to consider in coming up with a good biosecurity plan. What pests pose a risk to K'gari? By what pathways could they reach the island (e.g. freight and supplies, visitors, vehicles, as well as natural pathways)? How do they vary in the likelihood they'll establish and spread on the island? What can we do to limit the chances of them arriving, and how effective might these actions be?

It's important to get these considerations right because in the context of escalating risks posed by climate change (over which we have limited influence), effective management of the risks we can control, such as biosecurity and threats to our unique biodiversity, becomes a greater imperative.

The biosecurity requirements for some of our high-value conservation areas are already very strong, such as for the subantarctic islands of Australia or Barrow Island in Western Australia. Although elements of these existing approaches may have merit for K'gari, we need to think about trade-offs relating to tourism, cultural values, and the costs of implementing biosecurity actions, alongside the risks of new invasive pests, weeds and pathogens becoming established on the island.

The project will run to March next year (2021) and involve key stakeholders and managers, whose views on risks, pay-offs and trade-offs will guide the development of a strategy that will be collectively owned and implemented.

More information on the CEBO and the interim Priority List of Exotic Environmental Pests, Weeds and Diseases is available at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/environmental/priority-list>

Contributed by Terry Walshe and Kelly de Bie, University of Melbourne and Elyse Herrald-Woods, Environmental Biosecurity Office, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

K'gari Biosecurity Officer Appointed

Environmental Biosecurity is rapidly emerging as an important field as Australia starts to count not only the economic impacts of weeds to agriculture but also our natural environment – particularly high-value conservation areas like our World Heritage sites.

Funded through the Australian Government's Australian Heritage Grants 2019-20, the Conserving the natural values of K'gari (Fraser Island) project has funded the appointment of Matilda (Tilly) Davies for 12 months.

Tilly, a Butchulla descendent, graduated from Maryborough Girls' College in Year 12 in 2018 and worked at Xavier Catholic Collage as the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Student Support Coordinator.

Tilly has a passion for protecting and preserving Butchulla country, its flora and fauna and lives by the first Butchulla law "what is good for the land, must come first". She is excited to join the team and learn and contribute to caring for country.

Tilly will work with the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers and K'gari stakeholders with a particular focus on myrtle rust. The pest has been detected on a range of culturally and ecologically significant Myrtaceae species on K'gari including Melaleucas and the Satinay. Since arriving on Australian shores in 2010, myrtle rust has already made several native species locally extinct. The full impact this disease will have on K'gari's National and World Heritage values is at present unknown.

The Myrtle Rust story has highlighted the urgent need to safeguard K'gari by ensuring current and future biosecurity risks are identified and managed. Prevention and early intervention are the most cost-effective means of dealing with potential, new and emerging threats and this project aims to build Indigenous capacity by developing a surveillance and reporting program, training rangers and raising local awareness.

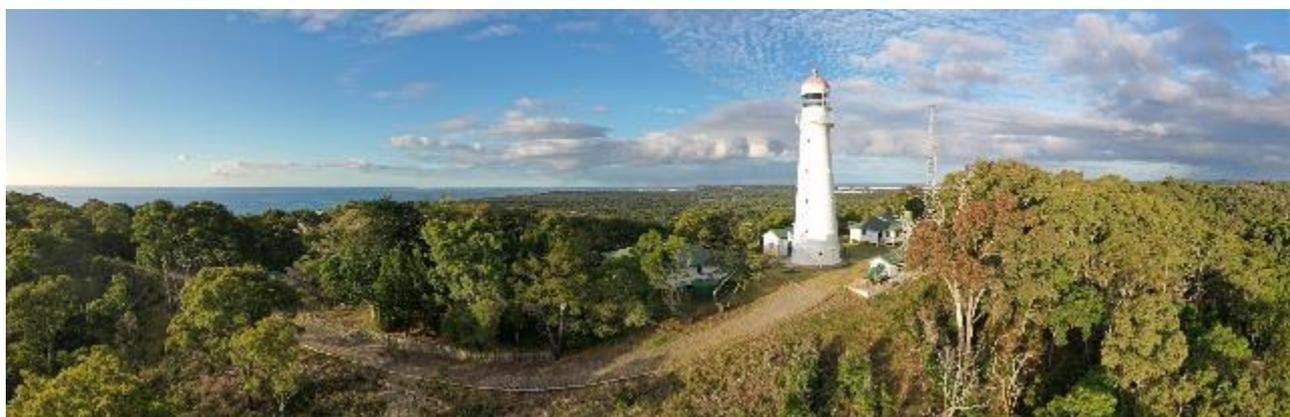


*Newly appointed Biosecurity Officer, Tilly Davis
(Photo: BLSR)*

Article contributed by Tilly Davis, Butchulla Land and Sea Ranger Program

Notes from Sandy Cape Lighthouse

When you are a volunteer caretaker at Sandy Cape Lighthouse, your notebook tends to look a little different to a regular diary of appointments and reminders.



Part 1: 8 July 2020

Don and I (Nancy Haire) are the first volunteer caretakers here since the lockdown started in late March. We walk and drive the different tracks to find where trees block the way, or the sand erosion is too deep to drive. Only dingos and bandicoots have left their tracks in the sandy road. We have less ducking to do when we drive. Fat golden orb spiders have stretched their complex webs across the tracks and get captured across the windscreen – or our faces.

With school holidays upon us from 26 June and the state border closed to outsiders, all the families and couples and young blokes carrying their beer stubbies who come puffing up the steep hill seem to be from Brisbane and the Sunny Coast. Queensland for Queenslanders! In the past winters, the Victorians and Germans seem to have outnumbered other tourists.

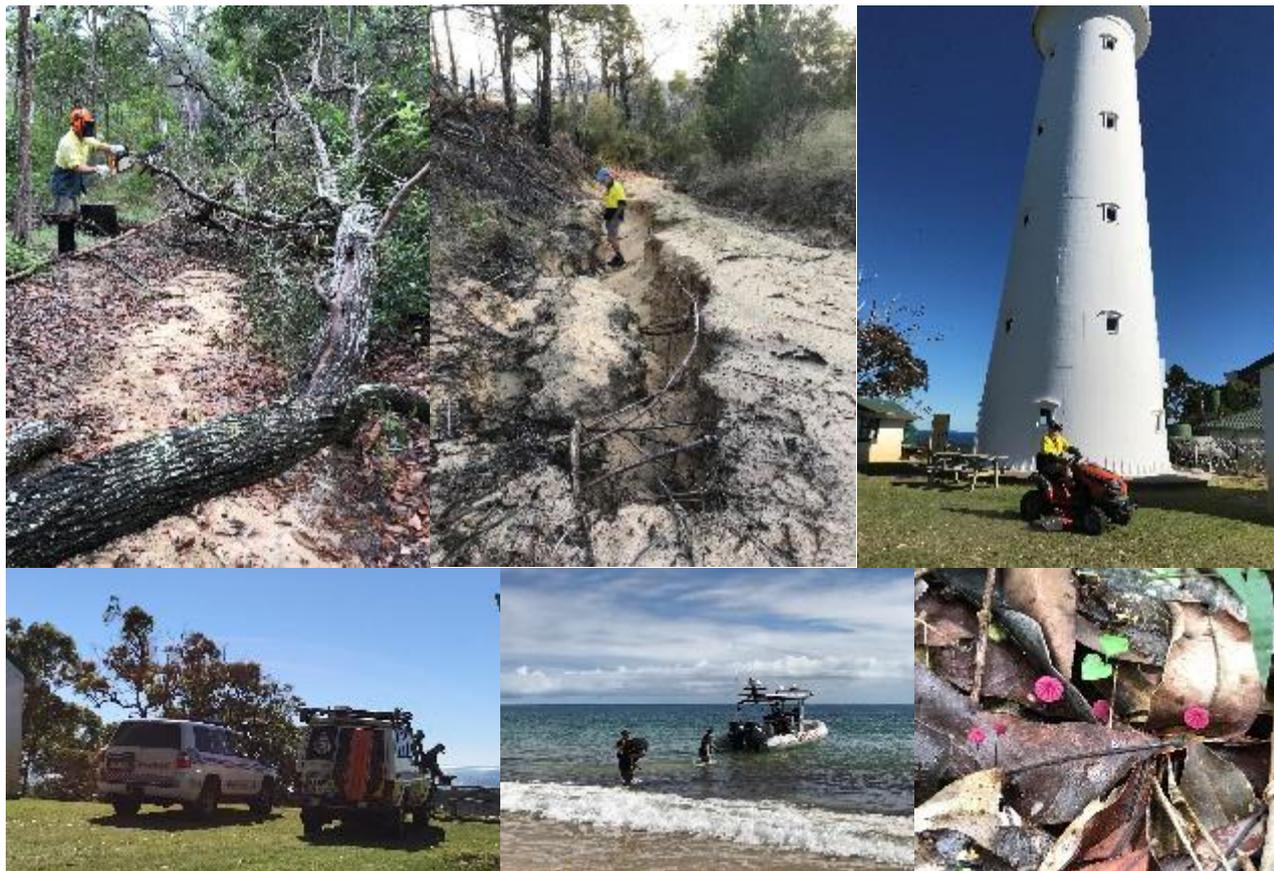
One day, two men with shirts announcing Marine Rescue had walked up the hill. "Is there a problem?" I ask? No, they have their equipment and were doing maintenance on the VHF repeater communications. When

we offered them a lift down the track, they couldn't pack things up fast enough! Their boat had anchored out, ready to roar back to Hervey Bay.

This ride-on mower speeds up the job. Some lighthouse caretakers have found that the push mower was a struggle on the hills. This one was ready for disposal by rangers, so they delivered the cast-off up here after a refit. Police and ambulance vehicles arrive just as Don finishes mowing their car-park-with-a-view. It's a beautiful day. Why not show the new ambo driver where the helicopter pad is at this end of the island?

We don't have photos of the more mundane tasks performed during our month of caretaking at Sandy Cape Lighthouse: cleaning the cottages and the grease traps for the grey water, pushing through dense undergrowth down steep sandy hills in search of targeted weeds, and brush-cutting around the buildings. We all take pride in leaving the light station looking well-cared-for.

Contributed by Nancy and Don Haire



Photos clockwise from top left: 1: Clearing the Bunkers Track, 2: Eastern Fire Track erosion, 3: Mowing the lawn, 4: Fungi on the ground, 5: Marine Rescue, 6: Police and ambulance crews take in the view. (Photos contributed by Nancy Haire.)

Part 2: 12 July 2020

We set forth on our tour of duty at Sandy Cape - what a beautiful day. The "Sand pit" (Ngkala rocks cutting) is not as challenging as usual, and whales are close to the beach on arrival at the gate to the lighthouse.

We followed Don and Nancy, the first caretakers to go to Sandy Cape after the station was shut down on 23 March because of COVID 19. We enter a lovely clean house, welcomed by a shell table decoration and "vase" of banksia brushes.

We noticed the hand-me-down ride on mower from Dundubara which will make the job of mowing the precinct much easier – with Don gradually mowing edges where ride-on can't reach

Checking on the turtles, seven nests remained in the cages unhatched before shut down. It was difficult to do an absolute correct shell count as the eggshells had been in the sand too long (the number of empty shells indicates the number of hatchlings that make it out of the nest and hopefully out to sea. Whole eggs are an

indication of whether fertilised or didn't develop to hatchling stage). We note lots of roots in the egg mass. Roots hinder nesting success so one of our jobs will be to spray in and around the cages before we leave.

Remember, weeding is not a sprint but a measured walk! Ten years on, we are concentrating on the second level of invasive weeds – coral berry and corky passion, but keeping an ever-watchful eye out for climbing asparagus fern and Easter cassia, which the weeding teams have managed to get down to small numbers.



The nodding greenhood or parrot's beak orchid (Pterostylis nutans) Photo: Lesley Bradley

Our first job is to clear away the weeds from the native plants, e.g. seedlings rainforest giants, native grasses, delicate orchids (nodding greenhoods), more sturdy bushes red chainfruit (*Alyxia ruscifolia*) and midjim, taking much care not to spray (Glyphosate) on native species.

Volunteer Marine rescue contacted us. VMR466 Hervey Bay assists VMR Bundaberg and Tin Can Bay Coast guard in keeping mariners safe on local waters. Channel 22 was not broadcasting, but under their instructions, we entered the radio room, swapped a couple of plugs over and success, Channel 22 is back on the air again.

The guys from the Bureau of Meteorology are visiting the lighthouse precinct 29-30 July to repair/replace equipment, check set-up, iron out any problems that caretakers might have with sending weather reports each day 9:00 am.

Maintenance - there are always little tasks to do to fill in a few minutes like cart sand and fill in bumps in the track, administration and clean, oil, and repair tools.

We made time for a few fishing sessions, although most were unsuccessful. We just enjoyed the time out and beautiful surrounds. But never one to rest, it also gave us a chance to spray around Brown's Rocks nesting cage to eliminate roots in the cage. One very blustery late afternoon threatening rain. Don caught tea, a 51cm tea-leaf trevally.

Matt Palmer, Park Ranger Dundubara, visited us at the lighthouse. He took back some equipment that needed repairing or replacing, trained us in the use of the ride-on mower; and informed us that the next volunteer caretakers were unable to fulfil tour of duty.



Evidence of damage from corky passion vine to native plants. This small tree is a Celery Wood and would normally grow straight up to the light (Photo: Lesley Bradley)

We decided to stay a week longer to fill part of the gap. Oh well, another week in paradise!

Contributed by Don and Lesley Bradley, Sandy Cape Lighthouse Conservation Association

Have you got what it takes to be a Weed Spotter?

The cost of weeds to Australian agriculture now exceeds \$4 billion per year. No estimate has been made of the cost of weeds to the environment, but environmental biosecurity is a rapidly developing area. Prevention and early intervention are the most cost-effective means of dealing with potential, new and emerging weeds in Queensland.

The Weed Spotters Network Queensland aims to find, identify and document those new occurrences of potential weeds at an early stage so that preventative actions can be taken. It provides a community-based weed alert system in Queensland, based on the model developed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management.

Weed spotters report, collect, identify and deliver specimens of potential, new and emerging weeds in their region. They can be landholders, gardeners or members of community groups such as Landcare, Bushcare, Society for Growing Australian Plants, along with Australian, state and local government officers, industry representatives, and anyone else interested in weeds and plants.

In partnership with the Queensland Herbarium, FINIA is hosting a free Weed Spotters Workshop with Senior Ecologist, Dr Melinda Laidlaw in conjunction with our meeting from 10 am to 12 pm on Tuesday 10 November.

Weed Spotters workshops aim to help locals learn more about how to identify weeds, share information with the right people to attack the problem and to make our landscapes - from bushland to parks to properties better places. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more or brush up on your identification skills, hear about new technologies and tools or share your knowledge with others, and find out more about the support that is available to control significant weeds in high priority areas.

Weed spotters receive a weed spotters bulletin each month with information on current and emerging weeds and weed spotter activities along with a list of regional contacts. Weed spotter resources are available to assist weed spotters and coordinators with weed identification.

Morning tea will be provided. To register, please email contactfinia@gmail.com.

Contributed by Dr Melinda Laidlaw, Weed Spotters Network Queensland Coordinator, Queensland Herbarium

Coral Monitoring in the Great Sandy Strait

The Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers recently joined the Gidarjil Land and Sea Rangers and the University of the Sunshine Coast out on the water to conduct in-shore coral reef surveys on Butchulla Country.

There is currently a significant knowledge gap about the region's in-shore coral reefs and limited information available to understand the impact of water quality on Butchulla country.

Supported by the National Geographic's SEE (Science Exploration Education) initiative, the aim of the 2-year Belbendimin Wulgun Djau (Caring for Sea Country) project is to monitor and build the resilience of the region's in-shore coral and oyster reefs.

These marine ecosystems have a history spanning over 6500 years, the full term of the Holocene. They are unique communities, with diverse coral assemblages and species not seen elsewhere in the Great Barrier Reef or Queensland.



The Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers join Gidarjil and the University of the Sunshine Coast to monitor corals in the Bay (Photo: BLSR)

Working with Dr Andrew Olds from the University of the Sunshine Coast, and the Gidarjil Land and Sea Rangers, monitoring was conducted at eight sites. Six within Port Curtis Coral Coast sea country and two sites (Pialba reef and Point Vernon West) within Butchulla sea country. Pialba reef contained beautiful *Turbinaria* hard corals, while at Pt Vernon the rangers saw many *Goniopora* corals.

With more detailed surveys being recorded annually, to identify reef extent, species and condition, we hope this data will be used to protect and preserve our coral reefs and marine life for the future.

Article contributed by Chantel van Wamelen, Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers

New Wongari safety sticks for island walkers

Walking is one of the best ways to enjoy the beauty of K'gari, slowly taking in the sights and sounds of the beaches, woodlands and rainforests. Walkers carrying a stick, an umbrella or something similar, can use them to deter a wongari (dingo) from approaching, and in the event of a negative interaction may prevent serious injury from occurring.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships (QPWS&P) are now trialling the provision of re-useable walking sticks at strategic beach entrance visitor locations on K'gari, including Eurong, Happy Valley, Waddy Point and Kingfisher Bay. The sticks can be collected by visitors, utilised on their walk and then returned to a collection point bin ready for the next person to use.



Don't forget your walking stick (Photo: QPWS)



Remember to socially distance from wongari (Photo: QPWS)

Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation Community Rangers recently worked with QPWS&P staff to patiently prepare the specifically designed stickers for hundreds of safety sticks.

The sticks are ideal for keeping a healthy distance between an overly interested or potentially aggressive wongari (dingo) and the visitor. By waving the stick, hitting the ground, and making a lot of noise, the majority of wongari (dingoes) will be encouraged to move away.

These sticks are not intended to cause injury or harm to any wildlife, but to provide a barrier and a deterrent if needed.

By walking in groups, keeping children within arm's reach and carrying a stick, visitors can ensure the safety to themselves, their families and the K'gari wongari.

Contributed by: Jenna Tapply, QPWS&P, NRM Community Engagement Ranger

Butchulla Junior Rangers Program

The Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers (BLSR) with assistance from Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) staff, have kicked off their highly popular 2020 Junior Ranger Program at Urangan Point State School.

The program, which is run over eight weeks, has eight modules with a focus on the cultural and environmental values of Butchulla Country: Butchulla Culture, Marine Debris, Milbi (marine turtles), World Heritage, Wongari (dingo), Cultural Heritage, Girra (fire) and Cultural Places.

"Butchulla Culture" was the first lesson theme, with students participating in a smoking ceremony and welcome; dance and language activities and cultural storytelling through sand art.

In week two, the Junior Ranger program's focus topic was "Marine Debris". Rangers delivered a presentation on the impacts on marine life and the environment due to pollution. Rangers also showcased the work they do to



Ranger Coordinator, Chantel Van Wamelen using sand art to tell the K'gari story (Photo: BLSR)

reduce pollution and care for country such as beach clean-ups, derelict crab pot clean-ups and their 'Creek 4 A Week' program.

Students participated in a marine debris breakdown timeline activity, which identified the estimated time it takes for different man-made materials to break down in our oceans and a short outdoor game focusing on the marine food chain and the effects of microplastic in the ocean.



Senior Ranger, Corey Currie helps students to identify marine turtles (Photo: BLSR)

Week three focused on Marine Milbi's (turtles) their lifecycle, the threats they encounter and the work that rangers do to reduce these threats. Students participated in a Milbi identification activity, using the Milbi identification key to match the adult and hatchling species by their physical features.

BLSR/BAC staff look forward to supporting students through their learning journey over the term to develop a deeper understanding of the area they live and play with the hope that it will increase their appreciation and responsibility for Butchulla Country.

Contributed by Chantel van Wamelen, BLSR

Detecting vulnerable ground parrot after wildfires

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships (QPWS&P) Natural Resource Management Rangers, and Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation Community Ranger Bobbie, recently redeployed acoustic sound recorders into the burnt and unburnt country on western K'gari, to detect the presence (or absence) of the vulnerable eastern ground parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus*). Similar activity is also occurring in Cooloola, as a part of a Bush Fire Recovery Project targeting areas that were burnt and left unburnt in last year's wildfires.

The parrot is distinctively green and slender, but extremely shy and elusive so it's not usually seen unless it is flushed out from cover.



Vulnerable eastern ground parrot © Birdlife Australia



Tracking the elusive ground parrots using acoustic recorders (Photo: QPWS)

On K'gari it lives mostly on the western side of the island, in dense coastal and subcoastal heathlands, and sedgelands within a high diversity of low-growing plants. They feed on fallen seeds taken from the ground or plucked directly from plants.

The recording devices (as pictured in situ) will be collected in October, after months of collecting daily sunrise and sunset calling data, without the need for people to stand in the cold and mosquito-ridden vegetation.

The recorded data will also assist in motoring K'gari's rare and threatened frog species - Wallum sedgefrog (*Litoria olongburensis*); Cooloola sedgefrog (*Litoria cooloolensis*); Wallum rocketfrog (*Litoria freycineti*) and; Wallum froglet (*Crinia tinnula*).

Contributed by: Linda Behrendorff, QPWS&P, Ranger in Charge NRM

Can we use COVID-19 to improve ecological restoration practice?

There is always wisdom to be gained by observing and listening to Nature – even a virus epidemic.

COVID-19 restrictions forced volunteer bush care groups everywhere to take a break from regular activities, meaning that our "patches" have been left to Nature for a few months. With the potential for future outbreaks (and uncertain repercussions), it is timely to ask how can we achieve the most beneficial outcomes in our restoration projects when the regularity of visits may become unpredictable?

Returning to a site after several months of "neglect" might feel disheartening. Some weeds may have taken off again, but it's also an opportunity to analyse and reflect on project results. How have different sites and species responded to the excellent rainfall? Are there changes in priority weeds or zones based on new observation? How effective have past efforts been? What is the wildlife doing? Which native species are regenerating well under these conditions? The good season will have benefited them too.

Our role in ecological restoration is to "assist the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed" (SER 2004) and to do this effectively we work with each site and its specific issues and needs. When you consider the many decades (even centuries) it takes for K'gari's coastal forests to form, a few months is insignificant.

We've all missed spending time on our sites, but rather than feeling discouraged, let's use the opportunity to reflect, learn and adapt. We can also share what we learn to inform future practice. Nature knows best.

Contributed by Tina Raveneau, Senior Community Environment Officer, Fraser Coast Regional Council

IDENTIFIED: Little Dude with the White Gloves



The black stilt legged fly aka the dude with white gloves

Remember our last issue of the newsletter when David Anderson asked for some help with the identification of "the little dude with the white gloves"? Named by their granddaughter when she was all of five years old, the name seemed fitting as well as amusing.

Well, thanks to Peter Shooter from FIDO it now has a different name, the black stilt-legged fly (*Mimegralla australica*).

Flies in this family have very long legs, although the front pair is noticeably shorter. Their body is elongated with patterned wings, a shape that mimics wasps or ants. Mimicry is a strategy that works for the stilt-legged flies, as their behaviour also mimics that of wasps or ants. They wave their forelegs in front of head when resting on plants. The larvae are found in rotting wood or other vegetable material.

Original article submitted by David Anderson, Fraser Island Association and updated by Peter Shooter, FIDO

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

As many of you would be aware, the Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance (FINIA) is a non-incorporated, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation for its partners. As a non-incorporated organisation, we rely on our partners to support our activities for the Fraser Island (K'gari) World Heritage site, with no dedicated funding to support our meetings, administration and barge transfers. Without this generosity, FINIA's activities would be far more challenging, so we would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their generous support:



Fraser Coast Regional Council – who provide meeting venues.

Groups and organisations - that sponsor the meeting catering.

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 truly special people. Thanks to you all for making FINIA work.

Dates for the Diary

What: Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance Meetings

Where: Town Hall, Maryborough

When: 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: Bush Regeneration and Monitoring

Where: Happy Valley, Fraser Island

When: 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.

What: Bush Regeneration and Monitoring

Where: Eurong, Fraser Island

When: Sunday 11 to Saturday 17 October

For: FIDO has been conducting weeklong weeding-bush regeneration programs in Eurong since 2005. These have progressively transformed Eurong and dramatically reduced weed threats. Based at Tallinga, the former Sinclair family home in Eurong Village, work will focus on weeding, bush regeneration, building the capacity of the Eurong nursery and continuing FIDO's ongoing environmental monitoring programs. The program is supported by Eurong Resort, providing dinner for the volunteers each night.

Cost: \$300 (\$200 for concessions) to subsidise costs.

More info: Please send any questions to weeding@fido.org.au.

What: Environmental Biosecurity Office Webinar Program

Where: Online – register first!

When: Monthly – until November 2020

For: If you have a spare 60 or (even better) 90 minutes a month, why not join the Environmental Biosecurity Office for one or more of their engaging webinars? The EBO is planning to use our department's [HaveYourSay](#) engagement platform to run alongside the seminar series so that relevant information can be further shared and discussed online following the webinars.

25 August: It's all about the people

29 September: Flora, Fauna and Fire – Regenerating a scorched landscape

27 October: Biosecurity risks in focus - Contaminants & commerce

24 November: Biosecurity in our backyard

*Webinar dates are subject to change pending presenter availability.

Cost: FREE

More info: For more information, check out the EBO's [website](#) or register using this [link](#).

What: **Weed Spotter Workshop**
Where: Reception Room, Maryborough Town Hall
When: 10am to 12pm, 10 November
For: Join us for a FREE 2-hour weed spotter workshop with Dr Melinda Laidlaw Senior Ecologist, [Weed Spotters Network](#) Queensland Coordinator from the Queensland Herbarium. Melinda's presentation will cover weed ecology, legislation, weed surveillance and weed identification.
Cost: FREE
More info: For more information or to register your interest, please email contactfinia@gmail.com

Funding Opportunities

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 106 is now open and will close at 11.59 pm on 31 August 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: **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: Next round opens 1 October 2020 (funding released November 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://thetrusteeforthemullumtrust.myob.net/>