



Fraser Island Shifting Sands Conference

Walkabout Creek Conference Centre, The Gap, Brisbane

Friday 24th July, 2009

Cost:

\$40 for FIDO Members

\$60 for non-members (includes a one year subscription to MOONBI)

Can be paid in advance or at the door. Registration opens at 8:30am.

The cost includes morning and afternoon tea but not lunch.

Lunch can be purchased at the cafeteria at the conference centre or bring your own.

Draft Program

Session 1

Opening & Keynote

Chair:

Colleen Enchelmaier President Fraser Island Defenders Organisation

9.00 am

Opening: The Queensland Environment Minister has been invited.

9.45 am

Keynote Speaker — Prof Bruce Thom

Member, Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and Emeritus Professor, University of Sydney has had a distinguished academic career and is regarded as one of Australia's leading coastal geomorphologists although his expertise extends to all aspects of coastal management and coastal land use planning. In 1975 he said that Fraser Island as being to the sandmasses of the world what the Great Barrier Reef is to the world's coral reefs

10.30 -11.00 am **Morning tea break**

Session 2

Patterns of Recreation on Fraser Island

Chair:

John Sinclair, FIDO Hon Secretary & Hon Project Officer

11.00 – 11.40

Dr Terry Brown

Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management, Griffith University, Brisbane, Qld, Australia who was a voluntary member of the Fraser Island Site Visitor Capacity Working Group that examined 40 sites.

Title:

“Carrying Capacity – Meaningless or Mandatory: Prospects for Fraser Island”

He discusses the concept of carrying capacity and its relevance as a visitor management tool. He reviews the Sustainable Visitor Capacity (SVC) methodology is a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach to assessing visitor sites for landscape quality, values and impacts so that these may be linked to requirements for more effectively managing visitor engagement with the resource and the recent trial of this on Fraser Island.

11.40 – 12.20

Greg Carter

New Zealand Department of Conservation Programme Manager - Visitor & Historic Assets Nelson Lakes Area and former keen Queensland bushwalker who

has walked the Fraser Island Great Walk while a ranger with Queensland Parks and Wildlife.

Title: **“Huts and shelters on multi-day walks – their role and benefits”**
The New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC) manages a vast recreation facilities network developed over the last 100 years that includes over 12,500 kilometers of track and 950 backcountry huts and shelters. He will speak to this topic.

12.20 -1.00 pm **Dr. Wade Hadwen**
Australian Rivers Institute Griffith University Nathan Campus

Title: **“Perched lakes as focal tourism and recreation destinations on Fraser Island: Impacts and management implications.”**
Dr Hadwen has surveyed Fraser Island visitors between 1998 and 2001 focusses on Lake McKenzie and established that 75% of survey respondents planned to visit Lake McKenzie. He notes that high visitation in fragile and low nutrient environments can have a wide range of impacts from rubbish on the shore to trampling and can increase algal production.

1.00 – 1.30 Lunch

Afternoon Program Natural Resource Management

Session 3: *Chair: Terry Hampson FIDO Vice President*

1.30 – 2.10 **Dr. Noam Levin**
Department of Geography, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem 91905, Israel. Visiting fellow at the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture, University of Queensland.

Title: **The effect of tropical cyclones on dune activity on Fraser Island**
He has examined the dynamics of sand blows (active dune areas) on Fraser Island to assess activity and stability. Using historical aerial photos and high spatial resolution satellite images Dr Levin has measured changes in the area and dynamics of 70 sand blows. Climatic time series of rainfall and wind were obtained from Sandy Cape lighthouse to examine possible climate fluctuations. He concludes that if the present trends continue, it is probable that most of Fraser Island's sand blows will become stabilized during the 21st century.

2.10-3.30 **Adam J. O'Neill and Arian D. Wallach**
Adam O'Neill in his book “Living with the Dingo” outlined his view of the importance of the natural dingo family structure. His experiences in various habitats, combined with a review of scientific and other literature, has given him a unique insight into the important role that dingoes play in assuring ecological balance. His co-author of this paper is School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Adelaide, SA,

Title: **“Dingoes on Fraser Island: potential consequences of lethal control”**
Worldwide, research and conservation focus is turning towards the key ecological role of large predators. Dingoes, like all wolf species, are socially complex predators. They form long-term social bonds that may persist for generations, and it is precisely this characteristic that makes them the top predators that they are. The main impact of control is not necessarily on dingo numbers. Their abundance may decrease, increase or remain the same, following control. Instead, the main impact of lethal control is to fracture the dingoes' pack structure. Without the pack, their ecological functioning is compromised and biodiversity is ultimately lost. The disruption of pack stability also alters population demographics resulting in an increase in young dingoes that may have a higher tendency to become destructive and aggressive.

3.30 – 3.45 **Afternoon tea**

3.45 – 4.15

Peter Stanton

Cairns based Stanton is widely regarded as Queensland's leading fire ecologist. He is a consultant to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy and was the author of the first ever Management Plan written for Fraser Island in 1975 and was a participant in developing the Fraser Island Fire Management Strategy.

Title:

“Fire management on Fraser Island”

He discusses the problems identified are related to the long term exclusion of fire, either deliberately or by neglect of active management resulting in widespread destabilisation of the island's habitats, with unforeseeable but potentially disastrous consequences.

4.15 – 5.00

Summary and general discussion