

FIDO's K'Gari E-News No 5 (28th January 2016)

A further interim update by the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation between MOONBI 132 and 133

Dear FIDOs,

Increasing the Heat: The hottest year on Earth since records began (2015) is now behind us but what is in front? The average temperature across the entire planet was 0.90°C above the 20th century average. It was also the single biggest yearly jump in temperature records. <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/hottestyear2015> The world's 10 warmest years have occurred since 1998. 2015 is the 39th consecutive year with above-average global temperatures. The full impact of this climate change on Fraser Island (K'Gari) is unknown but it impacts fire regimes, severe weather events and all living creatures. More urgent action on climate change is required globally to turn down the heat to enable life on Earth as we know it to survive. FIDO is a strong supporter for stronger action by all Australians particularly our political leaders to address climate change with more urgency.

Green Army on K'Gari: Just prior to Christmas, it was announced that a Green Army project in Fraser Island World Heritage area would proceed in 2016. Although FIDO sponsored the successful application, the collaborative project was the brainchild of FINIA, (Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance) in October when Green Army projects were proposed. Suggestions discussed included National Park weed management particularly Easter Cassia surrounding Happy Valley, weed management and erosion control on Takky Wooroo (Indian Head) (*long been a major FIDO concern*) and maintenance work on K'Gari's Great Walk

The Service Provider will be Conservation Volunteers Australia who have appointed a Supervisor to lead a team of 7 or 8 people over 36 weeks during the remainder of 2016. After initial training, work on-ground on K'Gari will commence immediately after Easter. The tasks to be undertaken, timing and other operational details for this first initiative on K'Gari are currently being refined by a collaborative team that includes FIDO.

K'Gari has a new voice: The ABC's Coasts FM has offered a new voice to explain K'Gari's Outstanding Universal Value to a lay audience. On 21 February John Sinclair, FIDO Honorary Project Officer was interviewed by Rob Blackmore and it is proposed that these interviews will continue fortnightly throughout 2016 between 9.30 and 10.00 am on Thursday mornings. Coast FM is most easily heard on the Gold Coast (91.7) and Sunshine Coast (90.3) or listen live at <http://www.abc.net.au/sunshine/programs/listenlive.htm>.

Nature Walk at Eurong: FIDO has been conducting working bees in Eurong since 2005. Since intensifying our effort since 2011, we have gradually got on top of the weed problem there although this requires constant vigilance and maintenance. Now FIDO is able to use our working bees to expand into new aspects of bush regeneration in collaboration with our other partners. One of these is expanding the capacity of the Eurong Nursery. However FIDO is about to launch the most exciting part of this project in the next few weeks. The Eurong Resort and the Residential Valley of Eurong are

separated by a strip of natural landscape that is the remnant of a sandblow that was quite active until the 1980s. It now presents a wonderful opportunity to describe the connection between climate, soil and vegetation in a short 10 to 20 minute stroll. Better it is inside the dingo fence. Resort guests and other Eurong visitors can gain an appreciation of the forces that continue to shape Fraser Island (K'Gari).



Eurong 1985. FIDO's interpretative Nature Walk covers what was then an active sandblow at the left of the photo. It is between the Resort and the houses of Residential Valley. This once sandblow is now in the process of being overtaken by vegetation.

George Haddock Track Maintenance: FIDO gave QPWS an undertaking to maintain the George Haddock Track as one of the requirements to obtain approval to proceed. While waiting for approval to proceed to Stage 2, no maintenance work was carried out in 2015. While the track that had been developed is in great condition there is a lot of fallen timber across the track that needs to be cleared. Accompanying this Newsletter is a Call for Volunteers for an Easter Working Bee and an Application Form for those who would like to contribute.



Volunteers working on the George Haddock Track in 2014. The track now needs maintenance to keep it open and free of obstacles. FIDO has a small tractor to assist the work, but reasonably heavy manual work and a lot of walking are involved and a good fitness is required. Volunteers are each asked to put in 20 hours of effort over the Easter weekend.