

## FIDO's K'gari E-News No 13 (10<sup>th</sup> June, 2018)

*Opportunities to help FIDO protect K'gari and Great Sandy Strait*

**There has been a huge amount of activity swirling around FIDO since the issue of our MOONBI newsletter last month. Many projects such as the hugely successful Easter Cassia Blitz at Happy Valley came to fruition after almost a year on planning. Other long anticipated activities such as our proposed Northern Cooloola BioBlitz have finally received the requisite permits to enable the first to proceed 24-26 August.**

**This newsletter is providing a heads-up on how FIDO's diverse campaigns and projects are progressing.**

Other activities FIDO have been engaged in include:

- developing a very comprehensive submission to the Fraser Coast Regional Council on the future of waste management on K'gari;
- moving ahead with planning for the 2019 Community Collaborations and Culture Conference that FIDO is collaborating with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation to organize;
- following up the research needed on Great Sandy Strait to convince the authorities on the potential environmental damage that might result if the proposed Colton Coal mine proceeds;
- participating in the rich flow of new information, ideas and thinking flowing from the University of the Sunshine Coasts K'gari Symposium at their Fraser Coast Campus on 7-8 June;
- producing a presentation on the History of Contestation for the Symposium that is now about to go on line;
- completing a comprehensive Easter Cassia Blitz that has obliterated this colourful and conspicuous invasive weed that has spread into Happy Valley's surrounding bush;
- planning ahead for the future of FIDO with a professional CEO and with the administrative core being much closer to K'gari to have our ears much closer to the ground when playing our watchdog role.

There is much happening as you will as you get fuller summaries reading this E-Newsletter.

FIDO's K'gari E Newsletters are produced between the biannual MOONBI newsletters to provide more current news to members and others with a special interest in K'gari (Fraser Island). These newsletters are only available electronically. They are free. Anyone wishing to subscribe or unsubscribe should notify [john@fido.org.au](mailto:john@fido.org.au)

## K'gari Photographic Competition

To celebrate 25 years since K'gari's World Heritage listing, the Department of Environment and Science chose World Environment Day 2018 to launch the K'gari Photographic Competition that will culminate with winning photos being published in Wildlife Australia and a 2019 K'gari Calendar. Details are in the reproduced Flier.

**K'gari  
Fraser Island  
World Heritage Area  
Photo competition**

**Opens:** 5 June 2018, World Environment Day  
**Closes:** 5 August 2018

To commemorate 25 years of the island's World Heritage listing.

**Three categories:**

- landscapes
- land and sea
- flora and fauna

Three winners will be selected from each category and have the chance to feature in the upcoming 2019 Calendar.  
Winners will be announced shortly after closing.

**Full details at [www.ehp.qld.gov.au](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au)**

Proudly supported by the Department of Environment and Science's World Heritage Unit, the Butchulla People (the Traditional Owners of K'gari), Tourism and Events Queensland, and Wildlife Queensland.

TOURISM & EVENTS  
Queensland

WORLD HERITAGE

Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation

Queensland Government

One of the three World Heritage criteria K'gari meets is its exceptional natural beauty. This has inspired performing artists, musicians, visual artists, poets and writers. **It inspires photography.**

## Northern Cooloola BioBlitz

A Collaboration between  
Fraser Island Defenders Organisation  
and Cooloola Coastcare

**48 hours to discover Cooloola's  
Nature**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August (3.30 pm)  
to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August (3.30 pm)**

An exciting BioBlitz aimed at tracking down and identifying as many critters, plants and other living natural resources is being planned for Northern Cooloola this coming Spring.

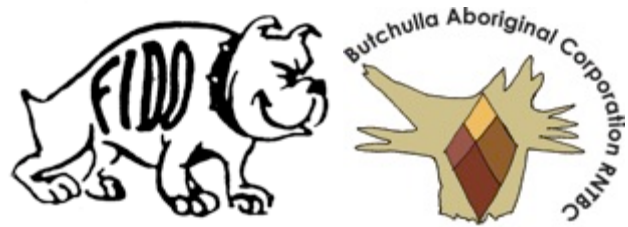
It will be based in Rainbow Beach where there are many accommodation options to choose from. However information sessions and evening meals will be at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall.

This 48 hour BioBlitz is open from teenagers to retirees. No natural history expertise is required because there will be very experienced mentors and leaders accompanying all the teams on their field excursions to help find, identify and document as many species as possible and provide information.

Organizers have identified specific habitats for close scrutiny by the various teams that range from the seashore to the high dunes, from the rainforest to the wallum heathlands and from the fens to the mangroves.

It is a wonderful time of the year to be out exploring nature so **follow the websites that will provide progressive updates on this exciting event**

- [www.fido.org.au](http://www.fido.org.au)
- [www.cooloolacoastcare.org.au](http://www.cooloolacoastcare.org.au)



## 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial K'gari (Fraser Island) Conference

### *Community, Culture and Collaborations*

*This event is a collaboration between the  
Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and the  
Fraser Island Defenders Organisation.*

**Fraser Coast Campus, University of  
the Sunshine Coast**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

**Keynote speakers:** The success of conferences is the result of a lot of promotion and that promotion needs to begin early as does the selection and engagement of a Keynote speaker/s who are good drawcards around which we can help build the promotion.

The two keynote speakers agreed upon who have provisionally accepted are prominent Butchulla actor of national standing, Wayne Blair and leading social psychologist and advocate for wilderness experiences, Steve Biddulf. Wayne's credits include *Redfern*, *Mystery Road* and other TV series and plays. He produced the movie *The Sapphires*. Steve Biddulf is author of *10 Things Girls Need Most*, *Raising Girls*, *Raising Boys*, *Complete Secrets of Happy Children*, and *The New Manhood*.

The Conference is planned for Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August to be held at the Fraser Coast Campus of the University of the Sunshine Coast. The plan is for the conference and cultural festival to run from 9.30 am to 9.30 pm with plenary sessions during the day, followed by a Butchulla cultural celebration from 7.30. It allows out of town guests to join a whale-watching trip before heading home on Sunday.

### **FIDO Membership**

***No environmental battle can ever be permanently won. They can only be permanently lost.***

FIDO needs new members as part of the on-going renewal plans. Without a continuing watchdog organization the gains made over 48 years might be eroded away or even reversed. Who will expose and address these issues if there isn't a FIDO?



## Terry Hampson Memorial Tour

**ARE YOU JOINING A "TERRY HAMPSON MEMORIAL TRIP" TO ALLORA ON THE DARLING DOWNS?**

The late Terry Hampson AM was along-serving (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and enthusiastic, active member) of FIDO. He played so many other roles in life as described in his biography, *Boots and All* by Fran Ross. He blended his loves for sport, history, the environment and politics into one very full and fulfilling life.

Ann Hampson and a group of Terry and Ann's friends got together recently to discuss a plan for a trip back to where he grew up, Allora, that she and Terry were making before he died,

The friends reminisced about their trips in days of yore to Fraser Island and liked the idea of sharing this trip with his other friends, to see the places and things of interest in the Allora/Warwick area, including traveling through Cunningham's Gap to:

- \* Glengallen Homestead/Heritage Centre (1867)
- \* Allora Museum (includes a replica of Pleistocene era Talgai skull found in 1886)
- \* Allora Heritage Trail
- \* Mary Poppins House (childhood home of P L Travers)
- \* St David's Church (1888)
- \* Talgai Homestead (1860s)
- \* Steel Rudd's Pub, Nobby (author of "Dad & Dave")
- \* Sister Kenny's Memorial House at Nobby

The group is wondering if it would be a trip for a carload or for a busload of people? They are asking anyone interested to let them know who might be interested in joining this celebration.

No fixed date or timeline has yet been identified. It is expected that the trip would maybe require at least one overnight stay and speculated about Easter 2019... but all of this if up for debate.

Anyone interested should please email:

Sue Yarrow [sue.yarrow@yahoo.com](mailto:sue.yarrow@yahoo.com)

Peter Shooter [peter.shooter@gmail.com](mailto:peter.shooter@gmail.com)



**FIDO Executive Island and inspection team, 1989  
Terry Hampson kneeling on right**

## Waste Management Submission

The Fraser Coast Regional Council is working on the *Fraser Coast Future Waste Project*. The cost and logistics of attending the scheduled workshops at Kingfisher Resort prevented FIDO's direct discussions on the project. The process though provided FIDO an opening to prepare a very comprehensive submission to the Council on the whole expensive and messy business of handling the waste generated by humans on K'gari. There are many aspects of FIDO's Waste Management Strategy. They range from landscaping the Happy Valley Waste Transfer Station to the dealing with putrescible waste. FIDO believes that the priority for any long-term waste management requires dealing with putrescible waste. FIDO proposes that composters be installed in Eurong, Happy Valley and Orchid Beach. As a result of FIDO's very real concerns for biosecurity, FIDO proposes that all vehicles should be inspected prior to going on to the ferries. This may also help to reduce the volume of waste being produced. FIDO's submission is expected to be finalized within two weeks and be posted on the FIDO website.

## FIDO's Future

As FIDO approaches its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, now only 19 months away, the Executive is actively working on plans to reshape and renew the organization. Succession planning is now well advanced because the Executive believes that it is essential that Fraser Island (K'gari) continues to have a strong watchdog organization monitoring island activities independent of government. FIDO's planning though is contingent on being able to secure sufficient financial resources to make it happen and strengthening its membership base.

Key points in the Executive's current considerations are that the organization needs a professional CEO and that the organization relocates its administrative centre much closer to K'gari. To enable this to happen within the next 19 months FIDO is pulling out all stops to make it happen.

## USC Symposium

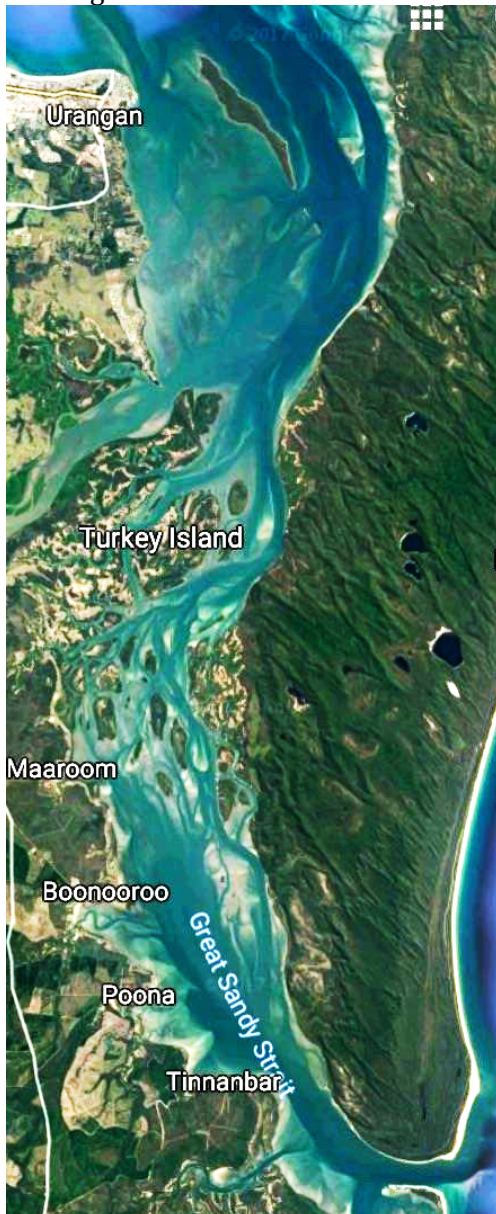
The University of the Sunshine Coast held its *sharing knowledge, sharing understanding* K'gari-Fraser Island Symposium at its Fraser Coast campus on 7-8 June. FIDO's contribution was a presentation on the *History of Contestation* by John Sinclair. It covered a range of contests since the first European contacts with the region from political, commercial and land-use contests. This history complements Sinclair's insider's *History of K'gari and Cooloola*. The *Contestation* presentation and his speaker's notes have been now paced on FIDO's web site: [www.fido.au](http://www.fido.au)

## Great Sandy Strait Research

FIDO's priority project to protect the natural integrity of K'gari, Great Sandy Strait and Cooloola remains ensuring that fish caught in the Great Sandy Region and all other living life are not going to be polluted. The threat arises from the huge volume of contaminated mine water that is proposed to be discharged from the planned 50 metre deep open-cut Colton Coal Mine into the Mary River.

As part of the research into the movement of waters and sediment, the Great Sandy Strait Research Oversight Committee is negotiating with three post-doctoral university researchers to get an Initial assessment underway into the *Hydrodynamics & Materials Transport in the Mary River Estuary*.

It is hoped that the study that we expect to be finalized about February will establish what, if any, impact the discharge of Colton Mine will have on the Ramsar Site that is already included on the Interim World Heritage List.



## Discover the greatness of Great Sandy Strait

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**FIDO's last 2018 cruise departs  
Urangan 9.30 am returns 3.30 pm**

Join us on this limited opportunity to discover the rich biodiversity and history of the wonderful Ramsar Listed Great Sandy Strait to where the two tides meet. It is now being considered for World Heritage listing but it faces some significant environmental threats.

**Cruise starts and finishes at the Hervey Bay Boat Club, Urangan where parking is available.  
The price includes a sandwich lunch on board.**

**Cost \$100**

Cost includes morning tea, a sandwich lunch and a contribution to the Great Sandy Strait Research Fund into potential environmental impacts. The Fraser Island Defenders Organisation has long experience exploring this internationally recognized waterway. This will be revealed in the expert running commentary by John Sinclair and others. FIDO ran its first cruises on Great Sandy Strait in the 1970s. This is FIDO's final cruise for 2018. To allow better communication passenger numbers are strictly limited to a maximum of 60.

**Bookings are essential.** Bookings can be made and confirmed by **Emailing: [cruises@fido.org.au](mailto:cruises@fido.org.au)**  
Payments by credit card can be paid in advance.



## FIDO's War on Weeds

While our volunteer programs are at Eurong and Happy Valley in July and August are fully booked. We still have capacity for a few more in October and November. To learn more about our volunteer program or to be on the list to be notified when our 2019 program is finalized register with [john@fido.org.au](mailto:john@fido.org.au) We plan to follow up the hugely successful Happy Valley Cassia Blitz with a Lantana Blitz near Eurong.





## Fraser Island Defenders Organisation

*FIDO — The Watchdog of Fraser Island*

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Aim: To ensure the wisest use of Fraser Island's natural resources

### Media Release

For Release 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Citizen Scientists to Blitz Northern Cooloola

**Rainbow Beach will host an exciting BioBlitz based around Northern Cooloola on the weekend of 24-26 August as a result of a collaboration between the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation and Cooloola Coastcare.**

The ambitious citizen science project aims to document as much of the areas's living natural resources — plants, animals, invertebrate, fungi and more in a challenge that is open to anyone with an interest in natural history irrespective of their expertise.

Cooloola Coastcare's Dr Lindy Orwin, who is coordinating the BioBlitz arrangements, said that it was anticipated that over 100 participants from South East Queensland and beyond would include complete novices to experts with experts helping the less experienced identify and learn more about nature in the process.

FIDO's CEO John Sinclair, who organized a BioBlitz on Fraser Island (K'gari) two years ago said that he was excited to see a BioBlitz happening in Cooloola because it was much more accessible and as a result he expected much more participation.

*"Being spread over the 24 to 26 August weekend in early spring when the bush is blooming with new life, we expect a much younger group of BioBlitzers who are eager to learn about the weird and wonderful aspects of nature to join the quest to discover as much as possible and to learn from some very experienced mentors,"* Dr. Sinclair said.

*"Cooloola is already on the World Heritage Tentative List and this citizen science project will help build the case to enable it to be elevated to join its sister sandmass on the other side of Great Sandy Strait as one of the recognized great wonders of the natural world,"* he added.

He said that the partnership between FIDO and Cooloola Coastcare would not only add to the knowledge of Cooloola's living natural resource but would provide baseline data to be compared with information from future BioBlitzes anticipated over the next three years.

Dr. Orwin added that now that the necessary approvals had been granted planning for the event was now in full swing and that details would soon be posted on the web sites of both hosting organizations.

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**For further information contact John Sinclair 0418 650 535 or Lindy Orwin 0478 039 322**