

5th Biennial Fraser Island Conference

A Natural Laboratory

Thursday, 8th August, 2013

9.00 am to 5.00 pm

at the

Auditorium

Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Brisbane

COST: \$100

\$80 for FIDO members, \$60 for students and concessions
includes light lunch and morning and afternoon tea

Program

Topics and Speakers

Keynote Address:

Hon Dr Barry Jones A.O. is one of Australia's living treasures as well as a writer, broadcaster and Australia's longest serving Science Minister (1983-90). His career has spanned education, film, politics, civil liberties, constitutional change and 'the knowledge society'. He was a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO in Paris 1991-95, Vice President, World Heritage Committee 1995-96 and a consultant for OECD.

Climate Change

Prof Roger Kitching. (Griffith University) studies the patterns and processes of biodiversity using some of the most abundant and diverse organisms - the arthropods.

History and Development of the Patterned Fens of Great Sandy Region

Dr Patrick Moss *School of Geography, Planning & Environmental Management, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia;*

Abstract: The patterned fens of the Great Sandy Region, Queensland are distinctive wetlands that form an elaborate network of pools surrounded by vegetated peat ridges and are the lowest latitude wetland of this type found in the world, with this type of wetland generally associated with high northern latitude regions in Scandinavia and eastern Canada. The presence of the patterned fens are a unique community occurring on the World Heritage listed Fraser Island, but are also found in the Cooloola section of the Great Sandy National Park and therefore there is a great deal of interest in their response to future environmental change, particularly linked to climate and anthropogenic factors. In general, the patterned fens are bordered by coastal communities (in the case of Fraser Island) or a river channel (in the case of the Cooloola region) and there is some uncertainty about their formation and antiquity. This project has investigated a number of patterned fen sites across the Great Sandy Region

(including the Moon Point and Wathumba complexes on Fraser Island; the Rainbow Beach complex; and the Dutgee complex at Cooloola) to examine how these communities developed and responded to environmental change over the last 35,000 years. Data has been derived from pollen and charcoal analysis of sediment cores collected from each of the sites and suggests that patterned fens have two formation periods, during the late Quaternary (35,000 years) and the late Holocene (last 5,000 years).

Mangroves of Great Sandy Strait

Jock McKenzie (James Cook University) has spent the last ten years in field work on mangrove ecology and is intimately familiar with the mangroves of Great Sandy Strait

Fraser Island — inspiring artistic creativity

Elizabeth Cummings is one of Australia's most collectible artist. She will focus on Fraser's outstanding aesthetics that justify its World Heritage listing on this criteria alone and how the natural environment has inspired so many of Australia's great artists.

Fraser Island Dingoes

Dr Greg Baxter Senior Lecturer in Wildlife Ecology | Geography, Planning and Environmental Management The University of Queensland, will present the latest analysis of Fraser Island dingo behaviour. *As part of the management of Fraser Island dingoes under the management plan, the QPWS has initiated a number of research projects. One of those was designed to determine the movements of dingoes on the island. This presentation will report on the results of that satellite tracking program where 18 dingoes were capture, fitted with satellite collars and tacked for up to 8 months.*

There will also be other presentations and poster displays covering visitor surveys, a sustainable fishery, and the orchid *Phaius australis* as well as and a photographic display

For further details: Contact Conference coordinator John Sinclair
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Organised by

**Fraser Island Defenders
Organisation**
*FIDO: The Watchdog of Fraser
Island*



Supported by
Fraser Island World Heritage Scientific Advisory Committee
and
Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance

