

Eurong — Fraser Island

Bush Regeneration Week

Fraser Island Defenders Organisation

24th to 30th August 2014



Summary

1. During the week the **sixteen** volunteers in the group put in an aggregate of 400.5 hours made up of 334 hours on Bush Regeneration / weeding and 66.5 hours on monitoring projects.
2. The group contributed most of their working hours to Eurong but they did put in 32 hours at Central Station where they bagged 28 bags mostly Clivia Lilies and some Rats-tail Grass. They hope to complete the Clivia removal next time
3. The group delivered 221 bags of rubbish to the Eurong tip of which 28 came from Central Station
4. 27 pots of creepers were taken to the QPWS nursery to enable them to become established by regular watering and to replace the four pots of Pigface we took out,
5. Two composting bins for lawn clippings were installed.
6. Three photo-monitoring sites were established — Easton Street, Jarvis Street and Problem Corner

Hours Worked:

Bush Regeneration / Weeding	334
Monitoring:	66.5
Total	400.5 hours

Acknowledgements

FIDO would like to thank the following partners for their on-going support.

Kingfisher Group: Ferry services

Eurong Resort: Accommodation and assistance

Fraser Coast Regional Council: Storage base

QPWS: Exemptions, nursery and access

Eurong Residents and landholders: Support and cooperation particularly in allowing access to properties.

Su Dawson: for her managing the catering including dozens of hours in preparation

Sunday 24th August

Arriving Talinga and sorting Out

The departure from Brisbane was smooth, seamless and punctual at 8.00 am. Two cars from the Gold Coast were unloaded and parked to be joined by Brian and Diane's in Su's backyard. Meanwhile Betty and Hilary came in from Cleveland. Luckily the almost incessant rain of the previous days had stopped and we were able to load luggage in dry conditions. There was lot of food for 16 people and equipment needing to be transported and so it was two trailer loads that were taken with us.

Our first stop was at Yandina where we pulled into the Rest Area right on schedule and there met Roger and Meredyth and had a cup of tea. Then we travelled in Convoy of there vehicles to Maryborough where we topped up fuel and ran into an old mate of F.L.'s before launching on to a tour of Maryborough's heritage houses. We started in Queens Street meandering around before reaching Queens Park where we had lunch and a brief history of the port of Maryborough.



A classic Maryborough Queenslander

After lunch there was a further tour of the town to get a fuller appreciation of the vernacular architecture that is so well preserved in the city before heading off to Mary River Heads.

There was an uneventful barge crossing and a trouble free trip across the island that had us arrive at Talinga in the rapidly fading light at about 5.30 pm. WE were quickly settled in to our new home and the first of our Happy Hours

Hours Worked:

Bush Regeneration:

0

Monitoring:

0



Monday 25th August

Arriving Talinga and sorting Out

The howling sou-easter wind didn't abate during the night. At one stage the stars shone with the intensity of spotlights. However as day dawned the sky wasn't do clear although it can happily be reported that no rain fell during the day and as the day progressed the patches of sunlight became more extended even if the wind didn't abate. The major problem arising from the strong wind was that it prevented any chemical spraying of weeds. We are hoping for enough fine less windy weather to get all of the spraying done that needs to be done before we finish

Orientation: At 7.30 there was a short introduction session to help everyone become familiar with the layout of the village, the problem areas, the tasks to be done and the resources we had byway of tools and equipment in the shed. It was also a chance to assess the scale and urgency of the problems and assign priorities. The tour included Second Valley and two of the monitoring sites. At one we discovered a large patch of Mosquito Orchids with some carrying seed pods. Then our final inspection was the dump where we went

scrounging to see what useful timber we could scrounge before returning to collect our equipment from the shed

Monitoring: At one of the monitoring sites, Coolooli there had been a fresh deposition of sediment around the main pole which has now accumulated 20 cms of sediment since the installation of the post. Although one satellite post fell over we could see that 50 mm of sediment has accumulated there since February, indicating the degree of the spread and growth of this alluvial plume from a relatively small catchment. On the other side of the crossroad Kunyam had added another 2 cms to the deposit at the main pole even though much of the sediment flow had bypassed the may pole due to breaking through from a different part of the roadside.

Womens detail. The team of women led by Su quickly changed to plan B and instead of starting from Talinga and working west they set off to work in various sub teams starting from the roundabout and worked towards the beach. One team worked on weeding the demonstration gardens while others set off to tackle the dreaded Coral Creeper, Brazilian nightshade and Green panic but the found lots of incidental weeds on the process.

The five men found other work. Three made rapid work of installing the composting bin for lawn clippings in Jarvis Street to discourage indiscriminate dumping of garden waste that has been the source of much of the weed problem. Meanwhile Brian busied himself making up the monitoring stations to be located along the Wangoolba Creek walk to Pile Valley. He was soon joined by Bob who painted them up while Greg and Roger scavenged for more posts and disposed of the weeds extracted by the weeding teams. It was a smooth morning operation interrupted only by smoko. After smoko Fearless Leader visited the QPWS HQ and was briefed on the problem weeds at Central Station that the QPWS had identified as well as liaison on a range of topics. He was also kept busy (or seemed to be so) talking to various local identities to maintain the liaison with the community.

A huge amount of weeds were removed and Greg made three trips to the dump removing

about **45 bags of weeds** mostly from the demonstration garden.

After lunch the liaison task was extended when the team headed off on the southern Lakes tour. This involved calling in to Dilli Village to deliver a sign calling for a Fair Go for Fraser before continuing to check out the shores of Lake Boomanjin and Lake Birrabeen before using the fast fading daylight to head to our new homes. There was a bonus for Happy Hour as today we helped Betty celebrate her birthday. We celebrated it again over dinner and ate the carrot cake for desert

Hours Worked:

Bush Regeneration:	47
33 (women's contribution) Su 4 composter and waste removal 10	
Monitoring: Posts etc 5, orientation and tour 24, FL liaison etc 5	34
Total	81

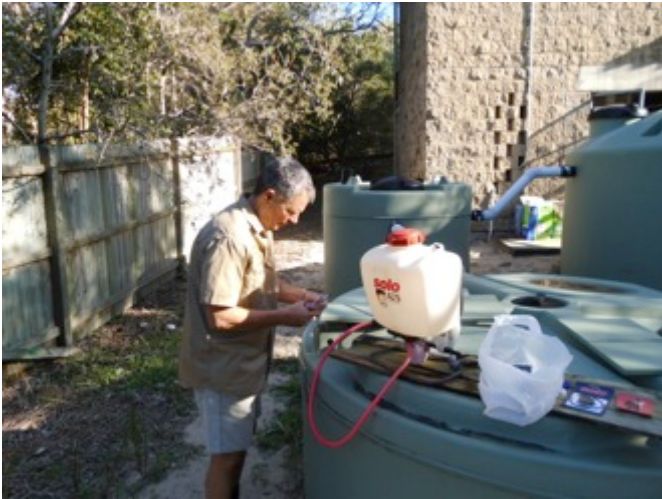


Tuesday 26th August

Eurong, Central Station, Boorangoora

Mercifully the wind had abated during the night and it was time to get started on the spraying program. Before breakfast though there was a lantana attack to remove the lantana in front of Talinga outside the dingo fence that Su had spotted.

After Breakfast Greg donned the backpack and went to follow up Noel's spraying program of May. We found that his spraying of Coral Creeper that had got outside the dingo fence was very successful although this follow up was very timely. However inside the fences was a dense sward that Greg went to work on.



However he was called to take the group to Central Station so it remains a work in progress.

In the meantime the weeders were in full cry with half the women working on cleaning up the Demonstration garden and the other half working along the southern side of the resort out to the dingo fence. However some were busy cleaning up along Easton Street. Their work though was sabotaged by an anonymous "Yuckabarcoo" that had them knocking off early for Smoko until they learnt that it was a hoax and it was an imitation of the Fearless Leader's call.

The energy and productivity was demonstrated in that they generated 25 fertilizer bags full of weeds before the 10.15 knock off for a late Smoko. These were all diligently loaded and taken to the dump and counted for the record.

Meanwhile Brian was working on preparing monitoring posts to be placed along the walk beside Wangoolba Creek to Pile Valley.



At 10 15 we returned for smoko and prepared for our expedition to Central Station while

indulging in Meredith's cake for a rich morning tea.

Then it was "All Aboard" for Central Station with a couple of breaks on the way to inspect Dhomba and Wungul monitoring stations. Dhomba showed no sediment flow accretion. There was no evidence of the road walls having been breached. However a dead *E intermedia* adjacent to the main station may be evidence of the tree dying because of root suffocation.

There was however clear evidence of the recent flow to Wongul monitoring station. While only 10 cms registered on the main station pole there was a much greater accumulation in the two satellites. The southern satellite which was placed in November 2013, a year later than the main station. When read in May 2013 The main station was 6 cms and the south satellite 7 cms whilst the west was 1.5 cms. This time the readings were 10 cms for the main station 13 cms for the south satellite and there was no change in the reading on the west satellite. The accretion of sediment is great and spreading.

At Central Station everyone began immediately to get busy on the weeds. While the men focussed on the Clivia lilies, the women wrestled with identifying the Ratstail grass. While they couldn't keep count of the number of individual plants removed they filled **28 bags**.

Meanwhile FL and Roger went to check on the rain gauge. They found it a difficult job because both gates were locked and they had to scale the fence to gain access. The rain gauge though is now successfully activated.

They then went to work on eliminating the Clivias in the eastern portion of Central Station that are spreading. However the lunch call needed to be heeded before everyone returned to work until 2.15. The volume of Clivias was astounding

The whole group then set off for the walk along Wangoolba Creek with many people bearing crosses. Four of these crosses were planted beside the pedestrian track leading from Central Station to Pile Valley in an attempt to start to assess the impact of the sediment washing off

the road above into Wangoolba Creek. Four painted pegs with bright yellow tops were also hammered into the track at various points so that their heads were flush with the track level. If the track erodes away the rate of deflation will be able to be assessed.

After afternoon tea at Pile Valley beside the sacrifice to stupidity the team headed off to Lake McKenzie (Boorangoora) as the daylight was rapidly waning. However Fearless Leader was determined to install the new rain gauge at the lakeside. So while he and three others stayed behind to install the gauge adjacent to the Gunda monitoring site, the other dozen went off to enjoy the main recreation area of the lake.

Alas it was only a short while before it was realized that it wasn't feasible to place the rain gauge anywhere close to there because there wasn't enough clearance. However from Gunda it was clear that there was a suitable out-of-the-way site at the end of Boorangoora's Second Beach. However there wasn't enough time left in the day to establish the rain gauge so the decision was made to return in the morning to do the job. After rendezvous at the lake where we were the only people recreating we headed off to Eurong in the rapidly failing light along the same road we had travelled on the two previous evenings in failing light. However this time there was no light as we raced to Eurong arriving between 6.07 and 6.20 pm.



It had been a particularly heavy day and there was a consensus for an early night and so the planned slide show at Weerona was deferred to another time. However there was some excitement before the last light was

extinguished in Talinga when the Fearless Leader sprung a very sheepish Melomys gnawing away at an avocado left out to see what it might attract. It had been assumed that the nocturnal visitor to the larder was an antechinus. However plans are now being hatched to relocate this new intruder.

Hours Worked:

Bush Regeneration: **72 hours**

Weeding at Eurong 14 people to 10.15 = 40 hours.
Weeding Central Station 16 people by 2 hours = 32 hours.

Monitoring: **21 hours**

Eurong: 2 people x 3 = 6 hours Central Station and Lake McKenzie = 15 hours

Weeds Removed Eurong: 35 bags
Weeds removed Central Station:
25 bags Clivia lilies and 3 bags Rats tails



Wednesday 26th August Eurong Surfside and Wabby Lakes

The day began gloriously fine and calm but there was a flurry of activity as Fearless Leader Roger and Brian prepared to charge off to Lake McKenzie (Boorangoora) meanwhile Greg resumed spraying and Bob went to work emptying and recycling fertilizer bags for the enthusiastic weeders.

The weeders continued along the southern side of the resort although Hilary and Betty were engaged the whole morning finishing weeding the Demonstration gardens at the back of the resort. By the end of the day those gardens were clear of any weeds. However they provide a good seedbed for weeds despite the addition of some new figs found as seedlings. .

Greg continued with the spraying of Coral creeper near the northern dingo fence until Smoko when he was coopted by Su to do the mattock work to remove the Mother in Law's tongues and fishbone ferns from the problem corner opposite Surfside.

Morning tea had been had at Surfside and Su assigned most of the team to tackling the weeds there especially the Syngonium where Taryn's height was an advantage to pull it out of the trees. They were still at it when the Monitoring team returned from Lake McKenzie (Boorangoora) at 11.00 am.

The monitoring team of F.L. Brian and Roger had set off early and arrived at the sparkling Lake just after 8.00 am. The pole was installed at the northern-most end of the Second Beach that makes it accessible and in a clear open area and just above the mark left by the high water levels. The gauge was activated and it was good because it should record its first registrations tonight.

On the way out and on the return they checked the sediment accretion at Pibin, the site west of Lake McKenzie (Boorangoora), and Mambu on between Wabby Lakes and Cornwalls Break. In all cases the sediment had either been contained and accumulated on the road surface or bypassed because there was no significant accretion. They gained an appreciation of the capacity of roads to become elevated at one part of the road toward Wabby Lakes where the road was two metres above the surrounding land.

Back in Eurong they began work installing a composting bin for the Resort's lawn clippings at the back of the generator shed.

While all of this was occurring Bob was busy disposing of the weeds that had been extracted starting with the trailer load of mainly Clivea bulbs that were placed in bins to prevent them being salvaged and used on the island. He had another two trailer loads with about **36 bags** of weed rubbish taken to the dump

At 12.30 most finished their work to be continued.

After a leisurely lunch everyone but Su headed off to the Wabby Lakes however the approaching clouds looked ominous enough for FL to pack an umbrella which proved to be

prudent because the thunder brought rain delivering about 10 mms as we left the lakes and returned to the warmth of the houses. However it had changed the temperature.

After another superb dinner provided by Su we retreated to Weerona where Fearless Leader presented a slide show that represented some of the features, dramas and observations made during 25 years of GO BUSH Safaris. Back at Talinga though our shy resident Melomys we are naming Melva was seen by most of the team living here

Hours Worked:

Bush Regeneration:	68 hours
13 all morning (5 hours) weeding Eurong =	65
plus sundry hours by others and after 12.30 =	3
Monitoring:	11.5 hours
3 x 3.5 hours	



A road viaduct 2 metres above the surrounds created by road sediment sluiced down from the road above.

Thursday 27th August

Eurong, Happy Valley, Track Making

This was a mixed day both weatherwise and in our tasks and excursion. Weatherwise the day began with a cool westerly wind that was marshalled in by last evening's Thunderstorm. However by the end of the day the wind had swung around to a howling South-Easter. Driving home along the beach as the end of the day we were being sandblasted and mini-dunes were rapidly taking shape on the beach while the windswept sand made navigating in the dark with a rising tide extremely challenging.

Challenges have been the order of the day. Given that we had only three hours of weeding work at Eurong before smoko, there was a very

productive burst of energy to accomplish as much as possible before the knock off whistle. Su and crew worked in the Second Valley clearing out Madiera Vine, Painted Spurge, Mother of Millions, Coral Creeper, Purple Splash Green Panic and Cobblers pegs. Greg (of Lantana fame) found a couple of large Easter Cassia. The indefatigable team found a pot-pouri of weeds all tackled with thoroughness.

There continues to be a major problem in Second Valley from the dumping of garden waste opposite their homes. Unfortunately there is a tendency of Jarvis Street residents to continue dumping garden waste over the road and these heaps of rubbish are now havens for weeds that are now inaccessible.

Meanwhile Betty and Meredyth went to work on the Problem Corner (outside surfside) with a particular focus on Syngonium as well as the usual culprits. They were soon joined by Brian and Roger who completed installing a bin for the resort to commence composting of the resort's grass clippings. This is to stop the dispersal of weed seeds from indiscriminate dumping. FL took the couch grass that was growing in the square and planted it out in problem corner in the hope that it will help to eventually out-compete and then keep out most weeds and possibly be converted to lawn.

Brian and Roger then potted up the 12 pots with Pigface creeper. These pots will go to the QPWS nursery to help them become more established. Then the male trio joined Betty and Meredyth attacking the many weeds that are now accessible. F.L then donned the backpack spray and sprayed the infestations of Singapore Daisy, Fishbone fern and greed panic that was thick all in the area opposite the Surfside units.

Back at Talinga at 10.30 for Smoko preparations were underway for to big outing and the tem got away at 11.00 am. There was a pause at Happy Valley where there was a quick assessment of the situation from locating the rain gauge to reviewing the effectiveness of the Abrus control done so far. Then it was on to Lake Garawongera for lunch but the chill wind discouraged anyone from taking to the water.

Two trailer loads of weeds were taken to the dump with a total of **35 bags**.



Our major objective was to clear a small section of the George Haddock Track to provide some authentic footage for the YouTube video. It was a task tackled with energy and enthusiasm for an hour during which the cleared track seemed to be opening up almost at walking pace as the team armed with axes, saws, loppers and chainsaw cut their way through. There was an **alarm call!** Moko found to her surprise and alarm a very large Carpet Python in very close proximity. The energy and drive yielded great productivity and Fearless Leader found it hard to get everyone back in the vehicles for the long roundabout drive that ensued. In a short time they had cleared about 250 metres of track



The long drive home was an adventure in itself. First stop was Bogimbah Creek where we had smoko on the bridge. The next deviation was to the site of the old Bogimbah Mission and cemetery with lots of stories about the Government Mission resulting in so many graves in such a short period. There were stories too of the days of Hans Bellert who maintained to phone line to the Sandy Cape lighthouse and caught dugong here.

Friday 28th August**Eurong, Kurrar Sandblow, Eli Creek etc**

With the daylight starting to dwindle we then dashed into the Valley of the Giants where we thought that we had lost most of the group when Greg took the wrong turn. However he caught us up at the Big Stump. We made another pause in the fast fading light to see the Big Tallowwood where 11 people had to link arms to get around.

Back on the Northern Road the dash back in the dark began. It was an exciting mix of the unknown mixes with many bumps but we eventually came out on the beach at Cornwalls Break to begin a very tricky challenge of the run along the beach into the face of a gale to get to Talinga.

After another great dinner by Su we were all surprised to discover that it was Tarryn's Birthday. It wasn't a surprise to Greg who organized a cake to go with the ice cream for dessert to help Tarryn' celebrate

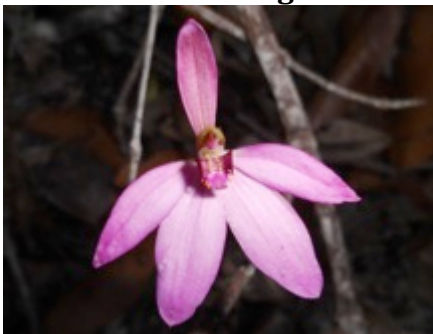
Hours Worked:**Bush Regeneration:**

3x 16 hours before 10.30 in Eurong weeding = 48

1 hr x 16 clearing on the George Haddock Track = 16

Monitoring:

35 bags of weeds were sent to the dump from Second Valley alone. Other rubbish bags at Surfside are waiting to be dealt with.



On a perfect morning we breakfasted and were off at 7.30 to work on finishing up the most urgent of the jobs that needed finishing.

One team of women went to work continuing along Second Valley while another group set to work cleaning up painted spurge and various other weeds along the Esplanade in front of Second Valley. However the most challenging work was the elimination of Mother in Laws Tongues and the coconuts. Much of this work fell to Bob who dug out 19 coconut juveniles and a mature cane toad.

Spraying: Greg was busy again with the backpack and spray. He continued to clean up the area south of the resort and especially a very heavy infestation of Singapore Daisy in front of the A frame house. After smoko though Su had him knocking off a patch of coral creeper between the Toilet and the western dingo fence grid. We are looking forward to seeing some resulting positive clean-up next time around.

After Smoko at Problem Corner (Surfside) Su and Crew changed their focus from Second Valley to Easton Street. That was when they discovered yet another large infestation of Coral creeper but the ubiquitous crew spread widely along Easton Street

Photo Monitoring: Meanwhile on the other side the Monitoring team, Roger and Brian went to work on reinforcing FIDO's picnic shelter, fixing the tail-lights of Supe and then going to work on installing monitoring signs and photo monitoring sites. They had a very busy morning.

64
0

We have had a request to do more photo Monitoring which the Commonwealth likes to see. We have made a start on this at Eurong. There are now three photo-monitoring poles. One in Easton Street overlooking the area that had once been an enormous mound of garden waste, one in Jarvis Street that allows sighting up in two directions, one showing the heaps of garden waste accumulations and one looking over the area that has harboured the dreaded Madeira vine that we hope we have brought under control. The third pole is in Problem Corner which again provide a broad picture in

two directions. We will be looking to install more defined sites in Eurong and to begin monitoring in Happy Valley

Nursery: Judi and Dianne were keen to continue the potting of plants that can be used as ground cover and having discovered a source of Guinea flower and Pigface they were keen to propagate them. We sent 27 pots up to the nursery to help get the propagation stock better established for planting out. Most of these were pigface that makes excellent ground cover but there were also some *Hibertia scandens* that we hope will still be in the nursery when we return in February.

Rubbish: With such an eager and destructive work force, it was a challenge to keep the supply of bags up to the weeders. We made three trips to the dump and emptied out in total **42 bags** of waste.

When we finished work at 12.30 pm we felt comfortable that we had achieved a remarkable amount despite the number of jobs being added to the list for “next-time”.



After lunch there were two excursions up to beach. All six Gold Coasters went to see Eli Creek, the Maheno and the Pinnacles. FL, Judi, Bob and Meredyth spent some hour exploring Kirrar sandblow before returning to Eurong to pack away the tools in the shed and clean up. There had been a lot of disruption and problems accessing the shed as a result of the overflow of a septic tank.

However while ten were away the six left behind prepared an interesting party piece to entertain the whole team during Happy Hour. (see the Appendix)

Hours Worked:

Bush Regeneration:	83
16 x 5 plus 3 extra hours for waste removal and cleaning up the shed	
Monitoring:	0

Saturday 30th August Heading for home

The exit from Talinga was another milestone for the group. We were packed and ready at 7.15 and after group photos and a lap of honour to inspect the work up to the roundabout we were on our way at 7.30 am. The track through Cornwalls Break was smooth and effortless. Surprisingly we didn't encounter any on-coming vehicles and we arrived at the jetty at 8.40 with time to have a coffee. Fearless Leader though met may people keen to talk to him and ended up finding source of potential accommodation at Happy Valley as well as meeting a group of Japanese University ecotourism students.

Then things went astray. While the drivers rushed to their vehicles to join the convoy of vehicles boarding the Fraser Venture, a dozen weed busters decided to walk on. Being polite they held back until the vehicles were on as happened on the way across. However as soon as the vehicles were on the Fraser Venture lifted the ramp and took off leaving our dozen stranded on the jetty. This incident caused much consternation and even gave rise to some off-colour language. It caused as much concern also on the Fraser Venture until reassured that the next barge would arrive within an hour. However waiting on the island our marooned passengers got into more strife while trying to console themselves with an early champagne. They were threatened and abused when trying to take the alcohol on to the ferry which is another licenced premise.

At 11.30 all were reunited at Mary River Heads. It was a good drive to Gympie ducking around the outskirts of Maryborough and there we had our final lunch together and said farewell to Roger and Meredyth. The others continued on to Brisbane arriving at Camp Hill before 4.00 pm.

Jobs to be done next time:

1. There is plenty of work waiting to be done to clear up the Dragonfruit.
2. There needs to be some renewal of treatment for the Brazilian cherries in Anderson Street.
3. A lot of work awaits us in the Esplanade area in front of the A-frame house with zillions of Mother-in Laws tongues and Singapore Daisy.
4. Problem Corner is still a mess but it is now manageable however until the couch is established to smother the weeds it will require a lot of maintenance. Also there are weeds identified by David Anderson waiting to be dealt with
5. Probably the most urgent task is to provide propagation material for the nursery. A lot of work is needed to help ensure that the Nursery is able to meet the demands not only from FIDO but also from residents and landholders. With FINIA support FIDO will seek a grant from BMRG to engage qualified and authorised collector to help train staff and collect seed for the nursery to put it in a better position to meet future demands. The aim should be to ensure that all of the plants recommended as alternative garden plants are stocked in the Nursery.
6. New monitoring posts are needed in other places to assess the situation in other areas. One is needed to look at the Coral Creeper situation inside the dingo fence and another is needed to monitor the weeds situation between the Generator and the Great Walk sign shelter. Another one is needed in front of the resort. The existing posts need to be painted to make them stand out more clearly, particularly the sighting posts.
7. More work is needed to clear up the Clivia in Central Station. Other weeds there also need to be also addressed.
8. We should seek to eliminate the alien grass moving along the quad track into Hammerstone Sandblow.



Gold Coasters wallowing in Eli Creek



**Fraser Island's shortest creek start to finish
— Kirrarr Sandblow**