

BBB BioBlitz Bulletin Number 1

Beach to Boomanjin and Birrabeen

25th August 2016

This bulletin updates arrangements and involvements for the first Fraser Island (Kgari) BioBlitz to occur from 28th November to 4th December. Because there are so many matters participants might like clarified before this great event comes off, we are planning to Email participants and potential Participants newsletters.

Public Interest in the event: Public interest is mounting in this ambitious volunteer project. While it may only involve as many people as Dilli Village can manage, it interests countless numbers. This is epitomised by the media interest. The public is hoping that the BioBlitz will make new discoveries and they are keen to know more about K'Gari's ecosystems.

Registrations: As this Bulletin is being prepared there are twenty five specialists registered but we know of others considering but who have yet to confirm. Those registered so far include mycologists, soil zoologists, arachnologists, entomologists, ornithologists and zoologists. We are currently lacking specialist botanists and ichthyologists. Amongst our number we already have a number of multi-disciplinary expert naturalists who can identify species in more than one discipline.

As well we have a number of volunteer gophers registered who can assist the experts with 4WD transport to drop participants off at specific points and pick them up from a predetermined rendezvous. This will facilitate traverses of the more than 50 kilometre of walking tracks that can take people into the least disturbed parts of the study area. Also to facilitate traverses, it is planned for a Green Army team to clear the dedicated walking tracks through the study area to facilitate access. One of the advantages of the study area is that more than 50 kilometres of dedicated walkers only tracks thread through the area making access to little disturbed sites easier. While most of the experts are from Queensland some participants for this landmark event will travel from as far away as Darwin and Melbourne to participate.

Wider Community Interest: As well as the specialists the event will be covered by others just interested in the story of the event, For example, a group of artists from the Fraser Coast Regional Artists and Tutors (RATS) group aims to capture the action visually and present it next year in a series of exhibitions. The ABC is sending a radio journalist to cover the stories of what is being uncovered and discovered.

The Study Site: We have put up a new topographic map on the web site that gives distances. We estimate that *the* area within the study zone is 50 kilometres. The widest east west distance (Eurong to Lake Birrabeen is 5 kilometres) that sets up a study area of approximately 50 square kilometres. The site has a number of roads and tracks through it. We are arranging for volunteer gophers to deliver the experts to chosen destinations and to pick them up later at a mutually agreed predetermined rendezvous.

Map: The best map to use is the map of Fraser Island Great Walk.

<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/great-walks-fraser-island/pdf/fraser-gw-topo.pdf>

Over-the-phone sales of this good quality topographic map of the Great Walk can be secured by calling 13 QGOV (13 74 68). The relevant section of the map limited to the study area is attached.

Recording the Data: The University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service are collaborating so that all data is recorded and made it available in the public domain. To assist this process USC is sending two librarians to cover the event and enter the data. At the end of each day the field experts should bring specimens and report their observations to the official recorder so that they can tick off where and when the sightings were made and whether

the species has previously been recorded on the island. It will also be entered on Wildnet. There are some deficiencies with Wildnet in that at this stage it doesn't take all invertebrate data — only butterflies and Dragonflies. However the University of the Sunshine Coast is keen to collect all data as it builds up the Fraser Island Repository in its Sippy Downs Library to become the most comprehensive collection of data relevant to Fraser Island.

While it may be necessary to take some specimens away for more detailed examination we at least need some preliminary record to ensure that such inquiries are followed up.

Permits: FIDO is working on securing a permit from QPWS to cover all participants to enable the collection of relevant specimens. Details of these permits will be included in a future bulletin.

Catering: We have arranged for a most experienced chef, Graham McPherson who regularly caters at Dilli Village to provide meals **at \$45/person/day**. This is very reasonable. It allows more time for interaction with other participants and removes all of the hassle of people needing to self-cater. Those who wish to self-cater will need to be self contained with cooking and eating utensils and refrigeration.

Diet: Graham is experienced in catering for dietary preferences. If you or any of your team have dietary preferences and specifically things you can't or won't eat (e.g. meat) please send us an Email at least a week ahead of the BioBlitz so that Graham can address this. Please don't wait until you arrive to announce special dietary preferences.

Dilli Village Amenities: Some participants were unaware of the amenities at Dilli Village for accommodation and for handling the various specimens that might be brought in. We have attempted to cover this with a PDF on line:

<http://fido.org.au/Documents/Dilli%20Village%20Amenities.pdf>

The Fraser Island Repository: The University of the Sunshine Coast is in the process of establishing the most comprehensive Repository of Fraser Island (K'Gari) data to be held at the Sippy Downs Library. Anyone who has data that can enhance this holding is encouraged to discuss it with the librarians who will be present at the BioBlitz

Transport and Parking: For those people without their own 4WD transport to the island we may need to make arrangements for you to come via Hervey Bay, We hope to be able to arrange transport on the Eurong Resort day-trips or you can park at Mary River Heads and walk on to the 8,30 am, 10.00 am or 4.00 pm ferries for Wanggoolba Creek and provided we have sufficient notice we can have a gopher pick you up there. There is secure under-cover parking available at Mary River Heads and the proprietor will deliver you to the ferry and meet you on your return.

Fraser Island Conference/s: Since 2004 FIDO has been hosting Biennial Fraser Island Conferences. The next conference will be held at the University of the Sunshine Coast Sippy Downs Campus on Wednesday 16th August. This coincides with Brisbane's Ekka Holiday. Initial details are on the next page. We invite participants in the BioBlitz to consider presenting a paper there. The Conference that caters particularly to help improve the layman's understanding of Fraser Island and some of the issues it raises will precede the planned two-day Fraser Island (K'Gari) Symposium hosted by the University of the Sunshine Coast and the subsequent field trip to the island.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at bioblitz@fido.org.au if you have queries.

Dr Kim Walker, (USC) Coordinator and ***John Sinclair AO*** (FIDO)

Call for Papers Date Claimer

7th Biennial Great Sandy Conference



Fraser Island -

Time: 25 years since Fraser Island's World Heritage inscription

Tide: Trends influencing the island and surrounding sea environments

Tourism: Analysis of benefits and impacts from about 400,000 visitors annually

Wednesday, 16th August 2017, 9.00am to 5.00pm

at Innovation Centre, Sippy Downs

University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland

(PLEASE PUT THE DATE AND VENUE IN YOUR CALENDAR NOW)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Writer and Broadcaster, Dr Martin Buzacott

The theme allows wide scope to discuss geomorphology, the marine environment and the impacts of climate change as well as the island's biodiversity. It allows scope to discuss the natural beauty of the site which is one of the three World Heritage criteria that Fraser Island has met.

Anyone wishing to make a conference presentation should contact conference@fido.org.au to nominate their topic.

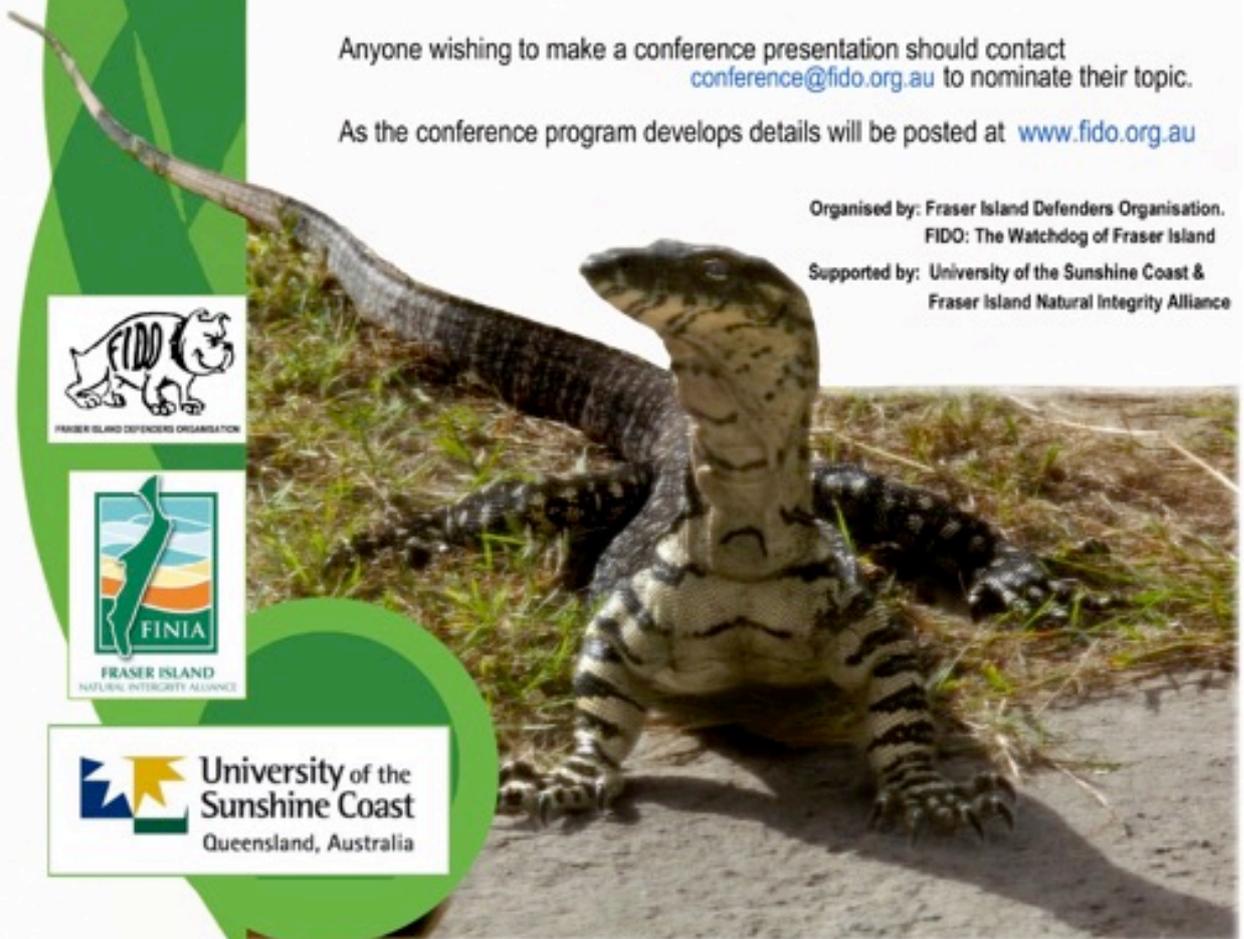
As the conference program develops details will be posted at www.fido.org.au

Organised by: Fraser Island Defenders Organisation.
FIDO: The Watchdog of Fraser Island

Supported by: University of the Sunshine Coast &
Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance



University of the
Sunshine Coast
Queensland, Australia



Source: QPWS Great Walk Map

Topographic Map of 2016 BioBlitz Study Area

Distances are identified on the various sections of tracks that provide walking access through the study area. While it is not critical to record locations of more common species, (For example, Scribbly Gums, Brown Honeyeater, etc) the Official Recorders from the University of the Sunshine Coast are keen to know the locations of unusual sightings or records to check if they have previously been recorded from Fraser Island and specific locations for the record.

