

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.

50 Old Maryborough Rd
Pialba Qld. 4655
Ph: 07 4124 1979 Fax: (07) 4124 3623
Email: mkrail@bigpond.net.au
Facebook: 'Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.'

www.savefraserislanddingoes.org.au
www.fraserislandfootprints.com
ABN: 15369 628 753
INC.NO: 1A37577 CP 5365

MEDIA RELEASE

2 Aug 2012

FENCING FRASER ISLAND..

Recent press reports regarding an attack by dingoes on a German tourist, in many cases, have been misleading, it needs to be pointed out to newcomers to the Fraser Coast and some sections of the media that:

There are no wild dogs on the Island, it is dingo territory and they are a threatened and unique species that should not be confused with the feral domestic dog.

Previous to World Heritage listing in 1992 the dingoes lived in harmony with the local people, forestry workers and Indigenous Community, they were left scraps and fish, foraged at dumpsites and wormed regularly, they had their pups under the verandah's of residents, all without incident.

Media reports suggesting the mauling of the tourist was 'unprovoked' are without basis. The fact is, the tourist was an intruder, obviously exhibiting erratic behaviour in the early hours of the morning in, what would be deemed as the dingoes backyard, this would be provocation for any self-respecting family dog, not just the apex predator of Fraser Island.

The Fraser Island dingoes are unique in that they have always associated with humans, the policy adopted by QPWS of trying to have them lose their scavenging instincts and not associate humans with food is not practical or logical. With over half a million visitors every year encounters are inevitable.

Attempts to drive the animals away from their territory to accommodate tourists has only caused more problems and, according to media, has only increased encounters. Not all encounters need to be negative, if tourists act appropriately there is minimal risk.

Once again it comes down to educating and monitoring the visitors, not hazing, trapping, tagging, collaring and destroying dingoes. The Butchulla people are not happy with their campground being fenced, will it stop careless and irresponsible behaviour? Why isn't an Indigenous ranger overseeing the backpackers who disturb and disrupt their K'Gari, that used to be paradise?

The review is under way, let's hope there will be positive change and the focus will be on maintaining and sustaining the unique environment and unique wildlife of Fraser Island.

Cheryl Bryant. Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.

