

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc

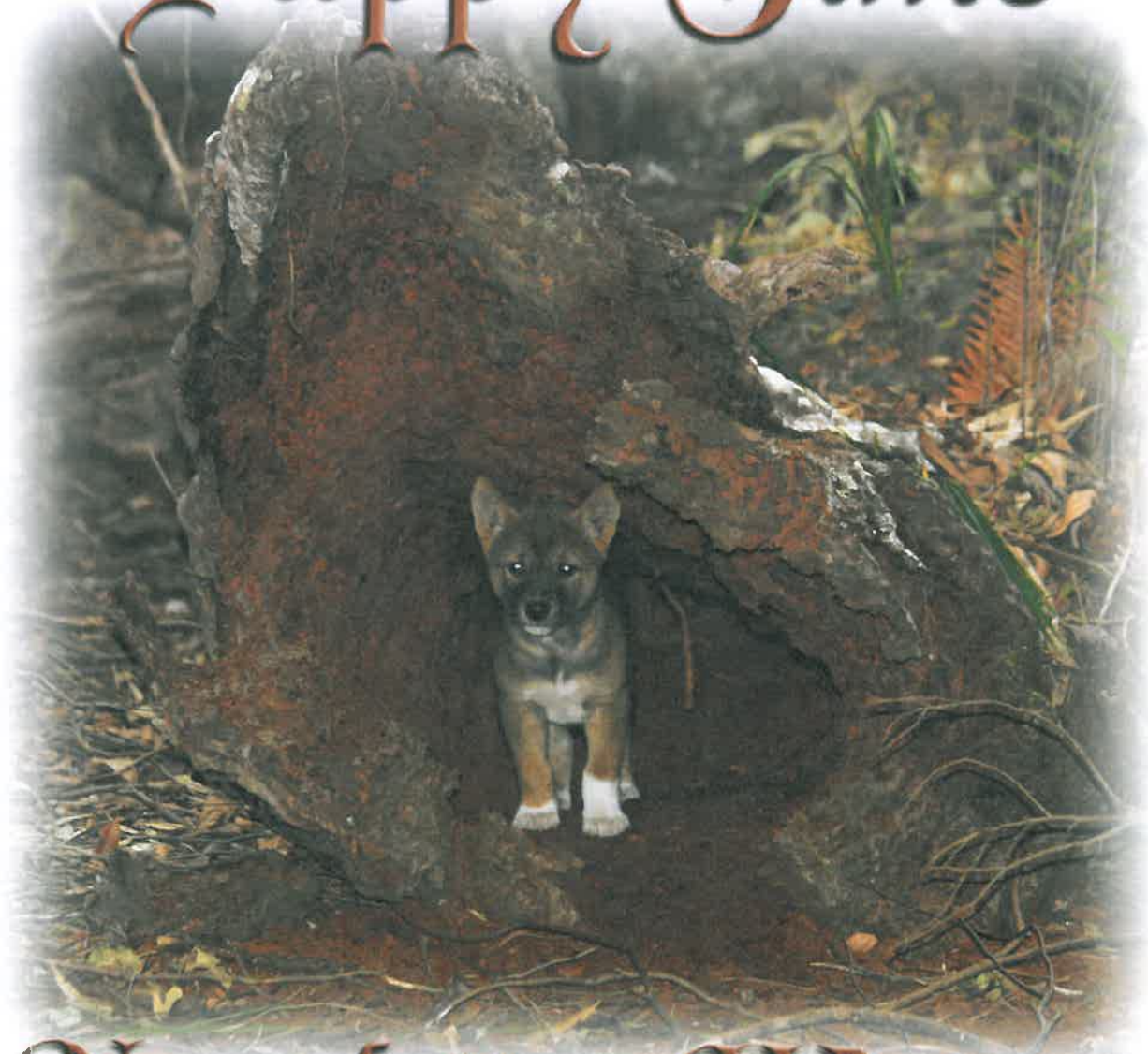
50 Old Maryborough Road Pialba
HERVEY BAY QLD 4655

Ph: (07) 41241979 Fax: (07) 41243623

E-mail: mkrail@bigpond.net.au

ABN: 15369 628 753 Incorporation Number: IA 37577 Certificate of Sanction: CP 5365

Puppy Time



Newsletter Winter 2016

SFID Committee..



Administration Team



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Assistant Secretary	Norma Hannant
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Dingo Advisor/Wildlife Photographer	Jennifer Parkhurst
Wildlife Advisor	Ray Revill
Assistant Wildlife Advisor	Amber Ward Sara Ashdown

Indigenous Advisory Team

Indigenous Advisor (Butchulla)	TBA
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President's Report .



(Welcome) Hello again and welcome to our winter newsletter. As usual we have some interesting contributions and not wishing to cloud the thunder of the contributors I'd like to firstly acknowledge Aunty Marie's sad passing. This is one person the whole community has lost and the knowledge base she had is irreplaceable. The assistance she gave SFID over a 9 year period will always be remembered and appreciated. Our condolences to her family.

(Our Aims) SFID's drive to establish the Fraser Island dingoes' diet, accurate population and breeding pair numbers, has not diminished and in search of answers, we have offered to assist Dr. Gabriel Conroy, associated with the Sunshine Coast University, with his current research projects. Please could you take the time to read his report further in this newsletter. Only through funding can research be carried out and that research could result in the preservation of this unique animal.

(Thank you) I'd like to thank Cheryl for her good work and dedication to putting the Newsletter together and to Jennifer for her cover page design and personal photographs of dingoes and in particular her interesting story on dingo behaviour before, during and after whelping. Jennifer's knowledge of dingo behaviour is outstanding and sharing this with us and the world is greatly appreciated.

Thanks go to our surveillance team, Pete and Cheryl, for taking the time and making the effort to traverse hundreds of kilometres to look for and check on the condition of the dingoes. We appreciate also the Residents, visitors and tour operators who add the extra eyes and ears on dingo movement and numbers.

(1080 Poisoning) As we put this to print a coupled of sad and disturbing occurrences have taken place. A dingo killer has caused 6 dingoes to suffer an agonising death by 1080 poisoning. The person or persons responsible have left a trail which will hopefully lead to their doorstep. We have seen the results of these deeds for the past 10 years and have been sickened by their brazenness and belief they will never get caught. However as in all jigsaw puzzles the pieces do come together and that which is currently heresay will become fact. We will be pressing for the max penalties to be imposed upon these perpetrators.

As in the past SFID has been inundated by callers advising us of negative actions against the dingoes and as per police and per Police and QPWS requests we would ask those people to come forward and remove anonymity of those involved.

Thank you once again to all those folk who have donated to the Care Facility we are still pressing on with this application and we look forward to your continued financial support in order to achieve our goals to save the Fraser Island Dingoes.

Best wishes,

Malcom

It's Puppy Time!

By Jennifer Parkhurst



Birthing, or whelping time for the dingoes on Fraser Island used to be as predictable as if the dingoes had calendars. They would always mate around mid-May and whelp the pups around 20th July. However, in the last five years, the dingoes are mating earlier and earlier, and so we can expect that there may already be pups in dens.

Choosing a den for a dingo mother is a very important task. The den has to be in a location as safe from predators as possible (mostly birds of prey and humans, but can include snakes and goannas). Sometimes dingoes dig holes in the ground, under the roots of a tree to keep the sandy ground from collapsing. Occasionally these holes will be in a valley, with plenty of safe play area for the pups, and ease of sentry duty for the alloparental helpers guarding the den.



This den in a valley was practically impossible to see, just a mere hole in the ground. The first-time Mum had obviously tried several times to dig a den without success because there were a few other holes around. These pups are three weeks old, and barely ventured out except to greet Mum when she came to provision them. I think only one pup survived from this litter of eight..



This den, also in a valley was practically perfect., with a wide front opening to keep the weather out, and the opening facing east. The trunk of this fallen tree was quite long, and when they were inside, I couldn't see the pups. There was a 100% mortality rate for this litter of four.

Mostly however on Fraser Island the dens I have seen have been $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up a steep hill, to give even better advantage for the sentries. These hillside dens always seem to have easy access to the hill-top so when the pups are old enough to wander out of the den they have a play area. Dens are located fairly close to a water source, though for the first 4 weeks of life the pups are hydrated by their mother's milk and thereafter from the regurgitated food transfer she supplies them. She also regurgitates water for them. Most dingoes tend to choose a fallen tree which has been partially eaten by white-ants, and which they then further excavate. I've noticed that most dens, if they are fairly long and straight, face east-west. This allows the early morning sun to warm the entrance, and makes the most of the midday sun, which falls onto the centre of the den and keep the pups warm inside.

Dingoes usually move the pups to bigger dens as they get older, and eventually, at around 3 months, try to teach the pups to live out in the open. This can be traumatic for the pups, who sometimes don't wish to leave the safety of their den. On one occasion, I watched a bitch continually try to move her pups away from the den, but they kept returning to it. Sadly, they were just growing too big. Inevitably, a pup got stuck in the den, and the mother ran around the tree trunk whining, trying to entice the pup outside. The pup, stuck, was whining in return, unable to move. It was a terrible thing to watch. The pup eventually got out, and must have learnt her lesson, and the litter was successfully moved.

Hillside dens:



A den in an entirely flat area::



These pups loved their den and did not want to leave it. There was a 100% mortality rate for this litter of six.

Dingoes rarely use the same den twice, but their dens are sometimes used by different mothers.

Puppy season is a time when dingoes do everything they can to ensure the survival of their whelps. If pups from the previous year survive, they will help their parents raise the new litter of pups. Unfortunately, the mortality rate is very high; 30-50% mortality in the first 3 months due to starvation, or hazard reduction burns that are done while they are still in dens; then once they leave the den, vehicle strikes, poisoning, and 'unknown causes' and finally starvation when they are juveniles, all add to their mortality rate, meaning some entire litters of pups never make it to adulthood at all. Let's hope that most of this year's pups survive so that they can help their parents raise next year's litters, otherwise we'll simply run out of dingoes on Fraser Island.

Publicity Officer's Report.



Poisoning in Paradise.

Fraser Island is again in the news, not because of its pristine beaches and unique environment but because more dingo deaths have been reported. Recently an animal was destroyed for alleged aggressive behaviour another died from vehicle strike, this time six carcasses have been discovered in the Orchid Beach area and all indications lead to deliberate poisoning.

This is distressing but not surprising, there have been reports of pups being destroyed in dens and animals being poisoned in this area for years, but a lack of evidence has hampered any investigation by the authorities. It is hard to comprehend that anyone on the Island would resort to destroying the wildlife that most of us cherish, but the fact is there are still those who hold the view that the only good dingo is a dead dingo..

During the period January 2014 to April 2016 there were 34 dingo deaths, including six euthanised, and this is only the number recorded in the deceased register, actual figures are unknown. If the population fluctuates between 100 and 200 animals as some researchers claim, then this number must be a concern and this latest tragedy only compounds the stress and pressure the population is subjected to on a daily basis.

We hope that these deaths will lead to a full and complete investigation into the poisoning of animals at Orchid Beach and for those who may have information, to step up and speak out.

Residents have expressed their outrage at this demented act of barbarism and cruelty.

'As a landowner/resident at Orchid Beach I find this absolutely appalling. We live between our two island properties, Straddie & Fraser and love the diverse Eco system on both including the dingoes at Fraser. As dog and dingo lovers we find this disgusting. A few weeks back we had a little female come and actually sit right next to us at the beach. She sat there for ages, rolled over and then up she got and went on her way. We didn't pat her and totally respect they are a wild animals and certainly do not feed them as a lot do. They are to be respected, certainly not hunted and killed in such an awful manner. I hope those responsible are caught and dealt with accordingly. As being locals of Orchid Beach, we don't want to be accused of being dingo haters.'

Dingo whodunnit

By MEGAN COLE

SIX dingoes found dead on Fraser Island have all shown signs consistent with poisoning.

National Parks Minister Dr Steven Miles said the results of toxicology testing had not yet been received, but preliminary autopsy reports pointed to all of the animals suffering the same symptoms which led to their deaths.

"These symptoms were consistent with illegal poisoning but we

will not know for certain until the toxicology results are received," Dr Miles said.

"The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will pursue all avenues in this investigation to establish just what has happened and who is behind these killings.

"Any individuals found to be involved can expect to be pursued to the maximum extent possible under the law.

Dr Miles said the carcasses of six dingoes were recovered from the Orchid Beach area of Fraser Island

after reports of deceased dingoes were first received on Friday (17 June).

One of the animals had been buried in a shallow grave.

A spokesperson for advocacy group Save Fraser Island Dingoes (SIFID) said news of the poisoning was distressing, but not surprising.

"SIFID has been receiving reports of pups being destroyed in dens and animals being poisoned in this area for years," they said.

"It is hard to comprehend that

anyone on the Island would resort to destroying the wildlife that most of us cherish, but the fact is there are still those who hold the view that the only good dingo is a dead dingo.

"It is time for a full and complete investigation into the poisoning of animals at Orchid Beach and for those who have information to have the courage and conscience to speak up."

The organisation pleads for killing dingoes in a protected area to \$15,400 in two years in pay but in this case other penalties could per-



entially apply.

The use of 1080 bait is regulated in Queensland for the control of wild dogs, feral pigs, rabbits and foxes, but a Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service spokesperson said the bait was not used on Fraser Island.

Fraser Island 20-22 June 2016

MONDAY 20 June.

I again had the opportunity to go across to the Island with Peter Hodgson, as an ex tour guide, he is more than familiar with the Island. We made an early start and boarded the 6.45AM barge from River Heads, mainly consisting of workers, arriving at Kingfisher around 7.40AM. Fortunately we missed the storms over the weekend and the weather was no less than perfect.

Before driving across to Eurong we checked the beach outside of Kingfisher and noted fresh paw prints, probably one animal.

Because of the previous days rain the track across the Island was compacted and made it a much easier drive than usual.

8.50AM We decided to take a detour to Lake McKenzie before the buses and tag-a long tours arrived.

No sign of animals in this area but a pile of rubbish left the previous day by a thoughtless visitor.



9.35AM Departed Lake McKenzie and headed to Central Station.



Wildlife attempting to break into vehicle.

10.00AM Arrived at Central Station, walked around the visitor area and the camping grounds, but as on the previous visit, there were no signs of dingoes.

We were harassed by some of the resident wildlife that tried to break into the vehicle. We didn't report the incident.

An example of the new signage...



11.20AM Arrived at Eurong Beach and continued driving north, all the camping areas that were closed on our previous trip in March were still closed (One Tree, Wongai, Cornwell's, Gabala and

Lake Wabby.) More paw prints south of Yidney Rocks, Happy Valley and Maheno area.

Not much left of the Maheno, even in three months we noticed a lot of deterioration, soon all that will be visible are the smoke stacks.



Drove on to Indian Head.

12.45AM Arrived at Indian Head, Pete went up for a view and I decided I had seen the view a number of times, so would stay on the beach and look for scats.

No dingo scats to be seen, but FINALLY as we were leaving in the distance we saw a dingo! It seemed so long since we had seen an animal, not having even a glimpse on our last visit.

A young male, probably sub-adult, was enjoying a cool ocean dip, the few people that noticed him stayed a discreet distance and he paid no interest. He was tagged and looked to be healthy. (tag solid white?)



Dingo at Indian Head.

2.00PM Arrived at K'Gari camp and spent some time talking to Aunty Mallie's son, no sign of the injured dingo that had been reported in the area, but were told there was another injured animal in the Oaks area with a dangling leg, sad that there is nothing that can be done for these animals, a shot of antibiotics wont heal a broken limb.

3PM Entered Eurong Beach Resort, no dingo sightings at the time but Pete went for a walk on the beach at dusk and was fortunate to see a young female trotting along the shoreline.

It seemed evident that the animals who were out and about were sub-adults without families in the dens to care for. They were not spending much time on the beach, but rather using it as a thoroughfare to get from A to B, that is why we were seeing paw prints but finding it difficult to be in the right place at the right time to see the animal.

TUESDAY 21 June.

6.45AM Drove back and forth along the beach from Eurong and found more paw prints, returned to Eurong

8.45AM Left Eurong and headed north, saw more prints around Poyungan, clearly two animals. Stopped at the track to the Kirra Sand Blow it was a pleasant walk to the sand blow but on returning

there was a tour group entering and a couple of the tourists had boogie boards tucked under their arms. I think their plans were obvious and would have been with the knowledge of the tour guide.

10AM Prints again around Happy Valley we continued to Indian Head but no sign of the animal we saw the previous day.



1.00PM-2.15PM Returned south and on to Dilli Village where we located more prints.

2.45PM. Drove back to Eurong and at dusk walked north and south along the beach until it was dark, but no sign of any animals.

WEDNESDAY 22nd June.

6.45AM. Walked down to the beach again from Eurong, this time there were paw prints around the track to the ranger station and further on near the police entrance. So although we did not see the animals there are definitely dingoes in the area. The prints were not large, most likely sub-adult.

8.40AM Left Eurong and headed north to Indian Head for the last time, no animals.

11.20AM Back to Eurong and spent an hour on the beach before heading across to Kingfisher, caught the afternoon Ferry back to River Heads.

Before leaving Eurong we were informed of the suspected poisoning of the dingoes at Orchid Beach so it was a sad farewell to an otherwise enjoyable couple of days...

Warm wishes for winter..

Cheryl Bryant.



Legal Advisor's Report Winter 2016.



On a recent review of Chris McGrath, Barrister's paper from the Journal of Environmental Law I thought it might be interesting reading for our members. On 4 May 2001, a Court action commenced, led by Chris McGrath Barrister at Law, in an attempt to restrain the Beattie Government from culling dingoes on Fraser Island, following the sad death of Clinton Gage. Chris McGrath (with whom I have had talks) explained to me he believed one of the reasons they failed in their endeavours to restrain the Government was the lack of scientific experts available to give evidence. As there has still not been the recommended scientific investigations take place (to the best of my knowledge) I cannot help but wonder why the State Government continue on their path of extinction for the Fraser Island Dingo by killing dingoes deemed to be "threatening". The cull of "30 or so dingoes" was the start and the mind-set has not altered. I cannot also help wonder whether the Fraser Island Dingo, a separate and distinct species from the mainland, is in fact a threatened species under the EPBC Act.

Marilyn Nuske Legal Advisor SFID.

The Fraser Island Dingo Case

CHRIS McGRATH

LLB (Hons), BSc, LLM (Environmental Law), PhD candidate (QUT), Barrister-at-Law

Introduction

In the recent *Fraser Island Dingo Case* the Federal Court declined to grant two applications sought under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) for interim injunctions restraining the culling of dingoes by the Queensland government within the Fraser Island World Heritage Area. The decision is only the second judicial consideration of the new EPBC Act but again it highlights the sea change for public interest litigation and the protection of biodiversity that has come about with the new Commonwealth legislation.

Background to the case

On 30 April 2001 a nine-year-old boy, Clinton Gage, and his younger brother went from their campsite at Waddy Point within the Fraser Island World Heritage Area off the Queensland coast to explore the nearby sand dunes. They were only 150 metres from the campsite when they noticed that two dingoes were circling them. Scared by the dingoes, they started to run for their campsite, Clinton fell and was attacked by the dingoes. His brother raised the alarm at the campsite and returned with his father to find Clinton had been mauled to death by the dingoes. Realising that the dingoes still represented a danger, the father sent the young brother back to camp. The dingoes attacked him but the father managed to fight them off. The two dingoes were shot later that day by officers of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). What followed was a media and public outcry over

the attack, and management of dingoes generally within the Fraser Island World Heritage Area.¹

In response, the Queensland government ordered an immediate cull of dingoes within the Fraser Island World Heritage Area. Initial information was scant, but conservationists and representatives of the traditional owners became increasingly concerned during the following week as media reports of the culling continued and the public statements from the Queensland government indicated the cull might extend to a large number of dingoes and continue over an extended period. On Friday 4 May 2001 there were media reports of 12 dingoes being culled the previous day. The Queensland government refused to hold off on further plans for culling so that a considered management decision could be made or to confirm that the cull would be limited to a certain level.

The concern over the culling of dingoes within the Fraser Island World Heritage Area was not simply an esoteric love of dogs or wilderness values. Dingoes play an important ecological role within the Australian environment as a high order predator contributing to ecological and evolutionary processes.² Although their total numbers are difficult to estimate, it is believed that there are

¹ For earlier criticism of the management of world heritage areas generally and Fraser Island in particular, see M Lane and T Corbett, "Not All World Heritage Areas are Created Equal: World Heritage Area Management in Australia" (1996) 13 EPLJ 461; and RJ Stevenson, "Time for a New Regime for Fraser Island?" (2000) 17 (6) EPLJ 569.

² L Corbett, *The Dingo in Australia and Asia*, University of NSW Press, Sydney, 1995; LK Corbett in R Strahan (ed) *The Mammals of Australia* (New Holland Publishers, Carlton, 1998), pp 696-698.

between 100-200 dingoes within the Fraser Island World Heritage Area.³ The unique and high biodiversity of Fraser Island, including the genetic purity of the resident dingo population, was one basis of the nomination and listing of Fraser Island on the World Heritage List under the World Heritage Convention.⁴ In discussing the island's unique biodiversity, the nomination of Fraser Island by the Government of Australia noted the significance of the resident dingo population as follows:⁵

"Fraser Island supports a population of several hundred dingoes (*Canis familiaris*), regarded as the purest strain of dingo remaining in eastern Australia. The dingo belongs to an equatorial group of primitive dogs. It arrived in Australia relatively recently and may have been introduced by Aborigines."

Given the small numbers, ecological importance and status as part of the world heritage values of dingoes on Fraser Island and faced with a situation of considerable uncertainty over the possible continued cull over an extended period, on the afternoon of Friday 4 May 2001 two applicants urgently sought interim injunctions under the EPBC Act to restrain the cull. In bringing the applications so urgently, the applicants were hampered by difficulty in obtaining a dingo expert familiar with Fraser Island and its dingoes as the Queensland government had retained most of those experts during the preceding week to advise it on the best approach to managing the dingoes. Unable to obtain a specialist in this field, the applicants obtained the services of an ecologist to provide evidence of the impacts that the culling would have and, due to the time constraints involved, decided to proceed without having seen the expert's report. Having little over two hours to prepare a report and lacking full information on either the culling or Fraser Island dingo population, the evidence of this expert probably understated the true impacts of the cull on

the Fraser Island dingoes or the Fraser Island ecosystem. This was the critical point upon which the applications were to flounder.

The relevant law

At a State level, dingoes (*Canis familiaris* dingo) are excluded from general protection as native fauna under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) (NCA).⁶ However, within protected areas such as the Fraser Island National Park and World Heritage Area, they are protected under s 62 of that Act (Restriction on taking etc of cultural and natural resources of protected areas). While the decision of the Queensland government to cull dingoes on Fraser Island was arguably ultra vires (that is, beyond its legal power) as inconsistent with the management principles for National Parks stated in s 17 (Management principles of national parks) of the NCA⁷ and that standing could possibly have been obtained to challenge the decision through judicial review,⁸ the EPBC Act presented a far simpler and more direct avenue to challenge the merits of the cull.

While dingoes are not listed as threatened under the EPBC Act, as part of and contributing to the world heritage values of the Fraser Island World Heritage Area, they are protected under s 12 of the EPBC Act, which, as relevant here, provides as follows:

"Requirement for approval of activities with a significant impact on a declared World Heritage property

(1) A person must not take an action that:

- (a) has or will have a significant impact on the world heritage values of a declared World Heritage property; or

³ LK Corbett, "Management of Dingoes on Fraser Island for Queensland Department of Environment" (ERA Environmental Services Pty Ltd, Darwin, 1998), p 7.

⁴ Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage ATS 1975 No 47.

⁵ Commonwealth of Australia, Nomination of Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Region by the government of Australia for inclusion in the World Heritage List, Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, Canberra, 1991, p 64.

⁶ See Schedule 5 Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994 (Qld), which expressly excludes dingoes from the definition of common mammals indigenous to Australia. This excludes dingoes from the protection of s 88 (Restrictions on taking etc protected animals) of the NCA.

⁷ See *Cape York Aboriginal Land Council v Executive Director of the Department of the Environment* [2000] QCA 202 (Qld CA); DE Fisher, "Considerations, Principles and Objectives in Environmental Management in Australia" (2000) 17 (6) EPLJ 487 at 497.

⁸ Ibid. Note *North Queensland Conservation Council Inc v The Executive Director, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service* [2000] QSC 172 (Chesterman J). Contrast *Central Queensland Speleological Society v Queensland Cement and Lime Pty Ltd* [1989] 2 Qd R 512 (Qld CA).

- (b) is likely to have a significant impact on the world heritage values of a declared World Heritage property.

Civil Penalty:

- for an individual - 5,000 penalty units;
for a body corporate- 50,000 penalty units.”

This provision has been analysed elsewhere;⁹ however, of particular relevance to the *Fraser Island Dingo Case* was that the State of Queensland is a legal person and capable of being sued.¹⁰ Section 4 of the EPBC Act states that the Act binds the Crown in each of its capacities, which includes the Crown in right of the State of Queensland.¹¹ Although standing (that is, the legal right to bring an action) and the general obligation to give an undertaking as to damages when seeking an interim or interlocutory injunction have caused considerable difficulty to public interest litigants previously, ss 475 and 478 of the Act, which widen standing for conservationists and conservation groups and remove the requirement to give an undertaking as to damages, appear to have largely overcome these difficulties.¹² Indeed, the respondent Queensland government did not raise these issues in argument nor any constitutional issues.

The decision of the Federal Court

The two applications for an interim injunction to restrain the culling of dingoes within the Fraser Island World Heritage Area, *Schneiders v The State of Queensland* and *Jones v The State of Queensland* [2001] FCA 553,¹³ were heard together by Justice Dowsett in the Federal Court at Brisbane late on Friday 4 May 2001. The applicants gave affidavit evidence that the dingoes were part of the world heritage values of the Fraser Island World Heritage

Area and, as mentioned above, an ecologist gave evidence regarding the impact that the culling would have on the dingoes. The ecologist was unable to say that the impact of the culling would be significant but indicated that it should not occur until more information was obtained to assess its impact. In response for the respondent Queensland government, a senior manager of the QPWS gave evidence that by 2 pm on 4 May 2001, officers of the QPWS had culled 17 dingoes on Fraser Island and that more would have been shot by the time of the hearing. Further, this witness gave evidence that the culling would not exceed a total of 30 animals and would be completed by last light on the following day, 5 May 2001. The cull was therefore substantially complete by the time of the hearing. This became the basis upon which the applications were argued.

In making its decision, the court found that dingoes were part of the world heritage values of Fraser Island and that there was a serious question to be tried under s 12 of the EPBC Act; however, in relation to the balance of convenience, Justice Dowsett concluded:

“I must balance issues of public safety against world heritage issues ... In all of the circumstances I am not persuaded that the balance of convenience favours intervention by the court at this stage. The proposed continued cull will extend for a finite period of time and will involve a relatively small number of animals. In those circumstances, and particularly having regard to the relative weakness of the case, I consider that the balance of convenience does not favour interim relief at this stage.”

Consequently the court declined to grant the applications sought and the Queensland government completed its cull of 30 dingoes on Fraser Island.

Conclusion

The decision in the *Fraser Island Dingo Case* is only the second judicial consideration of the EPBC Act.¹⁴ It is trite to say that better evidence of the significant impact should have been obtained prior to seeking the urgent hearing; however, difficulties in obtaining suitable evidence is often the norm for urgent applications and the applicants made the

⁹ See C McGrath, “An introduction to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth), its implications for State environmental legislation and public interest litigation” (2000) 6 (28) QEPR 102.

¹⁰ *Crown Proceedings Act* 1980 (Qld).

¹¹ It is now well settled that Commonwealth legislation may bind State governments: *Melbourne Corporation v Commonwealth* (1947) 74 CLR 31 (*The State Banking Case*); *Victoria v Commonwealth* (1971) 122 CLR 353 (*The Payroll Tax Case*); *Commonwealth v Tasmania* (1983) 158 CLR 1 (*The Tasmanian Dam Case*).

¹² For a discussion of these issues see C McGrath, “Casenote: *Booth v Bosworth*” (2000) 18 (1) EPLJ 23.

¹³ The decision is available on the internet at <<http://www.federalcourt.gov.au>>.

¹⁴ For the first decision, see *Booth v Bosworth* [2000] FCA 1878; McGrath, *op cit* n 12.

decision to seek the interim injunction knowing this. However, for other potential applicants it is worth noting that the onus of showing that an interim injunction should be granted rests with the applicant and that faced with uncertainty a court will normally choose to remain with the status quo (that is, not to grant the application). Therefore a strong evidentiary base is critical.

The *Fraser Island Dingo Case* is remarkable perhaps more for what was not argued. The respondent Queensland government did not raise the

issues of standing, an undertaking as to damages nor any constitutional issue. That two private citizens were able to bring an action before a court challenging the actions of a State government in managing State land and be able to argue the merits of their case is a fundamental change over the previous situation. Twelve months ago (that is, prior to the commencement of the EPBC Act) such an action would not have been possible, at least in Queensland. There are interesting times ahead as the new Act continues to be tested.

Hervey Bay Independent
14 April.



While the future of Fraser Island's iconic dingoes is shadowed with uncertainty, researchers are finally shedding some light on their ancient history. Photo: Billie L. Mabbie

Future in doubt for Fraser Island icon

THE FUTURE of Fraser Island dingoes is in doubt, with conservation groups, the Queensland Government and the Department of Natural Parks, Sport and Racing (DNPSR) but pushed with the enthusiasm of a Fraser Island dingo to work - the first for 2011.

Rangers made the difficult decision to destroy a young female from the Ewong area during the Easter school holidays after it engaged in a fourth high-risk encounter with humans this year.

In total, 61 Fraser Island dingoes have been removed since 2009 for displaying threatening and high-risk behaviour towards people.

Debate over the impact of its on-going decrease in population size and pack dynamics on the island continues to rage between conservationists and the DNPSR.

Cheryl Reynolds from the Fraser Island Dingoes said a lack of accurate data on population size and breeding pairs was a major part of the problem.

"The population figures fluctuate between 70 to 100 animals, so the actual number of animals and breeding pairs is not known with any accuracy," she told the *indy*.

"There is a real possibility that the population could fall below a sustainable level.

"Drought, disease or continued destruction of animals could all result in the demise of the dingo."

Fraser Island must come first," she said in a statement.

"If visitors to Fraser Island act appropriately around dingoes and follow these messages we expect to see a continuing decline in the numbers of dingoes that become unacceptable high-risk to people and are euthanised."

"Dingoes are not pets. They are wild and unpredictable predatory animals and must be treated as such."

While the future of the Fraser Island dingo is uncertain, researchers from University of New England and Griffith University now believe their ancestors might have been introduced to Australia by humans, rather than from such animals at least 2000 years ago.

*In Memory of
Aunty Marie Wilkinson*

20 July 1933 - 26 March 2016



Aunty Marie Wilkinson was highly respected and admired, she was many things to many people. Aunty Marie fought hard and long for better housing and rights for Indigenous people and loved to share her stories with school children, about the past, the importance of "Country" and looking after the Environment. She was a staunch advocate in the fight for the Butchulla people to be recognised as the traditional owners of Fraser Island and for the conservation of the island's dingoes.

Native Title Determination on Fraser Island 2014.



Norma Hannant, Cheryl Bryant, Aunty Marie and Karin Kilpatrick.

To SFID she was our friend, Indigenous Advisor and passionate supporter of our cause, our promise to her is to keep up the good fight. She will be sadly missed.

Aunty Marie died in Maryborough Hospital on March 26., 2016, the funeral was held at St Joseph's Catholic Church on April 6, hundreds of mourners attended and family and friends spoke of her life and accomplishments.



Daniel Saunders, Malcom Burns and Conway Burns send Aunty Marie Wilkinson off with a farewell dance. (Photo Alistair Brightman, Fraser Coast Chronicle.)



Are Fraser Island's pure-bred dingoes becoming inbred? Experts urge DNA tests

Tony Moore

Published: March 29, 2016 - 9:46AM

Fraser Island's pure-bred dingoes are at risk from genetic inbreeding and an urgent independent DNA study is now essential, the island's dingo watchdog says.

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Incorporated's Cheryl Bryant questions the Queensland government's Fraser Island dingo population figures, which say there have been 100 to 200 dingoes on Fraser Island at any time since 1990.

"I don't think anybody really knows, and that is something we keep pushing for, an independent population study," she said.

Ms Bryant said the government-commissioned dingo population figures were not detailed enough to track genetic diversity.

"We don't trust their figures, to be honest," she said.

"We would like an independent study, possibly by a university not associated very closely with government funding."

The dingo watchdog group commented after Queensland's National Parks and Wildlife Service recently documented the 160th incident where a dingo has leapt, lunged or taken food from a tourist since 2000.

In October 2014 two female tourists jogging along [a Fraser Island beach were "bought down" by dingoes.](#)

Ms Bryant said dingo watchdog group believed genetic inbreeding among the species on Fraser Island was a "real possibility".

"They have been isolated (on the island) for so long and we know of some cases of inbreeding," she said.

"So we would like a proper DNA study on the genetic diversity of the dingo, because if the genetic diversity is compromised, the population could be at risk."

Ms Bryant said observers had noted dingoes "as very lightly framed", with "animals acting in different ways".

"If you had seen pictures of (Fraser Island) dingoes before and (Fraser Island) dingoes now, they seem to have a different body shape."

Fears of genetic inbreeding in Fraser Island's dingoes were [first reported in 2011 by Australian Geographic.](#)

However in 2014 a Queensland government study ruled out inbreeding as a problem for Fraser Island's dingoes, based on the results of a study done two years prior.

"Inbreeding has not been identified as a risk to the Fraser Island dingo population, and like all native species on the island, the dingo population is being left to manage itself," the Department of Environment and Heritage said in a statement in 2014.

"The external review of the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy in 2012 [did not support the introduction of new dingo genetics](#) to Fraser Island," they told the ABC.

However James Cook ecologist Damian Marrant, who is supervising a postgraduate student researching dingo genetics, agrees the inbreeding concerns should be treated seriously in 2016.

"There is some validity in that argument, because they are a small population and inbreeding could be a concern," Dr Marrant said.

He said inbreeding would make Fraser Island dingoes susceptible to disease and environmental stress.

"It can mean that they are less able to cope with changes to the environment," he said.

"If you have a genetically diverse population the genes are there to help them survive with changes to climate and disease, for example.

"But if they are inbred, they are less able to cope with that as a population."

Meanwhile, a 65-year-old Caboolture man was fined \$500 and ordered to pay an extra \$250 in court costs after trying to feed a dingo at Lake McKenzie on Fraser Island in October 2014.

People have now tried 160 times to "contact a dingo" on Fraser Island since 2000 and the wild native dog has either lunged, bitten, nipped or bailed up the person.

Queensland's National Parks and Wildlife Service executive director Neil Cambourn said people must be aware that dingoes, though timid, were wild dogs that would bite.

Mr Cambourn said feeding dingoes was illegal.

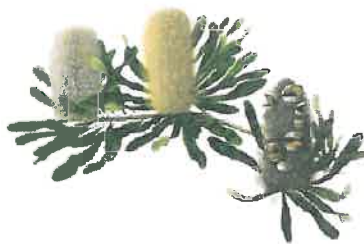
"It's important to remember that dingoes are wild, dangerous animals capable of injuring people and should be treated as such."

Mr Cambourn said the National Parks and Wildlife Service had little choice but to put down dingoes if they are fed by a visitor.

"Visitors need to remember, a fed dingo is a dead dingo," he said.

"Fed dingoes associate humans with food, become bold, and may attack humans."

This story was found at: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/are-fraser-islands-purebred-dingoes-becoming-inbred-experts-urge-dna-test-20160329-gnsilq.html>





DAILY MAIL... 29 March 2016
AUSTRALIA

Fears for Fraser Island's iconic dingoes as they begin to become INBRED from being 'isolated for so long'

- Pure-bred dingo population on Fraser Island in Queensland is dwindling
- They are more at risk of genetic inbreeding, island's dingo watchdog says
- Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc. call for an independent population study
- They said the Queensland Government's figures of 100-200 are 'unreliable'
- They want the study to focus on the genetic viability of their dingoes

By **TANG LI FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA**

The population of pure-bred dingoes on Fraser Island is dwindling as they become more at risk of genetic inbreeding, the island's dingo organisation says.

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Incorporated is calling on the Queensland Government for an independent and reliable population study that focuses on the genetic viability of the island's iconic dingoes, located 200 kilometres north of Brisbane in Queensland.

Spokeswoman Cheryl Bryant told Daily Mail Australia that the dingo watchdog doesn't rely on the Queensland government's population figures of 100 to 200 dingoes on Fraser Island at any time since 1990.



The population of pure-bred dingoes on Fraser Island is dwindling as they become more at risk of genetic inbreeding, the island's dingo watchdog says.

'We really don't know if that's accurate or not and we don't feel that it's a reliable study,' Ms Bryant told Daily Mail Australia.

She said the organisation receives feedback from people who visit the island who haven't seen dingoes there, and residents who haven't seen the animals previously.

'It's a worry to be honest we don't know and because it's an island, anything could happen to upset

the population so we're very concerned about the population because being isolated during a disease outbreak could wipe them out completely,' she said.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO INBRED DINGOES?

The genetic inbreeding of Fraser Island dingoes would make them more susceptible to disease and environmental stress. A genetically diverse population allows for genes to help dingoes survive climate and disease changes, among other things. Genetically inbred dingoes would find it more difficult to cope and adapt to environmental changes as a population.

The organisation is mostly concerned about the genetics of the dingo population and the potential for genetic inbreeding, as they have been isolated for quite some time.

'We would like some studies on the genetic viability of the animals because if their genetic viability is compromised then the population is compromised, so that's possibly even more important than the number of dingoes on the island,' Ms Bryant said.

She said the physical effects of genetic inbreeding are starting to show, with dingoes developing a different body shape.

Ms Bryant said people on the island observed that dingoes had 'very light frames and acted in different ways than before.'

She said there is an urgent need for an in-depth independent DNA study potentially carried out by a university and not as closely associated with state government funding.

'We've spoken to scientists and researchers and they agree that genetic diversity and viability is an issue and should be pursued.'

'It's always a problem when you have a wilderness area and an influx of tourists who don't know how to behave in that situation. There are always going to be problems on the island and we ask people to respect the wilderness.'

When asked if the organisation had an estimate of how many dingoes were on the island, Ms Bryant said: 'to be honest I don't know, and that's the issue.'

Ms Bryant said Save Fraser Island Dingoes wants to keep the government honest about dingo population figures.

'We ask the public not to feed dingoes and to come forward if they sight any dingoes or misbehaviour towards the animals on the island.'

But in 2014, a Queensland government study ruled out inbreeding as a problem for the island's dingoes, based on the results of a study done two years prior.

'Inbreeding has not been identified as a risk to the Fraser Island dingo population, and like all native species on the island, the dingo population is being left to manage itself,' the Department of Environment and Heritage said in a statement in 2014.

'The external review of the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy in 2012 did not support the introduction of new dingo genetics to Fraser Island,' they told the ABC.





Fraser Island 'purebred' dingoes could be extinct in 10 years: study

Tony Moore

Published: March 30, 2016 - 11:41AM

Fraser Island's 100 or so wild dingoes – among the island's unique attractions – could be extinct within 10 years, conservationists fear.

The first evidence that Fraser Island's pure-bred dingoes are "critically inbred" has emerged.

The "extreme inbreeding" in Fraser Island dingoes is confirmed in a soon-to-be-published genetic study of dingoes by University of New South Wales PhD student Dr Kylie Cairns.

Dr Cairns said dingoes could be extinct from Fraser Island within a decade.

"I think that that is a very real possibility, sadly," Dr Cairns said.

"Particularly if the population remains quite small as it is now.

"And, again, we still don't actually know how many dingoes there are on the island, because they have not done a proper scientific population survey of the dingoes."

[Dr Cairns' study – soon to be published in scientific journals](#) – says there are "real doubts" the purebred dingo on Fraser Island could survive.

"Strong inbreeding was observed in the Fraser Island dingo population," her study, which examines three main dingo breeds in Australia, finds.

"These findings have significant implications for the management and conservation of dingoes," it continues.

Conservationists and dingo handlers on Tuesday called on the Queensland government to begin a detailed dingo DNA study.

However Queensland's Department of Environment and Heritage Protection rejected suggestions Fraser Island dingoes were threatened and said a "pilot" DNA study had started.

A research paper, by Dr Ben Allen of the University of Queensland, published in the [Australian Journal of Environmental Management](#) on April 13, 2015, estimated there was a stable population of 162 dingoes (76 adults and 86 pups) in 19 "dingo packs" on Fraser Island.

However that number had dropped from over 300 dingoes in the 1990s.

The department said it had recently asked University of Sunshine Coast researcher Dr Gabriel Conroy to investigate Fraser Island dingo DNA using dingo "scats" or faeces samples.

Neil Cambourn, executive director of regional operations east at QPWS, said it was difficult to measure Fraser Island's dingo populations because of the inaccessible forest on Fraser Island.

"This research aims to provide an estimate of the current Fraser Island dingo population size and a genetic profile of the Fraser Island dingo population," Mr Cambourn said.

"In a parallel study, the Sunshine Coast University researchers will analyse these samples with 200 that were collected over the past decade," he said.

Thirteen dingoes have been killed on Fraser Island after being hit by 4WDs since 2013.

Also 110 dingoes between 2001 and 2013 have been "humanely" put down by rangers, however the research paper by Dr Allen counts an average of 80 dingo pups born to the 19 dingo "packs" every year.

"This data suggests that current humane destruction practices are unlikely to have short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the breeding success or sustainability of the island's dingo population," the Allen report says.

However, conservationists say dingo pups have a "high mortality rate" and instead question the declining number of adult dingoes.

Dr Ernest Healy, of Australia's National Dingo Preservation and Recovery Program, said the organisation believes Fraser Island's dingo population has struggled since 31 dingoes were culled by the Queensland government in 2001 after 9-year-old Clinton Gage was killed by a dingo.

"Now if you are to take their claims that there were between 100 to 200 animals there then, that is a big proportion of the total population that was taken out," he said.

"It was a meaningless cull, but in terms of the genetics, it was terribly significant because it was a high proportion of the population."

Kingaroy dingo handler and breeder Simon Stretton says purebred Fraser Island dingoes will be gone in 10 years.

He estimates 13 per cent of the current dingo population – which he also estimates at "between 50 and 70" – are hybrid, cross-bred with dogs brought over by forestry workers 20 years ago.

"Yes, we need to do a DNA study, but in order to do that you need to be on the island – not walking up the beach one day a week – but camping over there, until it is done," he said.

This story was found at: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/fraser-island-purebred-dingoes-could-be-extinct-in-10-years-study-20160329-gnqj3.html>





K'gari-Fraser Island Dingo Research Projects:

Dr Gabriel Conroy, USC

Current Projects:

- **Baseline genetic analysis**, using microsatellite (co-dominant) markers to determine levels of genetic diversity and inbreeding, and changes in these over time. *Project completion, August 2016.*
- **Pilot DNA-mark-recapture to estimate population size:** A pilot study using scats collected with volunteer input, at two separate time steps. These are then genetically analysed, with the data used to estimate the size of the Fraser Island dingo population. *Project completion, August 2016.*

Potential Future projects:

- **Further genetic analysis of currently held samples**, including 200 samples from 2002 – 2014 and approx. 200 scat samples from 2015/2016. This would build on the baseline genetic analysis and use a suite of different molecular markers, such as mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) markers and Y-chromosome markers, which are maternally and paternally inherited respectively.

This analysis would facilitate a more thorough understanding of the genetic status of the Fraser Island dingo population, and allow for a broader understanding of the management implications for this iconic dingo population.

Information that this analysis would provide would include the magnitude and distribution of genetic diversity and inbreeding, a determination of whether historical population bottlenecks have occurred, and the evolutionary context of the Fraser Island dingo population. This has particular significance as the currently held samples constitute an array of historical and contemporary time steps, hence facilitating an analysis of whether the genetic health of the dingo population is changing over time.

A full scale genetic study is crucial to guide management decisions, particularly as dingoes are generally low in genetic diversity which can have

more pronounced ramifications for island populations, where emigration/immigration are restricted. Results would be published in a peer reviewed scientific journal. **Approximate cost = \$15,000.**

- **Full scale DNA-mark-recapture to estimate population size.** The success of the pilot study will demonstrate that it is possible to use non-invasive techniques (scats) to generate genetic data to estimate the size of the dingo population. This knowledge is crucial to guide effective conservation management of Fraser Island dingoes, and it is crucial that this is repeated over time, in order to glean information on whether the population size is remaining stable, or fluctuating over time.

A full scale study would involve field sampling at two time steps, separated by 12 months, with the hope that this is repeated annually. The advantage of this approach is that as successive sampling events occur, the previous year's data becomes the primary data source, essentially halving the necessary field/lab work in successive years.

The laboratory and data analysis techniques refined in the pilot study would be utilised to estimate the size of the Fraser Island dingo population, which is crucial information to guide conservation management decisions. Results would be published in a peer reviewed scientific journal. **Approximate cost - \$30,000**

- **Prey analysis:** While some research has taken place regarding the diet of Fraser Island dingoes, there has been very little research on the ecological status of prey species. This research would involve field sampling (including the use of infra-red cameras and other sampling techniques) to determine the abundance and diversity of both known and potential prey species.

The research design would also encompass a comparison with geographically proximate mainland areas. Results would be published in a peer reviewed scientific journal. **Approximate cost = \$10,000.**

'Effective conservation management relies on thorough empirical data.'
Gabriel Conroy.



NOOSA FESTIVAL OF WATER.



Another great day at the **Noosa Festival of Water** on Sunday 26 June. A thank you to Mary Valley Catchment Coordinating Committee for having SFID Inc.

Reid and I had the help of Heather Reid and Stephanie Keys. Ray Revill from Fraser Coast Wildlife Sanctuary with three of his staff and three dingo ambassadors. Simon Stretton from Durong Dingo Sanctuary also with two staff to assist with his dingoes, Honey and Zahra. Thank you all for your time and a wonderful day



The dingoes, as always, were a great hit with young and old.

It was great to talk to so many interesting people, many told us their stories of dingoes. Again it was confirmed that if you don't cull dingoes they don't take down cattle but hunt kangaroos. This story was recounted to us. Six dingoes were chasing kangaroos, chased them through a herd of cattle, mums ran one way, calves the other, the dingoes did not take any notice of the running calves but kept on after their true food, kangaroos, simply reinforcing the fact that dingoes prefer native animals.



It was great to hear so many stories to brighten our day after the news of the poisoning on Fraser Island,

One older lady had tears when I told her of the dingoes that had been poisoned. She said we must keep up the fight for the dingoes and I guaranteed her that we would not give up.

Another story relating back 30 years of how dingoes were trapped on Fraser Island and taken to the mainland to the areas of Rainbow

Beach, Kin Kin, Cooran and Cooroy. We still hear stories of this happening in more recent times.

Again thank you to all who participated to make this a successful day..

Upcoming Events..

SFID has signed up for three stalls in the Noosa area next year. **Cooroy Fusion Festival** in May, **World Environment Day** beginning June and **Noosa Festival of Water**, the last Sunday of June. We need help, one or two people for Cooroy Fusion Festival and at least four people for the World Environment Day as it is a full day. Possibly two can do morning and two afternoon.

Anyone who can assist please contact Karin Kilpatrick

Ph: 07 4124 1979

Email: mkrail@bigpond.net.au

Thank you.

Heather Warner.



Aggressive dingo put down on Fraser Island

Bennet Nichol

Published: April 5, 2016 - 1:38PM

A dangerous dingo was euthanised on Fraser Island on Tuesday, after multiple reports of violent and aggressive behaviour.

The dingo was put down following an attack on two visitors on Monday, with the animal biting a woman on the leg four times.

Rangers noticed a concerning trend in the dingo's behaviour, with reports of increased aggression towards tourists over the past month.

Fraser Coast Principal Ranger, Ross Belcher said the animal's increasingly aggressive behaviour meant it had to be put down.

"Rangers have been conducting extended patrols in the Eurong area in response to the concerning behaviour exhibited by this animal and others from the same pack," Mr Belcher said.

"Euthanasia is a last resort but the safety of visitors to Fraser Island must come first. It is vitally important that everyone on the island follows the advice of rangers when it comes to being safe around dingoes."

Cheryl Bryant from Save Fraser Island Dingoes said the euthanasia of another Fraser Island dingo is bad news for the species' genetic diversity on the island.

"Since an accurate population is unknown and genetic diversity is an issue, we cannot assume that the death of even one animal will not have consequences. It certainly has consequences for the Eurong pack," Ms Bryant said.

"It's time to consider alternatives and end the 'humane destruction' of young, vibrant and vital animals."

The dingo death comes as [calls from researchers who fear the extinction of the island's dingoes within the decade due to lack of genetic diversity](#), describing the population as "critically inbred."

This story was found at: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/aggressive-dingo-put-down-on-fraser-island-20160405-gnyq65.html>

Jan 2014 - Dec 2014. Twenty- Five animals died from various causes including 3 euthanised.
January 2015-April 2016. Thirteen animals died from various causes including 3 euthanased see below..

Eurong. Tag: blue/white/red. Deceased 1/1/15. Sub adult. Euthanasia for threatening high risk behaviour.

Eurong. Tag: purple/green/yellow Deceased 18/8/15. Sub adult. Euthanasia for threatening high risk behaviour.

Eurong. Tag: blue 20 Deceased 3/4/16 Juvenile. Euthanasia for threatening high risk behaviour.

FROM JAN 2014 - APRIL 2016 A TOTAL OF 38 RECORDED DEATHS.

MAINLAND NEWS..

The Australian kelpie: New book looks at mysterious origins of world-famous working dog

Landline By Tim Lee

Updated Mon 18 Apr 2016, 11:59am

The Australian kelpie is acclaimed as the best all-round stock dog in the world, but the breed's origins have long been shrouded in mystery — now a new book claims to have found some vital answers to its ancestry, including proof of a dash of dingo in its DNA.

If you have ever watched a kelpie at work and noted similarities to Australia's native dog, the association is more than coincidental.

Renowned for its boundless energy, speed, tenacity and supreme ability to herd and move stock, Australia's most famed working dog owes some of its qualities to Australia's native dog.

The kelpie, proclaimed an official dog breed in 1905, is widely acknowledged to derive from Scottish collies bred at Warrock Station near Casterton in western Victoria in the late 1870s.

Today the breed is found everywhere — from sheep country in the dusty outback to the frozen wastes of the Arctic where it is used to herd reindeer.

Some historians go as far as to say that without the kelpie, sheep flocks could never have inhabited vast tracts of Australia's harsh inland and the nation's ride to prosperity through wool might never have happened.

Now a book by former champion shearer Bill Robertson claims to have uncovered the real story behind the origins of the working dog.

"There were 26 versions that we had counted of how the kelpie dog originated and where it came from," said Mr Robertson.

His book *Origins of the Australian Kelpie — Exposing the myths and Fabrications from the Past*, is a detailed investigation the breed and the result of 12 years' work.

It has long been rumoured that the original kelpies were developed by interbreeding Scottish collies with the dingo.

Mr Robertson turned to science to try and find a definitive answer.

"I decided I'd get the University of New South Wales to do DNA testing on some foundation bloodlines," he said.

He paid for the tests and though expensive, he said it was money well spent.

"The final analysis was that there was between 3 and 4 per cent dingo markers in the kelpie strain and those dingoes were both from Fraser Island and mainland Australia."

'It's the spirit, the grit, the ability to handle the heat'

Mr Robertson believes the infusion of dingo genes began at Warrock Station in the late 1870s when a dingo or dingo-cross was bred with a collie. But why has the dingo's pivotal role remained hidden in the shadows of the past?

Mr Robertson said the answer was obvious — that as the scourge of sheepmen, dingoes were reviled. For much of Australia's history a bounty was paid for each one destroyed.

Punitive fines were even imposed on anyone who kept a dingo-cross, so secrecy meant the real story of the kelpie's origins was shrouded in speculation and mystery.

But Mr Robertson said there was no mistaking the dingo's legacy in the modern kelpie.

"It's the spirit, the grit, the ability to handle the heat and the never-say-die characteristic," he said.

"I've seen them so sore they didn't know which foot to put down because they've got bindies [burs] in every foot.

"And you've gotta say 'wow' that's a courageous dog. And that's where my passion came from, seeing them work in the back country."

Not everyone agrees with Mr Robertson's conclusion. Tony Parsons, an author and authority on the kelpie believes the dingo genes came into the breed came later — several decades into its development.

Unfortunately the DNA tests that confirm the presence of the dingo in the kelpies' ancestry are unable to determine when those dingo genes were introduced to the breed.



MEDIA STATEMENT. SFID Inc.

5 April 2016

Path of destruction for the Fraser Island dingo.

It is very disappointing and disheartening to learn of the destruction of another Fraser Island dingo. A juvenile female, sibling to the animal recently struck and killed by a vehicle. Six pups were tagged in the Eurong area as they were considered likely to become 'habituated,' that is, lose their natural wariness of people. Two are now dead and the fate of the other four is unknown.

This is a never ending story for the Eurong pack. The alpha female breeds each year and each year her pups are destroyed, rarely does one survive to adulthood.

There is controversial research suggesting the death of one or two animals is irrelevant as it will not affect the population as a whole, but is it irrelevant? Doesn't every life have value? Since an accurate population is unknown and genetic diversity is an issue, we cannot assume that the death of even one animal will not have consequences. It certainly has consequences for the Eurong pack.

It's time to consider alternatives and end the 'humane destruction' of young, vibrant and vital animals. **END STATEMENT.**



NOOSA TODAY..April 21.

Dingo deaths slammed

By ANNE WILKINSON

TWO juvenile Fraser Island dingoes have died in as many weeks, sparking outrage among dingo advocates and a call on the government to do more.

The two dingo siblings died within weeks of each other, the first a male who appeared to have been hit by a vehicle on 25 March and the second a female who was destroyed after allegedly attacking a tourist on 1 April.

The male dingo came to the attention of advocates after a photo was snapped by a tourist showing the dingo wearing what appeared to be a heavy tracking collar which a necropsy later revealed caused dermatitis on the dingo's neck.

The photos of the male dingo are included in a report compiled

by president of the National Dingo Preservation and Recovery Program Inc, Dr Ian Gunn for Queensland Environment Minister Dr Steven Miles calling for an independent inquiry into "dingo mismanagement and cruelty" on the Island.

"The recent collaring of a juvenile dingo, which had obviously put the animal in distress, was the latest in a sequence of events which raise serious questions about animal welfare aspects of current dingo management practices on Fraser Island," Dr Gunn said.

"There appears to be no consistent rationale for the use of the collars and serious questions about animal welfare are left without adequate answers."

During Dingo Sanctuary founder Simon Stretton also wants answers. Mr Stretton says the Fraser Island

dingoes are "pressured" by the volume of tourists and vehicles which visit the Island and are often destroyed by Rangers due to conflicts between the animals and humans.

"Fraser Island is the dingo's natural environment and they are constantly being interfered with from scientists to rangers," Mr Stretton said.

Mr Stretton said he had approached the government to consider relocating "problem" dingoes to his sanctuary instead of destroying them, but said he was repeatedly turned down.

A Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) spokesperson said they did not support the relocation of "problem" dingoes to a captive or sanctuary environment due to concerns for welfare.

"Dingoes are not domestic dogs,

but are wild animals classified as a wolf sub-species," the spokesperson said.

"As such, once they have whelped they find it difficult to adapt to a captive situation or become tame to allow them to function in an enclosed environment with close human contact."

But Mr Stretton says relocation to a sanctuary "is better than killing them".

Cheryl Bryant a spokesperson for advocacy group Save Fraser Island Dingoes said relocation was not ideal but could be an alternative to destroying the animals.

"It is difficult to relocate a wild animal into a captive situation but Simon's sanctuary is as close to nature as you could get and may be environmentally suitable for relocation, so it is definitely worth trial."

Ms Bryant said

Ms Bryant said other alternatives should also be considered including education and signage on Fraser Island, emphasising "respecting and protecting" the wildlife, as well as more training for tour guides around the "correct way to behave when encountering a dingo."

"Fraser Island is a major money spinner for the government and since tourism is only increasing, more resources should be made available to maintain the environment, undertake research and monitor visitors," Ms Bryant said.

"As this is a complex issue, we would like to see more open discussion with stakeholders, researchers and scientists to find alternatives to the continued destruction of young healthy animals."

Thank You!

..... to Heather Warner, Reid Dryden and Heather Reid for representing SFID at the **Cooroy Fusion Festival**, an annual event held at Cooroy to showcase the Noosa Hinterland. A great effort by all involved and extraordinary fundraising.



SFID Stall at the Cooroy Fusion Festival.



Congratulations! To long term SFID members Fred and Joan on their 75th. Wedding Anniversary.

75 YEARS MARRIED 29th APRIL 2016

Just the Wright fit

FRED and Joan Wright cannot remember when they first met and do not have any wedding photos to look back on.

Sadly, their wedding pictures were stolen from them during their time in Kenya after the war.

But time has flown for the Urraween couple since their marriage in the United Kingdom's Isle of Wight, their childhood home, in 1941, Fred said.

Now in their mid-80s, the couple celebrated 75 years together with lunch at the Hervey Bay Hotel on Tuesday.

While it was a milestone achievement, their friends and family had trouble finding a correctly labelled card at the newsagency to mark the diamond anniversary.

But there could be greater strife in the years to come – greeting card company Hallmark only makes milestone anniversary cards up to 75 years.

The duo's wedding anniversary cake was given to them by Kawungan Bakery.

While Fred and Joan's early days together were interrupted by the Second World War, when Fred was deployed to serve in the Middle East and India, they reunited afterwards to start a family of their own.

Joan said the key to their marriage was keeping active.

The celebrations continued with a lunch hosted by the pair at their home.

LONG LOVE: Urraween's Fred and Joan Wright celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary with a lunch with friends and family at the Hervey Bay Hotel. PHOTO: HANNAH BAKER

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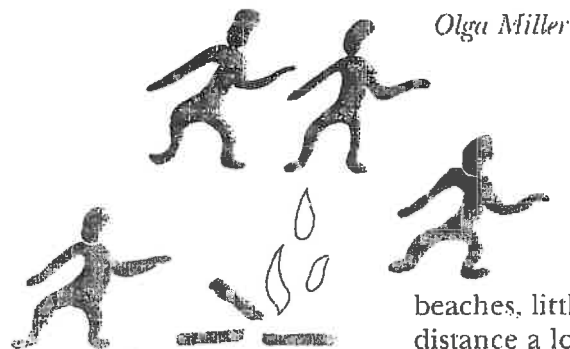
LEGENDS OF FRASER ISLAND (K'GARI)

Told by Olga Miller and Wilf Reeves. Elders of the Butchulla People.

These stories were translated from the Dipple Dialect, which was the language of the Butchulla people, into English by my father Fred Wondunna.

The telling of these stories was purely for entertainment for his children. It was never envisaged that they would be of interest to anyone outside the family circle.

However, now that the history of the Australian Aborigine is such an important part of school curriculums, I would like to share these stories with the children of today.



Olga Miller

K'GARI

This legend tells of the making of Fraser Island, a large sand island off the coast of Hervey Bay.

Way back in the First Time, Beeral, the God who lived in the sky, sent his messenger Yindingie down to make the land and other things.

Yindingie had a helper. Her name was K'gari (pronounced Gurri) and she was a beautiful white spirit from the sky. She loved helping Yindingie and worked very hard.

However, Yindingie did not want her to do too much, so he said, "You have been working very hard. I think you should have a rest now. Why don't you lie down on those rocks over there and have a sleep?"

He pointed to some rocks he had made in the sea, and K'gari went over and lay down on them. Soon she was asleep, for she had been working hard.

When she awoke, Yindingie had finished making a beautiful bay with lovely sandy

beaches, little islands, a fine river and in the distance a lovely mountain.

"Oh," said K'gari, "what a beautiful place. I would like to stay here forever."

"You cannot do that," said Yindingie.

"Why not?" asked K'gari.

"Because you are a spirit and you live in the sky," he explained.

However, K'gari had really fallen in love with this beautiful place and she begged and pleaded until at last Yindingie relented and said, "Very well. But you cannot stay here as a spirit. I will have to change you into something else."

So he told K'gari to go and lie down on the rocks in the sea again, and when she had done this he changed her into a beautiful island.

He clothed her with trees and shrubs and ferns and lovely orchids. He made lakes to be her eyes and he put the sound of her voice into the swiftly flowing streams. He made some animals and birds and other creatures to live in her forests and lakes and sea. Then he made some people.

He taught all these creatures the Magic of Procreation, so that each kind could have "children". Then their children could have children and as time went by K'gari would never be lonely.

HOW IT BEGAN

Yindingie took the people right around the Island, telling them where they had to live and what they had to do. When they got back to Moonen (today it is called Moon Point), he stepped across the sea to a place known today as Dayman Point and then took another step onto the top of the lovely mountain in the distance.

He turned around and faced the people standing on the beach at Moonen. He put out his left arm pointing to the north, and he put out his right arm pointing to the south, and he nodded his head at the land lying between his arms and said, "This is your Land, but you must look after it. I will give you three Laws which you must keep, and which you must pass on to your children and to their children and so on forever."

And the three Laws were:

1. What is good for the Land comes first.
2. Do not touch or take anything which does not belong to you.
3. If you have plenty you must share.

And so the people had their boundaries to their Land, which were from Mt Bauple through to about Gaaker's Bay in the north, and from Mt Bauple through to Inskip Point in the south.

They also had their three Laws, and as time went by they added many rules and taboos. The children were taught from an early age how to obey these rules and taboos so that when they grew up it was easier for them to understand and obey the Laws.

THE TELLING OF LEGENDS

Because it was important that the children learn the three Laws, the teaching was done by the telling of stories. At the end of a story the children were asked questions to see if they had been paying attention and to show them how the rules and taboos and Laws could fit into the story.

The story-teller might tell the story differently from the way another person tells it, but always the moral of the story had to be: "If you are good you will be rewarded and if you are not good you will be punished in some way."

The stories told to the smallest children were like the nursery rhymes that we know; that is, they were simple little tales that illustrated why the rules must be obeyed.

Sometimes the story-teller would say something that was wrong just to see if the little ones were paying attention.

The stories were also told to teach the children how to do things — such as how to track and hunt, how to fish, how to make the things needed for everyday life.

There were also stories just for fun.

The telling of stories was the education system of the Australian Aborigines.

Most of the teaching was done by the Old Men and Old Women of the tribe, because the other adults were out all day hunting and gathering food, or making tools and weapons, canoes, fishing nets and other things the tribe needed.

THE BURRAKUN

When the Olden Time people lived in Australia, there were many different dialects or languages. The most common dialect in Queensland was the Dipple dialect but it, too, changed in different areas.

A word with which we are familiar is "boomerang". In parts of New South Wales it was called a "kylie", and in the Land of the Butchullas it was called a "burrakun".

The Olden Time people of the Butchulla tribe did not call their long-ago days the Dreamtime. They called it the First Time. It was the Fairytime part of their beginning, when the animals and birds were able to talk to and understand the people.

When they wanted to refer to the time when the people had forgotten how to talk to the other creatures, they called it the Second Time.

Each generation referred to their lifetime as This Time, and to the days of the generation before as the Last Time. So when a story begins, "Way back in the First Time ..." you know that it is a kind of fairy story. But if it begins, "Long ago ...", you know that it is about something that did happen, and that a story has been made about the happening so that it could be remembered and told to others.

CAREENA — THE DEAD LAND

Some time after Yindingie went back to the sky, it was not only the birds and animals that started to play up; some of the people did too!

By this time the people had agreed upon a form of society, and some rules and taboos. However, because they had not seen or heard from Yindingie for such a long time, some of them gradually decided that obeying the Laws and rules was just too hard. It seemed that all day and all night they had to be careful not to do anything wrong. So a group of the people broke away and went up to the northern end of the Island, and lived the way they wanted to.

They fished only when they were hungry, and they neglected their tasks of looking after the Land. All they did was play and eat and sleep.

Unfortunately, they forgot that the Mellong was still there watching them, although they could not see him. In fact, they had forgotten all about him.

By this time, the original society on the Island had three main families — the family of the Wise Man, who was the equivalent of the ruler; the family of the Clever Man, a kind of prime minister; and the family of the Clever Woman, who looked after all the women's affairs. The Mellong waited until these three families were over on the mainland at Booral, the main gathering place for the tribe, before punishing the "break-away" people.

He caused a very big, sudden storm to come. There had never been one like it before. It was the very first cyclone. All through the night this terrible storm raged with awful winds and towering seas. The air was filled with frightening noises, including the screams of the people who were swept far out to sea, never to be seen again.

The families on the mainland had run further inland to escape the fury of the storm. When things died down, they went back to the coast and had a meeting.

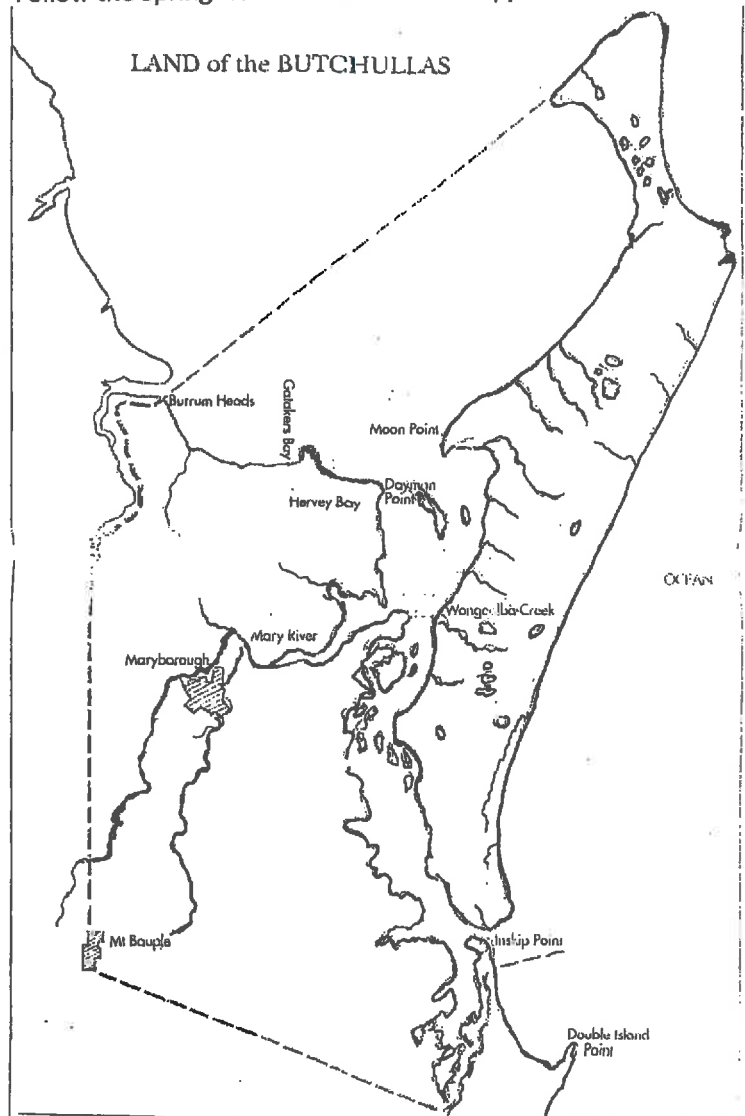
They decided to go over to the Island to see how the "break-away" people in the North had fared.

Now, K'gari the Island was in the shape of a woman, lying asleep on her side. When they got to the place where these other people had been living, they were dismayed to find that the land that was K'gari's outstretched arm and the top of her head was gone. It had been washed away into the sea. The people were gone too. Very saddened by what had happened, the remaining families called this part of the Island, Careena — the Dead Land.

On the other side of this page are the wonderful things

the great God, Berral asked Yindingie to make for his helper K,Gari, the white spirit. The beautiful sandy beaches, trees, ferns, orchids, lakes for her eyes, swift flowing creeks for her voice, birds, animals, and fish.

Follow the Spring News letter for what happened next.



Contributed by Norma Hannant, Assistant Secretary.



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
ABN: 15369 628 753 INC. NO: 1A37577 CP 5365

NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP.

PERSONAL DETAILS:

Title _____ Given name _____ Family name _____

Address _____ Suburb _____

State _____ Country _____ Post Code _____

Home Phone () _____ Bus. Phone () _____ Mobile _____

Email (Please Print) _____

Do you have any qualifications or experience with domestic or wild animals? Animal training and behaviour? Management and care of animals in captivity or the wild? Legal/Educational qualifications? Have you personally owned a dingo? Do you have experience with animal conservation or activism? Please give details.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: Regular: \$20 Deluxe: \$42 (includes Jennifer Parkhurst's book "Vanishing Icon.") Children up to 12 years: \$5

PAYMENT DETAILS: Bank Cheque: [] Money Order [] Direct Debit: Westpac Bank Pialba, Hervey Bay BSB 034-136 A/c No. 303196. [] Paypal: www.savefraserislanddingoes.org.au []
Do you require a receipt? Yes [] No []

DECLARATION:

I agree to abide by the constitution and the ethics of Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc. I agree that my personal details may be released to other members of the organisation (as required by the constitution.)

Signed _____ Date _____

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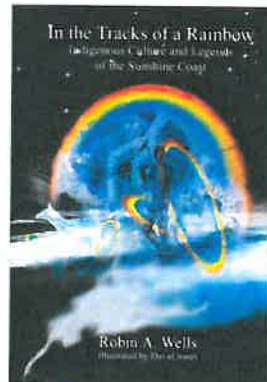
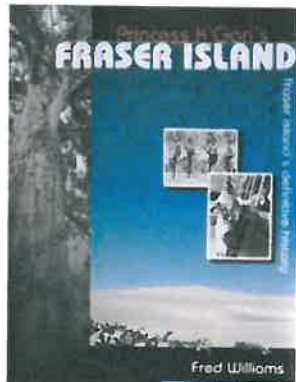
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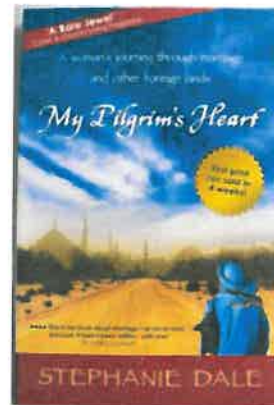
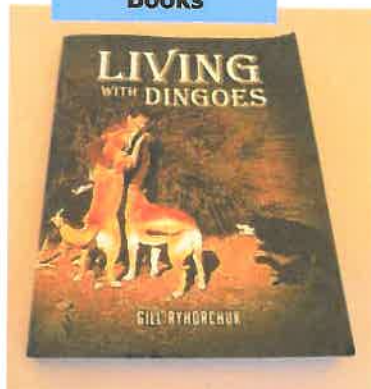
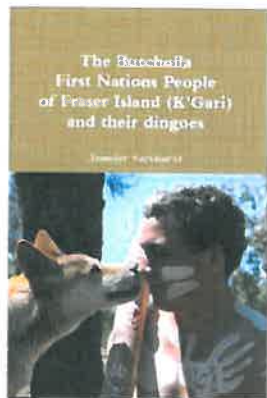
Sticker



Key Rings



Books



Wrist bands



Mouse pads



necklaces

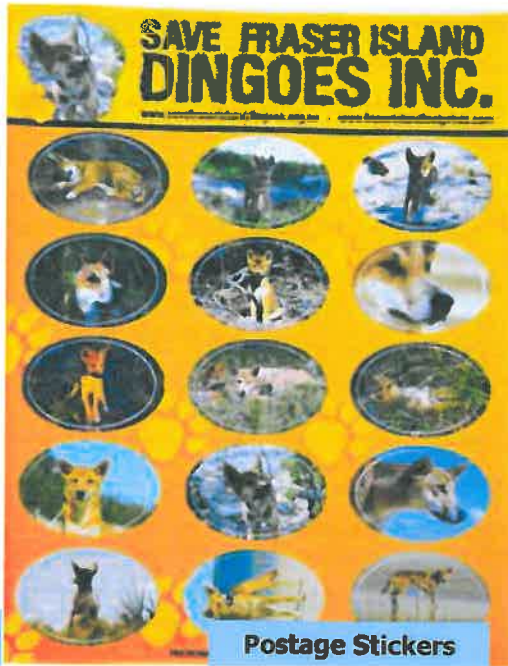


T-shirts



Number Plate

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Book Mark



Magnets

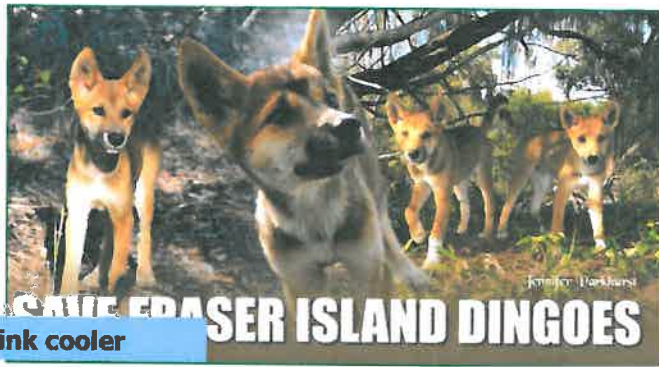


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The Dingo Pack



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Clip-on soft toy

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

ABN: 15369 628 753 INC.NO: 1A37577 CP 5365

ORDER FORM.

ITEM	UNIT PRICE	QTY/COLOUR	PACK/POST	SUB TOTAL
T/Shirts (Adult) Sizes M L XL 2XL	\$25.00		At cost	
T/Shirts (children) Sizes 2 4 6 8 10 12 14	\$22.00		At cost	
Cap	\$20.00		At cost	
Mug	\$12.00		At cost	
Car Sticker	\$3.00		At cost	
Magnet	\$3.50		At cost	
Bookmark	\$1.50		At cost	
Key Ring	\$3.50		At cost	
Poster (laminated)A4	\$5.00		At cost	
Poster (laminated)A3	\$10.00		At cost	
Dingo number plate	\$12.95		At cost	
Adult Wrist Band	\$3.00		At cost	
Child Wrist Band	\$2.50		At cost	
C.D. Dingo pics to music. J Parkhurst & S. Van Der Merwe	\$20.00		At cost	
Sheet of Stickers	\$2.50		At cost	
Jack's Dingo Card Pack.	\$12.00		At cost	
Cards: Thank you, Get Well, Birthday	\$1.50ea or \$12 pack of 10.		\$5.00 per pack	
Dingo Beanie Grey/black	\$20.00		At cost	
Hat (green) 'I Love dingoes.'	\$20.00		At cost	

Book: <i>'The Butchulla First Nations people of Fraser Island (K'Gari) and their dingoes.'</i>	\$25.00		At cost	
Book: <i>'Princess K'Gari's Fraser Island.'</i>	\$24.00		At cost	
Book: Jennifer Parkhurst's <i>'Vanishing Icon.'</i>	\$25.00		\$5.00 per book for P/P (orders of 10 or more free P/P)	
Sew on Patch. <i>'Working Together.'</i>	\$10.00		At cost	
Mouse Pads	\$10.00		At cost	
Gift-boxed pen set	\$6.00		At cost	
Dingo Cooler	\$9.00		At cost	
Plush dingo toy with clip.	\$8.95		At cost	
Wooden dingo necklace brown/bone	\$7.50		At cost	

T/Shirt colours: Adult: Black, Navy, Blue, Purple, Green. Children: Yellow, Green, Pink, Purple. Blue, Orange

Caps : Black, Navy, Blue, Pink.

Wrist Band Colour: Black or Brown print on Yellow band.

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