SAVE FRASER ISLAND DINGOES INC

Newsletter Jan - March 2011

THE FRASER ISLAND DINGO..

IN THE BEGINNING..
Fraser Island was once a a happy and healthy environment, the dingo shared his territory with visitors and residents and all benefited from this close and harmonious relationship. In 1992 the Island was World Heritage listed and the Qld. State Government took control, realising the money making potential, the tourist dollar took precedence over the protection of the Flora and Fauna. The dingo became a nuisance, and so the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy was formulated.

This strategy was the beginning of the end for the dingo..dumps, where the animals foraged, were closed, the Traditional owners, fishermen and residents were forbidden to feed the animals, native food became scarce, and when a young boy was tragically killed in 2001 by a starving dingo the government seized on the opportunity to eliminate the animals.

Many animals were cruelly culled, aversive conditioning (hazing) was introduced, that is, shooting the animals with a clay pellet, which can cause broken bones or even death. Electrified grates and fences were built. Ear-tagging puppies, so they could be identified for culling, was the next step, this caused infections and drooping ears, which often led to the animal dying anyway. Non-lethal poisoned baits were trialled to stop them from eating human food and shock collars are presently on the agenda.

Qld National Parks continued harassment and cruel practices have changed the nature of these once shy and timid animals, they have fractured the family groups causing abnormal behaviour, such as aggression towards humans, and changed the Island into a sad and intimidating environment where the dingoes can no longer roam free but run in terror if a ranger's vehicle approaches. The guardians have become the executioners..

TIME IS RUNNING OUT..
SAVE FRASER ISLAND DINGOES INC. was formed in 2009 as a result of numerous complaints regarding the inhumane and cruel treatment witnessed by many residents and visitors, we became the eyes and ears of the Island, reporting our findings to the media, the public, researchers and scientists. We are working with experts in dingo/wildlife management within Australia and overseas, our aim is to change current management practices by lobbying government, promoting public awareness and assisting with research and education.

Our present goal is to have the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy peer reviewed by independent researchers and scientists. Stop the ear-tagging of puppies and find an alternative method of Identification. Stop the cruel practice of hazing and impose a moratorium on culling to give the dingo population a chance to stabilise and have its social structure restored.

We intend to maintain pressure on the government and Qld. National Parks until policy changes are made and we intend to prevent the demise of the Fraser Island Dingo, an Iconic species that deserves to live a dignified life on their Island home.

www.fraserislandfootprints.com FACEBOOK: "SAVE FRASER ISLAND DINGOES"

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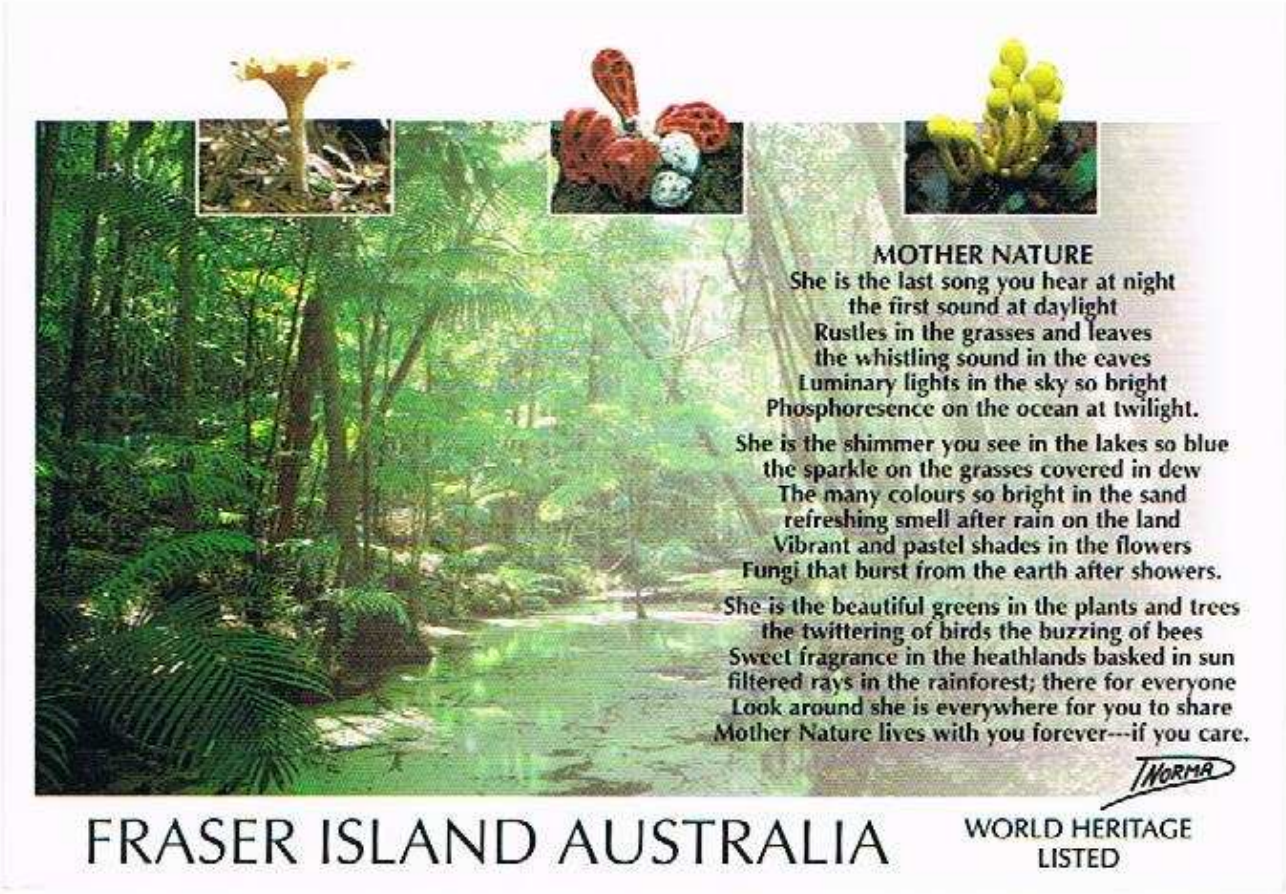

Thank You from Jen

Due to the overwhelming response following the Australian Story program 'Dogs of War', I have been barely able to read all of your letters, let alone respond appropriately to them all.

To each and every one of you who wrote to me, or to SFID, or Australian Story, or put comments on websites, thank you so much for taking the time to write. I have copied every one of your letters into a file which I will keep forever as a reminder that people really do care, and can rise above their own problems or difficulties in life, to reach out and help others in need.

In a way, your letters have given me the vindication that I will never get from the legal system, and they also validated the work that has been so dear to my heart for all of these years.

Thank you all very much, from me, and from the dingoes.

THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2011. SFID has not slowed down since Dingo Day apart from a short break over Christmas and New Year. Currently we are in top gear preparing for the meeting with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and special guests, experts in the field of dingo Management. The meeting is set for 4th of April in Hervey Bay to discuss the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy.

The long awaited airing of Australian Story in February, depicting Wildlife Photographer Jennifer Parkhurst and the Fraser Island Dingoes, sparked tremendous interest around the Country and was also viewed in the UK and New Zealand. There was an influx of e-mails and phone calls from viewers expressing shock, anger and total disbelief, at the way in which Jennifer was treated by the Legal System and the terrible state of the dingoes.

The support for Jennifer was and continues to grow and demands for answers from the Government also increases each day. Australian Story truly impacted the Public far more than we expected.

On behalf of SFID, I would like to congratulate Kent Gordon Producer of Aus Story, for his honest portrayal of a dingo in trouble and to Jennifer for a job well done whilst under so much stress, we are very proud of you!

http://www.gympietimes.com.au/story/2010/03/26/dingo-fraser-island-death/
Mr Elmes described as absurd Ms Jones' statement to this newspaper that "since I have been minister there have been no reported deaths of dingoes due to starvation. No one has sent me a photo of a dingo that has died of starvation since I have been minister".

We urgently call upon the Ministers for Environment and Tourism to address the plight of the dingo. It is a well known fact that Visitors wish to see the F.I. Dingo, it is the Island's Icon and as such is a vital contributor to the Tourism Industry, so it is with dismay at the time of writing this report, that the Minister for Environment Kate Jones is still saying that there is no evidence of starvation or cruelty and that the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy is working. It is for this reason we are meeting with QPWS in April, and the reason that SFID was Incorporated.

On a happier note, we would like to congratulate Ray Revill former Fraser Island Ranger, at Fraser Coast TESS Wildlife Sanctuary Mungar Road, Maryborough on obtaining two dingoes, we look forward to visiting.

Thank you to everyone, for your ongoing support it is very encouraging to see so many new members, welcome to you all.

Regards,
Malcom.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy Birthday to DingoSimon for January 17,
Judy Heathcote for March 15 and Malcom Kilpatrick for March 23!

2011 certainly started out with a bang. Floods, fires, cyclones, the earthquake in NZ and now the earthquake in Japan. These were/are all devastating events, and many people are still dealing with the consequences.

I can't begin to imagine the utter devastation these people must be feeling. I lost my belongings when I was raided but hopefully they will be returned intact one day. These disaster victims have lost everything forever – their family photographs for example - things which can never be replaced. Not to mention family members who may have lost their lives. My heart goes out to you all.

Congratulations to Ray Cole, father of five, for rescuing a kangaroo that was drowning, an animal that is of course symbolized on our national crest. These small acts of heroism serve to remind us that even in times of disaster, human kindness can prevail. Vivienne says *(and I think we would agree):* 'Ray Cole is an inspiration. He didn't see "only" a kangaroo - an animal that may people despise - but **a fellow creature in need**.' *(Photo: MSIDarbs @ Twitpic.com)*

I personally received over 1,000 e-mails in the week that followed the Australian Story program, and I believe that the SFID inbox received around the same number. I have also received numerous hand-written letters from people who don't have computers. My website received over 400 messages, and our face book page has been overloaded. The Annie Gaffney (ABC Coast FM) Interview blog roused a lively discussion, as did the ABC Aus Story blog, which received its second highest volume of comments. 99% of the comments were positive and in favor of protecting our Island's dingoes.

I would like to thank all the people who wrote in to offer their support. The plight of Pepper and Pepsi, and all the other dingoes that died, while such a sad thing for people to watch, at least was not all in vain.

All I ever wanted was for the dingoes' Plea for Help to be heard, and now I truly feel it has. With so many new members who have joined SFID, and so many Australian's now aware of what has been happening on Fraser Island, surely we will see a change for the better, a more humane approach to the management of the dingoes whose lives are so important to us all.

Lord Mayor Campbell Newmann accused Julia Gillard of 'breathtaking arrogance' during the row over funding of Queensland flood repairs. To coin his phrase, the Qld Govt used my footage in court with 'breathtaking arrogance' against me…

Now, my footage has finally been used in context, showing the love and compassion with which it was taken, and for the purpose it was taken...

To Caroline Jones, Kristine Taylor, Kent Gordon, Marc Smith, Anthony Sines, Stephan van der Merwe, Roger Carter—thank you for your hard work and dedication to telling this very complex story.

To SFID Committee and members, and affiliate organisations, thank you for your passion, which seems to go from strength to strength. Your dedication and sacrifice on so many levels have been the driving force behind this incredible battle. Each and every one of you is an inspiration to me.

To my family and close personal friends—you know I would never have survived this ordeal without you.

Finally, I would like to make a comment that Kirra, the dingo that I spent most time with on FI, has never attacked anyone, neither have any of the other adult dingoes that I spent time with. Recently received FOI reports attest to this. It is important that people understand that most (if not all) incidents that occur on FI between dingoes and people involve juvenile dingoes. Juvenile dingoes play hard and rough with each other and do not understand that people do not play in the same way. For an example of dingo play behavior, please see the video at featured in the link below:

Fraser Island Dingo Play Behaviour:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehX8LwCrWqE&feature=related

Jennifer Parkhurst, Vice President

If you would like to read about how the people of Australia feel with regards to the condition of the dingoes on the island, please see the links below:

1/ http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/save-our-dingo/
2/ www.fraserislandfootprints.com
3/ Face book: save fraser island dingoes
4/ Annie Gaffney
http://blogs.abc.net.au/queensland/2011/02/jennifer-parkhurst-reflects-on-dingoes-and-fraser-island.html?site=sunshine&program=sunshine_cooloola_coast_mornings
5/ ABC TV News Promo for Austory (New concerns over Fraser Island dingoes)
http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2011/02/28/3151283.htm
6/ 4BC Dingo Crusade
http://www.4bc.com.au/blogs/4bc-blog/dingo-crusade/20110228-1bb9k.html
7/ Transcript to Austory Dogs Of War.
http://www.abc.net.au/austory/content/2011/s3151226.htm
8/ The TV Version Dogs of War
http://www.abc.net.au/austory/specials/dogsofwar/default.htm (Includes link to watch the whole show)
9/ Aust Story Promo on Youtube
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uof7iO4ZK9o

Sam the dingo
watching Australian Story:

Thought I should send this photo of a true Blue Aussie Supporter He started wagging his tail as soon as he heard your voice on the TV. and then just stood staring, long enough for me to go to the other room and get my camera to take this shot. Unfortunately I only got the one without the flash but you can still see him. He knew your Dad's voice too. They never forget the good people !! – Sharon Rivett, Vic

Secretary's Report

Thank you to all our members for your invaluable support, letters, e-mails and phone calls and numerous comments on Face book.

One very significant statement that we hear over and over, is that the dingoes in the past, were never a problem, in that, no-one felt that there was any danger from walking on the beach, fishing or camping, in areas that dingoes were known to frequent.

Following is an extract of a letter received recently regarding the condition of the dingoes many years ago……..

"I first went to Fraser Island about 40 years ago. It was maintained by the Forestry Dep I think. The dingoes looked fit and healthy and we were told there could be up to 500 on the Island. Many of them were looked after by people on the Island as they made great pets. There were signs up on the Island asking us to leave our leftover food out for the dingoes to eat. A Ranger explained that they were the world's oldest domestic dog and have always been fed by man.

I returned to Fraser Island 20 years later and was surprised to see the terrible state of the dingoes. They were starving. Just skin and bone. The signs telling us to leave our leftovers for the dingoes had been replaced by signs telling us not to feed the dingoes. The forestry Dep no longer controlled Fraser Island, but a new body was in charge. They decided to make the dingo into a wild animal. All the pet ones had been killed.

I went to see the Minister. He said they had decided to treat the dingo as a wild animal and make it catch it's own food. When I said there was no food he said there were birds. I said dogs can't climb trees. He said if they were hungry enough they would learn!"

One other letter I would like to share with you is this one which I received from a woman descendant of the Cherokee people working with the Grey Wolf Recovery Programme in New Mexico.

"I empathize with your plight and that of the dingoes on Fraser Island. I think the concept of living in dialogue and relationship with the natural world is one that sustained my Cherokee people, and that could be of benefit to all of us now. "What Whites call wilderness, we call home" and I took from that the importance of relationships of care with all beings and processes there, rather than a dichotomy of human/developed, nature/wild.

I also know too much interference can be disastrous....but there is a balance beyond avoidance, control or annihilation."

This too is our fervent desire, to find that balance beyond avoidance, control or annihilation!!!

SFID received a plea for help from Harry Kunz, the owner of Eagles Nest Wildlife Hospital in the Atherton Tablelands. Harry is in need of an operation and requires someone with Wildlife knowledge to assist in the care of the animals there until he is back on his feet again. If you know of anyone please contact us and we will pass on Harry's contact details.

During the Queensland Flood we received many well wishes from members and enquiries as to where and to whom they could send their donations to. We nominated Ray Revill & TESS Fraser Coast Wildlife Sanctuary in Mungar, Maryborough. Ray sadly lost some wildlife during the deluge. Thank you to everyone

for caring and making the effort to help during this very sad and stressful time. Today Ray welcomed 2 dingoes to his Sanctuary, we wish him many years of happiness with his adorable new charges.

In February this year, two people came before the courts in Maryborough, for illegal feeding of dingoes on Fraser Island. Personally I could not see that their charges were any different to Jennifer's and yet the punishment handed down was vastly dissimilar, for one there was a penalty with no conviction of $1,750 fine and the other no conviction and a $750 fine, the Magistrate declared that to give each person a conviction would no doubt hamper their ability to earn an income, if only such consideration had been given to Jennifer!

I would like to thank Bradley Smith from Turning Point Technologies for keeping my sanity in tact when my computer lost hundreds of e-mails not once but 3 times, and this just after Australian Story aired. Thanks to his skills and a recovery programme I am now up and running again and if I missed anyone, I do apologise.

Thank you also to Marilyn Nuske from Ocean Legal for her continued support and Legal advice, might I add at no cost to SFID.

Our next Newsletter will detail the outcome of the meeting yet to be held on the 4th of April with Queensland Parks & Wildlife Services. I would like to thank the guests that are travelling great distances to be here to share their expertise with us and with the Managers of the Fraser Island dingo.

Also worthy of mention is the tremendous support from the Manager and staff at the Quarterdecks Harbour Retreat Urangan, who have kindly donated accommodation once again for our guests. Thank you Craig!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter and look forward to your continued support.

Karin

'This dingo is attracted by the bait being dropped on the sand. But at the same time the fisherman was yelling at the dingo to try and get it away. No wonder the young dingoes are confused – being fed and abused at the same time.'
Judi Daniel on her face book page (Judith Doris Daniel).

It is a fantastic resource for everyone, thanks Jude for uploading and sharing your photos.

Comment from supporter: 'My partner and I are seasonal visitors/nature photographers of Fraser Island and have been for about 15 years. We know how peaceful and placid the Dingoes were before they were tortured and starved. When we first saw the Dingo fences and the `Dingoes are scary' signs everywhere, we laughed ourselves silly. Dingoes are such beautiful natured animals with a natural attraction to people, but in a very shy way. We used to love our encounters with them and its why we kept visiting the Island year after year…they don't ask for much; they like a bit of distance, a bit of attention, a bit of company. I felt strongly each time we saw them that they love people, and we love them right back; there's an undeniable chemistry there. It would take either terror or utter desperation for food to drive a Dingo to harming a human being. We don't go back there any more because the Dingoes are terrified of people now and if you see one that's vaguely friendly you know its going to be killed…'

TREASURER'S REPORT

Figures for all the breakdowns of financials are available to members on request. Please see summary below.

Vanishing Icon written by Wildlife Photographer Jennifer Parkhurst, has been extremely popular Australia wide, I'm sure those who have purchased a copy ($20) are more than delighted with this beautifully produced "work of art" New stock has just arrived, please contact me via mkrail@bigpond.net.au if you would like to purchase a copy.

Our dingo merchandise consisting of mugs, caps, t-shirts, stickers and bookmarks are also selling well . SFID would like to thank everyone for their generous donations and for their memberships. Thank you Donna in Gympie, for your enthusiasm and support with sales and raffle tickets, Raffle will be drawn April 21st. There is still time to purchase tickets and prizes are $500 worth of Home Improvement kit, lamps and fans. Dinner for two, a signed Hugging Dingo poster by Bob Irwin and vintage wine. Tickets are $2 a ticket or 3 for $5.

Currently we are hoping to raise funds to revamp our website www.savefraserislanddingoes.com A local business managed by Chris Jabs has offered to donate 50% of the costs to rebuild a new web site, thank you Chris.

For donations and memberships SFID accept cheque money order, or direct debit to Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc Westpac Bank Pialba, BSB 034-136 Account 303196 or Pay Pal at www.savefraserislanddingoes.com

We appreciate everyone's help and assistance, but I would just like to mention a few people who have gone above and beyond the norm this month: Trish and Barbara from Bendigo who have set up a SFID corner in their local Library, John Marsh for flying himself up from NSW for the meeting with DERM, Donna as mentioned above who has taken over all the raffles to raise money before Easter and has sold $250 worth of merchandise, t-shirts (the very large sizes which I thought would never sell). Caroline Dalgleish for her SFID stand in the Video Shop at Rainbow Beach; Bob and Judy Irwin for hooking us up to their site and for travelling to Hervey Bay for the meeting, Ted and Paula for outstanding assistance whenever needed. Lindy Stacker has been phenomenal spreading the word, as has Brenda Hickson, and Ray Revill. There are so many more, I am sorry I can't name you all.

Memberships have been growing at the rate of 2 and 3 per week and since the Australian Story Program story we have received even more.
Karin Kilpatrick

Fred Williams

Deb Tuddenham

Jen Parkhurst

In the Good Old Days on FI we used to see lots of 'old' dogs around. Where are they today? Dept of Forestry sign encouraging people to leave their food scraps for the dingoes.

Publicity officer's report:

THE IDES OF MARCH…

It is time DERM realised that SFID is a force to be reckoned with and not just a group of do-gooders without any scientific substance. The publicity generated by the airing of Jennifer's Story has added momentum to our cause. SFID has received hundreds of emails in support of our Fraser Island dingo and in condemnation of the injustice meted out to Jennifer. The government and DERM's response was to blame Jennifer, the locals, tourists and anyone else they could think of, for the problems they have created, but that was to be expected..

Just to give you an indication of the letters we have been receiving I have included a few comments posted on the Petition site, there are many more on Jennifer's site and SFID's inbox is full..

03:53, Feb 28, Australia
"I just watched Australian Story re the Dingoes - I found the whole story absolutely disgusting and ashamed to be an Australian - it highlighted how inept, inefficient and useless that this government is The sooner we get rid of them the better. The money they waste could be put to better use saving the dingo."

Mar 04, Australia
"It would seem to me that the QLD Government is as always more concerned with the bottom $ and preserving the Fraser Island 4WD culture than protecting and preserving these beautiful and threatened creatures... Shame Queensland Shame."

Mar 04, Australia
"I would not visit fraser island as I am not going to contribute to the people problem, get rid of the people, feed the starving dingoes, remove the trigger happy rangers and get the government of their fat butts and do something constructive to help these poor animals .place the pollies out for a week without food see how they like it ."

Mar 04, Australia
"We are crying out about the loss of exotic animals overseas, and yet not managing this island with what has been said is the only pure dingoes left. And then fining someone with compassion $40,000 and a suspended 9 year jail term ... What is going on with our democracy. Jennifer, the pain you are suffering is bringing this to the attention of the international community. Be strong, you are making a difference."

I feel that it has become evident to everyone that it is a case of the Dingo versus the Dollar and presently the almighty dollar is winning, but we need to turn this around, if the present government wont listen, we have a solution..change the government..! 1 would not presume to attempt to influence any one regarding their voting preferences, all we know is that a change in government will definitely bring about consultation with the Indigenous Community, Locals and Independent scientists.

With the influx of new members perhaps there are those out there that would like to become more active, anyone who can assist in any way e.g. Fundraising, computer skills, etc. Please step forward.. We need you and anyone who has information that could be helpful in presenting our case against DERM, we would like to hear from you. It must be factual and provable.

Thank you all for being involved and welcome to our new members, your continued support gives us confidence and determination to fight on, for as long as it takes..

Cheryl Bryant. (Publicity Officer.) *Image above: Kim Thompson:*

To Fraser Island Matters:

<u>The news on Fraser Island is not good. A change of management strategy must be called for urgently.</u>

SFID has recently received many alarming and sad reports about the condition of the Island's dingoes. Please see Appendix B for details (all appendices available in a separate document).

Judi Daniel sent us the following photos of this years 'tip dogs' which are in appalling condition. Where are their parents?

These animals look forlorn and desperate. This is not natural at all. Is this the sort of thing we want our international tourists to see?

How much longer will these beautiful pups live, until they either starve to death or get destroyed? (Photo: Judi Daniel)

The Australian Story program (along with recent reports and photographs) has left us, and the rest of the Australian public, in no doubt that the dingoes are starving.

The starvation process is amplified after the pups are **ear-tagged**. Until recently, tags were applied to puppies as young as **three or four months old**. The tags are round the size of a 50 cent piece, and have a shaft that is approx 5mm thick. If not placed correctly this can make the ear droop. Dingoes' ears work independently. If one ear is damaged, dingoes can't hunt properly.

Ear tags often become **infected**. They cause the animals a great deal of pain. Six weeks or more after tagging, dingoes still lick each other's ears to get rid of infections. I have seen puppies' ear tags get caught in vines or other foliage and have had to stand back and watch while they cry and panic

The pups are trapped, drugged, tagged, DNA samples are taken, and then they are let go without being sanitized.

Sometimes, dingo parents abandon the pups because they don't like human scent on the pups (this has been seen in captive situations as well). Other times, very sadly, the parents kill their pups. This is a devastating result.

DERM CLAIMS THAT IT HAS CHANGED THIS PRACTICE AND PRMISED IT WOULD NOT TAG PUPS THAT WERE UNDER SEVEN MONTHS OF AGE OR 10 KILOS. HOWEVER, THIS YEAR PUPS WERE TAGGED AT FIVE MONTHS. DERM ALSO ASSURED US THEY WOULD USE SMALLER TAGS FOR PUPS BUT THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED.

Please see report below by Kim Thompson with regards to Tagging:

Investigators have an obligation to identify and assess the consequences oftheir research activities on wild animals, populations and the environment. Whenever possible, action should be taken to avoid, alleviate or minimize any adverse effects. Research activities should include the collection of adequate samples to ensure valid research results, yet be balanced to minimize adverse effects. Investigators should always weigh potential gain in knowledge against the negative consequences of disturbance.

2.2.1 Humane Considerations

Whether one is collecting study animals for eventual release or for museum preparations, the same humane considerations should apply. These animals should not be exposed to excessive or inappropriate handling, conspecific aggression, predation, temperature extremes, or undue suffering.

2.4.1 General Considerations

Most studies require individual animals to be marked for identification. **Marking techniques can have a wide variety of effects ranging from short-term discomfort, to long-term influences on breeding and survival. It is essential, for the welfare of the animal and the integrity of the research results, that the marking procedure not adversely affect the normal behaviour, physiology, ecology or survival of individuals.** In choosing an acceptable marking technique, the investigator must consider the nature and duration of the restraint that is required for its application, the amount of tissue that is removed or damaged, the amount of momentary or prolonged pain that is involved and the potential risk for infection... **In general, investigators should not assume that marking procedures will have no adverse effects on their study subjects and should make efforts to evaluate any such influences….** It is desirable for the scientific community to encourage ancillary research that specifically addresses the effects of marks and devices. Preferably, such research, which makes comparisons between marked individuals and controls, can be initiated in association with current studies. Because of the difficulty of providing appropriate controls, there are few systematic studies that assess the potential adverse effects of marking procedures. Many of the cautions mentioned here are based on unpublished observations.

In general, for a marking procedure to be effective, it should meet as many of the following criteria as possible:

1. The animal should experience no immediate or long-term hindrance or irritation from the mark or marking procedure.

2. The animal should suffer no adverse effects on its normal behaviour, physiology, longevity, social life, ecology or survival.

3. The mark should be able to be applied quickly, easily and with minimal pain.

4. The mark should have readily visible and distinguishable digits and/or colours in order to identify individuals or groups as required. *Please see note below

5. The mark should be effective in allowing the researcher to meet the objectives of the study and persist on the animal until research objectives have been fulfilled.

Semi-Permanent Marking of Animals

Ear Tags

Care must be exercised so that a tag of appropriate size is applied. This will help to reduce the potential problems that are associated with heat loss as a result of increased temperature conductance through a metal tag. Application of ear tags during fly seasons or using unhygienic techniques may predispose to localized infections. Researchers should understand the ear anatomy to avoid blood vessels and the appropriate application technique before use. (Footnotes Appendix A)

Thank you Kim for all the hours of research you have been doing.

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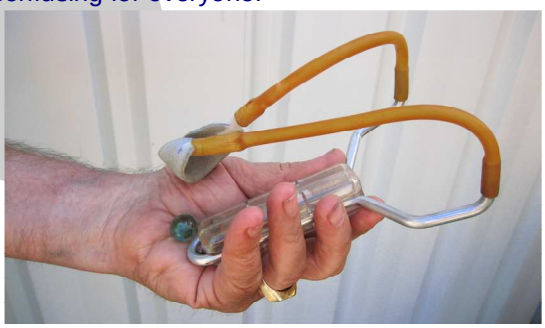
* NOTE: The tagging system is confusing and it seems that the tags applied to pups this year have already faded (see photos on Judi Daniels' face book page). Thus, Orange-yellow-orange is now orange-green-orange, and pink-blue-orange now appears pink-blue-yellow. The tag on the dingo in photograph above is purple-white-white, but the original tag color was purple-yellow-yellow. (This animal has not been seen for 12 months.)
This fading renders the tags, and the tag register, useless. As stated above, the mark should be readily visible and distinguishable. This tri-color system is confusing for everyone.



SFID would also like to address the practice of **hazing**. This is a type of aversive conditioning, where the dingo is shot by a projectile, often a marble from a slingshot, or else rat shot.

Hazing is painful to the animal, and has been condemned by the RSPCA. It has been shown to be ineffective.
On many occasions dingoes merely run from the rangers (as seen on Australian Story), only to return once the rangers leave the area. Unfortunately, hazing can have a detrimental effect on the animal and change its behavior and make it become aggressive, which is the opposite of what we want on Fraser.

Clearly the management strategy is not working. I (JP) have been off the Island for close to two years now, the townships have been fenced for two years, and yet we still see starving dingoes, we still see dingoes being culled – five were culled last year – and we are still seeing 'incidents' and possibly a destruction already this year.

SUGGESTED STEPS TO TAKE:

We need to ask the question – is tourism more important than preserving the ecosystem of a national park?

SFID would like to see the following implemented ASAP:

1/ Stop hazing animals.

2/ Stop tagging pups.

3/ Enforce fines for lack of parental supervision.

On the Australian Story program we saw footage of kids playing on the beach unsupervised while a dingo approached.

4/ Implement an Enter at Own Risk policy.

Alert people that this is a place where wild animals exist and make them understand that they would not leave their kids unsupervised at a billabong in Kakadu, and should not do so on Fraser Island.

5/ Stop culling problem animals

– this is not done in other national parks. Relocate animals which are not 'obeying the rules' to the many sanctuaries that are asking for pure FI dingoes. If we can relocate crocodiles, we can relocate dingoes.

6/ Educate people

By using videos such as the one we saw on the AS program, where a man thinks he is being attacked and panics but stands still when advised, we can diffuse the seriousness of potential disastrous human response to interactions. I told the man to stand still, which he immediately did, and the dingoes instantly walked away. To see this video in full, click here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPnIZtgvCaQ

SFID HAS DESIGNED NEW EDUCATION BROCHURES WHICH WE WILL DISTRIBUTE TO LOCAL BACKPACKERS ETC, WE JUST NEED FUNDING TO PRINT THEM.

7/ Introduce random food drops

During peak dingo breeding times or when the food supply is scarce, we should introduce food randomly to different areas of the island. This is done at other national parks around the world. If starvation in animals is caused by human intrusion then it needs to be fixed by human intervention.

8/ Accept that the beach is a dingoes' territorial boundary

A dingo must patrol this boundary, scent mark, and look for food there, every day. Likewise with certain camp site locations.

9/ Post a ranger at busy tourist spots during peak times

If a dingo approaches, rangers can diffuse fear from people and ensure the dingo is allowed to continue on its way undisturbed.

10/ introduce some captive-bred dingoes to a fenced display area

This way, tourists can have their photos taken with a dingo, and are less inclined to chase wild dingoes around trying to get a photo.

11/ Stop sensationalized reporting of dingo incidents.

A report has filtered in that suggests dingoes involved a 'biting incident' in 2009 were mating at the time of the incident. Apparently the dingoes were in a copulatory tie, and the child had been poking them with a stick while the parents watched. Once the tie was broken the dingoes attacked the child (no surprises there).

This brings a few issues to light.
1/ **Many incidents have underlying reasons that are not reported by the media** (another report I received stated that a child held out a biscuit for the dingo, put the biscuit in his pocket and ran away).
2/ Rangers are clearly upset with some situations and are talking to outsiders but are too scared to stand up and put their names to these reports.

12/ Stop the fear campaign.
Dingoes are a wild animal and can be unpredictable, but in most cases they do not seek to harm people and just wish to coexist.

Below: What used to be a typical scene on FI, or we should say, *typical when appropriate reaction is achieved by HUMANS*. The two dingoes merely sniff about and then move on (Photos: Judi Daniel).

For a very important video on this subject, please see: Fraser island dingoes approaching people for play 'Just Stand Still' (Link at point 6 'Education', above)

BLOG FROM BOB IRWIN SUPPORTING THE DINGOES
http://bobirwinwildlife.com/

HAPPY, HEALTHY DINGOES, PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY INTERSTATE MEMBERS:

Denise's 'Karma':

Neven and 'Boo'
On walkabout:

Oriana with her wild mate

'Levi' guarding the car

'Bingo' having a swim

We feel so much remorse about the loss of contact with your pack
we understand and feel your pain,,,GGR T.

Chris's 'Banjo'

Luke's 'Dingo'

'Didge' as a puppy: 'When he was 12 months old he would run and chase my son for hours hiding and basically destroying everything in their path… well, why be chaser all the time? So he chose perhaps the only item for which the boy would *give* chase… my son's good soccer shoe… and off he went . the point is he turned the game on my son, and in other cases he stole a boot, my wife's good brush, at no time does he even as much as put a tooth dint in any item He just does it because he knows he'll get a reaction.'

EXCELLENT RESEARCH:

Dingoes on Fraser Island: potential consequences of lethal control

Adam J. O'Neill[1] and Arian D. Wallach[1,2]
1 C&A Environmental Services, Rangeland Research and Restoration, POB 177, West Burleigh, 4219, QLD.
2 School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Adelaide, SA, 5005

Abstract

Worldwide, research and conservation focus is turning towards the key ecological role of large predators. The devastating consequences following their loss, and the extraordinary ecological recovery that follow their reinstatement, is a pattern emerging globally. One of the clearest examples of the devastating consequences of large predator control comes from Australia, where almost half of all mammalian extinctions in the past 200 years have occurred.

Recent advances in ecological research have demonstrated a compelling link between the extinction crisis and dingo control. Since European occupation, dingoes have been controlled across the continent. Still today, dingoes are controlled on all landholding types in every State and Territory; whether they are listed as a pest or an endangered species. Poison-baiting with sodium monofluoroacetate (1080) is the most common method of control, followed by shooting and trapping. Australia is unique in that it has but a single large mammalian predator, and that this predator can be poisoned, shot and trapped everywhere.

Dingoes, like all wolf species, are socially complex predators. They form long-term social bonds that may persist for generations, and it is precisely this characteristic that makes them the top predators that they are. The main impact of control is not necessarily on dingo numbers. Their abundance may decrease, increase or remain the same, following control. Instead, the main impact of lethal control is to fracture the dingoes' pack structure. Without the pack, their ecological functioning is compromised and biodiversity is ultimately lost. The disruption of pack stability also alters population demographics resulting in an increase in young dingoes that may have a higher tendency to become destructive and aggressive.

Since 2001, over 50 dingoes have been destroyed on Fraser Island due to human/dingo conflict. This level of intervention will undoubtedly mean that the Fraser Island dingo population is being held in a constant state of social instability. It is also not evident that the objectives of these culls are being realized, namely reducing attack rates on humans. In light of recent attacks, it seems likely that this management strategy may only serves to exacerbate the problem. Given the size of Fraser Island's dingo community, we suggest that if the Island's ecology is to be prioritized and conserved, a complete cessation of the dingo culling practice is necessary.

Implementing an "at your own risk" policy on the island appears to be warranted.

MR SORENSEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (MS JONES)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 1775 of 2009 concerning the audit of the Fraser Island Dingo Management Plan—

Will the Minister revise the submitted answers to parts (a), (b), and (c), redress the question, and advise of (a) the specific qualifications that legitimate the auditor's appointment, (b) the details of any peer-reviewed and published scientific research the auditor has conducted within the last 10 years and (c) the estimated number of adult breeding dingoes on Fraser Island each year since 2001, utilising the most recent data commissioned by the Minister?

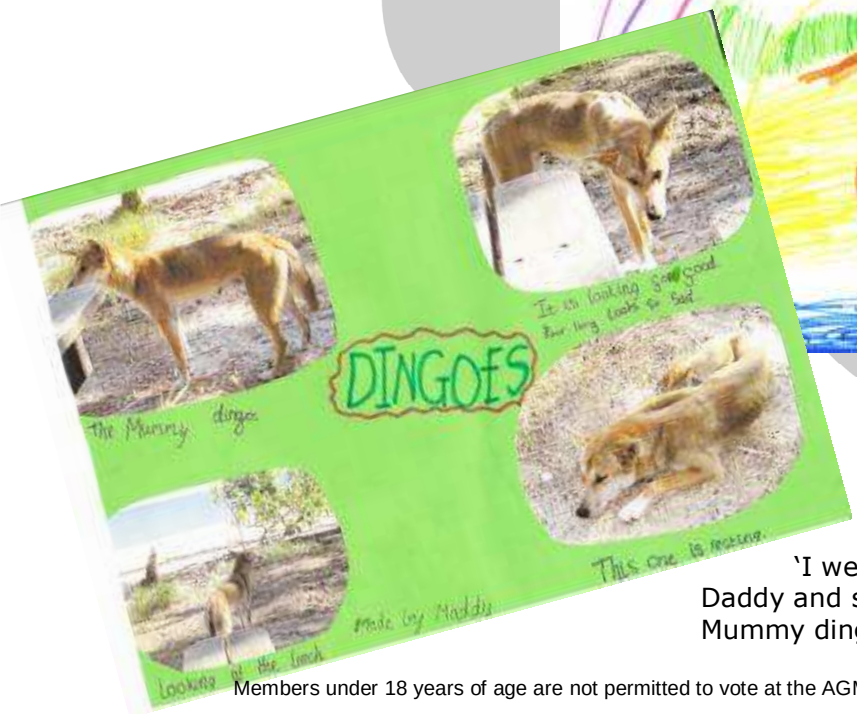
SFID kids club:

SFID is pleased to announce our new kids' club;

Competition: Submit your drawings or photos of yourself with dingoes and tell us why you like dingoes. Prize drawn every newsletter.
Prize: autographed photo of Dingo Jen with one of Dingo Simon's pups.

Isabelle: Watching Australian story disturbed me. I cried and I am still upset. I have a dingo. His name is BOO. He is almost 5 years old.My dingo is my best friend. He is amazingly loyal, sensitive and intelligent. We keep him on a special diet of fresh chicken necks, a very small amount of good quality dry biscuits and vegetables. Correct me if I'm wrong, I think that a ranger on the show said dingoes should weigh 18kg. That is total rubbish. Boo is 23 kg and sometimes he looks under weight, especially around breeding time.However, Boo will only take as much food as is necessary. He will not over eat.

Cassie Richardson Age 5:
'A Happy dingo family'



Maddy Richardson Age 8:

'I went to Fraser Island with Mummy and Daddy and saw a very skinny dingo. She was a Mummy dingo and looked very hungry and tired.'

Members under 18 years of age are not permitted to vote at the AGM as per the Constitution, and Fair Trading.

NEWS FROM DURONG DINGO SANCTUARY

Well the months have certainly passed by very quickly.
Like many of other people I was affected by the floods of Dec, Jan and Feb. Jen was going to stop by for one night on her way down south to see her family for Christmas. Well mother nature certainly put a stop to that. Jen was stranded here for three days while we waited for flood waters to recede and bridges could be crossed.

It was a very eerie feeling to have this amount of water energy pass beneath me

Within 2 hrs this river flowed over the bridge and was about 2m high.

This was the entrance to my property just after Jen left.

The floods caused massive damage. I lost seven fences over creek crossings. Cattle wandered into other people's properties and my access roads were washed away. I was stranded for about two weeks. SES wanted to land a chopper here to allocate food to nearby residents who had run out of food. Many neighbours rallied together to offer food to those in need.

Well the pups have grown since the last news letter.
Mahlee and DJ were doing so well. Their personalities were beautiful and charming mixed in with a little mischief.
As part of an enrichment program for the pups I bought some of those plastic swimming pools for kids because as we all know dingoes love water.
Jen was here to share this lovely moment.

And while this was happening , guess what ? Yes even domestic dingoes like pulling girls' hair.
So here is Mahlee trying to remove Jen's scrunchy:

Dingoes are just like cheeky monkeys in dog suits.
They will grab anything they can to use as a plaything. I have lost many tools, like a hammer, fencing pliers , buckets while working in the enclosures as any one of them can sneak up behind , grab it and be off in a flash before you know what is going on.

Then sadly on 20 Jan 2011 little DJ (Mahlee's sister) died.
She had been a bit off her food 3 weeks previously, was taken to the vet, got some antibiotics and began to improve immediately. But I woke up one morning and there she was dead lying outside the door of the kennel.
I just couldn't believe it.
I rang the Vet and organized an autopsy immediately.
The Vet said that her pericardium around her heart is supposed to be clear, it was black.
Her lungs were full of black muck with lumps and her liver was beige. They don't know how she could have survived so long like that. She hadn't been coughing.
Hopefully Dixie and Mabo (DJ's parents)may breed again this year. Their blood line is precious.

DJ before she died:

The other two (no name) pups that will be going to Ray's Tess Wildlife Sanctuary have grown so well. They are almost identical with the female's socks just a little longer than the male's. They love the water. At the moment they are having daily swims in the dam and learning to walk on a lead. They know they have to sit down before they will be given their food. Many people say that you cannot train dingoes. This is not true. They will do anything for food or small treats and learn very quickly. I have now trained the female to walk up a log about 1.5m above the ground. They have remarkable balance.

Jen had shown me photo's of Fraser Island dingoes using two fallen logs over a stream as a source of entertainment. They would walk over it and push each other off into the water and yelp with delight. Once I had told DEEDI/Biosecurity they insisted that I build something similar for my dingoes as part of an enrichment program. *Above: Here is Mabo and DJ on the log.*

Well summer and the wet season is over. Cooler days and Autumn is fast approaching. So the breeding season will begin. The dingoes begin getting frisky and dominant testing begins.
It is another interesting time for dingoes where their instinct of over 1000's of years development kicks in and changes the dynamics within their surroundings. The dingo's life is dominated by the weather, seasons and a full moon. One does not normally see this with most dogs.
So interesting times ahead wait for us.

Hooroo, DingoSimon

NEWS FROM BUSHLAND DINGO HAVEN:

I thought you'd get a good response from the Australian Story program, but let's hope that Federal Government officials see the importance of the issue and take Queensland to task.

The females from the QED lot of dingoes (Tina's family) are beginning to become more serious in their dominance play. I think that Lucretia and Agrippa will win out over the other two – Aphrodite and Venus, who are slighter in height and build. At one stage one of the two bigger girls stood with her front feet up on the back of a sibling, and stayed there for about a minute, looking about her as though she was saying "look at me! aren't I the best!" before dismounting. They are not challenging Tina. They definitely seem to be approaching the fertile phase faster than any of the others. They have appetites like horses at the moment. Do not leave anything. Recently, the dingoes got about four feeds of goat, and boy – did they demolish it!

At the moment I would say that The Red Terrors – Bo/Diddly's mob – are being far easier to look after. The hormone implants seem to have settled them down, at least for the moment.

Initially, after the implants were inserted a lot of the males' testicles became larger. Now the boys all carry very small bundles between their back legs. Tina's boys' testicles are now small. Fats, the biggest of Bo/Diddly's mob, has become quite affectionate. He seeks me out for extra attention, as does Diddles. Fats' feet are like dinner plates they are so big, but then he is quite a solidly built dog – has lots of head wrinkles. Yet he is by no means fat.

We have put extra wire along the front of Blue's enclosure as little Lonesome sticks her head thru, and has been bitten a couple of times by Sassy. Next fenceline to be reinforced will be Bo/Diddly's laneway fence. Dick procured a 100 metre roll of rabbit wire, which is what we'll use.

Again tonight, when I went down to put Bo's mob away, one of the pups had climbed up a tagasaste tree so that he could poke his head thru a gap in he fence into Tina's yards. Oops – we patched the hole as soon as Tina's mob was let out.

Railroad is going to be a bully, just like the three black boys. At nine and a half months he is beginning to dominate Pinnock. So far nothing has come of it but we'll have to keep an eye on them. I've started taking Railroad with Roadkill when I go to get the mince at the knackers. He travels really well in the car.

I was so upset after viewing Judi Daniel's most recent photos of the pups at Eurong, that I couldn't eat, felt chewed up inside, and extremely incensed at the treatment they are receiving. So much so, that I am currently writing to every minister possible, and voicing my disgust at the fact that Australia is 'legally' killing off yet another native species etc. I am still raging inside, and until I get to write to as many persons as possible, I will not feel as though I've done anything.

Gill.

'Blue' the dingo sheep dog

If anyone else wants to write letters, you can send them to:
derm@ministerial.qld.gov.au (DERM)
Sustainability@ministerial.qld.gov.au (Kate Jones)
courthouse.maryborough@justice.qld.gov.au
thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au (Anna Bligh)
bundaberg@parliament.qld.gov.au (Jack Dempsey)
Hervey.Bay@parliament.qld.gov.au (Ted Sorensen)
dingo.ranger@derm.qld.gov
corrooerqpwsmarine@derm.qld.gov.au (Terry Harper)
ross.belcher@derm.qld.gov.au (Ross Belcher Regional Manager DERM)

TESS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY NEWS:

Ray Revill, owner of TESS Wildlife sanctuary in Maryborough had quite a sad start to the year. He and his staff were devastated by the damaged caused by the floods, especially by the loss of many of his animals, which were very much like family members to them. The sanctuary has also suffered from a couple of break-ins resulting in loss of money, and damaged fences.

So it's great to report the Grand Opening of the Sanctuaries dingo enclosure, with two beautiful dingoes donated by The Big Pineapple, and two pups reared by DingoSimon due to arrive any day.

Harry Geltch

Pioneer FI beach pilot Harry GELTCH Passed away at Bundaberg on December 11, 2010, aged 89 years. Harry was an Icon in the local area.

Most Fraser Island locals knew him as "Mad Harry" or "Oil Can Harry" but he still remains in all of our memories as the Fraser Island pilot that put a smile on every one's face. Harry Geltch was one of a kind.

Harry relocated from New South Wales to Fraser Island in the early 1970's after visiting our magic Island on a charter in his Cessna 172. He fell in love with Fraser Island and refused to go back to NSW. It was then Fraser Island gained a Legend!

During his 30 odd years of beach flights on Fraser Island, Harry's funny and friendly approach to life left memories with not only with Fraser Island locals but tourists from all over the world. Harry helped the locals to no end providing a fast reliable service to the mainland.

Sadly, Harry lost his battle with Prostate cancer in December 2010.

Harry's son Gerry and two grand sons Dayne and Troy are continuing Harry's love for aviation and Fraser Island, creating three generations of Fraser Island Beach pilots! You will find them on the eastern beach of Fraser Island doing scenic flights.

The Legend lives on!

Harry (seated) with family

SFID would like to thank the Geltch family for their assistance prior to Dingo Day; they were very supportive of our cause. They were in the midst of organizing a plane to be available for the fly over, when Harry died. Our condolences to the family.

SUPPORT FROM LNP MINISTERS

SFID would like to acknowledge the support from LNP State Shadow Minister Jack Dempsey for Environment and Sustainability (position formerly held by Glen Elmes, who still maintains a keen interest in our cause). Following are letters from Jack Dempsey, LNP Deputy Opposition Whip Ted Sorensen, LNP Member for Gympie David Gibson.

Mr Jack Dempsey:

AFTER watching Monday's Australian Story episode on Fraser Island dingo activist Jennifer Pankhurst, Opposition Shadow Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability Minister Jack Dempsey has expressed his continuing concern for the plight of Australia's last remaining pure-bred native dogs.

"Sadly the Fraser Island dingo population is at threat due to a lack of food and the Bligh government response to the crisis is woefully inadequate," Mr Dempsey said.

"We have the last of our country's pure dingoes starving on Fraser Island and the Department of Environment and Resource Management is failing to act."

"Unfortunately, under the Bligh government DERM has become another department more concerned about bureaucratic red tape than achieving results."

"Instead of focusing on proactive steps to protect this precious species, DERM is too busy enforcing the letter of the law against a woman who was only trying to desperately help these starving animals."

"It was telling that Environment and Resource Management Minister Kate Jones didn't even appear on the Australian Story episode, instead she sent departmental officers to face the media."

"When it comes to the Fraser Island dingoes, Minister Jones has always hidden behind the courts because she doesn't want to address the department's failure to properly manage the dingoes."

"Unfortunately, the Environment and Resource Management Minister is too busy applying bureaucratic red tape and posing with koalas instead of addressing serious concerns such as the struggling Fraser Island dingo population."

"Minister Jones needs to stop avoiding the issue and step in to protect these dingoes before it is too late."

Media contact: Chris McLoughlin on 4152 1476 or 0413 485 766I

Mr Ted Sorensen:

I have received an overwhelming response to the Australian Story episode *"Dogs of War"* that was aired on Monday night 28 February. This story featured Jennifer Parkhurst and the unprecedented 40 thousand dollar fine she received for feeding emaciated Fraser Island Dingoes. Overall, it has been a very positive response. People, not only from Hervey Bay, but internationally, were happy that the plight of the Fraser Island Dingo took centre stage and it showed that the current management strategy is clearly failing the Dingo.

The management strategy was developed with two key indicators in mind, to ensure the viability of the dingo population and to limit human contact and incidences. It has failed on both counts. Tourists seeing emaciated/starving dingoes, is going to attract attention, all negative, in my experience. Something that Minister Kate Jones can no longer ignore.

When Jennifer Parkhurst went to court, Minister Kate Jones had said "The court case sent a clear message to the public....anyone who feeds dingoes is breaking the law and will face the consequences," This is a perfect example of the Minister, again, divorcing herself from the fact that she has a failed management strategy under her portfolio. If the management strategy was working, there would be no starving dingoes on the Island and no temptation for tourists or regular visitors to feed the dingoes.

Also, I had a number of contacts as to why QPWS officers were fielding all the enquiry on *Australian Story* and why Minister Kate Jones did not show her face. Minister Jones has again, put her head in the sand and is willing the problem away.

The Labor government now needs to come clean and admit that the Fraser Island Dingo is in serious trouble of becoming extinct if this management strategy continues. Experts in their field, such as Dr Ian Gunn, VETERINARIAN, MONASH UNIVERSITY & VP NAT. DINGO RECOVERY PROGRAM AND Dr Alan Wilton, GENETICIST, UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES & PATRON 'SAVE FRASER IS. DINGOES': have had their say on the night, and now Minister Kate Jones either need to show her qualifications, when she refutes them, or do something about it. Jennifer Parkhurst, I am sure, would feel privileged to have esteemed wild life experts supporting her and the plight of the Fraser Island Dingoes, nationally.

Minister Kate Jones needs to get the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy peer reviewed, something that I have asked of her, although it never has been done.

Contact: hervey.bay@parliament.qld.gov.au

Mr David Gibson:

The Australian Story – "Dogs of War" exposed both the failure of the Queensland Government to properly manage the dingoes on Fraser Island and an inconsistency in our Judicial system whereby for the same actions one person can receive a $40,000 fine and another person just $2,500.

Jennifer is well known to many in our community and I have met with her previously. I've always found her to be a person of passion for the health and well being of dingoes. The ABC story highlighted how she did the wrong thing for the right reasons. I don't believe anyone after watching that program would view Jennifer as a criminal but rather as a passionate advocate for our native dogs.

Contact: David.Gibson@parliament.qld.gov.au

NOTE TO MEMBERS: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE IN JUNE.

Membership: Regular: $20. Deluxe: $37 (includes Jennifer Parkhurst's book "Vanishing Icon"). Children up to 12 years: $5

SFID Meet'n'Greet in Vic and NSW:

During the month of January, I visited members and affiliate organizations in NSW and Victoria on behalf of SFID. It was a very busy trip. I am pleased to introduce you to some new friends: (I would like to Thank Don and Marg Carey for generously donating the use of their house to me while I was in NSW.)

Firstly, I stated off by visiting Durong Dingo Sanctuary, as reported by Simon earlier in the bulletin. Happy Birthday to Simon for Jan 17!

I made several visits to Bushland Dingo Haven in Vic, and during one of those visits we had a working bee to build a new dingo enclosure, which was just fantastic. It was great to give Richard and Gill some hands-on help! (Report in the next newsletter.)

As you may be aware, Richard has cancer and has been undergoing hormone therapy. Interestingly, some of the dingoes have begun to react differently to him and it has changed the whole dynamic of the running of the sanctuary. It may be the dingoes' keen sense of smell that tells them that something is different. Richard looks the same to them, moves the same, talks the same, but his scent must be different. The dingoes want to come up to him, but seem hesitant, as though they have to hold back. It is another piece of evidence which shows us that there is much more to a dingo's senses than we could ever possibly understand or hope to discover.

However, not everything has changed. The juvenile dingoes are still very playful. One naughty fellow decided to try and rip Richards' shirt off his back, and before long 5 others joined in. Richard was saying '*Not my new shirt, guys, come-on'*, but he didn't for a moment even consider stopping them. We heard the first 'rip', and before long they completely tore his whole shirt off, sleeves and all, and went running around the yard playing tug-of-war and chasey with it.

Richard just laughed and said 'they are just being themselves'. During the excitement, Fats jumped all over me, licked me nearly to death and grabbed my hair, even landed a bite across the bridge of my nose which really hurt! And drew blood! But he was only being affectionate.

Richard hung what was left of his shirt up on a pole. The pups went straight towards it, and began snuffing and advancing slowly. They gave themselves a scare and all jumped back in mock fright. It is amazing how they create games to amuse themselves. Diddly (their father) was the 'bravest' dingo and grabbed the shirt, and he was chased madly around the yard by his pups. Having proven he was top dog, Diddly dropped the shirt and let the pups tear it to shreds, and then he pranced around as though he was king of the world.

Members **Sharon Rivett and Peter Auld** invited me to visit them and their gorgeous dingo Sammy who is the ginger offspring of black-and-tan alpine dingoes and was bred by Gill & Richard Ryhorchuk from Bushland. Sampson has pale golden eyes and is quite remarkable to look at.

Sharon and Peter have had a long association with owning dingoes. They acquired their first dingo Nugget from Bruce Jacobs, who they were avid supporters of and visited often. No matter what people say about Bruce (the original owner of The Dingo Farm in Chewton, now owned by Tehree Gordon), he certainly left a legacy behind and was obviously a conservationist long before it became popular.

Sharon and Pete have worked tirelessly with Dingo Care Network raising awareness about the important place dingoes have in the ecosystem, and have helped to organize dingo social club days and a dingo walk for 'World Animal Day 2008' which ultimately helped support the submission written by Ernest Healey and DCN to have the dingo listed as vulnerable in Victoria.

Sampson featured in the program 'Talk to the Animals' which will be available in the SFID Library shortly.

A dingo is always naughty by nature, even in captivity. My handbag was something which Sammy had to thoroughly explore. He tried to steal whatever he could from inside it. When he was bored with that, he jumped up onto the dining room table, and began to open a present Sharon had just wrapped. His favorite activity is sneaking into the office a few times a day, where he has a stash of bubble wrap which he likes to 'pop' for some strange reason.

I tried to get a photo of Sharon and Peter with Sampson. What an ordeal! If this was a normal K9, there would be no problem, but as soon as Sammy realised that there was something going on, he decided not to be involved. I got one quick shot of him on the couch with Sharon and Peter and that was it, he scooted outside and wouldn't come back inside or near us, despite all the lollies we offered him. Sharon and Peter said maybe Sammy thought it might be 'tablet time…'

Sharon and Peter have a suburban yard with high fences with wire returns at the top, which is regulation in Vict, and it is good to see that you don't need acreage to own a dingo. They take Sammy out for plenty of walks to keep him in good condition. Sam gets to go to the snow, to the city centre, and everywhere that their Labrador, Daisy goes.

The next trip was with Sharon and Peter to **Moonlit Sanctuary** in Pearcedale, which has three alpine dingoes.

We were lucky to encounter the Senior Dingo Keeper Lisa Tuthill as soon as we arrived. We explained who we were and asked if we could visit the dingoes. Lisa very kindly spent a great deal of time with us at the dingo enclosure and she even let me go inside with the dingoes. *Photo below left Courtesy Lisa*

Lisa told us they had just begun a new feeding programme for the dingoes. Up until recently they received their food once a day in a bowl. Now, they get their food scattered around the yard, along with blood spatter, twice a day and Lisa is walking them around the sanctuary and trying to help them to become more familiar with people.

Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park grew out of the childhood dreams of Chief Ranger Michael Johnson who imagined a place where people could have a close experience with the rare and unusual animals that freely roam the Australian bush but are often difficult to see in the wild.
The Sanctuary is open daily from 10am – 5pm
Ph: (03) 5978 7935
Email: info@moonlit-sanctuary.com
http://www.pearcedale-conservation-park.com.au/index.php?cmspage=65

While in Victoria I also managed to squeeze in a visit to Rose and Dick Wilson from Narbethong whose house burnt down in the Black Saturday fires. I am happy to report that their dingo enclosure is now built with the help of Dingo Care Network, and 'Mystic', the lovely dingo they share with Dingoman, is very healthy and happy. It was great to see Rose, Dick and Dingoman again.

Field trip(s) to 'native animal education sanctuary' Potoroo Palace, Yellow Pinch NSW:

Potoroo Palace is a not-for-profit organisation passionate about caring for the Earth. Their aims are to improve the habitats and wellbeing of the native animals already in their care; to promote public awareness of the animals' plight in the wild; and to educate the community about the importance of the conservation of our unique Australian native animals and plants.

Potoroo Palace was purchased and taken over less than four years ago in a very run-down condition (I visited there once before many years ago and never returned). It was then set up by the purchaser Alexandra Seddon, a passionate local wildlife carer, as a non-government-funded, Not-for-Profit organization owned by the community. Since then, more than $ 1.5 million has been spent upgrading the living conditions of all the animals and their environment, with wonderful results.

I made several visits to Potoroo Palace during my time in NSW, and Alexandra was generous enough to give me at least 3 hours with John Marsh, the dingo keeper, on each occasion. (Committee members will meet John when he visits in April.)

It is a very pretty sanctuary with wetlands and nice big enclosures for all the animals. Emu's and roos wander freely around the place. I have to say the dingo enclosure is the nicest enclosure I have seen in a mixed species sanctuary. It has the usual high fencing with return at the top, electric wires, and double-gates. Once inside though, it is like being in the bush. The dingoes have their own pool with a fountain, and a rocky outcrop for them to sit on top of. There are plenty of fallen trees and interesting logs for them to climb onto. The foliage is very overgrown and you could lose the

dingoes if they wanted to hide. The back of the enclosure faces national park, and the dingoes get plenty of enrichment as they watch wild kangaroos etc go past.

Shylow (19 kilos) and Djingo (21 kilos) are in perfect condition. Their coats are shiny and they are lean and muscular. Their diet is varied and includes roo tail, rabbit head, as well as a special butchers' brew.

Djingo, the ginger male, came straight over to me, but Shylow (so named like my own Shiloh because she was shy), the white dingo did not come over, but slinked around in the background. Djingo (like most dingoes) was quite content to sniff inside my handbag uninvited while John and I chatted. As well as the sanctuary dingoes, John keeps his own dingoes temporarily at the sanctuary. I was fascinated to discover that some of the dingoes come from Gill and Richard, from Bushland.

John met Gill and Richard many years ago when they lived in Yass, and helped them with their move down to Victoria. He knew all the mob's names, all their histories, and it was somewhat bizarre talking to someone I have never met about dingoes that feel like my own family members! John is also a member of Dingo Care Network and knows Julie Fechner and Ernest Healey. He of course knows Sharon and Peter Rivett, and their beautiful dingo **Sampson** (mentioned above) and in fact, his own dingo **Django** is Sampson's litter brother!

Djeb and Djirri are normally shy, but to John's surprise they joined Dji and Django to greet me. All four dingoes came over and sniffed me, and I must confess it is something barely describable to me, that they engaged me in the 'greeting ceremony' by licking my lips.
Thanks Lea for taking the great photos!

On the way out I was privileged to meet Alexandra Seddon. Alexandra is very passionate about wildlife, the environment, and everything that encompasses. Here at Pambula I noticed a new wildlife reserve, called Panboola Wetlands. This wetland was in danger of being commercially developed and is just one facet of the environment that we are custodians of, and therefore should preserve. It turns out that the land in the reserve was owned by different people and part of it was formerly a racecourse. Alexandra went about buying blocks of land, and the Racecourse Trust decided to join on to it, and it was all turned it into a reserve. Alexandra is a beautiful, passionate woman who can be known by the motto: 'if someone needs to ask the question of why a species should be protected, they probably could not understand the answer'.'

Another one of the 'guiding principles' that both Alexandra, John and all connected with Potoroo Palace go by is: ***"We conserve what we love; we love what we understand; we understand what we learn."***

http://www.potoroopalace.com/

This beautiful hand-crafter plaque/platter featuring carved centerpiece of a dingo has been donated to SFID to auction. We would like to express our deepest appreciation to artist Albert Martin

bargo
dingosanctuary

From left: George Parker Caretaker for the last 15 years, Lucille Ellem President, Rebecca Bancroft Treasurer and Gloria Third the garden expert and valuable volunteer.

Unfortunately, due to red tape, Bargo Dingo Sanctuary is not currently open to the public. However members and sponsors are always welcome to visit. Lucille and Rebecca very kindly opened for the morning so I could meet them, and their beautiful dingoes. The sanctuary was originally set up by Berenice Walters in 1974, but since her passing in 2002, has had to undergo relocation. Extensive work has been done over the last 6 years, and you can see progress photos at: http://www.dingosanctuary.com.au/news.htm Bargo also has a face book page: Bargo Dingo Sanctuary.

The work has been worth it; grounds are absolutely stunning. There are 30+ dingoes at the sanctuary, encompassing four generations, and the dingoes are kept in pairs.
I was introduced to two juveniles Chipala and Yelka who were both extremely boisterous and jumped all over me, as is typical for juvenile dingoes!

Lucille demonstrated her method of subduing them, ie, putting her mouth over their snout much like a mother dingo would do, and gently forcing them to submissive position on the ground with belly up. It was extremely effective to watch.

Then I was introduced to a brother and sister Tyipa and Cooinda in a different enclosure who are two years old. Lucille and Rebecca warned me that I would be mobbed, and I was! They were particularly interested in pulling my hair. They managed to wrench an ear-ring out, which we retrieved later.

Lucille had already bought 10 copies of Vanishing Icon, they are selling fast, and they will be reordering again. And I bought a copy of Berenice Walters' books for the SFID library.

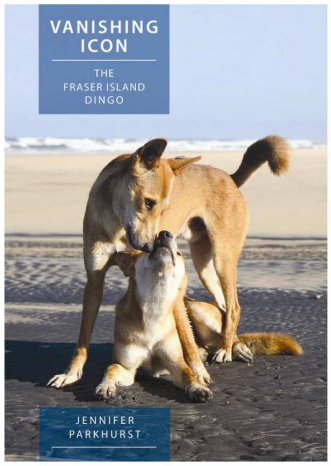
Bargo (The Australian Native Dog Conservation Society Ltd) is a registered Charity and one of their objectives in their Rules is to continue research. The Society is working closely with Prof. Bill Ballard and Kylie Cairns from the University of New South Wales, researching origins of coat colour and many other issues. There are students from Western Sydney University working on scats, and another student working on scent, urine and scats, so they are dedicated to preserve the pure dingo.
Bargo has now affiliated with SFID and we are very pleased to reciprocate.

Lucile suggested that we formulate a foundation that encompasses all the dingo organizations throughout Australia, and we could have a symposium once a year featuring a representative from each group.

Lucille reminded me of Berenice's words. "I hope that in sharing my experiences of the Dingo with other Australians, I will engender a feeling of concern, interest and pride in this native animal. The Dingo, a priceless part of our National Heritage, should be recognized as our National Dog, proudly taking its rightful place amongst the most ancient, pure and noble breeds of the world."

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc

Sticker



T-Shirt

T-shirts $25
Mugs $10
Stickers & Magnets $2
Book Mark $1
Caps $15
Vanishing Icon: The Fraser Island Dingo: $20

Sticker

Magnet