



# SFID NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2011

With thanks to our sponsors for donations to the printing of this newsletter:

Sam and Maureen Mitchell, Rainbow Beach Tourist Info Centre 5486 3227  
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*Plea For The Dingoes*  
*'Do not follow where the path may lead –*  
*Go instead, where there is no path*  
*And FORGE A TRAIL'*

Dear Friends,

Over a seven year period I spent my days in the bush closely observing wild dingoes. During this time I named and become acquainted with upwards of 130 individuals. Unlike casual visitors, researchers, or even locals on the Island I was granted access by the dingoes into the deep bush, into their secret, sacred meeting places. They allowed me to watch them mate, prepare for denning, feed, teach, chastise and raise their pups. They let me observe as they provisioned each other, and let me follow on hunting forays and watch them bring down prey, and indeed, in their most vulnerable moments, they even allowed me to sit with them while they died. Out of the 130 dingoes I observed, 60 perished.

The greatest thing I learnt from observing the dingoes first hand was the deep affection and strong family bonds that they share. The second greatest thing was their capacity to bond with humans, their depth of loyalty towards us, their willingness to trust us, and their acceptance of us as part of their ongoing relationship with their natural habitat.

Allow your heart and your mind to become receptive for a moment to the concept that animals actually do have thoughts and feelings just like us, and don't operate purely on instinct. It was not instinct that made Kirra continue to feed the runts of her litter, knowing that they were going to die anyway, or to specifically indulge them with lengthy sessions of affection and attention. It was not instinct that kept Kirra poised on the edge of a cliff, searching the horizon desperately for signs of her missing pups when they had been destroyed, keeping vigil for days without moving to even get food or water. It was not instinct that made Kirra leap out of the bush and put herself between me and a man who was harassing me, then continue to protect me until she knew I was safe.

The cruel occurrence of starvation, hazing (aversive conditioning), collaring, destruction of pups, removal of territorial ground, fencing, electric grids, and uncontrolled burns, threaten to wipe out the dingoes on Fraser Island forever. Yet I am constantly inspired by the dingoes' ability to survive despite this ongoing persecution. But they can't survive indefinitely.

When hazard reduction burns threatened to wipe out precious den sites forever, I took one last look through the bush to photograph them. Imagine the incredible and awe-inspiring feeling of standing before an old fallen tree knowing that this was the special place a dingo chose to whelp her pups – to keep them safe; warm; to protect them; to give them the best possible start in life that she could manage. She arranged sentries for each hilltop that could watch the perfectly aligned east-west gullies for intruders; she selected the entrance so that it caught the first rays of dawn to awaken her pups and make the most of the days' light to keep the den warm while the winter chills took over the night. Mum chose the pinnacle of the hill to overlook the sea so that she could sit and watch the ocean and listen for echoes of dingoes from the next territory as they howled their stories to each other across the ether. This was the most beautiful spot within miles and I knew that the dingoes had a reason beside (but not excluding) aesthetics for choosing this place. And I also knew that this place would be destroyed forever.

Dare to remember that we humans share this earth and are the caretakers of it, and every living creature it supports. Imagine yourself powerful enough to change the situation, and then do something about it. If we permit the destruction of these magnificent wild creatures we allow the destruction of ourselves.

Jennifer Parkhurst  
 Wildlife Photographer  
 Fraser Island  
[www.fraserislandfootprints.com](http://www.fraserislandfootprints.com)

## ***President's Report***

Hello to all of our members once again. Many things have happened since our last Newsletter. We have had our meeting with DERM in April and it was understood that a better level of communication would follow and progress would be made for the betterment of our F.I Dingoes.



*SFID Reps at the DERM meeting:*

*From Left: Mal Kilpatrick, Lyn Smith  
Ray Revill, Jen Parkhurst, John Marsh  
Bob Irwin, Karin Kilpatrick, Ernest Healy,  
Sonia Hutchinson, Pat O'Brien*

Unfortunately we seem to have been missed in the information transfer regarding the research and subsequent collaring of some 20 dingoes on the Island. The research is welcomed but the collaring speaks for itself in the many photos posted on the WEB and which you will see here. Radio and T.V interviews ensued, but DERM still insists that the weight and cumbersome nature of this modern piece of Electronic genius is just the right thing for the job, "best practice" once again. Having been 40 years in the Electronic Engineering industry I can testify to the availability of much smaller devices to obtain this data. GPS is used in wrist *watch sized* units for keeping track of humans.

One could be cynical and say that the consultation omission to inform us that collaring had begun was an oversight, but my "conspiracy theory" thoughts keep pointing me in another direction. Previous trials left the animals diminished in their hunting skills and even outcasts in their own groups, but we are assured that this will not happen this time, because DERM said so! We will be basking in the results of the University studies in February/March, or.....It is indeed strange that no research was deemed necessary up until SFID's questioning and prodding forced a different action.

**Anniversary:** This month two years ago, concerned citizens of Hervey Bay saw the need to ban together and lobby the Government to step up the protection of the Fraser Island Dingo. SFID Inc in its infancy believed that once the evidence was shown to them that the dingo was indeed struggling to survive in the manner it did before World Heritage Listing in 1992, something would change. How naive we were!

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June,** Committee members of SFID met with Andrew Powell, State Shadow Minister for Queensland, this position was formerly held by Glen Elmes. Also in attendance at the meeting was local State Member Ted Sorensen. At this meeting we were able to glean an insight into Andrew's knowledge and interest in preserving the FI Dingo and in fact all flora and fauna on the Island. We were all pleased with the exchange of information and for the opportunity to meet with him and for Andrew to gauge the sincerity and commitment of our Organisation and the World Wide backing we are privileged to have. We look forward to working with Andrew should the polls favour a change from the present Government.



**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June** was a lovely experience at TESS Wildlife Sanctuary. We were fortunate enough to help our own great Wildlife carer Ray Revill to welcome two dingo pups into the Sanctuary. It was a wonderful day with Aunty Marie performing "Welcome to Country", Ted Sorensen and Gerard O'Connor officiating. Thanks also to the Sam Catalano for playing the didgeridoo, a very distinct Australian sound indeed, which added further to the great atmosphere.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June** we joined the Paddle Out For Whales Event in Hervey Bay. SFID represented the dingoes of course and we sincerely thank Vickie Neville and Amanda French for inviting us along to participate in this great event and highlight the plight of the F.I. Dingo.

We also would like to thank Jorge Pujol for his invaluable assistance once again promoting a candle display, each candle representing whales and dingoes we have lost to indiscriminate killing.

It was wonderful to see Bob Irwin from Kingaroy and Colin (who cares) Riddell from Cairns present and once again listen to the inspirational message delivered by Bob. He is currently fighting the extremely cruel practices performed on turtles and dugongs.

## IN CONCLUSION:-

Perhaps the following revelations by another F.I. Conservation group headed by John Sinclair, from the **1970's** that I was reading again just before writing my report, states-They were "not going to allow the integrity of this now rare and precious genetically pure strain of dingoes to be threatened by mismanagement. There was no risk to humans from dingo attacks on the Island prior to the 1980's. Dingoes were rarely seen and those that were, were usually observed skulking near camps but at a safe distance. Dingoes only started to become emboldened as the visitor numbers to Fraser Island escalated exponentially in the 1980's and early 1990's".

Incredible words, as they echo what SFID has been asserting for two years! Amazingly, in the same article QPWS performed culling and "humane destruction" of about 100 dingoes since 2001 – 2003, but they maintained "that they had a legal responsibility to conserve National Park dingo populations-even though elsewhere in Qld and Australia, the dingo is declared a pest".

Definitely interesting words considering the Conservation Group's present stand that aligns itself with DERM's 180% back flip from the above!

This month signals our second birthday and from the above information shows what a battle we still have on our hands to save these Iconic animals from its "protectors". Unfortunately this means that all of the other flora and fauna on the Island may eventually suffer the same fate if we don't act *now*.

This is where all of you, our valuable members in Australia and Overseas, can bring to bare the full force of your voices. Keep bombarding your local and State Federal members and this will be our ultimate weapon in People Power. We must keep reinforcing to QPWS and DERM that they are protecting Our Heritage and that of the Future Generation.

These animals and the entire Island belong to the World and it's about time DERM performed "best practice" to start delivering this protection-not just eradication.

It is with great appreciation, we thank Bob Irwin, Colin Riddell, SOS news, Dr. Ernest Healy, Dr. Ian Gunn from Monash University and Dr. Alan Wilton our Patron from University of N.S.W for their continuing invaluable scientific and corporeal support in battling our cause. These people continue to fight on tirelessly to provide this support even despite veiled attacks on their character, by the present Government's associates who try to denigrate them.

We have been indeed very blessed to have the full support of our local member Ted Sorensen to promote our concerns in Parliament-aided by Mr. Glen Elmes the previous Shadow Minister for Environment. These members of parliament and along with the staff of SOS on-line news (44,000 readers per day), have been on this journey with us from the beginning, helping wherever and whenever they could. A far cry from the total lack of response or contact from our now departed State Environment Minister Kate Jones. We are still waiting for her responses to the numerous correspondence we have sent to her (apart from the standard letter we and others have received ), inviting her to visit Fraser Island to discuss the issues that need addressing. Makes you cast your mind back to the T.V show, "Yes Minister"-we wait to see who the joke will be on.

Until the next issue, I would like to thank you all for your support and that of my very hard working Committee.

*Malcom Kilpatrick*

## A SAVAGE MONTH OF DOG ATTACKS

There have been 22 reports of dog attacks in the one shire in Victoria in one month. Last year 37 dog owners were prosecuted and 31 infringement notices were issued. The dog owners were placed on good behaviour bonds and ordered to pay costs and compensation. (Herald Sun) (One member writes: You'd expect to be more likely to be attacked by a wild dingo in its habitat than by a domestic dog in your neighbourhood, but that's not the actual fact is it?)



## Vice President's Report

It's been an extremely busy year so far, and none of us can believe that it's already June.



'Staples'

Thanks to ABC the Australian Story program certainly generated a lot of publicity and membership to SFID grew by at least 5 new members per week and continues to do so. Karin and I are still receiving letters daily from concerned people from all over the globe, who have heard about the story and the plight of our dingoes.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April John Marsh, Senior Dingo Keeper from Potoroo Palace in NSW flew to Qld and he and I took a field trip to Fraser Island. We spent a lot of time observing the behaviour of people on the beach when dingoes were present. We were delighted by the opportunity to interact with people and found that our presence calmed people down. When people behaved appropriately, the dingoes stayed calm.

We were thrilled to see the dingo Orange-Yellow-Orange (known as Staples) behaved very well despite the massive amount of tourists on the beach. Parents were supervising their children and because children remained calm, they were even able to carry bait buckets around without a problem from Staples or his siblings.



Our conclusion from our trip was that having educational officers at busy tourist sites would reduce negative human/dingo interactions by up to 100%.

The meeting between DERM, special guests and SFID Committee took place on Monday 4th of April. DERM was represented by CEO Terry Harper, Head Ranger Col Lawton, DERM Educator Iris Flenady, and Regional Manager Ross Belcher.

SFID was represented by the Committee and Special Guests: Pat O'Brien, President of the Wildlife Protection Association Aust; Bob and Judy Irwin, Environmental Conservationists; John Marsh, Senior Dingo Keeper at Potoroo Palace N.S.W; Dr. Healy, Researcher/dingo owner from Monash University; with Dr. Gunn from Monash University and Gill Ryhorchuk Dingo breeder from Victoria on Teleconferencing.

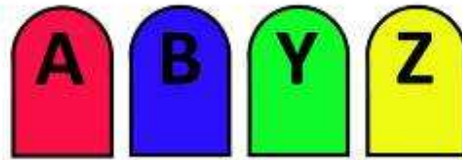
We spent two hours in conference. During that time we viewed the ear tags which we believe to be an unreliable and uncomfortable, inhumane method of tagging. Ear-tags delaminate (the colour comes off) quickly, due to fading, and we believe the staples are a cause for concern on many levels. We would like all tagging of pups under the age of 12 months stopped, and in the event that tagging is not stopped altogether we have devised a potential new tagging system which we would like to see put in place (see next page). But I add the disclaimer, that SFID would like to see *all interference stopped immediately*, especially invasive things like trapping and tagging, and now, collaring.

DERM also showed us the clay pellets used to haze the dingoes. A report by Kim Thompson about hazing is featured later in this newsletter.



DERM did not bring the GPS tracking collars to the meeting as promised, nor the leg-hold traps. We continue to refute that trapping is 'world's best practice'. Island residents still claim that they see dingoes limping after being trapped, and I too have seen this myself.

Discussion from Dr. Healey and Dr. Gunn highlighted the need for greater transparency from the department. Questions arose regarding ethics and the need for an Advisory Committee to oversee the actions taken by the Government in regard to the FI Dingo Management. Dr. Healey and Dr. Gunn stressed the importance of knowing the amount of breeding pairs that were on the Island to ascertain if the dingo survival is still viable. We are certain that non-invasive methods of doing this can be implemented.



Each colour represents an area or territory, ie:  
Red = Hook Point  
Each letter represents a dingo from that family group or territory

*Ear-tag concept idea: The tri-colour tag (pictured previous page) is confusing at best, and if we have problems identifying individual dingoes from it, and cannot read the ear-tag register (below) easily, then how can a lay-person or tourist? The tag above is small and light, and can be cut in the middle so there is no chance of it catching on flora. The simple method of using colours for different areas/territories also shows us quickly and clearly when a dingo has migrated to a different territory. Even if international tourists cannot identify the letters specifically, they could easily describe them.*

F	pink	white	white	18/01/2010	Providence Camp	Not known	Juvenile	pink	pink	15/06/2010
M	blue	red	white	17/12/2009	Chill	Not known	Juvenile	pink	pink	20/06/2010
M	green	white	green	18/06/2009	Happy Valley	Hit by car	Juvenile	pink	pink	11/10/10
F	blue	green	purple	30/12/2009	El Creek	Hit by car	Juvenile	pink	pink	15/08/2010
M	orange	orange	purple	25/01/2010	Wyn Pt	Not known	Sub-Adult	pink	pink	24/08/2010
M	blue	pink	purple	13/12/2010	Old Village	Dingo Sight	Juvenile	pink	pink	8/01/2011

We also called for a ranger presence, or an educational officer to be placed at areas of high tourist use. This was put forward three times, but dismissed each time. Apparently DERM felt that its system of educating people at camp sites was sufficient. However, despite an apparent 800 camp site visits during the Easter period, very sadly, 5 dingoes were still destroyed, including 'Staples'.

Clearly whilst we were delighted that the doors of communication between DERM and SFID had been opened, the Easter debacle revealed that much more work is required. Since Easter, the collaring issue has arisen.

We have been inundated with letters and phone calls from furious members of the public, and conservation groups, who want to see collaring of wild dingoes stopped, particularly as the collars will give us details of movement, but not of population or prey availability. See Publicity officer's report for details of our letter to the Minister outlining our concerns.

Our publicity officer Cheryl Bryant, along with our legal advisor Marilyn Nuske, have been working solidly all year composing letters to the Government and writing petitions, and we would like to thank them for all the time and effort they have put into these endeavours.

We would like to thank our Secretary/treasurer for all the hard work she has done, especially with regards to getting the pay pal system up and running. This has been nothing short of a time-wasting nightmare. Thanks also go to other committee members who have dedicated a great deal of time and effort once again to doing all the boring and mundane work such as filing, posting, photocopying, collating data, and so on. This is an invisible and thankless job for the most part, but SFID cannot function without it.

I would also like to thank our vast array of non-members who prefer to fight for the dingoes independently of SFID. Your work is also much appreciated. Many of these people spend a lot of time raising awareness and writing letters to their local papers or MP's, they also regularly send us Island news, news clippings, photographs, or other helpful information. I would like to particularly thank Judi Daniel, Jo McKay and Deb Tuddenham for their photographs.

I have been attempting to update my website regularly with information as it comes to hand. I am also currently hosting the SFID website, but we are pleased to announce that Chris Jabs has now taken over and is building a

Jennifer Parkhurst

I BELIEVE that the time has come whereby a full independent investigation should be instigated ASAP. There are 20 years of QUESTIONS that need to be answered. The tax payers are sick and tired of their Government squandering their hard earned money."

## **Secretary's Report**

This is my second year as Secretary and apart from it being almost a full time occupation due to the volume of correspondence that comes through SFID's mail box, it has been a wonderful experience getting to know you all through your very supportive letters. Thank you for taking the time and trouble to offer your support. Many of you have written not just once but many times to our State and Federal members of Parliament in the hope that someone will listen, take action and rectify the problems that have been highlighted not just by Jennifer Parkhurst and SFID but by many visitors to the Island on whom successful tourism depends.

**Thank you for your mail:-** Jennifer Parkhurst Vice President, Cheryl Bryant our Publicity Officer and I monitor Face book; hundreds of letters via e-mail and also snail mail and I am delighted to report that 99.9% of our mail reflects that people of Australia aware of the situation want immediate action to be taken by the Government to stop the culling, ear tagging, hazing and currently the collaring of our dingoes. Many of our letters to the Environment Minister both State and Federal are not answered; some however do receive a very polite but standard letter stating that the Management Strategy is working and that they are using World's best science. This is infuriating and insulting, would people bother to write to the Government if there was nothing to be concerned about?

**Letter from the Premier's Office:-** The attached letter from the Premier's Officer highlights what I am referring to. M. Weaver, author of the letter did not address any of our concerns as was requested by the Premier for him to do on her behalf! We have not had any further correspondence from that office.

**Reply from the Governor General:-** On a happier note Our Aboriginal Elder Marie Wilkinson has written to The Governor General expressing her deep concerns regarding the treatment of the dingo on Fraser. Within a very short period of time Aunty Marie received a hand written letter from Ms Quentin Bryce inviting Aunty Marie to meet with her on her next visit. Aunty Marie has also written to Prime Minister Julia Gillard and other members of Parliament with whom she has had conversations with about Fraser Island in the past, we hope to post their replies in the next Newsletter.

I would like to thank the people of Eumundi who have been very busy writing letters to Tony Abbott, Campbell Newman and Kevin Rudd. May you receive replies from these people very soon.

**Thank you for your support:-** As Secretary I receive numerous faxes and phone calls and on average 5 new members join a week, it is wonderful to discover how many of you are involved in animal care and the fabulous unselfish work so many volunteers are doing for the sake of our beloved animals both domestic and wild. I have also noticed that in the Southern States we have members who own dingoes and every one of you have told us what amazing pets they make, highly intelligent, and I like the fact that they don't smell, sounds like an ideal pet to have for sure. Sadly in Queensland we can only hope that there will be one day a reversal on that restriction.

**School Projects:-** Recently we have had a few requests from students for us to assist them in school projects on dingoes, we are very pleased to receive this call for help and if anyone has a child with a project coming up on dingoes we are only too happy to assist where we can.

Last month Barrie Gerbich visited and kindly gave a presentation on dingo behaviour to the SFID Committee. At present Barrie is working in Africa; he has a background in training Police dogs and is currently training "people" to understand wildlife behaviour, in particular to recognise aggression and what to do in the event of an impending attack.



In Africa pups are not handled under the age of 14 months; Yellowstone Biologists do not ear chip under 12 months of age, why then do our Rangers begin interfering with our pups at around **5 months of age?**

Barrie clearly demonstrated to us that dingoes like many other animals enjoy play and that there are very definite signs when an animal means to attack and when it is only playing. The best course of action to take when approached by a wild animal Barrie explained is to stand still (strongly advocated by Jennifer Parkhurst and many people who have had extensive experience with animals in the wild). Literature recently released by DERM instructing people to defend themselves *aggressively* when attacked and to hit the dingo with a stick caused quite a stir around the country among many experts to whom we sent the literature.

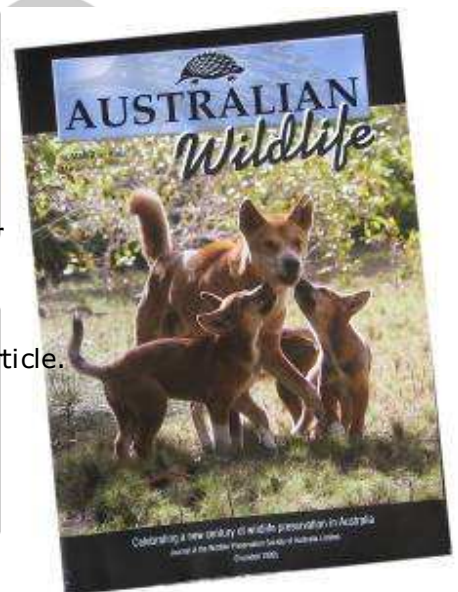
SFID recommends that to be dingo safe, walk in groups, keep children close, don't scream, run or throw things at the dingo etc. We have attached an educational brochure, which does not intend to replace any literature that DERM have distributed.

**Freedom of Information:-** Over the past few months we have obtained through Freedom Of Information, Incident reports on dingoes destroyed in 2010 and 2011. These are documents that tell us what crime each dingo has committed before destruction. It is not pleasing to read that the age is predominantly around 9 months to sub adult, these are young curious dingoes who when exploring their territory inevitably come upon humans, the sights, smells, noise and behaviour of human beings. Handling by Rangers to ear tag, haze, and now collar is a lot to ask a wild animal to endure.

We now have updated information on the ear tag register up to April 2011. The hardest information to read is the autopsy reports, but in some instances it allows us to see exactly what the dingoes are eating and what the cause of death is and very alarmingly, there seems to be a massive increase in dingoes dying through vehicle strikes. We intend to bring this up with the Environmental Minister Vickie Darling (former position was held by Kate Jones).

**Congratulations to Jennifer:-** A beautiful photo of a male dingo surround by his adoring pups graced the front cover of the AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE magazine Vol 1/2011. On the back cover is an equally beautiful photo of pure love, mum and puppies. Your work is truly amazing and we are very proud to have you as our Vice President, thank you Jennifer for your unfailing dedication to SFID and the F.I Dingo. Equally importantly, thanks to Arian and Adam for the fantastic article. Keep up the great work! We need more research like this!

Karin Kilpatrick



(JP): Our Secretary is also a very talented cake maker. Where does she find the time to come up with creations like this?

# *Fraser Island World Heritage Area*

Traditional Home of the Buichulla people, and the native dingo.

[1 June, 2011

Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia  
Government House  
Dunrossil Drive  
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Your Excellency,

A few years ago when you were Governor of Queensland we met in Hervey Bay and shared a cuppa at the Multicultural gathering.

I am Auntie Marie Wilkinson an Aboriginal elder, to my people and also to many non-indigenous people; I am treated with respect and dignity because of my status.

However I cannot say the same about many of the people in government, when I have approached them to find a mutual solution to the management of Fraser Island. I have been treated appallingly.

Some ministers have listened  
Some assure me that they will look at the solutions  
I have sent them photos of starving and dying dingoes  
Secretaries place me on hold  
A minister arranged to see me in Canberra --

**BUT HAVE NOT HEARD  
BUT THEY NEVER DO  
BUT THEY DO NOT SEE  
BUT NO ONE COMES TO SPEAK  
CANCELLED & NEVER RESCHEDULED**

Maybe no-one cares?

I believe you will be horrified at the above and will now arrange for someone with an open heart to contact me.

I have the belief and faith in you Your Excellency, as when we spoke previously you did have an understanding of all Australians and our native wildlife. I am pleading with you that you will help as the situation is desperate.

Yours sincerely

Auntie Marie



## Office of the Premier

For reply please quote: MC/MY – TF/11/15541– DOC/11/78389

24 MAY 2011

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Mr Malcolm Kilpatrick  
President  
Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.  
50 Old Maryborough Road  
PIALBA QLD 4655

Dear Mr Kilpatrick

Thank you for your forwarding the Premier a copy of your email of 7 May 2011 addressed to the Honourable Kate Jones MP, Minister for Environment and Resource Management concerning the dingoes on Fraser Island. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

The contents of your correspondence have been noted.

Please be assured that Minister Jones will give your concerns her full consideration.

Again, thank you for bringing this matter to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

**M Weaver**  
Director  
Executive Correspondence





## Treasurer's Report



Without the wonderful financial support from our members and the general public, SFID Inc would not have been in the position to hold the meeting with DERM on 4<sup>th</sup> of April this year. Fundraising and donations enabled us to meet the costs incurred to hold such a meeting in particular travelling costs for the President of the National Dingo Preservation and Recovery Program and Research Fellow Dr. Ernest Healy, Monash University (Melbourne).

Our biggest expenses are yet to be met, one being our new look user friendly Web Site, [www.savefraserislanddingoes.com](http://www.savefraserislanddingoes.com) Designer of the site, Chris Jabs Design Services has kindly donated 50% towards the cost of producing the web site, thank you Chris.

To reinstate our temporary site a fee of \$320 had to be paid. A deposit of \$500 will begin the process of building our new web site and a further \$1,000 will have to be raised to complete it.



On behalf of SFID I would also like to extend a very special thanks to Rob and Kris Dalton from Express Bookkeeping who have once again donated more than 12 hours of their very valuable time to assist with the arduous task of reconciling SFID's financials in MYOB for the end of the Financial Year.

We also need to fundraise for two major expenses one being the Tax Accountant and the other the Public Liability Insurance, without this Insurance we will not be able to put on awareness functions such as Dingo Day. However I am hopeful that revenue from **Memberships, which are now due** and from anticipated sales of SFID merchandise at the Paddle Out For Whales Event (June 25<sup>th</sup>) and the Whale Festival (August 6<sup>th</sup>) we will be able to meet these costs.

Thank you to Donna Plant from Gympie, the hard working ladies, in particular Maxine Jacobsen from Eumundi, Barbara Pelczynska and Trish Mutimer from Victoria. Their support, enthusiasm and tireless fund raising efforts, selling raffle tickets and merchandise and promoting the cause is very very much appreciated.

We are very grateful to Jennifer for the beautiful dingo painting she donated to SFID to raffle, Jennifer's amazing works of art are a joy to offer as a prize. Thank you Jen.

I have received many enquiries regarding the \$40K fine imposed upon Jennifer for feeding dingoes, unfortunately she has a very long way to go before the fine is paid out.

**If you would like to make direct payments to the "State Collector" of these fines, please contact me on the above address or phone for the details, or you can make direct deposits to SFID through Pay Pal or via mail.**

Thank you everyone for your kind support and generosity.

*Karin Kilpatrick*

*The raffle for the original painting of the dingo, by renowned wildlife artist Jennifer Parkhurst, was won by local woman, Maxine McGregor of Verrierdale. Tickets were sold all over south east Qld and the winning ticket was sold at Eumundi Markets. A big thank you to everyone who bought tickets, as all money raised is going to help the "Save The Fraser Island Dingo" fund. If you want any information please contact, FACEBOOK [savefraserislanddingoes@hotmail.com](mailto:savefraserislanddingoes@hotmail.com)*





## PUBLICITY OFFICER REPORT

As a response to the recent deployment of 10 collars on FI dingoes, with another 10 about to be deployed, SFID has sent the following letter to Kate Jones:

### **COLLARING or CULLING. THE FRASER ISLAND DINGO.**

The Dingo is protected in Queensland National Parks as a native species, (Nature Conservation Act 1992,) and the State Government has a legal responsibility to conserve these populations and an obligation to ensure that the management of the dingo is ethical and humane.

The latest project by Qld. National Parks (DERM) is to attach tracking collars to 20 dingoes in the hope of monitoring the animals' movements over the Island. Whilst research is needed scientists question the ethics of using such an invasive device and dingo experts believe these collars will be even more detrimental than the ear tags.

It is widely considered by experts that no surveillance method should be used which is likely to interfere with the animals' ability to function naturally, but these tracking collars will disrupt normal dingo behaviour, some animals may be ostracized or even killed by other members of the pack, the collars will also interfere with normal foraging and hunting, so how will the data collected be deemed to be accurate?

Tourists and local residents are appalled on seeing these cumbersome collars and there are many doubts as to veracity of this methodology, we ask the Minister Ms. Kate Jones and Qld National Parks (DERM) the following questions..

What ethics/approvals have been obtained and from where?

What studies have been done to ensure these devices will not interfere with natural behaviours such as hunting, whelping, feeding pups and interacting with other pack members?

What University staff are involved and what are the credentials of those involved in this study?

Sub-adults are mentioned, what is the actual age of the animals collared?

What is the purpose of locating dens? In the past den identification has not prevented the areas from being burnt out.

There is some confusion as to how the release mechanism functions. How will those monitoring know when an animal is entangled, unable to hunt or care for pups? Especially since the rangers leave the Island in the evening.

What is the explicit purpose of this research and what is hoped to be achieved?

If the results indicate the dingoes are in crisis, what will be your response?

How do you reconcile the use of these collars with your policy of regarded dingoes as "wild, native animals that should be interfered with as little as possible" and of "conserving the species in a near-natural environment"?

This study is inhumane and obviously inhibits the natural behaviours of the animals, the collars should be removed, the project suspended forthwith and a more ethical method of research examined..

Cheryl Bryant  
Publicity Officer



Joanne McKay kindly submitted these photos, taken just a few weeks ago on Fraser Island:



Collars were applied at a time when according to DERM the dingo population is down to 100 animals (FIDMS 2006 review). That means collars have been deployed on 20% of the Island's dingoes. That is a substantial amount of the dingo population. We do not know at this stage whether there is indeed 100 dingoes on the island. But we do know that collars were deployed while adult females were pregnant and collars are being deployed on juveniles that are still growing.

**Current international ethics guidelines state:** 'Radio tracking transmitters should only be used by individuals with extensive expertise and in exceptional circumstances...for rare, endangered or vulnerable species, full justification and a detailed description of the methods, equipment, monitoring and impact on the animals will be required by the AEC (Animal Ethics Committee).

'Use alternative methods wherever possible.

'Collars or harnesses should not be used in species where they would interfere with locomotion e.g., aquatic, burrowing animals. **(Female dingoes burrow when denning)...**

In areas where ticks occur, care should be taken in using collars as they may prevent the animal from grooming normally and removing the tick **(There are ticks on FI)**, alternatives to collars should be used. Any problems which are encountered should be reported to the AEC.

All reasonable attempts should be made to remove any attachments immediately if they are found to be causing distress to the animal, (unless the removal procedure is deemed to cause more stress to the animal).\*

Terry Harper stated on ABC radio that at any given time, 13 rangers are on the Island, and they have duties other than dingo monitoring that cover management of the *entire Island*.

Does DERM have a specific ranger/researcher on call 24/7 on the Island monitoring movements gathered by the tracking collars? At what stage does the agency or researcher decide when the dingo is in distress?

If the decision is made that the dingo is distressed, what measures are in place if the dingo is in a remote bush location that DERM can't get to by 4wd or even by foot? What is the protocol should the remote drop-off not work?

Remote collar drop-offs regularly fail, and apparently one has apparently already failed at Orchid Beach. If a drop off fails on a sub-adult dingo that is still growing, the animal might slowly choke to death. Residents and regular visitors to the Island have seen dingoes wearing collars for their entire lives (with the boxes and antennas gone). Is this a fair thing for a wild animal to have to adapt to?



For those who do not have access to face book, Jennifer uploaded these photos of aversive conditioning collars that were trialed in 2009. Jennifer reported that siblings immediately tried to remove the collar from the alpha male pup involved. They chewed the antenna and attempted to chew the collar. Jennifer felt that the pack dynamic changed when the beta male realised that the alpha male no longer had the capacity to maintain his position of dominance in the pack. As well as that, as can be seen in the photo below, the dingo had trouble sleeping.



DERM states: 'The individual dingoes that are collared **will experience some level of stress** in being trapped and having the collars fitted and wearing them for some months, however I believe that due to the Fraser Island circumstances we need this information to increase our management capacity..' (pers comm.)

The results will be useless if the stress causes behavioural modifications, ie: mothers to abort pups, or to be unable to groom pups, or being unable to get into dens, or get tangled in shrubbery while hunting. The stress to dingoes may cause dingo fatalities in ways that we can not anticipate. If the dingo population is at its current lowest level and is relying on the next generation to boost its numbers, this is a valid concern. SFID and affiliates believe that the welfare of the dingoes overrides any scientific benefit.

*A dingo struggles with entanglement:  
Photo: Jo McKay*



These much smaller collars are available for tracking pet dogs and cats. They do not have the long-range data carrying capacity that are required for the current project, however in this day and age of microsizing our technology, surely something fitted to a wild animal could be devised that is much more appropriate than the collars currently being deployed?



This collar used on wolves weighs 144g  
Compared to the 500 g of the dingo collars



'On Behalf of The World League for the Protection of Animals we would like to add our name to the long list of organisations/individuals who oppose the Queensland Governments cruel and unscientific collaring of Dingoes on Fraser Island. We will also be writing to those authorities direct BUT wanted to notify your organisation of our complete opposition and disapproval of these unsound practices that involves cruelty, yet more interference and can not be validated scientifically to warrant positive outcomes.

We fail to see the need for further abuse of our much maligned and still undervalued native dog. An objective non government committee needs to be established with the interests of the Dingo placed as the priority. We fear that the interests of humans, especially tourists visiting Fraser Island has been the major driving force of government policy and therefore government decision making.

YOURS SINCERELY  
LINDY STACKER  
WLPA'

'I am not interested in any excuses given for those collars.

**What good will possibly come from it? We already know that very little would change in favour of dingoes, regardless of what info they may get from collars..**

Put simply; How far is govt. prepared to go, making ANY changes in favour of the animals?  
If collars provide even further proof of a declining situation for Dingoes, will any serious changes be made?

**All the fancy tools in the world won't fix anything, without a good mechanic using them.  
I see DERM as an overpaid apprentice mechanic, using the wrong expensive tools, to pretend to fix a very special car, that we all partly own. If they can stuff us around long enough, the car will rust away, and there will be nothing left for us to complain about.  
Mick Ezersky Bundaberg'**

**Why is it that in the name of research/science it is ok for animals to suffer?**

\*\*\*\*\*

**From SFID January 2011 Newsletter:**



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

**June 2011... GONE, GONE, GONE...**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Koala Cuddles get the all clear**

Relaxing rules that previously banned Victorians from physical contact with native species has boosted visitor numbers to zoos and sanctuaries. 'When they actually get to touch an animal as tactile as a koala, people form bonds, which then fosters an appreciation and understanding of our native animals in the wild... an actual hands-on encounter with them engenders feelings for the animal that make people more likely to be compassionate in the wild and better care for their environment'. (Herald Sun 28-5-11) (We don't want people trying to touch our wild dingoes but giving them the opportunity to touch one before they go to FI might help raise awareness as described above.)



## SFID FRASER ISLAND FIELD TRIP Sat 21ST May 2011

After a hectic start to the morning we left 8.30am from River Heads for Kingfisher.



Our first destination was Lake Mackenzie and as you can see from the photos the refurbishment has turned a beautiful Lake area with its snow white beaches into an eyesore, with the edges of the water lapping up and beyond the wooden barriers. The picnic areas were nicely done and made 'dingo safe', however the goannas which should also be of concern to visitors could very easily get in and out of the enclosures. Informative signs about the Butchulla people were at the entrance to the Lake and I must admit there has been a great improvement to the toilet facilities, but I still couldn't see where \$3 million was spent.



We dropped in at K'Gari, the Butchulla camp and spent some time with Joe Gala. When Joe started to play the didge, the dingo 'Little Sis' came out. Joe said she loves the music. She was apparently bitten by another dingo the evening before on the foot and was seen limping. Her sibling is named 'Big Brother'.



*Rexona*

We headed for Cathedral Beach Resort where we unpacked, had lunch and then chatted with the owner Larry, who told us about the two local dingoes Roy and Rexona. Rexona didn't approach us but stayed within watching distance. I believe she is around 3 years old, and Roy who has no teeth, is seven years old.

From Cathedral we drove to Indian Head. There were very few people on the beach but we passed one lot of Tag-a-Long vehicles (4) and saw a few campers here and there along the way. A few people were around Eli Creek, not the masses that congregate at Easter and Christmas time.

What did disgust us all was the amount of rubbish washed up and the variety: witches hats, a gas bottle, pillows, plastic everywhere; it just went on for miles and miles, and guess what, not a Ranger in sight. In fact for the entire two days we only saw two rangers, removing vegetation from the sand dunes at the entrance of Happy Valley.

The walk up to the top of Indian Head was challenging! The view was breathtaking, so serene, it was hard to imagine the blood bath that took place so long ago when the Butchulla people were forced off the cliff and into the water *en masse*. As we walked along the steep walkway, we admired the flora; we saw gorgeous petit flowers of the Primrose and bright purple berries of the Flax plant, and apparently there are almost 200 varieties of plants and trees in the area. We saw dingo paw prints at the base of the Indian Head walk, it looked like two dingoes one large and one smaller one and whether it was our imagination or we really did see a den, we found an area which we thought would make a perfect hidey hole for an expectant mum!



On the beach some people were fishing, it turned out that they had been visiting Fraser for about 30 years and they said they are a lot more wary now of the dingoes than they were before. They believe today's dingo is not the same. They happily took our SFID Working Together card and wherever we could, we handed out the cards inviting people to check us out on Facebook.

After tea that night we went in search of dingoes but none were seen or heard.

We took the opportunity to speak to a number of tourists about dingoes, leaving with them our business cards.

**SUNDAY 22nd** We wanted to head to the Western side of Fraser and see if there were any dingoes at Moon Point. Travelling along the beach not long into our journey, we spotted a dead turtle near the water's edge. There were no dingo paw prints around it.

After travelling for awhile on very badly kept roads and driving slowly through a number of extremely deep dark holes filled with water, we arrived at the corner of Bullock Road and Moon Point. The mozzies were horrendous, we almost emptied a can of Aerogard and they still kept coming at us. In between slaps and hits and trying not to inhale a mosquito, we spotted paw prints, but we were not blessed with a first hand sighting of a dingo.

We did see a large Macrozania pod on the ground in the bush exposing its beautiful bright orange seeds, the pod is about 2' long and no doubt would have provided the Indigenous people with a good meal, once the poison was soaked out of it.



We continued our travels along the road that lead to Moon Point, the road was pretty bad, with fallen trees across our path here and there and the going was very bumpy, no other vehicle tracks were to be seen. We later heard that if we had kept going we may have had to be winched through the deep holes, so we were glad we decided to turn around and head back.

Our barge was leaving at 3pm so we had to make tracks. We enjoyed looking at the many varieties of flora. The rice plant, little bush covered with tiny white flowers was everywhere. The landscape changes rapidly; hoop pines to tropical palms to Melaleucas. We checked out Happy Valley Resort for a quick break. The tide was coming in and in places we couldn't continue on the beach. We had to cut through the side road at Poyungan Rocks. Somewhere between Poyungan and One Tree we saw dingo prints on the sand dunes, clearly visible from our vehicle as we zoomed along.

Around 1.30pm we arrived at Central Station and met up with Joe Gala and his wife. We spoke for sometime about dingoes of course. When we asked him if he thought there were hundreds of dingoes on the Island he nearly fell over! Although he is angry with the treatment of "their" dog and angry about being told not to feed them, he doesn't know what he can do to help the situation.

It was almost time to head back to catch the barge so after looking around Central Station for 20 minutes or so, we drove to Woongoolba where the barge was waiting. We arrived back at River Heads around 4pm.

*Karin Kilpatrick*

Attached please find some photos of a couple of Dingoes on Fraser dated 3/4/2011. My Family and I have been going to the island for some 30 years my eldest son was under 10 when we first went there our youngest was 3. The Dingoes were more prevalent in those days but so were the brumbies, a natural food source for the Dingoes. WE HAVE NEVER HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE DINGOS. My children were educated to never leave the camp alone or without one of us with them.



It would appear that the dingoes are not wholly to blame for the attack on the little girl. The parents ARE AS MUCH TO BLAME AS THE DINGO BUT WE DON'T PUT THE PARENTS DOWN DO WE.

WOULD THE PARENTS LET THEIR CHILD OUT OF THEIR SIGHT IN A FREE RANGE WILDLIFE PARK WITH LION AND TIGER OR GRIZZLY BEAR ROAMING FREE? I WOULD HOPE NOT. Hope you can get the Rangers on Fraser to think of the Dingoes for once and start issuing \$1000 fines to parents who let their children roam unsupervised in a wildlife park and then blame a wild dog for doing what it does naturally

Fine the people for stupidity and stop killing the Dingoes.

Nev Kunkel



## NEWS FROM DURONG DINGO SANCTUARY

Instead of my usual report I wanted to share with you my special day with Dingo Jen, HoneyDew and her puppies, 2 Aug 2009

For months Jen told me of her daily trips to Fraser Island. I so wanted to be there with her to experience life through her eyes. I was not well and I had to undergo major surgery as soon as a place became available in Hospital. Jen and I decided that 2 Aug 2009 would be the day. Little did we know that day would change our lives for ever.



I had to leave home at 3.30am to arrive at Jen's by 7.30am so we could beat the tide and get a barge across to Fraser. Jen's 4WD was broken so she had to hire one. I had prepared our lunch of toasted cheese and tomato sandwiches.

The barge was ready as we arrived on the soft sandy shore. Jen had to negotiate thru the wheel ruts left by other 4WD's and zig zag her way until she reached the metal deck of the barge. She took me upstairs to meet the Barge Operator. I went by another name to keep my identity unknown. Little did we know that he would later describe me in detail to others.

The trip across was beautiful and exciting for me. Moving thru the blue waters watching white splash reach up to the deck, sharing it's salty spray with those who were too close. Seeing the Island getting closer by the minute and feeling the throbbing powerful diesel engines underfoot. We are almost there.

Quickly getting into the little hired 4WD we bounced and jolted our way thru the ruts on to firmer beach sand. Jen gave me a running commentary of all her secret dingo areas.

I noticed how there was so much rubbish washed up onto the shore. I had previously seen her DVD of her marine rubbish collection over the years but I was not prepared for what my eyes saw. Why don't the Rangers clean this up?

I really don't know how Jen cleaned up sections day after day for 6 years. The continual bending over, the back pain, not knowing if you would get infected by what you touched, seeing gas bottles, toilet seats and cisterns, wheelie bins, fisherman's netting and rope, toothbrushes, plastic bags and the list just goes on.

Here was Mother Nature washing up onto the shores all the rubbish that was choking her oceans and killing her inhabitants. I thought it was disgusting that DERM leaves it there.

Jen told me she offered DERM a copy of her DVD to show how she was trying to help keep the beaches clean. Their reply was "We didn't ask you to do it". Right there began my understanding of what she was up against.

We arrived at our destination at Eurong and parked in a secluded driveway belonging to her friends. We would come back later in the afternoon to join them for smoko.

Gathering up our cameras and Jen's rucksack we climbed thru the bush and headed down the track and into the bush. There was to be no talking, no breaking of twigs or branches. Just quietly and respectfully walking step by step we ventured deeper in to the scrub.

We walked for some time and I noticed empty dens hidden in secluded areas. Jen picked up on dingo paw prints and rest pads. We knew we were getting closer to a secret place.

Jen took me to a den hidden on the side of a hill beneath a tree. It appeared to be in use, but you can never really tell as dingoes move their pups around when they get older and the dens become too small. Upon Jen's noiseless inspection she said there were pups inside.

We moved back some distance, each in a different secluded spot and just waited.

And waited and waited. When filming wildlife one has to wait for hours in complete silence to see if the mother will return to her hidden family.

Jen was getting worried. It was now well into the afternoon and we had not even heard a howl let alone seen anything other than the native birds flittering randomly in the leafy branches over head as the sun filtered thru on it's silent travel through the blue sky.

The wind blew its soft breath on us as we waited in silence. I even dozed off.

Then I heard sudden clicking sounds of Jen's camera. It was working over time. Jen was hidden under a tree, I was perched in hollow

of soft sand on the side of the hill beside a tree way up to her left. I quickly started my video camera and saw the mother HoneyDew, just over 12 months old waiting silently 1m from the mouth of the den as one by one these precious little puppies trotted out of the depths of their den. She silently glided away from the den to where she appeared to have come from.

She stopped on some flat ground, bared her tummy and waited for the onslaught of hungry little bodies pressing their little noses onto her swollen teats as they jostled and suckled for milk.



I moved forward a few meters to get a better view and lay on my stomach. Breathless, silent, watching in awe of something I see so many times with my own dingoes, yet to see this in the wild is just so special. I was now in Jen's world of her dingoes. I now see what is behind her passions. I am lost in the moment of capturing all this on film. HoneyDew is aware of our presence, but she is in no way startled, nervous or afraid.

Patiently she waits until the pups have their fill, then she regurgitates food onto the ground for them. There is a mad dash and shuffling of bodies as they push their little noses into the food she has placed on the ground. There was not much. Her hunting foray seemed not to be successful. Was there not enough wildlife out there for her to hunt?

Why as a young female had she mated so early? And with her brother? She should have mated the following year. By rights she should still be with her parents and helping her mother rear this year's litter. Had her parents been previously killed by Rangers, had she sought security with her brothers just to survive? So many things were wrong here, but here she was, Instinct guiding her to do what she must do. Find food and keep her babies alive in a hostile environment where uniformed men in white 4WD's were trapping and killing her kind.

These thoughts were passing thru my head, as I lay so quiet, but still shaking in excitement of witnessing something so precious that no one other than Jen has seen and filmed here on this sandy Island.

Honeydew's right ear that had the ear tag in was drooping forward, bent over because the nerve had been damaged when she was tagged. I loathe ear tagging.

The pups had eaten all she had to offer. She looked across to Jen, then me, as if we were part of the environment. Then step by step she approached me. Her little puppies trotting like stilted robots began following her then passed her and came right up to me. They stopped 1m in front of me. I dared not breathe. What will they do, what will she do? I just kept the camera filming.

Honeydew stood amongst her pups, just gently gazing at me. There was no snuffing of alarm. Some pups walked around behind me and sniffed my boot. They knew I was of no threat to them. It appeared as if she was saying, "here are my babies, see how precious they are. They must survive and carry on our family line"

I could hear Jen's camera clicking urgently, the birds still twittering, and the soft breath of the fading winter's breeze caressing the leaves above my head. This was certainly a magic moment.

The pups and Honeydew decided I was boring because I didn't move, then slowly they moved away and quietly vanished into the bush. Within seconds they were invisible. This is the way of the dingo, they can move like ghosts. They had accepted us. They would have smelt my dingoes on my clothes and the scent of Jen's faint perfume.

The likes of Malcolm Douglas and David Attenborough do not have the access and footage that Jen and I filmed that day. One just feels so privileged and Jen does this everyday.

Well she used to.

Within 2 weeks her ex boyfriend dobbed her into the Rangers and her home was raided. They took everything. Even a copy of what I had filmed this day.

You all know what happened to Jen, then I was summoned to Court by DERM. My case was delayed because I was back in Hospital with problems due to the surgery I had undergone several weeks after this trip with Jen.

For 12 months I pleaded not guilty, because the charges were wrong. I had not left food available for HoneyDew, and neither had Jen. We had been very careful and had hung our food in a tree as per protocol. I was also charged with interfering with the pups, but I had not done this. They had come to me of their own free will.



Just days before I was to appear in Court, DERM's solicitors wrote to me, concerned that I was pleading "not guilty", and representing myself. As far as they were concerned I was "guilty" but they said if I proceeded to waste their time they would hit me for a higher fine, Court Costs and all their legal fees. I was looking at excess of \$30,000 if I proceeded with my 'not guilty' plea.

But if I changed my plea to 'guilty', they offered me a reduced fine, no Court Costs, No Conviction and no legal fees. It was quite a different deal to the one Jen got.

So what could I do?

Do I fight the Injustice of it all, rack up \$1000's in legal fees I could not afford to pay and take on the Govt, because I believed them to be wrong in all of this? Or do like a dingo does, back off, walk away and come back to fight another day with more support?

No matter how sadly this story ended, for both me and Jen, DERM will never take away from me that special day I had with Jen, meeting HoneyDew and her pups.

But they did kill her pups in the end.  
As far as I know Honeydew has survived.

Now they are bringing unskilled University students to torture the dingoes with collars.  
When will this ever end?

Dingosimon. June 2011



According to DERM's expert Laurie Corbett, the dingo population goes from 100 pre-whelping, to 200 post-whelping, and then back down to 100 again the next year. So that means effectively that 100 dingoes die on Fraser Island every year.



Naziffe and Lina at Bargo dingo Sanctuary, photo courtesy of Lucille Ellem. Naziffe enjoys a tongue pash from Chipala, the Dingo they are now sponsoring.

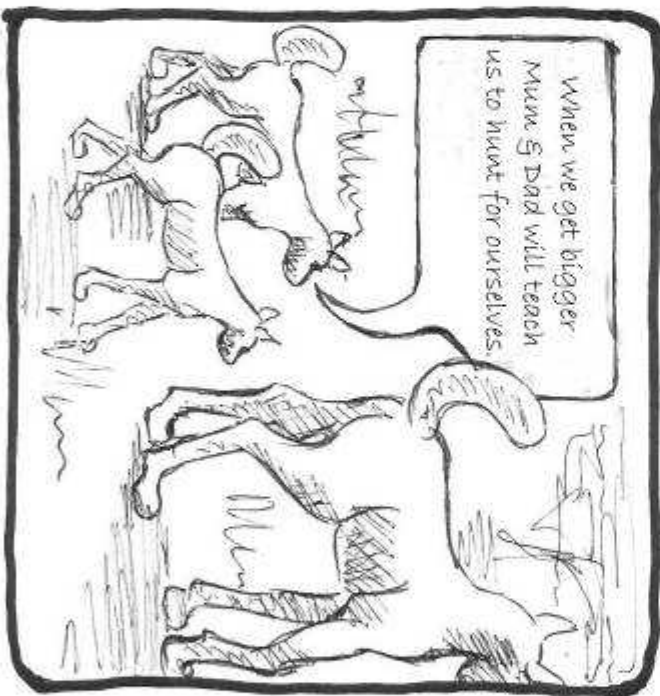
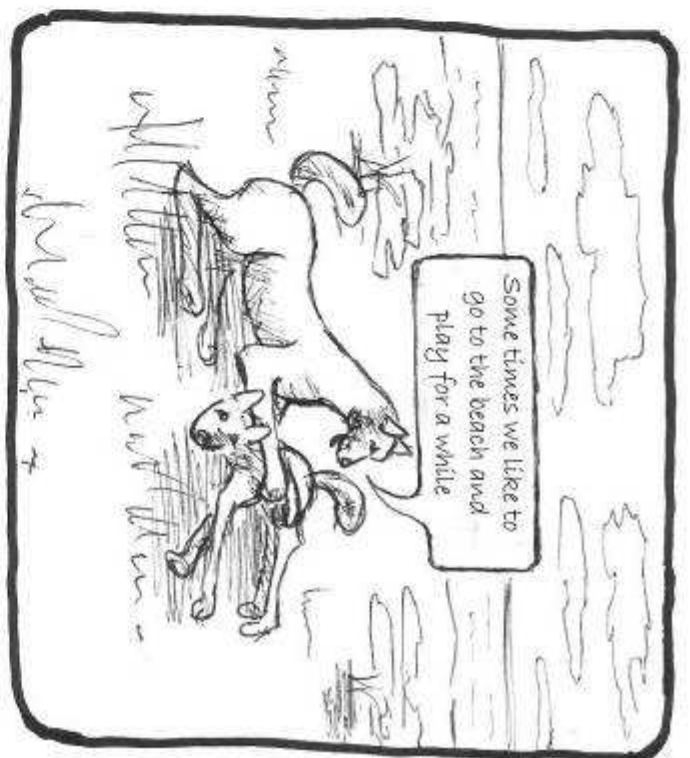
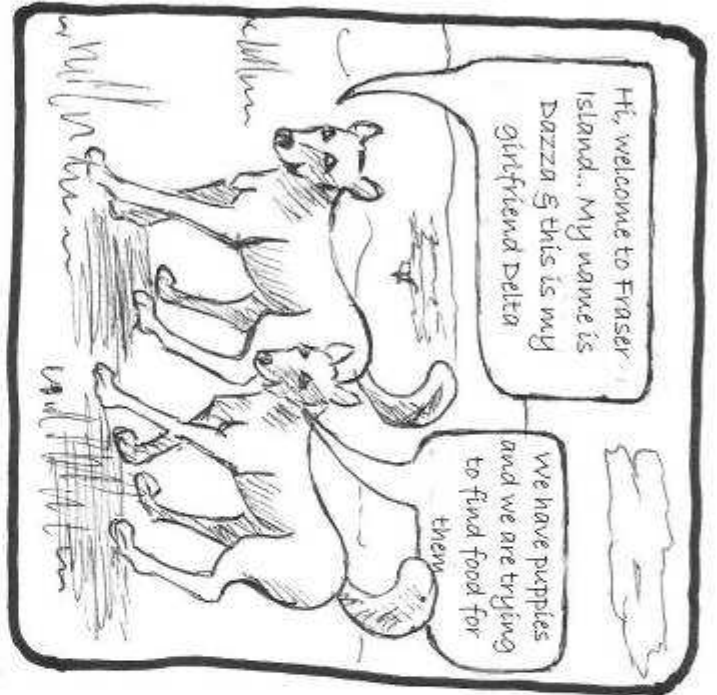
A North Qld Couple who allowed a litter of puppies to become so malnourished that they needed to be put down has been fined \$14,000. The couple, from Herberton, west of Cairns, were convicted under the Animal Care and Protection Act. The Magistrate fined them \$7000 each and banned both from owning horses and dogs for five years (Herald Sun 7-5-11)

#### Report Cruelty to Wildlife

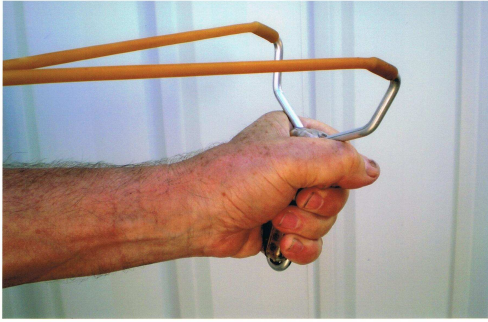
'If our native animals can't be safe in a National Park, they won't be safe anywhere... There can be no excuse for anyone shooting or maiming our native animals... we need harsher penalties for breaches of the law and make laws stiffer than they are. Get real about protecting our native wildlife.' (Maryland Wilson, President Australian Wildlife Protection Council, Leader 24-5-11)

Editors of a new journal devoted to animal ethics, including Oxford university theologian want the term 'pests' and 'vermin' to be dropped. Wild animals should be referred to as 'free-living' or 'free ranging'. The recommendations reflect a feeling in some academic circles that the language we use when thinking or talking about animals affects how we treat them. (Herald Sun 29-4-11)

# SFID Kids Club



Last competition was won by Isabelle, Madeline and Cassandra. Your prizes Are On the way to you! Thank you for Joining The SFID Kids Club. How about colouring in The picture here on this page and giving it to your Mum and Dad to put on the fridge?



## HAZING: A DETAILED DISCUSSION BY Kim Thompson.

Studies on the effects of anthropogenic activity (effects that relate to the influence of human beings & human activity on nature) aim to provide a sound scientific basis for management. **However, misinterpretation of the theoretical basis for these studies can jeopardise this objective and lead to management outcomes that are detrimental to the wildlife they are intended to protect.**

Misapplication of the terms '**habituation**', '**sensitisation**' and '**tolerance**' in impact studies, for example, can lead to fundamental misinterpretations of research findings. '**Habituation**' is often used incorrectly to refer to any form of moderation in wildlife response to human disturbance. On Fraser Island this misinterpretation, has led to inappropriate decisions about the threats positive forms of human-dingo interaction pose to humans. Presumed '**habituation**' or '**sensitization**' of many of the Fraser Island dingoes, actually represents differences in the tolerance levels of dingoes to anthropogenic activity on the Island. There are a range of explanations for habituation and sensitisation-type responses in the Fraser Island dingoes.

Dingoes living in fragmented habitats, or areas with partial to frequent human presence, generally show a high degree of tolerance towards human activity and infrastructure. In such areas, dingoes spending time near human developments, using roads as travel corridors, and showing a level of curiosity towards humans and human activity, should all be considered **normal dingo behaviour**, because these behaviours reflect dingoes' natural ability to adapt to their surroundings.

- 1.) Dingoes are "intelligent" animals. However, this "intelligence" is far more complex than most people believe. There is not only social intelligence, but also "**collective, emotional and habitat intelligence**". Adult dingoes pass this "habitat intelligence" (including their adaptive behaviour strategies in using human infrastructure, interacting with humans and tolerating human activity) on to young dingoes over multiple generations as a form of "landscape mapping"
- 2.) K. Lorenz (1961, 1970) originally developed the concept of social imprinting. A. Hess (1973) and E. Klinghammer (1994) later expanded the concept to include "food and habitat imprinting". In the case of The Fraser Island dingoes, **prior to the current management regime, many of their den sites were observed close to human infrastructure**. This exposes dingo pups to the sights, smells and acoustics of humans at a very early age. By the age of 18 weeks, 80% of all adult dingo characteristics are already "hard wired" in the brain. It is no wonder that Fraser Island dingoes are accustomed to the presence of people, cars, tour buses and roads.
- 3.) Ethologists and behavioural biologists separate animal behaviour into two general personality types: the A type and the B type. The A type is characterized as "bold, extrovert and daring". The B type is characterized as "shy, introvert and reserved". This explains why some Fraser Island dingo individuals are nonchalant around roads and people, while other individuals are more reserved. In the same manner, some individuals in the Fraser Island dingo population will walk right past people in parked cars (A type), while others will detour around them (B type).

**The general interpretation of "aggressive behaviour" and "predatory behaviour" of the Fraser Island dingoes has been confused and misunderstood.** "Aggressive behaviour" is related to the **functional system of defending offspring, food and self defence**. By contrast, **predatory behaviour is related to food acquisition and has nothing to do with aggression**. This is the reason people must learn to understand and recognize differences in body language in order to correctly interpret dingo behaviour. When a dingo or group of dingoes approach or follow people it does not mean the dingo or dingoes are being "aggressive". On the contrary, most of the time, it is often a young dingo or group of dingoes who would behave this way out of curiosity. In most instances the dingoes' body language is neutral and "relaxed" (hacksles and tail down, no stiff body posture, no growling or snarling).

Hazing (a.k.a. **harassment**) is a process where you **disturb the animal's sense of security to such an extent that it decides to move on**. However, it should be noted that Fraser Island is an Island – therefore there is a very limited amount of land or territory for the hazed or harassed dingoes to 'move on to'. To work effectively and with the smallest amount of consequences, hazing is supposed to be concentrated and focus on an animal that is causing a serious problem - **Failure to concentrate the harassment or hazing technique simply makes the animals get used to the harassment or hazing because the harassment is everywhere.**

In some instances, harassment or hazing has been proven to cause animals to become more aggressive towards humans – hazing and aversive conditioning can essentially lower the animals' tolerance of humans within their territory (especially in a fragmented contained habitat like Fraser Island with a very frequent human presence).

A range of mechanisms such as aggressive non-lethal forms of harassment (including hazing or aversive conditioning) can lead to serious changes in wild animals' tolerance of humans – often causing harassed animals to react aggressively or unpredictably towards humans in their territory, and become potentially dangerous. In addition, throughout the world hazing (harassment) and aversive conditioning has proven ineffective and unsuccessful at stopping wild animals from entering areas occupied by humans in search of food, and in many instances has resulted in animals going to extreme lengths to get food.

The extracts below were taken from two reports that outline a Wild Black Bear Hazing project in Sequoia National Park, and a Sea Lion Hazing/Aversive conditioning project.

"...Aversive conditioning reduced but did not eliminate the occurrence of bears entering developed areas to forage on human food and trash in Sequoia National Park..." (page 5)

"...Aversive conditioning was most effective on wild bears. With food conditioned bears, effectiveness was related to how quickly bears received Aversive Conditioning after first receiving human food..." (page 5)

"...Aversive conditioning was least effective on yearlings (juveniles)..." (page 5)

"...some (bears that were hazed) became less persistent or aggressive, but 6 became so persistent, aggressive, or caused so much damage that they were removed from the area or destroyed by management..." (page 5)

"...Aversive conditioning was most effective if bears had never, or rarely, obtained human food..." (Page 5)

"...some bears became food-conditioned despite all treatments..."

And from a separate article:

"...Once a bear has a taste for people food, they can be extremely persistent... Eleven of the 36 food-conditioned bears were involved in 90 percent of the hazing events, the researchers found. Only one of these 11 bears completely stopped entering developed areas; four changed their behavior but still had to be hazed every year. The remaining six became so persistent and potentially dangerous that they were killed or relocated..."

"...bears subjected to hazing did not change their behaviour, and in many cases they continued to go to extreme lengths to get non natural food..."

"...Attempts by property owners and/or fishers to deter nuisance animals from engaging in unwanted behaviors using non-lethal means is a personal choice and not without risk (to the person doing the deterring and anyone around them). Sea lions and seals are wild animals that may react unpredictably to non-lethal deterrence measures, resulting in personal injury or additional damage to property..."

"...Over the course of 100 days from February-May, 2007, boat-based hazers used over 14,000 cracker shells, 2,500 seal bombs, and 1,000 rubber buckshot rounds during approximately 2,500 hazing events..."

"...Given that salmonid predation was as great or greater than estimates from years without intensive hazing, we conclude that intensive hazing was unsuccessful at reducing the impact of sea lions at Bonneville Dam..."

[http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/55821/title/Keeping\\_black\\_bears\\_wild](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/55821/title/Keeping_black_bears_wild)

<http://www.bearsmart.com/report/457>

Extracted from "Sea-lions.pdf" (attached);

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'The Planet can live without people,  
But people cannot live without the Planet'

### **'Dangerous to Man? A plea for wolves and dingoes written 35 years ago'**

Compiled by Jennifer Parkhurst.

#### 'Dangerous to Man' by Roger Caras 1974

The fact is out, there is no denying it; most of the world's wildlife is in grave danger. It is going so fast we can't keep score. Each year sees more and more wildlife approach extinction while man, for the most part, remains oblivious to what is not only the fate of wild animals but what must eventually be his fate too.

The fight for wildlife is the fight against ignorance. Wildlife is not our enemy, although we are certainly a foe to it. All of the things some people would like to have us believe wildlife does to *us*, we do to *it*. They say it takes our land. It doesn't, we take it. They say it threatens us. It doesn't, we threaten it. And so it goes, the sins are ours, not the tigers' nor the wolves'.

More often than not, absurd claims made against wildlife are cover-ups or excuses for our own idiotic behavior.

The statistics of wolf damage to livestock are probably exaggerated and it is doubtful that control is necessary, or even advisable in natural game areas. To protect a herd of reindeer by killing wolves is to condemn the herd to a worse fate; weak and inferior animals live to breed and weaken the strain. Predator control of this kind is shortsighted and not at all in keeping with the best interests of any conservation project.

In reviewing references on wolves attacks on man...it is entirely within the realm of possibility that an ingredient of the wolf's being considered dangerous to man stems from man's own need to fictionalize the subject...in a 25 year period the US Fish and Wildlife Service failed to substantiate a single reported **unprovoked attack** (even after a \$100 reward was offered for proof of an **unprovoked attack**).

Almost certainly wolves have attacked men; probably provoked for the most part by the rigors of their environment or by rabies. But, it is equally certain that such attacks were exceptional at best. Wolves are shy and retiring animals unless sorely pressed...these animals do not kill wantonly, *they kill what they must to survive*, and where carrion is available they will take that instead of killing. They live on wildlife and undoubtedly benefit those species by culling inferior animals. The wolves of the world are facing extinction, and their loss will be felt.

We have come to the make-or-break point in the history of animal life on earth. It will survive or perish in wholesale lots depending on our sense and sensitivity during the next quarter-century.

*(Roger Carass at time of writing had been a conservationist in the US for 10 years, lectured at over 60 colleges, universities and other organizations. He was VP of the Humane Society of the US, and board member of over a dozen conservation organizations. He was the author of over 30 books and travelled to every country on the globe to do his research.)*

#### 'Dingoes Don't Bark' by Lionel Hudson 1974

'I just happen to believe that no wild animal should have to justify its existence to man'

It could be argued that the dingo will be needed to keep the balance of nature, to prevent the kangaroos and other fauna from increasing to plague proportions. Somebody should be working on how this could be done without jeopardizing the neighboring sheep flocks because this is a role the dingo was groomed for over some 7,000 years. (Dingo fossil fragments have been found at Mt Burr, SA, and dated at 7,500 to 8,500 years old.)

In 1905 the dingo had no alternative but to attack cattle. Scalp Payments (bounties) were paid on 11,000 rat kangaroos, 35,000 rock wallabies, 19,000 scrub wallabies. Conversely, if the dingo is wiped out it could lead to adverse long-term changes in ecology...wallabies, bandicoots, possums, mice, brush turkeys, and rabbits will become serious pests.

In the thousands of years he has existed on this continent, he has not exterminated a single species of the animals he kills and eats (Konrad Lorenz)

The dingo menace, like the shark peril in the Australian surf, is blown up out of all proportion to actual casualties. Whether or not the stock is in danger, every step taken to deal with dingoes is justified in the public mind by the image built over the years that he is a 'compulsive killer'

There have been rogue red setters and Labradors in Australia which have taken part in the mass slaughter of sheep. Yet only the dingo is recognized as a 'compulsive killer'. The dingo is popularly presented as a savage, ruthless killer with a nature which is essentially predatory, cruel, and cowardly, but I think it is fair to say conclusively that the dingo is, if anything, **less savage, less cruel, and less cowardly than most other breeds of dogs would be if faced with the same conditions.**

In 1966 a captive colony of dingoes was kept by the CSIRO in Alice Springs and the author went to do some research. He experienced a bit of trepidation at entering a cage of dingoes caught in the wild. But he was told by **the researcher in charge, LAURIE CORBETT: that there was no case on record of an unprovoked attack on a man by a dingo.**

'I was to learn that no one seemed concerned with the wholesale slaughter of the dingo just so long as it was done rapidly and the public was not exposed to the method of slaughter.'

'Die for your country, dingo'.

Only a handful of men have really studied the behavior of dingoes in the wild. And without fail amongst those that I have met they all finished up with a high regard for the dingo as an animal.

We could start by telling the true story of the dingo to our children and not let them grow up exposed to the same myths as their parents and their parents before them.

*(Lionel Hudson was born in Manly NSW in 1916, and was a journalist and film maker. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. He covered the allied occupation of Japan, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War during the French involvement. He was also an RAAF pilot during world war II, and had his own dingo as a pet for many years)*



For Bushland Dingo Haven news, please see their great new blog at:  
<http://www.blogger.com/profile/15572014620759115529> (you may have to access it thru Google by doing a search for Bushland Dingo Haven)

Please sign the new Petition! click onto the link, scroll down the left hand side till you come to e-petitions, click and it will take you to Fraser Island Dingoes and follow instructions. If you think you could get signatures, please let us know and we will send you an official copy. [Apologies to our interstate and international members – this is a Qld Resident's petition only.](#) We are working on getting an interstate one up and running.

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/e-petition?PetNum=1715>

**NOTE TO MEMBERS: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE NOW.**

**Membership: Regular: \$20. Deluxe: \$37 (includes Jennifer Parkhurst's book "Vanishing Icon").**

**Children up to 12 years: \$5**

Fraser Island dingoes are being fitted with collars to track their movements. Please watch this video and let us know whether you think this is 'World's Best Practice'.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSSaknF6Wnw&feature=youtu.be>



Please see below for a link to the News story. Ray Revill's Sanctuary is in Mungar, Maryborough Queensland. Ray Revill is Wildlife Advisor to SFID.

## DINGO WELCOMING CEREMONY AT TESS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

### 19 june 2011



TESS Wildlife Sanctuary in Maryborough held a very special Welcome Party recently. Two dingo puppies arrived from the Durong Dingo Sanctuary to join the other two dogs already at home at Ray Revill's Wildlife Park.

The 7 month old puppies were greeted by dignitaries, media and many excited visitors. They are the first legally bred dingoes in Qld. and will assist in educating the public about the behaviour and character of these special animals.

Aunty Marie, an Indigenous Elder of the Butchulla People chose the names after many suggestions from the public. They are now officially known as Girri Girri (joyful) and Kora (companion).

Congratulations, Ray and Simon.



<http://www.youtube.com/savefraserisdingoes>



# Paddle Out for Whales & Dingoes 25th June 2011

Bob Irwin, Sea Shepherd and SFID joined founder Vicki Neville and Amanda French for the 6th annual PO4W (and Dingoes) Day in Hervey Bay. More than 1000 people attended the event, and formed a giant circle in the ocean, where they released 172 flowers and spent a minute's silence in remembrance of the whales that died during the last hunting season.

World famous sand sculptor Dennis Massoud attended, and created feature sand sculptures. Artist Jorge Pujol along with local school kids and members of SFID displayed 2000 candle-lit lanterns on dusk as a symbol of all whales and dingoes that have been killed at the hands of humans.





# 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](mailto: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: \$37 (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.com](http://www.savefraserislanddingoes.com) ☐  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

[www.fraserislandfootprints.com](http://www.fraserislandfootprints.com) FACEBOOK: "SAVE FRASER ISLAND DINGOES"

[www.savefraserislanddingoes.com](http://www.savefraserislanddingoes.com)

# SAVE FRASER ISLAND DINGOES INC



Sticker

Working together  
to save the dingo

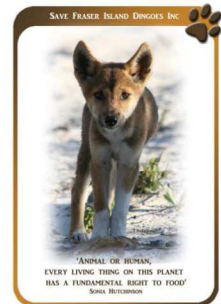


Our dingoes  
are precious

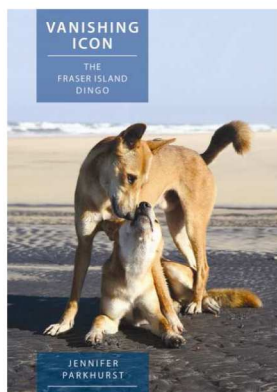
Say **NO** to:  
Tagging, hazing,  
killing juveniles,  
fencing, and  
electrified grids.



Book Mark



A4 Posters



Key Rings



Magnet



Sticker



T-Shirt

**Adults (two dingoes)**  
Black, green, sky blue,  
navy

**Kids (puppy)**  
Yellow, green, pink,  
purple, orange



Number Plate



# Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc.

50 Old Maryborough Rd.  
Pialba Qld. 4655  
Ph: (07) 4124 1979 Fax: (07) 4124 3623  
Email: [mkraill@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mkraill@bigpond.net.au)  
ABN: 15369 628 753 INC. NO: 1A37577 CP 5365

## ORDER FORM..

ITEM	UNIT PRICE	QTY/COLOUR	PACK/POST	SUB- TOTAL
Jennifer Parkhurst's book: 'Vanishing Icon'	\$20.00		\$5.00 per book (order's of 10 or more free P/P.).	
T/Shirts (Adult)* Sizes: M L XL 2XL 3XL	\$25.00		at cost	
T/Shirts (children)* Sizes: 2 4 6 8 10 12 14	\$22.00		at cost	
Cap	\$15.00		at cost	
Mug	\$12.00		at cost	
Car Sticker	\$2.00		at cost	
Magnet	\$3.50		at cost	
Bookmark	\$1.50		at cost	
Key Ring	\$4.00		at cost	
Poster (Laminated A4)	\$5.00		at cost	
Poster (Laminated A3)	\$10.00		at cost	
Dingo Number Plate	\$12.95		at cost	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	

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

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ GIVEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ SUBURB \_\_\_\_\_

PH: \_\_\_\_\_ MOB: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT DETAILS:** Bank Cheque: [ ] Money Order [ ] Direct Debit: Westpac Bank Pialba,

Hervey Bay BSB 034-136 A/c No. 303196. [ ] Paypal: [www.savefraserislanddingoes.com](http://www.savefraserislanddingoes.com) [ ]

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