



Fraser Island—the longest sand island in the world

In November 2004, Roger toured Australia to give seminars in Melbourne and Canberra. But the real attraction was the Queensland Coast where the Barrier Reef stops and a series of ancient sand coasts and islands occur. These dunes provide a sterling opportunity to investigate patterns of invasion on very sterile habitats. Dr. Joe Walker (CSIRO) has studied coastal dunes (Cooloolah dunes) and has demonstrated that succession is controlled by fertility, and that in dunes older than several thousand years, the vegetation is very stunted indeed.

Fraser Island contains dunes, but also rainforests perched on older dunes, many crystalline lakes, endemic ferns, mangroves and the purest population of dingoes known to exist. Ecological patterns on this island are fascinating.

Dingo



Pioneer grasses on dunes



Ipomoea on dunes



Older, unstable dunes



Lake Wabby being overrun by a dune

