



NEWSLETTER 14

October 1994

FOSI is preparing a nomination to the Australian Heritage Commission for listing the existing Scenic, Camping and Recreation Reserve at Point Lookout, i.e. all the Crown land east of the main road. By having this area listed, we hope that the Redland Shire Council and the State Government will be forced to give it the conservation attention it deserves. Parts of the National Trust citation will be used in the submission as it is excellent on aesthetic criteria but it lacks botanical information and help is needed on this aspect.

Although various professions and expertise are represented in the FOSI membership, we sorely need more people experienced in environmental issues, in particular a botanist, amateur or professional. If this interests you, please telephone me: 378-6651.

Other activities in which FOSI is engaged at present include:

- a freedom of information application on the Point Lookout Development Control Plan to see why it has not gone ahead, as promised;
- environmental research on the land behind Cylinder Beach and the formulation of a management plan for its use and proper conservation;

- as the result of a freedom of information application, sifting through the files of the Lands Department pertaining to leasehold land at Cylinder Beach and Samarinda, to ascertain the facts concerning conversion to freehold. These files contain excellent information and go back to the granting of the original leases in the 1930s. By assembling all the facts about this land, it will be possible to put to rest some of the misconceptions which have arisen through ignorance and misinformation. It is an interesting but time-consuming project.

Bruce Johnman

Samarinda Development

The sites of the former Samarinda Guesthouse and Clayton's Cabins are now buried under tons of concrete. High walls of besser block are rising and no amount of planting will disguise the nature of the structures.

As drainage work got under way at Samarinda, it became known that the storm water was to be directed into the Swimming Gorge in an above-ground pipe, an unsightly health hazard!

After meetings and discussions with the Redland Shire Council, the Beach Protection Authority and the Darinmas engineer, we have now been informed verbally, although we have nothing in writing, that drainage for the storm water will be directed below the sandhills behind Main Beach. This is the solution which the Council supported initially.

Jani Haenke

North Stradbroke Island Visitors' Information, Education and Arts Centre, Dunwich

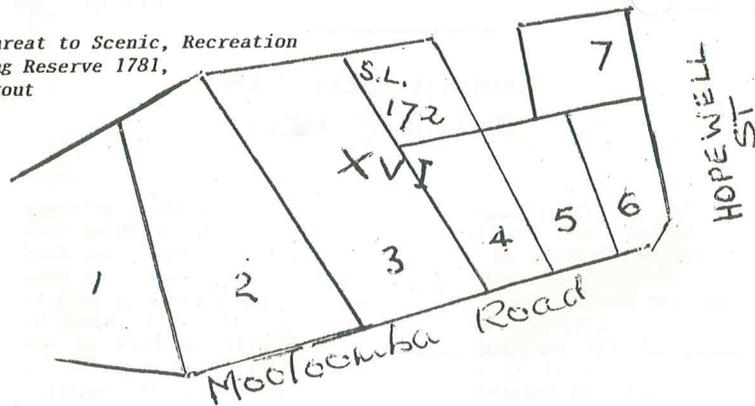
The Minister for Environment & Heritage, Hon. Molly Robson, rejected FOSI's request for a stop order on the construction of this Centre in Ballow Park on the grounds that the site was of no historic importance and had insufficient townscape qualities for it to be listed under the Heritage Act.

On the weekend of 15-16 October the Brisbane History Group held a seminar in Dunwich called *Digging down in Dunwich: its changing role, 1827-1994*, at which it was shown that in fact Ballow Park has great historic significance.

Sadly, this came too late to prevent part of the park being alienated from Public Open Space in order to build the Centre, and an unsuitable and obtrusive building is now sitting there; the sight of it will strike you as you drive off the barge!

Michael Kennedy

*Another Threat to Scenic, Recreation
and Camping Reserve 1781,
Point Lookout*



Scenic, Recreation and Camping Reserve 1781 comprises cliff tops and bushland adjoining the sea and beaches running from South Headland all the way round to the rocks of Home Beach amounting to 62,700m² of Crown Land which is zoned as Public Open Space. This tract and its beaches include the most frequented and most beautiful walks on North Stradbroke Island, a fact recognised recently by the Redland Shire Council in clearing (however well or ill) a track behind Frenchman's and Deadman's Beaches.

In former years residents and visitors to the island have protested at plans to reduce the Reserve by leasing or selling portions of it to private individuals for the construction of motels at Cylinder Beach and Deadman's Beach, and for a housing sub-division. Protests were directed against the activities, not the proposers, whether they came from Hartley, Woodrow, the Lands Department or Kennedy.

A plan of the Cylinder Beach area is shown above. Mr Hartley held freehold title of Lot 2 there. Despite objections from individuals and the Council, in 1970 he was granted a lease on Lots 3 & 4 of Section 16. In 1987 he sold the lots to Mr Kennedy who then proceeded to convert the leasehold section to freehold, in 1989, and acquired 529m² of land from the adjoining Scenic Reserve 1781 as a Special Lease, SL172. Because he was unaware at the time of purchase that the Main Roads Department planned to resume part of Lot 3 for road widening, Mr Kennedy was able to persuade the Lands Department to recompense him for this "loss" by freeholding Lots 3 & 4. A land exchange was not considered by the Lands Dept at

any time. The Report dated 3.5.1988 in file SL06/33830 makes this very clear:

"... As can be seen, the area proposed for road purposes has been surrendered as a condition of the offer of conversion to freehold and is remote from dealings with the proposed new Special Lease area. At no time has it been intended that an exchange of area would be involved. ..."

Special Lease 172 is in Scenic, Recreation and Camping Reserve 1781 and is part of the narrow and eroding picnic area at Cylinder Beach. The grant of the Special Lease happened without it being advertised and in spite of Council opposition, on sound town planning principles, to both the Special Lease and the possibility of its being freeholded later. While 529m² may seem a small area of the whole Scenic Reserve, SL172 comprises a quarter of the area included in the development proposal.

Scenic, Recreation and Camping Reserve 1781 is zoned Public Open Space under the Town Plan. Mr Kennedy has applied to Council to have this non-competitive Special Lease re-zoned to Tourist, Business and Residential. He has also applied to the Lands Dept for the Special Lease to be freeholded.

Council officers continue to oppose the freeholding and re-zoning, but a recent letter indicates that some of the councillors are wavering.

If you feel strongly about losing public land to private development and private gain, exercise your democratic right by writing urgently to the Minister for Lands and the Redland Shire Council.

Jani Haenke

Know your natives!

September is the time to check your Midyim or Midgenberry Bush to see if it has enough berries to make jam. The official name is *Austromyrtus dulcis* and an illustration is on the right.

It is a small spreading shrub with tiny white flowers, reddish new growth and brownish white/mauve berries with black dots. It generally flowers from March until June, although the season may be extended.

You might need to grow heaps of bushes as a border (they don't mind pruning) to collect enough berries for jam. My one bush produces about half a cup of berries.

This bush can be cultivated successfully in a variety of soils, but mostly in a sunny position.

Also in September the white flowers of another bush can be seen in profusion, the Wedding Bush or *Ricinocarpus linifolius*. It grows well in its area of distribution but cannot be cultivated successfully. It is lovely to look at but hard to grow, and there are no berries for jam!

Anne Heatherwick



Dunwich Heritage Study

Unfortunately the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum Association did not succeed in obtaining a grant for this study from the Queensland Heritage Grants Programme. Apparently they were first on the reserve list.

Meantime, several members of the Museum Association have pooled their skills and energy and have produced a book entitled *Historic North Stradbroke Island* which should be published before Christmas, in time for buying presents!

The Museum is at 17 Welsby Street, Dunwich and is open every Wednesday from 1 until 4 p.m. For more information, telephone Jenny Cooke-Bramley on [07] 409-8394.

Mid Winter Raffle

The raffle of the pottery dish, donated by member Evelyn Robbins, was drawn at the first *Conversazione* at the end of May. The winner was President, Bruce Johnman. We are now considering ideas for a Christmas raffle.

Conversaciones

We held two of these informal gatherings but unfortunately not many people could find the time to come

along, so the committee has decided that the money and effort should be put into the main aim of this association, the preservation of North Stradbroke Island.

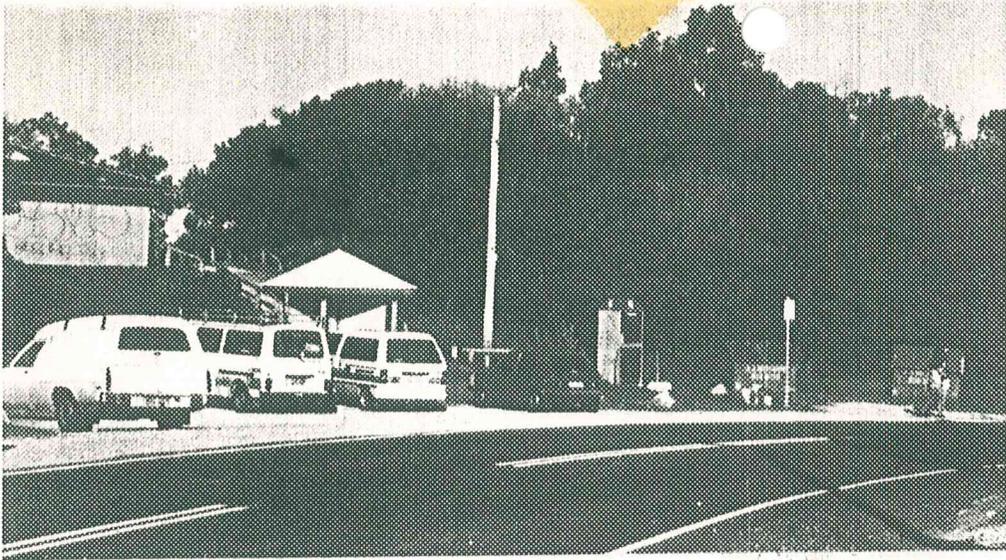
Drawings of Historic Sites

Before the old buildings at Samarinda and Claytons were demolished, one of our members, Cathy Spratt-Bulloch, drew an accurate record of them and has captured the atmosphere of these historic sites in two beautifully inked architectural drawings. She has produced a limited edition of 25 pairs of prints, in sepia ink or water colour, 400mm x 300mm.

Pairs of drawings in both styles were shown at the *Art by the Sea* exhibition at Point Lookout some weeks ago. Cathy has donated a pair of prints to the Museum and they can be viewed there or telephone her on [07] 409-8363. For FOSI, SIMO and Museum members who feel nostalgic, she is offering a special price of \$90.00 per pair of prints.

Membership Renewal

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the gentle reminder to renew. Your support provides our only source of income for working to preserve the island's unique character and beauty.



Would you be inclined to stop here?

This unsightly conglomeration of toilet block, tourist notice board and rubbish bins gives visitors no inkling of the beauty of the scenic walk round the Headland close by. These and other examples of insensitive, man-made

intrusions into the green of our Public Open Space bear witness to the urgent need for a proper Management Plan for the island, not to be confused with a Development Control Plan. FOSI continues to urge Council to put one in place, but there is no sign of one yet.

If undeliverable, please return to:
Hon. Secretary
Friends of Stradbroke Island
c/o P.O. Box 167
Point Lookout, Qld 4183



Michael Kennedy
105 Outlook Crescent
Bardon 4065