



the Friends of Stradbroke Island

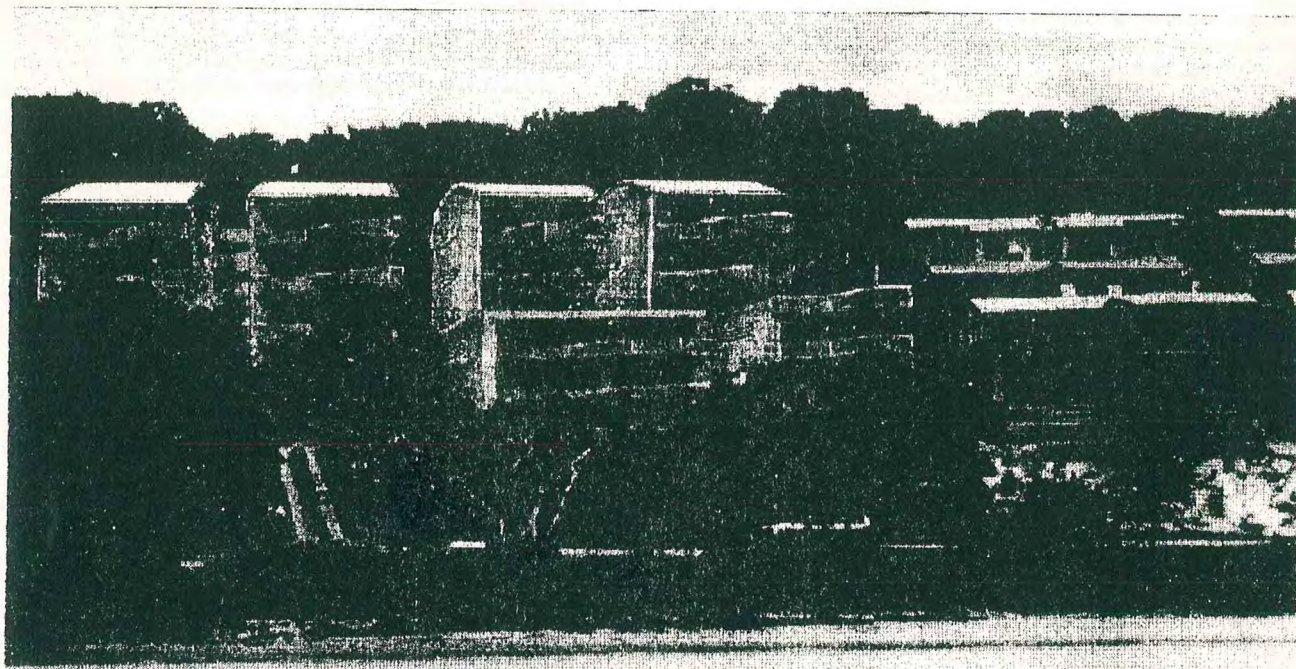
NEWSLETTER No. 19 April 1996

FOSI was formed in 1988 to oppose the construction of inappropriate development @ Cylinder Beach. FOSI continues to monitor proposals for this site, & others on North Stradbroke Island, with the aim of preserving the island's unique features: coastal villages, remarkable landscape & beaches, and areas of significant vegetation & wildlife. Membership is open to those who support FOSI's aims.

MEMBERSHIP RATES*: INDIVIDUAL \$10.00 FAMILY \$15.00 CONCESSION \$5.00

*A red sticker on envelope attached, indicates that Membership for the oncoming year is now due. Thankyou to those renewing members who have already paid the 1996 subscription. Check that name & address details etc, are correct and forward your payment to

the Treasurer, **FRIENDS of STRADBROKE ISLAND, P.O.Box 167 Point Lookout NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND, QLD 4183**



RECENT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION @ CYLINDER BEACH

[Refer artists impression above]

A development application has been lodged for a block of 17 three storey units, restaurant, and shop at Cylinder Beach. FOSI lodged a detailed objection to the proposal mainly on the grounds that the height and density of the development was not in accordance with the new DCP.

The site of the proposed development is smaller than the adjoining old 'Selpam' site where 10 units have recently been constructed, but is being subjected to development which is almost twice that density. The site is also much steeper and has many problems with access from the main road.

Your committee will keep you informed of developments.

ALSO INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Annual General Meeting Minutes

- Letters to State & Federal Ministers regarding vulnerable high ridge dunes & water catchment areas.

- Susan Martin reports on FOSI's tour of the Islands east & southern beauty.

- Book Review by George Rackley

Abridged Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Stradbroke Island Association Inc. • 24 February 1996 • at the home of Jani Haenke at Point Lookout

Chair: Michael Kennedy [President]
7 Members & 1 Visitor were present

Minutes of the previous AGM were passed, after deciding that discussion arising from them be dealt with in General Business.

The President's, Secretary's and Auditor's reports (reproduced below) were accepted and carried...

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGM March 1996

1995 proved to be a positive year for FOSI. It saw the resolution of two matters that had occupied FOSI's time and efforts for many years. The first of these was the court decision refusing to allow the development of 18 units behind Cylinder Beach on land adjacent to the old Selpam site. The decision justified the stand FOSI has made since its formation in 1988, for sensible low-keyed development in keeping with the existing development at Pt Lookout.

The second matter was the recent gazettal of a new Point Lookout Development Control Plan. This document is remarkable in several ways. It is a dramatic change from the previous development controls which were similar to the mainland plans, and had as their basis masonry construction in keeping with the ideals of suburbia. Some may argue that the new controls are over prescriptive - however no one can argue that the possibility exists for the first time of achieving a type of development which will be in keeping with the unique character of Point Lookout.

Your committee was also actively involved in a number of other issues including:

- objection to the inappropriate development of shops at Mintee Street
- discussions with the lifesavers regarding extensions to their club house
- discussions with the Quandamooka Land Council, regarding their native title application
- applications for grants to formulate a management plan and study for Reserve 1781, and designs for the pedestrianisation of Mooloomba Road.

What of the future? 1996 could be a most important year for FOSI. The Native Title claim by the Quandamooka Land Council for the whole of Stradbroke Island, part of Moreton Island, Peel Island and the water in between, is an episode in the history of the island which has the capability of shaping its future direction. Tribunal hearings are expected to commence soon.

The Quandamooka Land Council's observation that European civilisation has dramatically destroyed a complex, delicate and hitherto stable environment in a comparatively short time, cannot be denied. As the custodians of the land, it is hoped that the Council members can restore the environment and put in place management controls to ensure its future. It is a unique opportunity, and FOSI should give the Quandamooka Land Council every encouragement and help.

Another issue which recently has been brought to FOSI's

attention is the destruction of some unique features of the island by sand mining, and of the environmental consequences of the Redland Shire Council pumping large amounts of water off the island for consumption on the mainland. Such destruction would seem to be accepted by a large proportion of the community. There would seem to be an amazing lack of debate as to why Stradbroke Island being sacrificed while Moreton and Fraser are to be kept in their present state. The FOSI committee at its last meeting resolved to foster this debate and to be more active in such environmental issues.

A great deal of FOSI's time in 1996 will be spent on environmental and development issues at Point Lookout. Reserve 1781 contains a natural landscape of unique character and is the basis of the settlement at Point Lookout. With ever increasing use, it is under much pressure and is being damaged. The committee of FOSI are of the opinion that there is an urgent need for a management plan, and for proper controls, and have lobbied the Redland Shire Council to take action. This has led to a joint application with the Council and SIMO for funding from the 'Coastcare' program to undertake a management plan this year.

Another matter of concern to the committee is the lack of design consideration given to public spaces at Point Lookout. FOSI supported the Architecture Department of the University of Queensland in an application for funding under the 'Coastcare' Program last year, to undertake a design of public places along the main road through the settlement. Unfortunately, this application was unsuccessful, but the Redland Shire Council have now recognised the problem and allocated a budget item for the Council to undertake a study later in the year.

Part of the problem along the road is the lack of facilities for pedestrians and the proposed council designs for parking which are most inappropriate. But the problem in a sense is much wider and relates to the ever-increasing population at Point Lookout, the over-dependence on motor cars for transportation, and a Shire Council that does not understand or take into account the unique character of the place, and who apply standard engineered solutions to capital works more appropriate to the mainland. Your committee will continue to place great emphasis on resolving these issues in the coming year.

At our last committee meeting it was agreed that FOSI would attempt to produce a book on landscape design for Point Lookout. This book would concentrate on the identification of local species and their propagation, and how to incorporate these plantings into residential situations at Point Lookout. The new Development Control Plan calls for such an approach, and the committee has been encouraged by the Redland Shire Council to produce the book. The committee is anxious to attract some members with the required expertise to form a sub-committee to take the matter up. Are you interested?

In concluding I would like to thank all committee members for their effort. I particularly thank Edith McPhee in her role as Treasurer (a thankless and time-consuming task), and Jani Haenke in her role as Secretary. Jani's efforts are many, and without her tireless work FOSI would cease to exist or become ineffective. Special thanks should also go to FOSI members, Richard Carew and Peter O'Gorman, and to Tom Quinn, a member of SIMO, for their generous professional help in the Cylinder Beach appeal.

Lastly, I would like to thank all members of FOSI for their support. Community organisations such as FOSI are of tremendous importance in ensuring what is special about

places is not destroyed by people who do not necessarily have in mind the common good or long term objectives. The value of such organisations apart from their monitoring role is that they provide a body for local government and others to liaise with.

For FOSI to be an effective lobby group it is essential that it has a large and representative membership, and I would ask that you urge friends and acquaintances who are interested in the character of Stradbroke Island to become part of our organisation.

Thank you.

Michael Kennedy

SECRETARY'S REPORT

AGM March 1996

The range of issues FOSI deals with seems to increase each year. There are always building applications to be looked into, and some to be objected to and appealed against. The last mentioned exercise takes up time and energy for days and weeks at a stretch, so it is particularly gratifying when we get a positive outcome, as on the Cylinder Beach case in September. Be ready for that Medusa rearing her head again this year!

3rd January last year Quandamooka Land Council lodged a claim with the National Native Title Tribunal and it was accepted in September. This has changed how we deal with some other issues. We correspond with Quandamooka, and committee members attended a meeting with some of its Council and other Moreton Bay conservation groups in October. Quandamooka is certainly saying the right things about the need for more care to be taken of natural resources and the environment.

The Tax Department granted us an exemption because of the modest scale of our finances which come mostly from subscriptions. We are grateful for the new memberships and renewals which show the support we get from members. Extra support came, too, at the time of the Cylinder Beach case, when six members donated to help with those large costs.

There's not always time to be involved in all the meetings, groups and issues which concern us. We only just keep in touch with the Redland Preservation Council and the Queensland Conservation Council, and I hope that newly-forming environment centres will be helpful groups for us to act with.

The Committee we have had in 1995 has been helpful, encouraging and happy to work with. I thank all of them for forgiving my lapses in efficiency. Michael and Ian have written good letters for FOSI, which got well-considered responses, making ours become a respected community group.

I believe all committee members enjoy helping to 'maintain the unique characteristics of North Stradbroke Island', and I'm sure any new ones who join the committee this year will relish this, too. We particularly thank the FOSI members who have helped on the challenges to inappropriate building proposals: Tom Quinn, Richard Carew and Peter O'Gorman. That support, which we don't take for granted, makes the constant effort of keeping this association operating seem worthwhile.

Jani Haenke

FRIENDS OF STRADBROKE ISLAND ASSOCIATION INC Statement of Receipts & Payments 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1995

Opening Balance - Suncorp 97-001179-7	3,533.61
Add Receipts	
Membership Fees	1,680.00
Donations	490.00
Raffles	193.00
Interest Received	136.72
Total Receipts	<u>2,499.72</u>
	6,033.33

Less Payments	
Annual Return Fee	50.50
Freedom of Information Costs	60.00
Honorarium	93.00
Insurance	291.99
Newsletter	102.00
Office Costs	93.86
Photocopying & typing	224.00
Post Office Box Rental	10.00
Postage	364.50
Project Costs - Cylinder Beach	547.60
Project Costs DC Plan	350.00
Queensland Conservation Council	36.00
Redland Preservation Council	40.00
Wild Life Book	24.95
Total Payments	<u>2,288.40</u>
Closing Balance Suncorp [97-001179-7]	744.93
Suncorp Term Deposit [2001563]	3,000.00
	<u>\$3,744.93</u>

The elections of Office Bearers and Committee Members followed with these results:

PRESIDENT:	Michael Kennedy
SECRETARY:	Jani Haenke
TREASURER:	Edith McPhee

Committee MEMBERS:
Ian Alfredson, Susan Martin, Rose Kubatov,
Marshall Malouf, George Rackley & Jill Redmyre

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Date of financial year and AGM

We have not resolved the problem of wishing to have our AGM at Easter with the Office of Consumer Affairs, but this will be looked into.

2. Concerns for inappropriate development at Point Lookout

Discussion centred on inappropriate development at Point Lookout. Ellie Durbidge mentioned that there would soon be a new application for Cylinder Beach, possibly with a large number of units, and that Stage 3 of Samarinda has approval for 41 units.

The house of Bernie Clayton and 2 residential blocks beside the Church in Hopewell Street are likely to be sold. SIMO and FOSI should ask the R.S. Council to buy the latter with the Environmental Levy.

Marshall Malouf raised the problem of the parking shortfall for Samarinda Stage 2, and the fact that we haven't seen the Engineer's plans for kerbing, channelling & parking in this area. It is of concern that only engineers are involved. We hope that work will be postponed until the plan has been reviewed.

Coastcare Applications are awaiting the approval of the new Minister.

3. Island Advisory Council

The meeting agreed that this should be instituted, even though Elle Durbidge reported dissatisfaction with previous advisory bodies.

4. Old Township Precinct

Marshall Malouf discussed the preservation of a precinct of old buildings near the Surf Shop at the Point. This is supported by FOSI & SIMO & the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum Association, but it is up to the landholders to make such proposals to the Council.

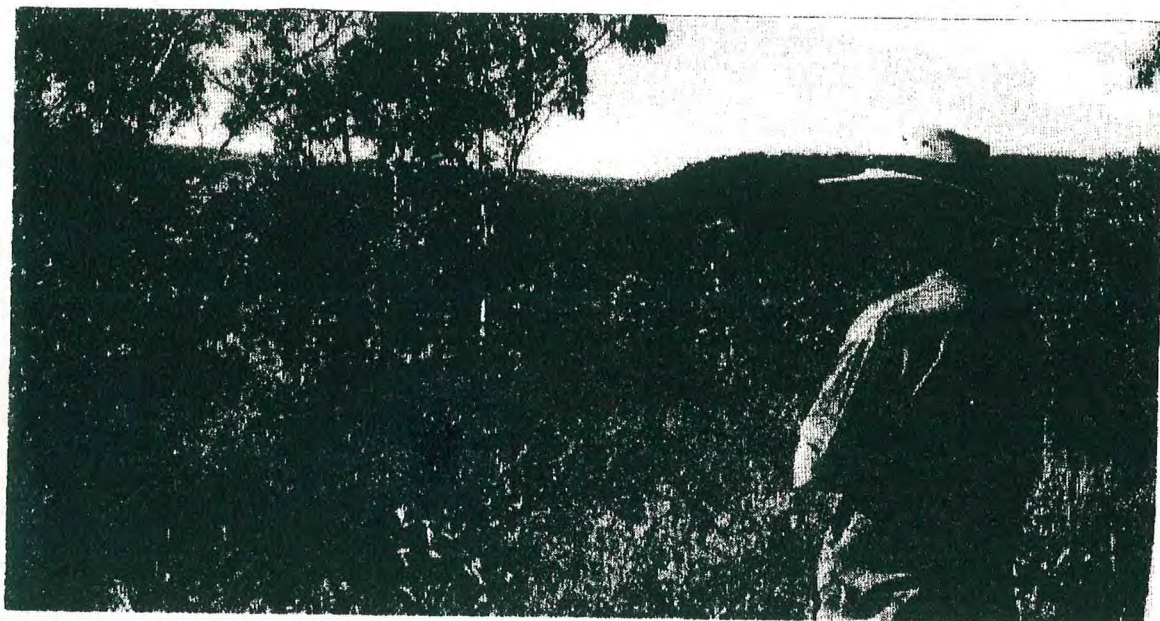
5. Letters of congratulations to RSC and Cox Rayner on completion & gazettal of the DCP

It was decided to send letters of congratulations to RSC and Cox Rayner on the completion and gazettal of the DCP.

The meeting closed @ 5.20pm with refreshments.

* * * * *

BELOW: Looking east over the terrain, Gary North ponders its future...
Photo: R-MK



BOOK REVIEW

The Dream of the Earth by Thomas Berry

Sierra Club Books, San Francisco.
(Available in Australian Bookshops)

The global nature of the environmental crisis means that responsibility at the local level must be informed by knowledge of the planetary dimension of the issues: the big picture. Though there are a great many books which address the global dimension in one way or another, there are only a few which set themselves to this task specifically, one reason being the great difficulties facing the writer, because, as we have come to realise, environmental problems shade off into and simply become cultural and philosophical - the moment we try to understand them in depth. One writer who has braved these hazards of the deep is Thomas Berry, a solitary American monk whose: *The Dream of the Earth* is among the most fearless, clear, and profound essays on the predicament in which we find ourselves. Here are a few quotations:

Few of us are aware of the order of magnitude of what is happening. Fewer still have any adequate understanding of its causes or the capacity to initiate any effective program for the revitalisation of these life systems on which everything depends.

A disturbance exists at a more basic level of consciousness and on a greater order of magnitude than we dare to admit to ourselves or even think about. This unprecedented pathology is not merely in those more immediate forms of economic activity that have done such damage; it is even more deeply imbedded in our cultural traditions, in our religious traditions, in our very language, in our entire value system.

...we have changed in a deleterious manner not only the structure and functioning of human society; we have changed the very chemistry of the planet, we have altered the bio systems, we have changed the topography and even the geological structure of the planet, structures and functions that have taken hundreds of millions and even billions of years to bring into existence. Such an order of change in its nature and in its order of magnitude has never before entered either into earth history or into human consciousness.

George Rackley

MINING. IT'S NOT ONLY THE MINERAL SANDS.....

The letters reproduced here to the Federal Minister for Resources & Energy and the State Minister for Minerals & Energy respectively, express the concerns of FOSI & SIMO with regard to the proposed mining of the Ibis-Alpha deposits within an area with a high dune ridge in its natural condition.



3.4.96

Mr Warwick Parer
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES & ENERGY
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

North Stradbroke Island - Consolidated Rutile Limited
Export Licensing for Mineral Sands Products

Attached is a copy of a letter dated 8 February 1996 from the Stradbroke Island Management Organisation (SIMO) to the Minister for Minerals and Energy for Queensland. The letter is self-explanatory, but shortly stated, it seeks to protect the last unmined section of the western high dune adjacent to Moreton Bay along the southern portion of the island from mining by Consolidated Rutile Limited. This organisation supports the SIMO letter.

We understand that some of the products of mineral sand mining are exported, and would require export licensing under the Prohibited Export Regulations made under the Customs Act. We ask that, in considering whether an export licence should be granted to CRL for the products of the proposed sand mining operation described in the SIMO letter, you take into account the high conservation values of the area affected. If an export licence has already been granted in respect of the proposed operation, we ask that it be reviewed, taking into account the same values which could not have been apparent at the time of its original grant.

We understand that the Environment (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974 requires that environmental issues such as are outlined in the SIMO letter are required to be taken into account in any decision or action by Commonwealth officers. We strongly urge that the matters set out in the SIMO letter are of importance as to warrant the refusal of an export licence, or the revision of the terms of any existing licence to enable this last undisturbed dune to remain intact.

Other areas of North Stradbroke Island, such as Yarraman, which have already been mined, are planned to be re-mined by Consolidated Rutile Limited. If mining is to continue on North Stradbroke Island, those re-mining activities should be preferred to mining previously undisturbed areas such as the Ibis/Black Snake Ridge as presently proposed. Re-mining would be welcomed as it would provide the opportunity to rectify the previously poorly rehabilitated areas while leaving the last representative portion of western high dune in its natural condition.

We strongly recommend that no export licence be granted for sand mining products produced as a result of the proposed mining of the Ibis/Black Snake Ridge on North Stradbroke Island, and that any existing licence be revised so as to preserve this ridge in its undisturbed condition.

FOSI



Stradbroke Island Management Organisation

8.2.1996

Minister for Minerals & Energy
QMEC Building
61 Mary Street
Brisbane 4000

Dear Sir

RE: Ibis-Alpha Deposit North Stradbroke

There is concern at Consolidated Rutile Limited's (CRL) strategy to mine the Ibis-Alpha deposits containing the last remaining 5kms of high dune ridge in its natural condition on the western side of North Stradbroke Island. Other less contentious projects should be given priority. The area and the proposal to mine it remain relatively unknown to the general public due to the inaccessibility of the southern part of the island because of nearly forty years of mining leases over it.

Landscape

To date, CRL has not been required to recognise landscape as a natural resource. We draw particular attention to the high ridge running from Black Snake Lagoon to the south and west of Ibis Lagoon, to terminate at Mt Ara wolum's twin peaks of 110m, as the last natural ridge on the western side of the island. From the ridge of the dune west of Black Snake and Ibis Lagoons there are spectacular views to the west across Canaipa Passage to the mainland as far as Mount Flinders as well as to the east across the Ibis and Black Snake Lagoon systems. The ridge itself forms a natural backdrop to the eastern side of Moreton Bay and supports inner dune systems.

Post-mining, the island's economy will be dependent on tourism which in turn is dependent on retention of distinctive landscape features and on preserving the island's character and natural charm. The landscape is also a teaching resource for the educational institutions of South East Queensland. Apart from the brief assessments in 1983 & 1976, quoted below, few landscape assessments of North Stradbroke Island have been undertaken and none has been undertaken as part of any impact study prior to mining.

North Stradbroke's landscape values are recognised and documented in:

(a) *North Stradbroke Development Strategy*, Cameron McNamara 1983, Premiers Department (NSIDS). It documents 'the distinctive character of North Stradbroke'.

As a land form it states that:

The steep scarps of the western side of the island form a scenic backdrop to Moreton Bay and provide a significant sense of anticipation and arrival for island residents and visitors. Around the perimeter of the island, the combination of flat swamps backed by steep forested sand dunes with no intervening foothills are a distinctive feature of the island. High peaks on the island provide extensive views of the bay and ocean,

[continued over....]

and internally the transgressive dunes and forest cover restricted views to a large number of semi-enclosed linear valleys, often with lakes, swamps or intermittent streams.

Generally the lakes and swamps are not visible from a distance, even when close to ridge lines, because of the intervening vegetation. For many of the shallow inundated areas, there is no clear distinction between lakes and swamps, as the water grades into reeds and sedges and the depth of the water varies seasonally.

If the southern lake land area is opened to the public it would become a significant landscape element. (NSIDS 2.3.3.)

(b) *Moreton Region Growth Strategy Investigations Non Urban Land Use & Physical Constraints Task 51976*, Co-ordinator General (MRGSI). To identify and categorise the Moreton Region's natural resources, the MRGSI lists a 'Natural area of outstanding recreational value' as Category 1, and a 'Natural area of high recreational value' as Category 2.

Category 1: Mt Scott/ Mt Willes Area

Attractive sandhill topography. Contains fresh water lagoons (eg. Tea Tree and Native Companion Lagoons). Swamp land. Borders Canaipa Passage on western side. Natural vegetation. Wildlife potential. Fishing potential. Wilderness value. Local scenery and panoramic views. Contains historic Mt Scott (used for pioneer surveys of lower Moreton Bay) and archaeological midden sites (Table 9.5).

THE GREATEST THREATS TO THE INTEGRITY OF THESE RESOURCE AREAS ARE UNCONTROLLED URBAN-DEVELOPMENT AND SAND MINING. (p.9.61).

Despite the listing of the Mt Scott/ Mt Willes Area as Category 1, a 'Natural area of outstanding recreational value, attractive sandhill topography and wilderness value' it has been destroyed by CRL's Gordon mining operation.

Category 2: 18 Mile Swamp

Along eastern coast of island between Blue Lake and Swan. Sandy beaches. Area of geological interest (eg. truncated dunes on the Western side of the swamp). Unique freshwater system. Local scenery and occasional panoramic views. Natural vegetation, contains unique plant and animal communities. Wildlife viewing potential. Fishing potential. Archaeological. Midden sites along edge of swamp.

Ibis Lagoon

Sandhill area containing freshwater lakes (Blaksley, Shag, Black Snake and Ibis Lagoons). Scenic area. Interesting vegetation. Wildlife viewing potential. (Table 9.5)

In view of Stradbroke Island's proximity to Brisbane and its potential for tourism it would appear to be short-sighted to destroy this irreplaceable resource. All effort should be made to retain this landscape feature and it should not be destroyed without qualified assessment and documentation. Alternative mineral deposits of lesser landscape value and areas to be re-mined should be mined instead.

Archaeological and Aboriginal significance

The original archaeological assessment for the Ibis-Alpha deposit was undertaken under the terms defined by the Aboriginal Relics Act 1967-76 which did not specifically

require Aboriginal consultation. The significance of the Aboriginal archaeological deposits, or the area as a whole, to Aborigines has not been addressed. This is now a requirement under the Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland & Queensland Estate) Act 1987.

While the proposed National Park contains the surface area with visible Aboriginal middens, the removal of the geomorphic context of the high dune and its associated flora and fauna considerably depletes the interpretative value of these sites. The Wallen Wallen Creek site 3km to the north has yielded the only Pleistocene date for human occupation of South East Queensland and the archaeological sites north and south of Canaipa Creek have the potential to produce similar evidence.

Fauna

The significance of faunal communities should be defined by a registered zoologist. Ideally, this should not only be in the areas covered by the Ibis-Alpha mining lease but extended to identify the representativeness of North Stradbroke Island faunal communities. For example, the impact of the removal of stands of mature trees over increasingly large areas of the island on the squirrel glider, birds, blossom bats and flying *Microchiropterans*, *Megachiropterans*, native rats and *Antechinus* requires a long term study. The squirrel glider while common in South East Queensland is classified as endangered in NSW, and vulnerable in Victoria. Its population density in South East Queensland is attributed to the honeyflow substantially contributed to by the grass tree stands. No matter how effective a revegetation programme, habitation hollows develop only after many years.

Hydrology and Water Bodies

We ask for an independent assessment of the Ibis-Alpha deposit and for a pre-mining identification of water bodies at risk from mining operations. An assurance is required that there will be no impact on the two unnamed free standing water bodies within the south west of the area covered by the mining lease and that the level of the dredge path will be maintained higher than these bodies. An appropriate level of supervision is necessary in view of previous damage caused to other island lagoons and water bodies.

Significant natural areas at risk from mining Ibis-Alpha deposit.

We list naturally significant areas at risk from the Ibis-Alpha operations.

1. Ibis Lagoon Complex

This area was the subject of earlier discussions and negotiations between CRL and this organisation. In an effort to protect the western ridge and landscape, CRL withdrew that part of their lease that intruded into the western shore of Ibis Lagoon. While this ensured that the shores of the lake remained intact, it did not protect the ridge to the west of Ibis landscape. The ridge is a significant component of the Ibis landscape and should not be mined. The proposed National Park does not include this western ridge. The Ibis area is a recorded koala habitat.

2. Big Canaipa Creek

The waters of the creek filter straight out of the face of the adjoining high dune. Mining this steep western dune could well spell the end of Big Canaipa Creek.

[continued over....]

The boundary of the proposed National Park does not appear to include the high dune which is the source of the creek. This ridge should not be mined.

3. **Little Canalpin Creek & Catchment**

This is a significant landscape complex. The creek follows a wallum plain that supports extensive stands of *Boronia falcifolia*, while in the western swamp the large Batwing Fern *Histophara incis* grows. The flat between the wallum plain and the western coastal swamp contains Aboriginal archaeological midden sites.

The steep slopes of the valley leading to the creek and plain support exceptional stands of Grass Trees, *Xanthorrhoea*. The proposed National Park appears to exclude important areas of the creek's catchment and landscape.

4. **Palm Valley & Palm Stands**

A steep fern and palm gully running off the 18 Mile Swamp into the high western dunes bordering the swamp, is dependent on seepage from Lambert's Lagoon and adjoining reed and sedge swamps to retain its specialised vegetation. The palm stand on the flat above the gully is also dependent on the same water source. While the proposed National Park appears to include the steep dunes bordering the 18 Mile Swamp, the water bodies to the east on which the vegetation depends, are not protected from logging disturbance.

EMOS Revision

In the light of these concerns it is requested that CRL is required to revise its EMOS for its Ibis-Alpha reserves and that no mining be allowed to commence before the landscape, Aboriginal significance, fauna and hydrological issues are addressed.

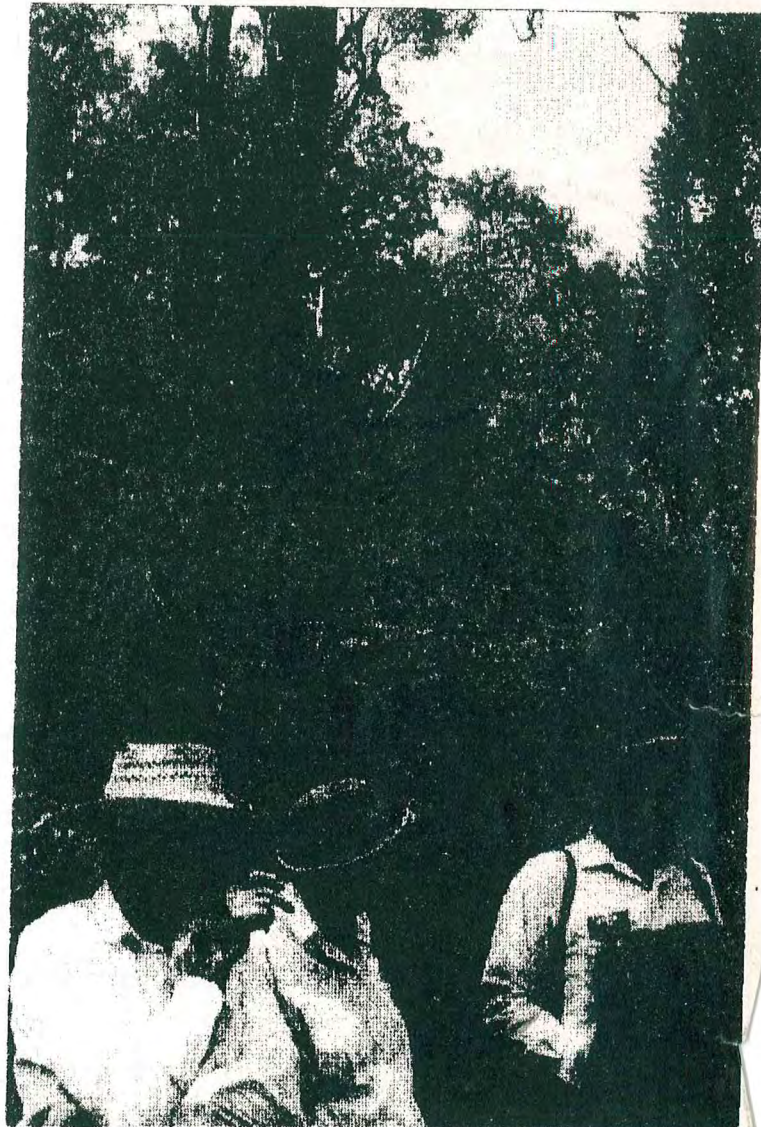
We ask that serious consideration be given to the long term benefits to tourism, recreation and education by retaining outstanding landscape features as opposed to the short term benefits of sandmining.

Yours faithfully
Ellie Durbidge
Secretary SIMO

[This letter was reproduced with the permission of SIMO.]

EX-EDITIONERS to the SOUTH of North Stradbroke Is

Recently, at the invitation of Consolidated Rutile (CRL), a group of FOSI Members travelled in 2 x 4WD vehicles to observe water levels in the lagoons and water bodies in the south/west of the island. Aply led by CRL Information Officer, Liz Smythe, the party set off for a day of exploration which proved to be rich in harmony between both the people and this glorious landscape.



First hand knowledge was provided by well-known island conservationists, Ellie Durbidge and Gary North, and this coupled well with the scientific views of Ted Fensom (Southern Regional Alliance), plus son Nicholas, and that of David Gasteen, a lively botanist. Michael Kennedy (President), Jani Haenke (Secretary), Rose Kubatov, Jill Redmyre and Bruce & Susan Martin made up the remainder of this avidly interested party.

First stop Lake Kounpee saddened everyone. Unfortunately, sand mining had disturbed this area - the sand dredge has struck too close, and no amount of patching the cracks in this prettily perched lake with beutonite (like clay) can save it. This disruption of the permeability of the surrounding sand means that the water level will not rise again, the vegetation has died and the fish have long gone from the muddy bottom.

Moving on to Blaksley and Black Snake Lagoons, the lowered water levels again were noted, and west to the sand track leading to Big Canalpin Creek and Little Canalpin Creek and catchment area. Here the attractive sandhill topography is stunning (2 were measured @ 35° and 40° gradients), and the waters of the creeks filter straight out of these huge dunes. It is possible to view much of Moreton Bay from these steep, sandy hills. The natural vegetation in the area is 'alive with interest' with rare stands of *Boronia falcifolia* on the Wallum plains, and the large Batwing Fern *Histioptera incisa* grows well in these western swamps bordering Canalpa Passage. Paper-barks *Melaleuca quinquenervia* and Swamp Mahogany *Eucalyptus robusta* are the dominant trees in the swamps.

The Grey Mangrove *Avicennia marina* is most robust and there was a lucky sighting of a magnificent clump of the salt-tolerant Golden Mangrove *Acrostichum speciosum*. A stop for lunch at tranquil Shag Lagoon, the whole of which is gently spiked by variously hued Sword Grass *Gahnia sieberiana* above which hover the many-coloured dragon flies. The Grass Trees *Xanthorrhoea* sp. thrive as does the hardy Bracken Fern *Pteridium esculentum*.

Pushing on, glimpses were caught of bare, sand-mined hills in the Mt Scott/Mt Willes area and the contrast is dreadful. Liz listened to our fears and she was helpful and constructive in presenting CRL's own reservations in view of past mistakes. The problem lies in finding common ground by which this natural resource, the landscape, can be conserved. The journey ended with a run along the high, truncated dunes to the west of the 18 Mile Swamp. This great freshwater swamp extends along Stradbroke's eastern side from Yarraman Valley to Swan Bay and the view across to the Pacific is panoramic. The Bull Banksia *Banksia serrata* and Screw Palms *Pandanus pedunculatus* push up the steep sandhills. Finally, we descended into Palm Valley, a deep fern and palm gully running to the 18 Mile Swamp on the southern end. The Cabbage Tree Palms abound in dense stands and Nicholas spotted a shy Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor*. Old, weathered posts indicate the middens of a 'lost' island culture.

A sincere thank you to Liz Smythe for granting us the opportunity to pass through this beautiful, natural landscape, the future of which is at a crossroad.

F.O.S.I. MEMBERSHIP FORM

1996

• RATES:

Individual members	\$10.00
Family members	\$15.00
Concession members	\$5.00

• Name:

.....

• Telephone:

home -

business -

• Address:

.....

.....Post Code.....

the Treasurer, **FRIENDS of STRADBROKE ISLAND**, P.O.Box 167 Point Lookout NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND, QLD 4183