



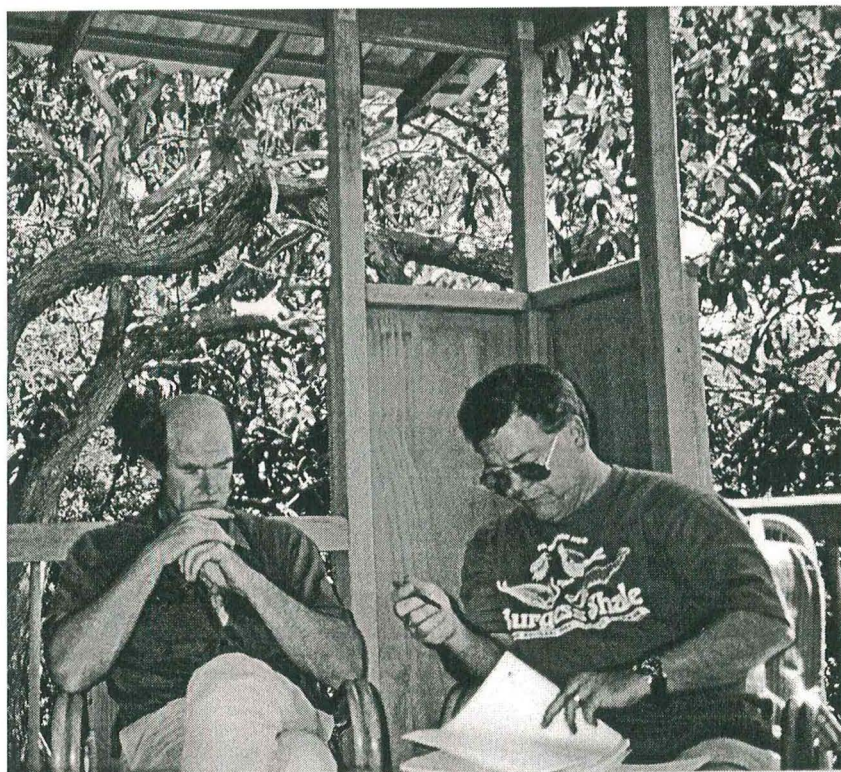
The Friends of Stradbroke Island Association Inc.,

Newsletter No22 EASTER 1997

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.

The postal address of FOSI is PO Box 167, Point Lookout, NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND, QLD 4183



Zoologist Steve Wilson (left) and geologist Errol Stock at the inaugural meeting of the Coastcare study group at Point Lookout on Saturday March 8. The study team in addition consists of botanist Michael Olsen, landscape architect Catherine Brouwer and representatives of the Redland Shire Council, SIMO and FOSI.

Easter Survey

Easter Survey

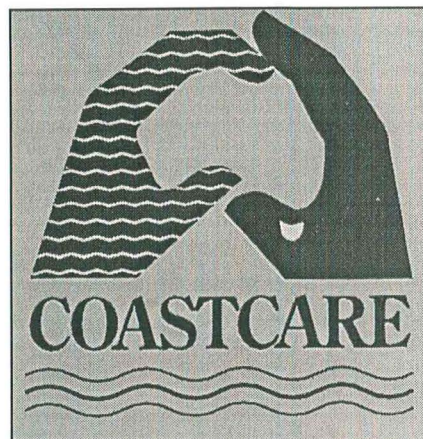
Easter Survey

As part of the Coastcare study a survey is being undertaken of Reserve users by FOSI and SIMO members. We are counting cars and people entering and leaving Cylinder Beach, Deadman's Beach, Frenchmans Beach, and both ends of the walkway at the Point. The information is vital to an understanding of the number of people using the Reserve. Members help would be very much appreciated. The survey will take place on Easter Saturday between the hours of 8am and 6pm. Volunteers will have a shift of two hours of bliss sitting under a cool tree. If you can help please phone 3878 2267 or 34098078.

Easter Survey

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FOSI, SIMO and the Redland Shire Council have commenced a study of the Reserve at Point Lookout. The area being studied is the whole of Reserve 1781 which stretches from the Life Savers' club house to Home Rocks below the hotel at the end of Cylinder Beach.

The aim of the study is to produce a management plan for the conservation of the Reserve. In practical terms it will provide management strategies to deal with weed intrusion and eradication, identification of areas which are too sensitive to access, and methods of retaining the Reserve's heritage and landscape values while at the same time providing means for increased use.

The grant from Coastcare is \$16,000.00 and FOSI and SIMO have agreed to contribute a further \$23,900 in kind by voluntary work. A draft of the report is due to be finished in late June.

Your Committee is heartened by the support we continue to receive from members, as donations are continuing to be sent to the Treasurer. Thank you. Your generosity and appreciation of our efforts is most encouraging.

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF FOSI, at the home of the McPhee's, Point Lookout, Stradbroke Island on Saturday 22 February 1997.

Present: M Kennedy, President, Jani Haenke, Secretary, Edith McPhee, Treasurer, and Sue Carew, Jill Redmyre, Liz Johnston, Jan and Bruce Johnman, Col and Janita Cunningham, Sue Martin, Adrienne Freeman, visitor: Jan Oliver.
Chair Michael Kennedy.

1. Introductions.
2. Apologies: Colin and Pam Gunn, Ellie and Tony Durbidge, Bruce Martin, Darryl Briskey, Brit Andresen, Peter O'Gorman.

3. Minutes of 1996 AGM
Minutes of the last meeting were published in the newsletter of May 1996. The secretary read some extracts from the minutes, including the results of the elections of the executive. The financial year has not been changed (it had been proposed to move it to Easter). Developments such as Samarinda were questioned, Kennedy's proposed development at Cylinder Beach, car parking and traffic calming needs in Pt. Lookout township. Coastcare applications were discussed, plus attendance on various committees and other news. Moved the minutes be accepted: E. McPhee/S Martin. Carried.

4. President's Report
Michael read his report which is tabled.

5. Secretary's report
Jani read her report which is tabled.

6. Treasurer's report
The auditor's statement is tabled, with a closing balance of \$4540.86. Accounts are now kept on the computer. Note error in addition: expenses should be \$4 601 rather than \$7601. Accounts will have to be returned to auditor for correction. Moved, that subject to alterations, the financial statements be accepted. McPhee/Carew. Carried. Balance sheet is tabled.

7. Elections of council
The following were nominated for positions:
Michael stood aside from chair; Bruce accepted the position of returning officer.
Nominations were sufficient to fill the positions so Bruce declared all those nominated as elected.
Michael as President, (Haenke/E McPhee)
Jani as Secretary, (Kennedy/McPhee)
Edith as treasurer, (Haenke/Kennedy)
Committee: Susan Martin, (Fleur/Sarah Martin)
Sue Carew, (Kennedy/Haenke)

Nominated from floor: Ian Alfredson (Haenke/McPhee) and Jill Redmyre (Kennedy/Carew), Bruce Johnman (Haenke/Martin). Declared elected to committee.

Hon. Auditor: Raymond Owen was re appointed for the year. (McPhee/Haenke). Carried

8. General Business

Sand mining: Sue Carew reported that she is aware of some radical action (by university students etc) on the site of CRL's mines. Hydrology issues are of concern, especially relating to the Gordon Mine. Rehabilitation appears to be less than successful,



Some of the members at the FOSI AGM.

especially on top of the dunes with ground cover. Various methods of stopping the leaks have all failed. CRL only partially owned by Australian interests and Brisbane staff have been laid off. Discussion on long term sand mining at Stradbroke considering the 'arrangements' made about Fraser and Moreton Islands during the Fraser Island Inquiry by conservation groups (which did not include SIMO).

Road design steering committee: Roadworks should be watched, especially with the need for pedestrian walkways, and traffic calming. Peter O'Gorman's university students are developing plans at Pt. Lookout as part of their assignments and these may generate some good ideas.

Council engineers appear to be the main stumbling block to sensible landscaping and storm water dispersal. Various other items such as the boardwalk need to be looked at by the steering committee for the Pt Lookout roadscape. Other concerns discussed were the railing being erected on the boardwalk down to Frenchman's; cars on Flinders Beach, and need for some beaches free of 4WD. The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

Presidents Report

Your committee considers that 1996 was an important year for FOSI. It was a year of planting seeds, where things were put in place which we hope will have long term benefits for Stradbroke Island and the settlement of Point Lookout. These include the commencement of a study with SIMO and the Redland Shire Council, of the main reserve at Point Lookout using the services of landscape architect Catherine Brouwer, zoologist Steve Wilson, botanist Michael Olsen, and geologist Errol Stock. The study, which is commencing in earnest on the 8th March, is funded in part from a 1996 Coastcare grant, and seeks to document the present condition of the reserve and to produce guidelines for its management and rehabilitation.

This year your committee has put up an application to undertake a study of alternative stormwater management systems for Point Lookout, particularly systems that dissipate into the sand rather than discharge water onto ocean beaches. The application is currently being considered by the Coastcare committee.

FOSI is also part of a community steering committee which is overseeing the redesign of the main roadway from Snapper Street to Kennedy Drive. This committee was formed as a result of complaints from residents about the parking scheme proposed by the Redland Shire Council. This scheme was triggered by the recent mixed development at Mintee Street. The steering committee has met once and has agreed that submissions will be called from consultants for designs incorporating features more appropriate for the island. FOSI will be trying to ensure that the final design incorporates traffic calming and is pedestrian friendly.

For the first time FOSI has been invited to meet with the sand mining company on a regular basis to discuss environmental issues arising from mining. The committee is thankful of the efforts of Sue Carew and Susan Martin for their attendance at these meetings.

There seems to be a shift in public acceptance of sand mining, and people are at last becoming aware of the destruction caused in the mining operation. The efforts of those who have continually documented the environmental damage caused in the mining operation cannot be underestimated. Ellie Durbidge particularly is to be thanked. It is now becoming more accepted because of Ellie's and others' work, that the geomorphology of Stradbroke Island is complex, and that areas mined

cannot be successfully rehabilitated to their former state.

Much of your committee's time this year was occupied by court action and planning appeals. Planning appeals are negative matters in that they try to close the gate after the horse has bolted. The committee had hoped that the new Development Control Plan for Point Lookout would ensure that Point Lookout developed the way that the majority of people wished. However this does not seem to be the case with the approval by the Redland Shire Council last year of 17 units plus a restaurant behind Cylinder Beach. FOSI believes that the development is grossly in excess of that allowed under the Development Control Plan. To give you an idea of the proposed density, the site is 70 % of the size of the adjoining allotment where 10 only units have been recently completed.

FOSI has, with others, entered into an appeal on the matter which is due to come before the courts in the near future. It is vital for FOSI to test the matter in court to clarify and uphold the development principles contained in the Development Control Plan before the situation gets out of hand and allows for more incompatible development.

The other court matter relates to the Samarinda stage 2 development. FOSI members were aghast that the development destroyed a considerable portion of a sand dune, that by court order the developer of stage one was required to conserve, and that the development was substantially altered from its original approval.

The ensuing court action has not been easy. Your committee has taken the decision that there is nothing to be gained in the long term by continuing to oppose the scheme now that it has been completed. Instead we gained expert opinion on how the mobile dune could be stabilized and have obtained with the court's blessing, the developer and the Redland Shires acceptance of the problem and their offers to stabilize, the dune. You may have seen recently the wire fence and plastic tape defining the area. The Redland Shire's Council ensure us that there is a lot more to follow. It is your committee's intention to pursue the Redland Shire Council, by means of the current court action, until a satisfactory remedy has indeed been effected.

These important legal battles could not have been undertaken without the generosity of members, and professionals who have given their services free of charge or at considerably reduced rates.

In conclusion I would like to thank the support that I have received from all committee members and to thank Jani Hanke for her tireless and unrewarding work as secretary, and Edith McPhee for her efficient 'keeping the books' and providing the venue for this meeting. Michael Kennedy

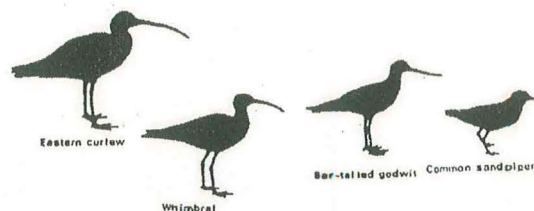
FOSI Secretary's Report for 1996.

The correspondence for 1996 seems to have doubled, judging by the space it takes up (and won't be able to find in the cupboard). We sent out 53 letters or faxes, and received 148, and there were 125 other items of correspondence or information tabled at meetings. A large part of this is to do with Samarinda, an on-going saga, as we try to make the Council aware of its responsibility for the township. We are grateful for the commitment of legal people, prepared to continue working on this issue with us, thus creating expanding files of paper! We have good help with the Cylinder Beach issue, too, but fortunately the discussing stage we are at now doesn't destroy so many trees.

You may have noticed how well I got out of minute-taking at previous AGMs, and we are grateful that Jan Oliver is doing this again today. In the last year, minutes of Committee meetings have been taken by Jill Redmyre and Michael Kennedy. This help has been wonderful, because it is hard to take minutes at the same time as finding correspondence relevant to the discussion as the meeting progresses.

We are lucky to have such a committed President as Michael, who puts a lot of thought and negotiating skills into interaction with experts and the Council, to get better outcomes for the island. It's good to be able to call on the expertise of a number of people in responding to particular island situations. As well as Michael, I wish to thank Ian Alfredson, Duncan McPhee and Peter O'Gorman. With their help we've sent out some good letters, and made an impact on the mining companies and government departments.

When FOSI started, I was the co-ordinator, and I became the Secretary because no one else would. I'm still co-ordinating, and my skills at keeping control of the correspondence, minutes and records don't improve much. By not trying to learn computers etc., I'm saving my friends and me endless aggravation. My incompetence is therefore, increasing to the point where someone else should take over this job. I'll be content to continue "co-ordinating", which takes plenty of time anyway! Are there any takers? Jani Haenke



Silhouette illustrations of Moreton Bay Shorebirds adapted from: Moreton Bay Resource Kit, Aust Littoral Soc Inc 1988.

THOUSANDS OF TOURIST BEDS STILL NEEDED IN MORETON BAY!

Despite all the change that development has caused in Moreton Bay, it is still a designated RAMSAR site because we have 40,000 birds migrating to its wetlands annually. Most of their feeding areas will be protected by the declaration of the Moreton Bay Marine Park, but their roosting sites, their "bedrooms", necessarily above the level of the highest astronomical tide, will be beyond the Marine Park boundary. These roosting sites need protection from development, and from the casual interference of vehicles, people or dogs approaching too close and disturbing the birds' vital rest.

It is March. The thousands of Waders, or Shorebirds, who have spent summer here with us in Moreton Bay have an urgent agenda. You will see them busily feeding on the sand and mudflats as the tide goes out. While we sleep at night, they will be out there again, feeding at the night low tide. These are birds whose rhythm is tied not to the sun, but to the moon and its pull on the waters of the earth. In preparation for their magnificent migration of between 9,000 and 13,000 kms to the Arctic breeding grounds, they are feeding as many hours as possible to add large amounts of fat and muscle reserve to their small bodies.

Be wary when walking on the western shores of the island, particularly at the Amity Spit, or boating around Peel, Goat or Bird Is. Repeated disturbance may be the last thing entering our consciousness as we walk along the beach and see a flock of brown birds take off at our approach. We watch the lovely curve of their flight, and marvel at the way they seem to all wheel as one, and catch the light on their pale under-bellies as they turn. Lovely as it may be, do not put the birds to flight. Keep distant from them because they need all the feeding, body condition, and rest which they can gain here, before taking off again on their long migration. Some of this year's birds have already left, and are having to find their way around Cyclone Justin. Other difficulties await them on their long journeys, so let us give them all the help we can!

Diana O'Connor