



The Friends of Stradbroke Island Association Inc., Newsletter No27 JULY 1998

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

SENATE HEARING AT DUNWICH

The Federal Government is re-writing its environmental legislation (an overdue activity), but with a short-sighted agenda: states are likely to take over control of most environmental supervision and responsibility, even where they have previously been the cause or willing partners in degradation of the lands, coasts and seas.

The Australian Conservation Foundation alerted the public and the Senate to this danger, and in June 1997 SIMO and FOSI were amongst those sending submissions to the ensuing Senate Committee of Inquiry into Commonwealth Environment Powers. On Thursday 23rd April four Senators from this Committee, with Senator Allison as Chair, came to Dunwich for a Hearing and visit to some mining sites. We were able to outline our submissions and add some recent material, before the Senators questioned us further on such topics as how the Commonwealth could ensure better environmental protection in the future.

SIMO's submission emphasized the need for Commonwealth powers to be maintained over environmental matters which are not merely of state concern. These include the supervision of Ramsar sites, an international obligation. On North Stradbroke Island perched lakes and tidal wetlands are not protected by a Mines Department which only poorly supervises environmental conditions on mining leases. The Redland Shire Council has no policy on the protection of Ramsar sites, but supports a tourist promotion of 4WD usage on Flinders Beach, part of the Moreton Bay Ramsar listing.

A major part of FOSI's submission was also on the destructiveness of NSI mining, where the inaction of Queensland Mines calls out for Federal Government intervention. FOSI and SIMO said that the clauses of the Export Act should be reinstated giving the Federal Resources

Minister power to prohibit the export of materials where environmental conditions of the mining (or tree-felling) leases were not being met.

The Dept. of Natural Resources is not seriously regulating water extraction for mining, or use on the mainland in the Redland Shire. As with the mining legislation, the Environment Protection Policy (Water) is drawn up to create a conflict of interest for the Chief Executive Water Resources, who sells the water, but who must also "develop and implement environmental plans about protecting ground water." Section 45(1) and (2).

Also at the Hearing were representatives from Sunfish (concerned about the lack of environmental monitoring of the Brisbane Port Development), and the National Parks Association (distressed at the damage being done to wetlands, grasslands, & the Great Barrier Reef by over-grazing), and Quandamooka Land Council (Stradbroke's destruction from settlement and mining). The Redland Shire Council was represented even though it had not made a submission to the Committee.

Imogen Zethoven of the Queensland Conservation Council spoke of our new Constitution giving an opportunity to create the office of an environmental head of power, and a bill of rights which includes environmental rights. She is extremely concerned at the devolution of environmental powers from the Commonwealth to the states, & in Queensland down to local government, which does not have the capacity to bear the responsibilities for sound environmental management. Imogen also drew attention to the fact that places of Stradbroke are interim listed under the Natural Heritage Act, but now have no Commonwealth protection, and the proposed new Act makes their future most uncertain.

It was heartening to experience the seriousness with which 3 of the 4 Senators regarded the matters being discussed at the Hearing, and to realize they will now have plenty of information with which to counter Senator Hill's proposals for devolution. Let us hope reason will prevail!

Jani Haenke

CYLINDER BEACH APPEAL

Our recent court case to amend the development at Cylinder Beach was unsuccessful and a decision was handed down on 14 May which dismissed our appeal. FOSI did not object to the development of the buildings but to the possible use of the development to provide future access to the special lease and further development.

Judge Quirk said in his judgment *The appellants have been concerned that the driveway might be used to provide access to an area to the northeast of the site which is subject to a special lease and is not part of the application. Rights to use that land (which is designated "Landscape Preservation Precinct" in the Development Control Plan) are governed by the terms of the lease and such use rights as may exist (in the town planning context) in respect of that land. The proposal as I understand it does not contemplate any use of the subject land to provide access to the special lease area. It would not be appropriate in the determination of this application to seek to exercise control over the use of the special lease area.*

The committee wishes to thank our solicitor Dylan McKimnie from Carew and Co who generously gave his time, which was considerable, on a voluntary basis. Thanks also is given to barrister Tom Quinn who was involved in the preparation for the case but unfortunately could not attend court because of other commitments, and to Ms Macgroaty who stood in for Tom at short notice.

Michael Kennedy

MINUTES OF THE AGM

The FOSI AGM was held at the home of Michael Kennedy, Yarrong Rd., Point Lookout, Stradbroke Island on Saturday 21 February 1998, commencing at 4pm.

Present: M Kennedy, President, Jani Haenke, Secretary, Edith McPhee, Treasurer, Col and Janita Cunningham, and Ellie Durbidge.

Chair Michael Kennedy.

1. Apologies

Cr Frank Bradley, Sue Martin, Sue Carew, Jill Redmyre, Jan and Bruce Johnman, Rose Kubatov, Lance & Desley Blemings and Ian Alfredson.

2. Minutes of 1997 AGM

Minutes of the last meeting were published in newsletter No22 at Easter 1997. E McPhee moved the minutes be accepted/ seconded by Ellie Durbidge and carried.

3. President's Report - Michael Kennedy

1997 was again an important year for FOSI and your committee was again most active in a number of areas.

One of the most demanding tasks was monitoring development at Point Lookout and ensuring that it complies with the intent and requirements of the Point Lookout Development Control Plan. It is a time consuming task but many members who are architects and in related professions assist with this process. Most developments comply and several that did not were amended during the approval stages to our satisfaction. Overall your committee is of the opinion that the DCP is working well and is producing development more in keeping with the beach character of Point Lookout, although there have been some problems with fitting development on sites that are not sewered.

FOSI successfully appealed against the construction of 17 units, kiosk etc and shops at Cylinder Beach and the developer Dwyer & Associates withdrew their application in May 1997. A subsequent application for 14 units was lodged and approved in October 1997. FOSI appealed the decision mainly on the grounds that the development made use of the road reserve in a manner contrary to the intentions of the DCP. I will not elaborate on this as I am sure you are familiar with the situation which has been reported in our newsletter. The matter is due to be heard in the Planning and Environment Court in late March. The court action is unfortunate but necessary to ensure a favourable outcome for development to the remainder of the land behind Cylinder Beach.

These important legal battles could not have been undertaken without the generosity of some members, and professionals who have given their services free of charge. Our particular thanks to solicitors Richard Carew and Dylan

McKimnie from Carew & Co and to barristers John Hayden and Tom Quinn.

The Management Study of the main reserve at Point Lookout R1871 is in essence completed but awaits editing which has been unfortunately delayed. It is hoped that it will be finished in the immediate future. FOSI was successful in obtaining a further Coastcare grant of \$12,100 to put in place some of the recommendations of the Management Study. This is to include an area of Revegetation and the construction of some walking tracks.

A Coastcare application to fund a study of alternative stormwater management systems for Point Lookout, particularly systems that dissipate into the sand rather than discharge water onto ocean beaches was unsuccessful. This application was refused on the grounds that such a study should be paid for by the Redland Shire Council. We are currently trying to broker a meeting with the RSC to discuss the unsatisfactory arrangement of water being discharged onto Cylinder Beach with the view of FOSI and the RSC applying jointly for a grant from the Commonwealth Government Heritage Funds (Clean Seas) to remedy the situation.

FOSI was also part of a community steering committee which oversaw 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. The committee met several times and the consultant Hassel have produced a final scheme. While it does not allow for the full pedestrianisation of the road which many of our members would like, it is a vast improvement in the existing highway design. I must thank FOSI member Peter O'Gorman for attending the meetings and for his contribution to the process. The idea of pedestrianising Point Lookout is one that many members are very keen on and one that as a group we should take up in earnest in 1998.

FOSI has continued to attend meetings with CRL to discuss environmental issues arising from sand mining. The committee is thankful of the efforts of Sue Carew, Jani Haenke and Susan Martin for their attendance at these meetings. We received a blow to our efforts to reduce mining on the Island when the government abolished the Export Control provisions in the Customs Act. This was the control which was used to stop the mining of Fraser Island. We had been arguing that the Commonwealth Govt. should halt mining at Stradbroke Island because

environmental issues had not been satisfactorily resolved. Such pleas fall on deaf ears at the State Government level.

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 management of the accounts.

5. Secretary's report - Jani Haenke

In the last year FOSI's volume of correspondence increased making up 7ins of thickness on my shelves: 132 letters received, 37 sent, and 90 items were tabled.

We made submissions to 8 government departments, or their consultants. One or two matters are referred to us each month, not always directly connected with Stradbroke I., but some able to have a profound effect on the island even so. There was a Senate Inquiry into the powers of the Commonwealth in overseeing environmental conditions. Experience on North Stradbroke I. gave us the opportunity to oppose the current practice of handing back to state and local government responsibility for managing environmental issues. Until June the Commonwealth could enforce good behaviour on sand exporting companies because it issued the export licences. With the help of the Greens, we got Bob Brown to ask the Minister for Resources some pertinent questions in the Senate. Sadly, the mining company has not been stopped in its tracks, but there is hope that after it has gobbled up our sandhills there is the slight possibility that continued public pressure will make it improve the quality of its revegetation scheme.

Regional Forest Agreements have been done in other states, but the process is just beginning here. Ellie Durbidge has helped me put together some detailed reports on special forested areas of North Stradbroke I. These were joint submissions from FOSI and SIMO.

We don't get the impression that our submissions make a great impact on governmental decisions, but we hope that we are building up the credibility of the Association by making this effort. In our membership we have some expert opinion to draw upon, and I'm grateful to those on the committee, and others who have helped compile these statements, or written letters on esoteric topics.

Every year we get requests to join in beach clean-ups, World Environment Day and Bushcare activities. It's good that we can now

take on some of these projects with help from Bruce and Jan Johnman who have moved to the island after active involvement with Bushcare in Kenmore. That will make another batch of letters to act upon, rather than just table and feel remorseful about.

FOSI has been operating for 9 years now, and has got together committees of members whose individual interests help it cover a great range of activities. Many of us, but most particularly Susan Martin, are concerned about tree protection. After her contacting the Council, we have at last received some documentation on proposed legislation on this issue. We are particularly concerned about protection of the vegetation behind Cylinder Beach, which we've all seen affected by fire, cyclone, development and ineptitude.

One of our earliest campaigns was against the revocation of a section of the Myora Fish Habitat Reserve. The public outcry over that really embarrassed the government, and now ACI is looking at an alternative site for its loading facility: the Fish Habitat Reserve no longer has a scarring strip taken out of the centre of it! Public campaigning can have a positive outcome, so we are encouraged in our watchdog role for another year.

6. Treasurer's report - Edith Mc Phee

The auditor's statement was tabled and discussed. The association has a balance of \$4,942.55. It was moved that the financial statements be accepted. Michael Kennedy/Col Cunningham. Carried.

Friends of Stradbroke Island Association Inc.
Statement of Receipts and Payments 1/1/1997 to 31/12/1997

Opening balance -	4,490.86	
Petty Cash Float	50.00	4,540.86
Add Receipts		
Membership Fees	1,440.00	
Donations	543.60	
Art Show Entrance Fees	180.00	
Raffles	452.00	
Interest Suncorp A/c	0.31	
Interest Suncorp Debentures	40.01	
	<u>2,655.92</u>	
		7,196.78

Less Payments	
Annual Return Fee	30.00
Art Show Expenses	71.90
Bank Charges	10.60
Conference Costs- Coastcare	100.00
Courier Fees	6.05
pop Costs	30.00
Gifts - Legal Assistance	600.00
Insurance	345.28
Legal Fees	100.00
Memberships- Qld Cons	36.00

Newsletter	209.00	
Noosa Management Plan	10.00	
Photocopying	146.05	
Post Office Box Rental	10.00	
Photographs	30.95	
Postage/Stationery	357.45	
Programs	30.00	
Raffle Costs	119.95	
Search Fees	11.00	2,254.23
Closing Balance (97-001179-7)		1,942.55
Suncorp Debenture	3,000.00	\$4,942.55

7. Elections of Committee

The following were nominated for positions: Michael stood aside from chair; Ellie Durbidge accepted the position of returning officer. Nominations were sufficient to fill the positions so Bruce declared all those nominated as elected. The following positions were declared: President-Michael Kennedy, (L & D Blemmings) Secretary- Jani Haenke, (Redmyre/Kennedy) Treasurer-Edith McPhee, (Haenke/Kennedy) Committee: Susan Martin, (A Martin/B Martin) Sue Carew, (Kennedy/Cunnington) Jill Redmyre (Haenke/Kennedy), Bruce Johnman (Kennedy/Haenke). Col Cunningham (Kennedy/Haenke). Elizabeth Clouston (Kennedy/Haenke).

8. General Business

General discussion followed on a number of matters including;

- ◇ the inadequacies of the proposed tree protection legislation on crown land;
- ◇ the possibility of environmental damage being caused by the widening of the road at Myora;
- ◇ concerns about RSC making changes to the DCP without adequate community consultation; and
- ◇ the management plan for Reserve 1781.

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

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5.30pm.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Wildlife Australia magazine and the Queensland Museum are holding their annual photographic competition. Prizes are given in 5 categories, as well as the major prize of \$1000 going to the Wildlife Photographer of the Year. Winning entries will be published in Wildlife Australia, and displayed in an exhibition at the Queensland Museum in February 1999. Further information: (07) 3840 7614/ 3840 7602.

"Mother of Millions" *Bryophyllum* sp.

The Flora Study of Reserve 1781 by Mike Olsen has alerted us to the fact that there are hundreds of weeds (plants growing out of place) in the Reserve. This occasional

series in the newsletter will describe some of the worst interlopers.

Bryophyllum sp., some of the most common and fast proliferating weeds, are succulents thriving in inhospitable terrain.

They will grow in sandy or rocky soil, and without much moisture to succour them, so becoming a scourge in many coastal and a number of rural areas.

These plants are also highly toxic to stock. Like some other South African imports, they flourish in this climate and tend to supplant the natives.

New plants grow not only from seeds, but sprout from the ends of leaves, or broken stems.

Hand weeding is tedious, but at least the roots do not grow deeply, so individual removal is a

preferable form of eradication to mass spraying.

Beware, though, because a forest of seedlings can appear in an area previously cleared of plants.

Each gun-metal grey stem produces a shock of orange flowers, giving rise to its common name, "Mother of Millions". We cannot afford to be complaisant about its proliferation, so make sure to remove it roots and all, when we involve ourselves in weeding projects.



Jani Haenke

WANTED

BUSHCARE VOLUNTEERS

Some FOSI members and other island residents or home owners have expressed an interest in setting up a community Bushcare Group at Point Lookout.

Redland Shire Council has established about 20 such groups on the mainland and Bay Islands to care for and help regenerate local Bushland. Council support for their activities includes the provision of full time bushland regeneration experts (mainly contracted from Greening Australia), who assist train and supervise the volunteers. Other assistance is in the forms of supplying tools, consumerables, and covering

risks.

Bushcare activities are usually pleasurable and relaxing. They can readily be tailored to the abilities of those interested but less fit. Normally they involve the effort of a gardening session, while more rigorous activities are left to the very fit or assistance from the Council or community workers.

The Council's Nature Conservation Unit has a commonsense procedure for organizing groups. At least six Registered Volunteers are trained for each group. They need to be committed and prepared to put in about 4 hours per month. These volunteers will receive a training day on the Island in Bush Regeneration, and they have the status of volunteer Council Staff. Other helpers are welcomed as casual volunteers.

Our discussions with the Council have identified four areas in the beach front reserve for initial study, planning and work, and other locations are likely to be identified in the expert consultants' study of the Reserve. These are separate from where Council gangs are working, or where other projects are planned.

Help to regenerate the bushland! Contact Bruce Johnman, now living at 6 Yarrong Rd, Point Lookout, on 34409 8687 or 04417788852.7

Bruce Johnman

MORETON BAY COMMUNITY DUGONG WATCH

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland is concerned about the decline in dugong numbers in the southern waters of Queensland. They have decided to enlist the support of local communities to find out more about this vulnerable creature, and perhaps help the recovery of its population.

If you are keen to assist, the MORETON BAY COMMUNITY DUGONG WATCH has been established and a Dugong sighting record form has been compiled to assist in community research. These are available on Stradbroke from the Information Centre in Dunwich, the Store at Amity Point, and from Mrs Ellie Durbidge, Mintee St., Point Lookout. The record forms are accompanied by an interesting article on the dugong - its lifestyle, habitat, distribution and environmental threats.

Apparently the best time to see them in Moreton Bay is during the warmer months, and the best spot is on the Eastern side of the bay.

Recently they have also been sighted offshore from Wellington Point, in Redland Bay, and even in the ocean after emerging from the bay at Jumpinpin and coming north to Point Lookout! Dugong are killed and injured by speeding boats, and they are prevented from feeding by boat traffic. Many become entangled and drown in unattended nets and tie ropes set for fish and sharks. They need access to healthy seagrass meadows, which are, however, being affected by siltation, and pollution from urban runoff, agricultural practices, clearing and coastal development.

Moreton Bay's dugong population is estimated at about 800, and it is the only population of this

size known to exist so close to a major city. So after you have finished whale watching, move on to the dugong, record and send in your sightings, and you will be helping their survival. For web users, the following sites are recommended by the Wildlife Preservation Society-

Dugong Watch Web

-www.ddce.cqu.edu.au/dugong/home.html

For those of you who would prefer to speak to someone in person before you become involved the contact is:

WPSQ Bayside Branch, PO Box 427 Capalaba 4157. Ph: (07) 3822 4943/ 3206 0368/ 3821 1603.

Elizabeth Clouston

Michael Kennedy
105 Outlook Crescent
BARDON Q 4065

