



## The Friends of Stradbroke Island Association Inc., Newsletter No30 APRIL 99

*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

# FRIENDS FOR TEN YEARS

Friends of Stradbroke Island has now been in existence for ten years, so it seems worthwhile to restate the objectives for which the association was established and incorporated:

To maintain the unique characteristics of North Stradbroke Island by

1. ensuring that all authorities and individuals involved in developing the island
2. preserve these characteristics
3. continuing a working involvement with cultural and sporting groups on the island
4. and assisting them with future activities
5. encouraging research into understanding the island
6. producing informative literature on issues that concern the island.

In the light of these objectives and the accelerating pace of development, our full and varied agenda for 1999 demonstrates a continuing commitment to Stradbroke Island.

### The foreshore reserve at Point Lookout

Coastcare has provided a grant to FOSI for an extensive study and plan by landscape architects for the development of a carefully routed and unified walking track through the reserve from the pub to the lifesaving club. This study is currently under way, and we hope to continue the project with further financial assistance from Coastcare.

### Traffic

FOSI is pursuing with the Redland Shire Council the possibility of a full traffic study and plan for Point Lookout, with the aim of introducing traffic-calming and traffic-reduction techniques as employed in such beach resorts as Noosa and Byron Bay as they faced the pressures of development.

In relation to this, we await the presentation for community comment of the Redland Shire Council's final streetscape plan from Snapper Street to the lifesaving club.

### The Development Control Plan (DCP)

The DCP is a document that is crucial to the preservation of the character that attracts us all to Point Lookout, and we are fortunate to be the beneficiaries of one of

the more advanced instances of local-government planning in Queensland. The integrity and spirit of the DCP have been defended by FOSI through careful monitoring, submissions and objections, as well as in the law courts. We must continue this work.

### Minjerribah and Flinders Beach Studies

FOSI continues to monitor the progress of these studies. The reduction in the number of campers and in 4WD access to Flinders Beach is an initial positive outcome, and results partly from FOSI's input into the study. FOSI would like to see these restrictions increased to preserve the unique north-facing beach ecosystem of Flinders.

### Sand-mining

Sand-mining has caused a number of ecological disasters on Stradbroke, particularly the draining of perched lakes, flooding of sensitive ecosystems and massive land slips.

Because of the radical nature of the mining process, the impacts extend to significant flora and fauna and the very structure of the landscape, as well as road use and port facilities.

FOSI will continue to involve itself in monitoring these problems and drawing public attention to them.

It must be remembered that the other South-East Queensland sand islands were protected from sand-mining some years ago—our battle for Straddie continues.

### Water-mining

Large quantities of island water are used in the sand-mining process.

The Redland Shire Council also pumps a large percentage of its water supply by pipeline to the mainland growth areas.

FOSI wants a full environmental impact study of the total effect on the water table.

### Bushcare

Many members are active in Bushcare. This is to be applauded, and other members are encouraged to join in this rewarding and constructive task.

---

## LET US KNOW

The committee welcomes all feedback and information from members, particularly alerting us to town-planning violations that may otherwise go unnoticed. Any offers of assistance and/or expertise are most appreciated, and the committee looks forward to some millennial "new blood" in the year 2000 (no! don't you purists scream!).

---

## 1999 COMMITTEE

President: Sue Ellen Carew (ph. (07) 3870 9694)

Secretary: Col Cunningham

Treasurer: Edith McPhee

Other committee members: Jani Haenke, Michael Kennedy, Susan Martin, Bruce Johnman & Elizabeth Clouston.

---

## THANK YOU

After ten years as an acute and assiduous secretary of FOSI, Jani Haenke was voted to life membership at the AGM. Congratulations, Jani, and thank you for your years of dedication. Jani has made a vital contribution to preserving the character and environment of Stradbroke Island. We hope that she will continue as a leading light in FOSI.

Michael Kennedy is now enjoying some respite from his three years of hard work as president of FOSI. Michael's contribution has given a distinct shape to FOSI's aims, and his activity in the town-planning area has been a major "preservative" of the DCP at Point Lookout. Thank you, Michael.

---

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

This year we're trying to provide more of a forum for an exchange of information among FOSI members. In the past we've had some wonderful articles along the lines of nature notes from the observant naturalists among us. Let's extend this tradition!

---

## AN ITEM OF INTEREST

From the *University News*, 23 February 1999

The University of Queensland is the highest revenue-earner nationally in the federal government's SPIRT (Strategic Partnership with Industry—Research and Training Scheme).

\$50 000 was awarded to the Department of Civil Engineering for the "Development of a practical numerical procedure for the modelling and management of saltwater intrusion in complex coastal aquifer systems".

\$20,756 also goes to Civil Engineering for "Hydrological assessment of the perched groundwater systems on North Stradbroke Island".

*Is it too little too late?*

---

## FAUNA TALK

A dozen or so residents of Point Lookout were entertained, delighted and instructed for three short hours, last month (8 March), when Adrian Caneris, the Redland Shire Council's Wildlife Officer, gave a talk at the local hall on the island's fauna. He was visiting the island at SIMO's invitation.

Adrian held his audience engrossed with detailed information about everything from worms to whales—a kaleidoscope of facts delivered with infectious enthusiasm and the aid of a slide show.

His chief message was that Stradbroke Island is a precious reservoir of genetic diversity. Distinct faunal varieties live here, among them the famous golden swamp wallaby. But other species, such as the greater glider and the grey kangaroo, may also be genetically distinct from their mainland cousins.

If we are interested in preserving this reservoir, he gently urged, we would do well to:

- avoid importing mainland species to the island (for example, don't bring tadpoles, even if they are native species, because they may out-compete the Stradbroke natives or introduce a nasty disease)
  - resist the temptation to "help" the wildlife by well-intentioned interference, such as feeding (feeding encourages the aggressive species at the expense of the timid ones, and promotes deficiency diseases of various kinds)
  - concentrate on protecting habitat (Adrian suspects that the decline in the frog population is due not so much to the cane toad but to the loss of habitat)
  - keep our pets under control (it seems that the mutton bird colony, for example, has been all but extinguished from Camel Rock by foxes and by roaming cats and dogs)
  - plant genuine island species of vegetation in our gardens (our pandanus, for instance, could well be devastated by the infestation that is killing pandanus)
- 

## THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

After two fiery public meetings at Dunwich, the new residents' association is on its way to establishing its aims and objectives.

The ten-member "steering committee", with representatives from each of the three townships, have been discussing proposals to put to the next public meeting.

Word on the grapevine is that one proposal is to call the new organisation the North Stradbroke Island Community Association, and to include among its members non-resident rate-payers and people from the mainland with land-rights interests on the island.

---

## BUSHCARE

An enthusiastic team of Bushcarers meets at the Point on the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m.

The assistance of occasional visitors is warmly welcomed. The group's main aim is control and removal of exotic plants in the headland reserve, particularly



There are plenty of things to do that are appropriate to all ages and constitutions.

Farewell to the views of Cylinder Beach from the main road as the last storey goes onto the new units above Cylinder.

Now you'll have to  
detour to the beach to  
check out the waves.  
Once again, foreshore  
development infringes  
the rights of the public.

Check out the rear view  
of the "Whalewatch" resort from Samarinda Drive-  
bringing a 'touch of progress' to Point Lookout.

There's been some planting in front of the welter of battening that was needed to hide the pool and building foundations, but some substantial trees are needed to reduce the out-of-scale visual impact of the buildings.

CRL closed the Gordon mine at the southern end of Stradbroke in February, and trucks began moving equipment along East Coast Road to the Yarraman mine in March.

This will continue until the end of May '99. As well as "normal" and escorted oversize loads, there are some "police-escorted oversize loads". These are to travel between midnight and 5 a.m.

Meanwhile, CRL is continuing discussions with various bodies on alternative routes for mineral sand haulage from Yarraman later this year—20 return trips (40 truck movements) per day, 5 days per week. The Yarraman mine will operate until 2013/14.


Their "easy option" preferred route is the East Coast Road.

The three alternative routes in the centre of the island connect with the Tazi Road. Some of the problems, as they see it, are:

- Time would be needed to reach agreement with Quandamooka Land Council, since sections of these routes run outside CRL's leases.
- Two of the three routes run through areas proposed for national park (one runs close to Swallow Lagoon).
- Time would be needed to conduct environmental studies.

It seems inevitable that mineral sand haulage from Yarraman will begin along East Coast Road and continue until a decision is reached.

In October and November '98 there were "focus workshops" in the areas of:

- natural environment
- 
- social environment and community life
  - economy and employment
  - physical services and infrastructure
  - cultural issues.

Volunteers were called for to join "Reference Panels" that would identify issues and make recommendations in these areas. FOSI and SIMO were represented.

The Study Team collated these recommendations

and incorporated contributions from other community members. The final Reference Panel meetings were held in March.

**Future stages:**

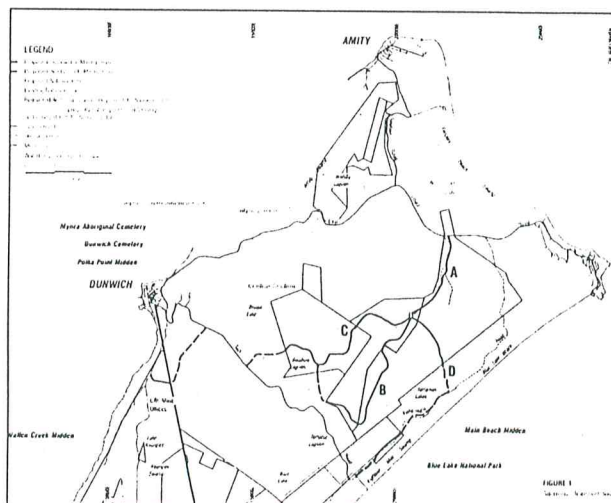
- Finalisation of Study Team reports by end of March
- Commencement of planning by Planning Team, and development of policies
- Community consultation
- Development of policy implementation strategies.

Policies must be achievable, with sound implementation strategies, and must be able to be funded.

Decisions on implementation rest with the Steering Committee (Redland Shire Council and Quandamooka Land Council).

Issues considered by the Natural Environment Reference Panel included:

- 4WD/beach management
- mining
- pollution
- water management
- tourism/population management
- vegetation/fire management
- feral animals
- weeds



---

Friends of Stradbroke Island Newsletter. If undelivered  
please return to FOSI, PO Box 167, Point Lookout 4183.