



The Friends of Stradbroke Island Association Inc., Newsletter No31 AUGUST 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
Secretary/Editor Col Cunningham. President Sue Ellen Carew 07 3870 9694

Threat to Timbin Rd Quarry Reserve

There seems to be no doubt that the Department of Natural Resources is considering rezoning the Quarry Reserve so that most of it can be sold for private development (leaving a damp bit for the tinkling frogs). FOSI has therefore lodged objections with as many people as possible in the relevant authorities, especially the Department of Natural Resources.

We urge members to write to Hon Rod Welford and to Mr Peter Leech of the Dept of Natural Resources and register their objections:

Hon. Rod Welford MLA
Minister for Environment and
Heritage and Minister for
Natural Resources
PO Box 456
BRISBANE ALBERT STREET Q 4002

Mr Peter Leech
Planning Unit
Dept of Natural Resources
114 Edward Street
BRISBANE 4000

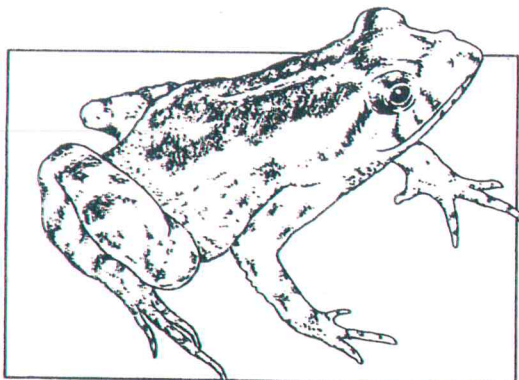
The following is the body of one of our letters to the Redland Shire Council which exemplifies our arguments.

We have learned with dismay that the Department of Natural Resources has plans in hand to remove the unused Quarry Reserve at Point Lookout from Redland Shire Council control and put it on the market for sale (in whole or in part) as a residential development site.

The members of this organization view the Quarry Reserve as vital to the preservation of the fragile natural environment of Point Lookout in the face of increasing development pressure – particularly along the foreshore. In summary:

The members of this organization view the Quarry Reserve as vital to the preservation of the fragile natural environment of Point Lookout in the face of increasing development pressure – particularly along the foreshore. In summary:

- The Quarry Reserve is specifically designated as "Future Community Facilities and Special Uses" in *Development Control Plan 3: Point Lookout* – Section 9.1(vii) – and therefore should be retained in public ownership.
- The Quarry Reserve "reinforces" and makes viable the buffer strip of natural vegetation provided by R1781 above Deadman's Beach. If any part were



Wallum Froglet - Drawing by Jane Van Dyck

converted to unit development, this would reduce vegetation cover and significantly impede fauna corridors.

- At present, buildings are not visible inland from Deadman's Beach at this point, and the view of wooded slopes sweeping down to the shore is one of the most treasured features of the Point Lookout settlement. Unit development would alter forever the character of this beach and severely impair visual amenity.
- The Quarry Reserve, as noted in the *Management Plan for Point Lookout Reserve R1781* of August 1998, is the site of
 - a geological unconformity that is an important educational and scientific resource
 - a population of the vulnerable wallum froglet, which would be unavoidably impacted by any unit development, whatever concessions were made to preserving a section of habitat.

We include herewith, for your information, draft wording for relevant signage that is currently being produced to inform the many visitors to this site.

- The seaward side of the Quarry Reserve provides parking space for visitors using the walkway to Deadman's Beach and this public access should remain unrestricted.
- Development of a unified track system throughout R1781, including a low-impact walkway down to Deadman's Beach, is being planned, and access through the Reserve is vital for this.
- The Point Lookout Bushcare Group and other interested bodies have plans for replanting with indigenous species appropriate to the Quarry site.

For these reasons, this organisation agrees with the expert recommendations of the above *Management Plan* that R2230 should be amalgamated with R1781, and our members will strongly resist attempts to convert any part of R2230 to residential/unit development.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could bear our concerns in mind in any negotiations

with the Department of Natural Resources on this matter, and do everything within your power to ensure that the whole of Quarry Reserve 2230 is retained in public ownership as specified in the Development Control Plan for Point Lookout.

And this is the reply we had (to a similar letter) from Sue Yarrow, Senior Policy Adviser in Rod Welford's office:

Thank you for your letter of 25 June 1999 concerning Quarry Reserve R2230, Point Lookout. My Minister, the Honorable Rod Welford MLA, has read your letter and asked me to reply on his behalf.

Officers of the Department of Natural Resources are currently investigating the appropriate tenure for the future land allocation of the Quarry Reserve, at Point Lookout. The Redland Shire Council, as trustee of the reserve, has indicated that the reserve is no longer required for quarry purposes.

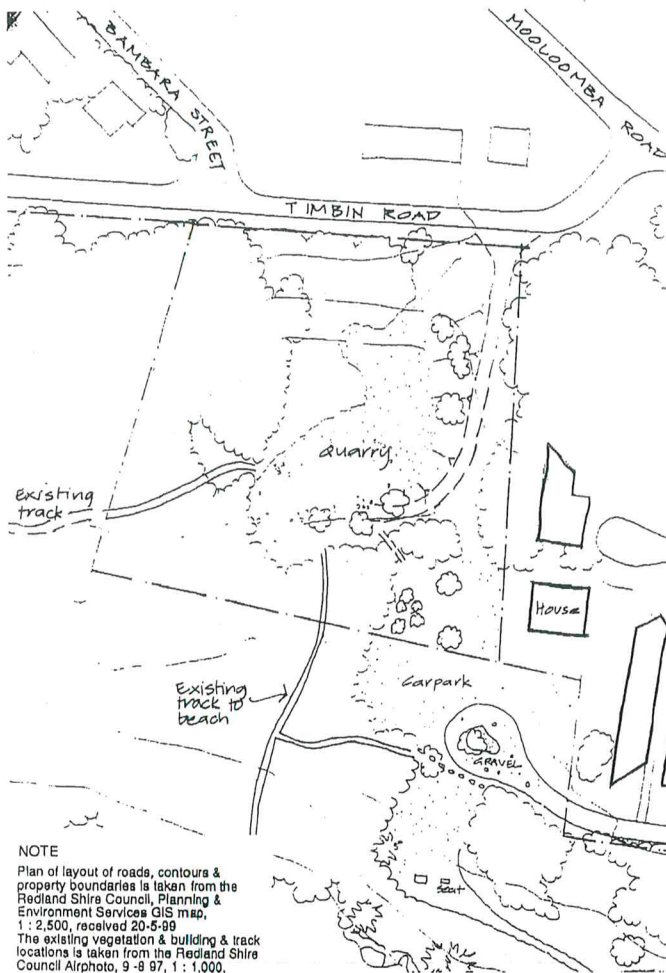
The Land Act 1994 requires that before land is allocated under the Act, the Chief Executive of the Department of Natural Resources must evaluate the land to assess the most appropriate tenure and use for the land. The evaluation must take account of State, regional and local planning strategies and policies and the object of the Land Act.

- *The Government Land Management System (GLMS) also provides policies and guidelines for the management of State property assets. If a property is deemed to be surplus to the State's requirements after a best use assessment, the property may be Planning objectives;*
- *Community land requirements;*
- *Development of the State; and*
- *Maximization of financial return."*

At this time officers of the Department of Natural Resources are still assessing the appropriate land allocation for the property and a decision to dispose of any part of the property has not been made. Future public use requirements will be considered as part of the process. If a decision is made to dispose of any part of the property the views of other

government agencies, Redland Shire Council and the community will be sought and considered.

The Minister thanks you for bringing this matter to his attention. Should you have any further inquiries, please contact Mr Ken Rogers of the Department of Natural Resources on telephone 3884 8020.



Drawing of quarry reserve by landscape architect Catherine Brouwer who is undertaking a landscape study of Reserve 1781 for FOSI as part of a Coastcare grant. The size of the quarry reserve as gazetted is deceptively large and extends eastwards towards the sea more than most people realize.

Beach Stone Curlews

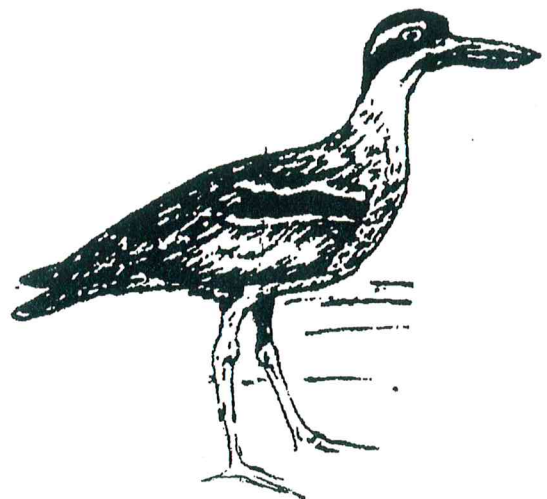
by Martin Waugh

These unusual and secretive birds, related to Bush Stone Curlews, have been sighted by several people on North Stradbroke on the beach between the South Passage bar and the

Amity rock wall. The Beach Stone Curlews can be seen during the daytime, whereas the Bush species are very secretive and well camouflaged. I almost stumbled on one lying down 200 yards behind the beach several years ago.

Beach Stone Curlews are about the size of a small domestic duck, with longer legs and prominent "knees", a large, heavy beak, a conspicuous white eyebrow, yellow iris and black eye patch. The thick knees in both species give them the alternative name of "Thick-knee", which is now widely used. Seen singly or in pairs, the Beach Curlews will often stand still for several minutes, except for intermittent teetering movements, as seen in some sandpipers.

My first encounter with Beach Curlews was on a family holiday 15 years ago in Yuraygir National Park on the NSW coast. At that time they weren't listed in the official Yuraygir bird list, but the sighting was later confirmed. They have been confirmed in Red Rock park (a breeding pair). Historically, greater numbers were seen going north through Queensland, but recent reports suggest that numbers are declining each year. Perhaps increasing human population and environmental pressures are affecting their habitat. I haven't seen any on North Stradbroke for 12 months or so, but recently I've heard the mournful nocturnal curlew sounds. Maybe there is still a remnant population here.



FROG REPORT FROM HARRY HINES

Frogs I heard at the Quarry (behind Deadmans Beach) last Christmas were:

Eastern Sedgefrog, *Litoria fallax*

Graceful Treefrog, *Litoria gracilentia*

Striped Rocketfrog, *Litoria nasuta*

Wallum Froglet, *Crinia tinnula*

Striped Marshfrog, *Limnodynastes peronii*

Cane Toad, *Bufo marinus*

(Harry Hines, son of Mike and Judy Hines, is with the Conservation Resource Unit, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.)

Update on the Community Association

As foreshadowed in the last newsletter, the residents' association has changed its name to the North Stradbroke Island Community Association, and membership is open to non-resident rate-payers and people with land-rights interests on the island. A full committee has finally been formed, with representation from all three settlements, and the association is fully operational.

The Redland Shire Council and the State Government are likely to regard the association as the islanders' voice, so FOSI members should seriously consider joining. Apply to: North Stradbroke Island Community Association, PO Box 159, Dunwich 4069. The membership fee is \$2 (or more for those who would like to make a donation).

Gloriosa Lily (*Gloriosa superba*)

by Jani Haenke

Like some other plants rampant in Australian bushland, this lily comes from Africa. It was the floral emblem of Rhodesia, but I do not know if Zimbabwe has retained it in this honourable category.

At Point Lookout it has escaped from gardens and is replacing the indigenous understorey of plants around the headlands. The yellow and orange flowers, which appear in summer, are very attractive, so pick great bunches of them when you walk around the bush tracks. At the same time, do your bit for bushcare by digging up (gently) and removing the tuberous roots.

Book review

by Janita Cunningham

Anyone interested in the environment of South-East Queensland will enjoy *Living with the Environment in the Pine Rivers Shire*, a 275-page full-colour book written and illustrated by teacher and environmentalist John Bowden for the Pine Rivers Shire. Don't let the 'Pine Rivers' in the title put you off – the book is jam-packed with information and ideas of relevance to Stradbroke Islanders, from geological and social history to lists of native plants with fire-retardant properties. There's bound to be a chapter on your own personal environmental hobby-horse, whatever it may be.

This is a book that tackles issues big and small. It gives the broad background information, including the impact of both Aboriginal and European society on the environment, and then goes on to deal with the problems that confront us now, giving practical suggestions.

The content is absorbing, the style is clear, the illustrations are bright and instructive – so the book is a pleasure to read. Buy a copy for \$10 from the Pine Rivers Shire Council.

Amity book launch

by Susan Martin

The book launch of *Amity – North Stradbroke Island*, compiled from Bob Gregory's memoirs, was held in the Amity Community Hall on 1 May. It was superbly hosted by the Amity Progress Association on a perfect island day.

The recently refurbished hall, which has seen so many years of community life pass through its doors, again stood witness to an important event in the long history of this small fishing village. The great public spirit of Amity people, which has marked its European growth from the pilotage in 1827 to the present day, was evident in the large gathering of locals. The photographs covering the walls tell the many stories of hardship, of camaraderie, and of achievement. However, as Rose Borey proudly stood to deliver the introduction, a hushed audience remembered her Myora people and their long struggle in negotiation with white settlers, which finally enabled them to stay on tribal land.

This recent publication of the island's history is the third work of the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum, following *Historic North Stradbroke Island* (1994) and *Moongalba* (1997). Tom Welsby wrote his account of early Amity Point from his own long, first-hand involvement in this community. A 'Bay man' from the last century, he knew Moreton Bay, its islands and its people as no-one else has done, either before or after his time. Many of the Aboriginal people became his friends, he liked and respected them, and he wrote down the many stories of fish and bush lore entrusted to him, sitting around his holiday shack at Amity, or on his visits to Myora. Now, through the hard work of editors Jenny Cooke-Bramley, Ellie Durbidge and Margaret Shields, and a life of recording by Bob Gregory of his times, a further continuous history of Amity and its people has been written. Where Welsby left off in 1922, Gregory has begun in 1938.

Keith Gregory launched his father's memoirs with several asides of his own, which drew much good humour from several of the local folk, all of whom had a memory to share. This made for a thoroughly memorable day that was

enjoyed by everyone. The one sad note was the absence of Jenny Cooke-Bramley, who will long be remembered for the tireless effort she made, during her lifetime, to gather the history of the island she loved, and of the community she served. However, like most people who knew Jenny, I cannot believe that she was not there in spirit, that her laughter was not tinkling through that crowded hall, and that from her resting place, looking across the One Mile, she is content with a job well done.

Whale-watching . . . the real thing

by Elizabeth Clouston

If you're heading over to Point Lookout for the school holidays, there's an excellent chance you'll see a Humpback Whale heading past Stradbroke. The majority passing Point Lookout are within 5 kilometres of the shore, and on average they are 1 to 2 kilometres out. If you are lucky, you can see many as close as



50 visitors whale watching at North Gorge, June 1999

300 metres off shore — for example at the Bombora or Sunken Reef off Frenchmans.

Dr Robert Paterson, Queensland's well-known whale expert and regular resident at Point Lookout, said early in June that he was seeing an average of 10 whales a day. He expected that these numbers would peak to about 40 or 50 a day by late June to mid-July. He explained that:

- 10 years ago a peak sighting would have been 10 whales in one day
- 20 years ago these numbers would have been amazing.

It is also heartening to find out that the Humpback Whale's population is doubling every 5 years. Last year, between 3500 and 4000 whales were sighted, and Dr Paterson expects at least this many to pass again this year. (In 1962, only 100 to 200 whales were seen.) He also suggests that there is an evenness in the number of whales heading northwards during the peak times, with 40 to 50 whales being seen almost every day, and this is a change from the patterns of the past.

Other interesting features of the whale's migration include:

- Only about 10 per cent of the whales are mothers about to calve; the majority are males, and there are also elderly whales of both sexes and young, newly pregnant females.
- No-one is really certain why the other whales head north, although the feeding conditions in the Antarctic are sub-optimal with diminishing hours of sunlight.
- Although the mothers and babies bond on their homeward journey, they remain fairly isolated from other whales whose bonding appears less definite.
- The behaviour of the remaining whales during their southbound journey appears more "social" than their northbound one, with plenty of circling and splashing.
- Dr Paterson pointed out that, although the whales must be hungry after months without food and with their blubber store depleted, they appear to be in no hurry to get home. They seem to wander about and spend more time in playful displays. The reasons for this are unknown.

So where are the best spots for viewing the migration of the Humpback?

At North Point try:

- North Head (Norm's Seat), where University of Sydney students are often seen hogging the best spot
- the main headland
- the lookout above Frenchmans
- the pub
- Cylinder Headland.

If you check out the information sheet at the Captain Cook Memorial across the road from the bakery, you will see a map that shows the relative courses of the whales' north- and southbound journeys.

What to look for?

- blows
- breaching
- tail-slapping
- rolling

These displays occur more on the southbound journey, which peaks again during the school holidays in September/October.

Keep a lookout for the white humpback, which Dr Paterson saw on 28 June 1998.

Moreton Bay Environmental Alliance

by Jani Haenke

The Alliance is an umbrella group of representatives from conservation societies around Moreton Bay, which meets on Saturdays, quarterly, from 10am to 1pm at Wynnum Central State School. The regular members are stalwarts of the Wynnum area and have overlapping concerns, which they have been working on together for a few years. Groups from Bribie Island to Jacob's Well are members, but distant ones rarely have reps at the meetings.

Jill Redmyre (who has just had to retire from the FOSI Committee) and Jani Haenke have represented FOSI and SIMO when they've

been able to, and would be pleased to hand this interest on to a member who lives closer to the meetings.

The topic that often recurs is water quality in the river catchments and Moreton Bay. It is of concern to the Bayside branches of the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), the Wildlife Preservation Society (WPSQ) and the Rivermouth Action Group (whose Barry Wilson shows all the terrier characteristics necessary to make authorities and slack operators take responsibility for what drains into the Bay).

John Dobson chairs the meetings ably and informally, and Mary Patchett, who is the Secretary, also produces a delicious repast for the lunchtime break. The Bayside AMCS and Coastcare have events at Wynnum Creek on 31 July, and a breakfast and clean-up at Lota Creek on 21 August. FOSI members are invited to join in, and also attend AMCS meetings at Manly with guest speakers in the first Tuesday in the month. For details, phone Diana or Mike Patchett on 3893 2332 or e-mail: patchett@powerup.com.au

New ACI silica sand mining leases and loading jetty

Outline Planning Consultants are preparing impact assessment studies for a proposed ACI sand-loading jetty at Dunwich and a new mining lease (ML 7064).

To surrender its Amity lease (ML 1132), proposed for a national park, ACI are seeking equivalent sand resources south of their existing operation. The areas sought are:

- ML 7064, east of Brown Lake and adjoining CRL's Vance lease

- ML 50135 and 50136 (the former pine plantation near Tazi Road), and the western part of the Pines area
- part of CRL's Vance lease not intended for mineral sand mining.

If successful in securing these resources, ACI intend to build a new haulage road from the Pines area, running south of Dunwich and then in to the new sand-loading jetty, which would be located on a site south of and adjacent to the existing CRL loading facility. This would involve reclamation of tidal and inter-tidal areas at the northern end of Adams Beach.

The new haulage route south of Dunwich would mean the eventual removal of ACI truck traffic from the East Coast Road and Dunwich itself. (At present, this runs at about 80 truck movements a day, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. six days a week.)

The Point Lookout streetscape

By Peter O'Gorman

The Point Lookout area is increasingly dominated by car traffic. It is in danger of undermining the traditional walking culture and destroying the visual amenity of the place. The knee-jerk reaction is to see the problem in traffic engineering terms rather than as a landscape opportunity.

The announcement in 1997 that the Redland Shire Council would prepare a master plan for the Point Lookout streetscape in consultation with a Community Reference Group was initially greeted with some scepticism. The appointment of Hassell Pty Ltd to act as the outside planning consultant was seen as a positive step. The move to address the views of the community in an integrated plan was greeted with some enthusiasm. To their credit, the Redland Shire Council seemed to be attempting to redress some of the heavyhanded insensitivities of recent years.

The points put forward by FOSI at the first meeting and supported by Hassell were:

- the desirability of dealing with public open space in a way that did not destroy the visual amenity of the natural landscape
- to recognise pedestrian needs as the main priority
- the need for traffic-calming generally
- minimisation of large consolidated areas of bitumen and the need to search for alternative surface treatments
- the provision of niche parking rather than large concentrations
- the protection of significant characteristics, such as view corridors, existing planting etc.
- rather than limit the Master Plan to what is possible at the moment, it is important to establish a long-term vision that could be implemented incrementally as future funds became available.

At the second meeting on 31 July 1997, Hassells presented principles as well as a number of options. These attempted to guide the provision of roads and parking in the area as, well as those for pedestrians. The process seemed to be working.

By the next meeting of the group (amazingly 22 months later, on 9 May 1999) those principles had been lost. The proposal presented by officers of Redland Shire Council was clearly oriented to priorities based on traffic planning and had missed the qualitative aspects of the 1997 proposals. What has happened in the intervening period? Has the engineering priority taken over from the integrated approach? Why did Hassells not present their final solution? Is this yet another example of the Redland Shire Council saying they will do one thing but actually doing something quite different.

Editors Note: The latest version of the Master Plan was to have been put on display at the end of May. Last we heard, however, It was awaiting State Government approval before this could happen

Fosi Objectives

The statements of the FOSI objectives in the last newsletter were mangled by the computer, so we restate them here in (we hope) the correct form. At the last AGM it was suggested that they should be thrown open for review. We therefore invite members' suggestions for significant and helpful modifications, if any, to be submitted before the next AGM.

To maintain the unique characteristics of North Stradbroke Island by

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

Earth Alive! National Biodiversity Month Sept 1999

The ongoing decline of Australia's species and ecosystems is probably our biggest environmental problem, but few people even know what biodiversity means. Help us turn this around, and promote what your community is doing to conserve our rich natural heritage.

For a National Biodiversity Month information kit, that includes an order form for free promotional and educational materials, contact the Community Biodiversity Network on ph: (02) 9380 7629, email earthalive@cbn.org.au.

The CBN needs people to put up Earth Alive posters in their local shops and other public places in August. If you can help please contact CBN.