



## The Friends of Stradbroke Island Association Inc.

Newsletter No. 46 January 2005

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

**MEMBERSHIP RATES, 2005: Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00 Concession \$5.00**

The postal address of FOSI is PO Box 167, Point Lookout Qld 4183

President: Michael Kennedy (07) 3369 8343 Secretary: Paul Vekselstein (07) 3409 8150

## FOSI Newsletters????

Our apologies for the scarcity of newsletters in 2004. Unfortunately, the FOSI committee's good intentions to produce regular newsletters during the year were sidetracked by other issues and activities. No such excuses this year! We promise there will be four — one for each quarter, in January, April, July and October.

The printing and distribution of newsletters takes time and costs money. To overcome this, the committee is considering

changing the newsletter from hard copy to an email format.

To gauge how members feel about this, could you please email your opinion to Edith McPhee at <emcphee@touchbase.com.au> or write to FOSI at PO Box 167, Point Lookout Qld 4183.

We urge all members to let us know how this newsletter should be produced in future.

## March 2004 AGM

A new FOSI Committee was elected at the AGM on 28 March 2004:

- Michael Kennedy, *President*
- Sue Ellen Carew, *Vice President*
- Edith McPhee, *Hon. Treasurer*
- Paul Vekselstein, *Hon. Secretary*

*Committee members:*

- Jani Haenke
- Maree Hanson
- Angela McLeod
- Elizabeth Clouston
- Janita Cunningham
- Judy Hines
- Julie Kearney

### ***President's report, 2003-04***

Uncertainties about the environmental future of South East Queensland and particularly Redland Shire have been magnified as its population approaches saturation point. In this context, Stradbroke Island remains one of the peripheral areas of high environmental values still delicately balanced and dependent on the concern and effort of small community groups such as Friends of Stradbroke Island.

Our work is not always appreciated by those who maintain a blind commitment to the juggernaut of progress and profit maximisation. Our successes this year are



probably tenuous and need to be defended vigorously in the future.

The Pub case finally drew to a close in September when the High Court of Australia rejected the developers' attempt to have the Queensland Court of Appeal's favourable decision rescinded. Thank you to our lawyers, Tom Quinn and Richard Carew, who defended our interests fearlessly and very generously once again. We await news of an alternative plan for the site and hope it finally complies with the Development Control Plan and other shire planning laws.

In October 2003, FOSI was also party (without financial outlay) to an Appeal in the Planning and Environment Court challenging the DCP compliance of a development in Cutter Street. This street is of particular interest to FOSI, as it is the only street in the Point in which houses are fully visible from the beach. We are committed to ensuring that any further developments in this street, already possessing two pre-DCP unsightly structures, comply with the law. The Court found that the development in question did not comply on various grounds. But the most significant aspect of the judgment was the finding that no more than one dwelling could be built on blocks less than 800 m<sup>2</sup>. Significantly, the vast majority of blocks at the Point are in fact less than 800 m<sup>2</sup>. There are very favourable implications for population density and therefore amenity and noise levels as well as the preservation of the visual character of Point Lookout.

FOSI members have attended workshops on the management of Flinders Beach. This beach has become a sand highway between Amity and Point Lookout, and we are seeking to have 4WDs restricted in their access. At meetings we have met vociferous opposition to this idea from some 4WD drivers who feel their individual rights are in jeopardy. FOSI's position is, in contrast, one of assuming responsibility for the preservation of this threatened ecosystem. Many of us recall the rich bird life of yesteryear, particularly oystercatchers and sanderlings, which are now rare visitors to Flinders.

After a so-called community consultation process with Redland Shire Council officers about the management of

Cylinder Beach, plans were announced for an intrusive sixty-vehicle carpark and coach turnaround — expressly against the wishes of the community. There was an immediate angry response from many locals, community groups and the Aboriginal community, who invoked the spirit of the Rainbow Serpent to help protect this precious area. On 4 January 2004, hundreds gathered in an impressive protest against the plans and in support of a pedestrian-friendly Point Lookout. The media exposure was particularly effective in the peak holiday period. The next month, FOSI and SIMO presented a petition of one thousand signatures to a Redland Shire Council meeting, with Michael Kennedy addressing the Council on our vision for Point Lookout.

Only a few days later another blow was struck for Cylinder's protection and that of the entire foreshore of the township with the Queensland Heritage Council's announcement of provisional heritage listing. FOSI had applied for this listing of the foreshore reserve three years ago, and we are greatly encouraged that Redland Shire Council will be required to act in an environmentally responsible manner in its management of the area. Particular thanks go to Michael Kennedy for his foresight and expertise in drafting the nomination.

To quote briefly from the listing:

*The Point Lookout foreshore is significant for the rarity and importance of the cliffs to the understanding and appreciation of geology in Queensland.*

*The foreshore is important for its outstanding natural beauty, offering a wide variety of land and seascape elements and views. The foreshore with its outlooks to the north and south [is composed] of a series of beaches, rocky headlands, gorges and rocks, areas of diverse vegetation and rugged water edges of rock ledges, blowholes, tunnels and reefs. It is an area of great diversity and aesthetic complexity and offers panoramic views of the ocean.*



Our next bit of good news was that Frank Bradley would not contest the Council election on 27 March 2004. Councillor Bradley has not only been an unsympathetic representative from an environmental perspective, but actively supported the hotel and Cutter Street proposed developments. This was revealed in correspondence on Council files, which was discovered during the legal processes. As we know, both of these proposed developments were found by the courts to involve gross breaches of the Shire's planning laws.

Today's news gives Division 2 to Craig Ogilvie — a candidate with a professed commitment to the Island. We can look forward to developing a dialogue with our new representative more in keeping with democratic principles.

Sand-mining continues, of course, but we can take some heart from increased monitoring of CRL's actions by the Environmental Protection Agency, thanks to FOSI and SIMO members' lobbying campaign. The EPA has now recognised

that the sorry history of environmental damage on and off mining leases must not be repeated and has adopted what appears to be a more rigorous process of regulation of mining activities. FOSI must continue to maintain the position that only a total halt to mining can save the increasingly rare and precious ecosystems of Stradbroke Island. We must place on our agenda for the coming year increased opposition to the planned mining of new areas of pristine bush on the Enterprise lease.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all committee members for their efforts in the past year. It does take a great deal of sacrifice to fit this sort of voluntary work into busy lives and the extra stress on occasion is often unwelcome, as we all know.

I look forward to continuing to work on the FOSI committee, perhaps in a different capacity, and to welcoming new and younger members to the organisation in the coming year.

*Sue Ellen Carew  
President  
28 March 2004*

## ***Pub redevelopment***

Michael Kennedy has been negotiating on behalf of FOSI since April 2004 with Andrew Foreman, the project manager for the hotel redevelopment. Discussions have been very positive and have reached what FOSI considers to be a good solution that has long-term benefits for the Point Lookout community.

Redland Shire Council is presently

preparing conditions for both parties' consideration before final approval of the redevelopment.

While it is premature at this stage to go into details, we think that the matter will be fully resolved very soon.

We hope to be able to bring you the full story in the next newsletter.

## ***New planning scheme for Redlands affects Point Lookout DCP***

A draft version of the new Redlands Planning Scheme was put on public display on 12 January 2005. Public submissions are open until 13 April 2005.

The new scheme incorporates the existing Development Control Plan for Point Lookout, which FOSI fought hard to have put in place in 1996, and which we think has been

remarkably successful in controlling the quality of development at the Point.

Unfortunately, preliminary perusal of the draft indicates that, in rolling the DCP into the new planning scheme, the planners have substantially diluted the strength of the DCP.

Included in the new scheme is the provision for dual occupancy on all allotments at Point Lookout, rather than only on allotments over 800 square metres, which is presently the case.

Also, dual occupancy developments will not have to be advertised if they fully comply

with the new scheme's requirements.

We will be examining the new scheme in detail and reporting to members before the April deadline, but at this stage we are **very keen** to receive members' feedback about the effectiveness of the existing DCP or their thoughts on the new planning scheme.

The new document can be viewed at the Redland Shire Council Office or at [www.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.redland.qld.gov.au).

Please direct your comments to individual committee members or Michael Kennedy at [m.o.k@bigpond.net.au](mailto:m.o.k@bigpond.net.au).

## ***Street lighting overkill***

Darryl Briskey, the State Member of Parliament for Cleveland, announced on 14 December 2004 that the State Government would be contributing \$146 885 towards a total cost of \$293 770 to improve the security of pedestrians on North Stradbroke Island. We understand this involves the erection of 8-metre-high lighting poles, with high-output sodium lights, every 30 metres along East Coast Road from Cylinder Beach to the Bowls Club.

It is understood that pressure for the installation arose from the misbehaviour during last September school holidays, and a request by some locals for increased lighting in the

area. However, the Committee feels the proposed solution is excessive, and more suited to a major highway than Point Lookout, where the night skies have always been such a beautiful feature.

We have written to the State Government and to Redland Shire Council asking them to review the level of lighting they intend to provide. If individual members would like to voice their opinion, they should write to Darryl Briskey MP, PO Box 795, Cleveland Qld 4163 or to the Hon. Peter Beattie, Premier and Minister for Trade, PO Box 185, Brisbane Albert Street Qld 4002.

## ***Reserve listing***

The Reserve at Point Lookout was permanently listed by the Queensland Heritage Council in August 2004. It was nominated for listing by FOSI in 2002, but the wheels of the Heritage Council turn slowly.

The listing includes the whole of the Reserve from the eastern end of Home Beach to Main Beach, currently excluding the old quarry above Deadman's Beach.

FOSI recommended that the quarry be listed as well, but its inclusion was deferred by the Heritage Council for future consideration.

We are following this up.

The listing of the reserve means that Redland Shire Council has to seek the approval of the Heritage Council for any work outside normal maintenance. The Heritage Council cannot approve any actions that would reduce the cultural heritage significance of the Reserve.

A copy of the listing citation can be found on the Environmental Protection Authority website at

[www.epa.qld.gov.au/cultural\\_heritage](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/cultural_heritage).



## **Noise from holiday rental properties**

A number of FOSI members, particularly those who are residents of Point Lookout, have complained about the noise from adjoining rental properties during holiday times. This is particularly so where development in close proximity consists of multiple dwellings.

While everyone accepts that a reasonable level of increased noise is inevitable at these times, FOSI is interested in feedback

from members. If enough members are having problems with excessive noise, FOSI will take up the issue.

In the first instance, make contact with individual committee members or Michael Kennedy at <[m.o.k@bigpond.net.au](mailto:m.o.k@bigpond.net.au)>.

Equipped with information from members, the committee can better assess the problem and decide how to respond.

## **Flinders Beach management**

In November 2004 the FOSI committee advised Redland Shire Council that it had decided not to support the Flinders Beach Draft Management Plan of September 2003.

This decision was not taken lightly, but FOSI believed that the document was fundamentally flawed because it made decisions about the management of the beach based on very inadequate research. We are particularly concerned about

- the lack of research into and discussion of the effects of vehicles on the beach
- the scant attention paid to understanding beach fauna
- the absence of any vision of how the beach might be used in the future; and
- a complete disregard of Aboriginal cultural values.

FOSI had high expectations that the Draft Management Plan would further the findings of the Flinders Beach Management Plan (Maher 1998). It does not. Instead it virtually ignores those findings. It does not discuss any of the issues raised in the earlier document, expand on its findings, or explore any new concepts.

FOSI believes that the Draft Management Plan is a work without scientific rigour. It should be abandoned until adequate research is available to support decision-making.

We have urged that this research be undertaken as a matter of urgency, and that, in the interim, RSC should put in place controls to safeguard the use of the beach and campgrounds during holiday periods.

## **Jet skis**

A number of members complained at Christmas time about jet ski owners' failure to comply with safety rules at swimming beaches at Point Lookout. FOSI is writing a letter to Minister Paul Lucas asking him to enforce the present rules for the use of jet skis — for example, the requirement for jet skis to be at least 60 metres from swimmers at all times.

The Minister is reviewing the situation and will be able to exercise increased powers from

July 2005, including the power to ban jet skis totally from certain areas. FOSI will also be addressing this aspect.

If you have something to say on the subject, we urge you to do it now. The Minister is taking submissions about the use of jet skis until 27 February 2005.

Email the Director (Executive Services and Compliance), Maritime Safety Queensland at <[jetskireview@transport.qld.gov.au](mailto:jetskireview@transport.qld.gov.au)>.

## 2005 AGM on 26 March

FOSI's Annual General Meeting is to be held at 2.30 pm on 26 March 2005 (Easter Saturday) at the home of Col and Janita Cunningham, 36 Booran Street, Point Lookout.

Members are urged to attend and to consider offering themselves for election to the Executive and the Committee, which would benefit from some new blood.

Nomination forms are available from Hon. Secretary Paul Vekselstein at PO Box 167, Point Lookout Qld 4183, or email Paul at [<vwz@bigpond.com>](mailto:vwz@bigpond.com).

We are hoping that Cr Craig Ogilvie, our newly elected Council representative, will be available to speak to us on the day about some issues of current concern.

### Membership Renewal Form 2005

Memberships for 2005 are due.

#### *Rates*

Individual member:	\$15
Family membership:	\$20
Concession:	\$5

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Phone: (home) .....

(business) .....

E-mail: .....

Amount enclosed: \$.....

Cheques to be made payable to FOSI and sent to:

The Treasurer  
Friends of Stradbroke Island Association Inc.  
PO Box 167  
Point Lookout Qld 4183