



Newsletter

Autumn 2006

SIMO was formed in 1978 by concerned island residents and visitors. SIMO members wish to ensure that Stradbroke Island's special environment and character are retained through wise development into the future.

In this Newsletter:

- CRL planning to sell 'surplus' sand to the building industry
- Island Museum acquires new building
- Fox control project
- North Gorge scenic amenity recognised
- Redland Planning Scheme approved
- Point Lookout walking tracks
- Wildlife encounters
- SIMO fundraising books: 'A Taste of Stradbroke' 'North Stradbroke Island'

AGM!

SIMO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday 5 August 2006
10.00am at the
Point Lookout Hall**

We look forward to seeing as many members and friends as possible. Guest speaker to be advised

Is it the beginning of the end for the island's sand heart?

At the recent Environmental Working Group meeting hosted by CRL to discuss mining operations, SIMO learned of plans to truck sand to the mainland to be sold to the building industry.

CRL states that it is capitalising on 'an opportunity to utilise a waste stream from our Enterprise Mine as a product'.

SIMO opposes this development, seeing it as opening the doors for other interested parties to take sand off the island to supply the growing demand for an increasingly rare resource.

CRL notes that it would be selling only the 'excess' sand. How can sand that forms the island landscape be in excess? Excess to what?

Although CRL offered those at the meeting the chance to respond to the proposal, it quickly became evident that CRL had already submitted its plans to the Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency. Another fait accompli?

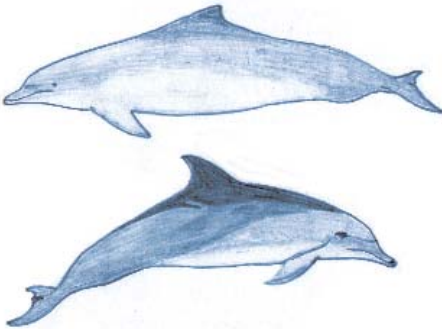
At last, the EPA stands behind its mining regulations

Perhaps the decision made last year by the EPA's Principal Environmental Officer to defect to CRL put a cat amongst the pigeons, because the EPA has now finally put in writing an indication of what it expects CRL to achieve in post-mine re-landscaping and rehabilitation.

In the Winter Newsletter we mentioned the issue of the 'disoriented' landform that CRL has constructed at the Ibis Mine. This 30 metre-high tailings landform has been placed directly across the valley where Mungaree Lagoon lies, boxing it in and cutting it off from the Ibis Lagoons drainage area. The new landform is oriented to oppose the prevailing south-east wind flow and the dominant south-east/north-west orientation of the ancient parabolic dunes in this area.

The EPA has reissued to CRL an amended Notice to conduct an environmental evaluation of this post-mine landform. CRL has appealed the notice in the Planning and Environment Court. The EPA will be defending its decision. No date yet.

Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphin and a Bottlenose



Wildlife Encounters

11.11.05

Last whales of the season, mother and calf, spotted off Frenchmans.

25.12.05

Five Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphins in Bathing Gorge. Two were mating, the others catching mullet.

12.2.06

Spotted a Beach Stone Curlew on Flinders Beach.

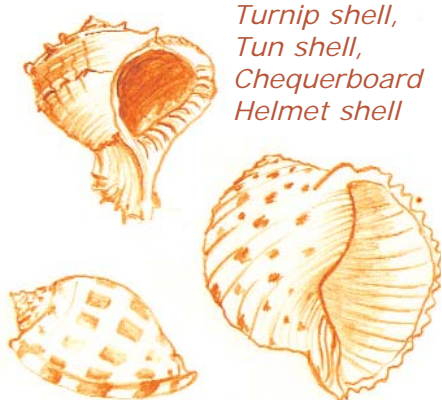
1.3.06

East winds and large east swells covered Frenchmans

2 *Beach with Salps, a clear jelly zooplankton up to 50mm with brown spots.*

5.3.06

*Category 2 low just east of Point Lookout whipped up huge swells averaging 7m, with a swell measuring 15m on the wave buoy. Lots of interesting seabirds – noddys, Caspian terns, shearwaters, petrels and skuas. Seas washed in large Razor clams, Tun shells and live and dead Helmet shells on Main Beach.
Jennie Truman*



*Turnip shell,
Tun shell,
Chequerboard
Helmet shell*

Museum's successful re-opening

The Stradbroke Island Historical Museum re-opened on a gorgeous autumn day following extensive building operations. The new building and exhibits, including a huge Sperm Whale skull, are fascinating viewing for tourists and locals alike.

Many will not remember that SIMO instigated the public meeting in the 1980s to discuss the merit of a historical museum for the island. The Museum was opened in 19xx.

...and another thing...

Speaking of things historical, I was looking through some old SIMO documents and found the file on the Stradbroke Island Water Watch Citizens Group. The Group was formed in 1986 to protest the imminent extraction of water from the island's aquifer by Redland Shire Council.

The co-ordinator of the Group was Gaye Barrett, wife of well-known Brisbane actor, Ray Barrett.

Twenty years on and water is being pumped from the island to supply the increasing population of Redland Shire. Approximately 40 megalitres (that's enough water to fill 40 Olympic-sized swimming pools) is leaving the island every day, providing some 70% of Redland's water supply.

This water is extracted from the island despite Redland Shire having no recycle/reuse or compulsory rain tank policy. In addition, precious water from the Shire's dam, Leslie Harrison, is released into the creek after heavy rain events because the Council has still not developed a plan to store or harvest it.

NSI Collaborative Fox Control Project

A fox control project across North Stradbroke Island has commenced. The objective is to monitor and control foxes as well as feral cats and dogs. The European Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is responsible for destroying native wildlife.

Members of the newly-formed monitoring group include representatives from the Department of Natural Resources, National Parks and Wildlife, CRL, SEQ Catchments, RSC, and the local community.

The group is currently examining the feasibility of employing a consultant to develop a monitoring plan. Meanwhile a pilot run of fox scats will be collected by CRL to identify their diet.

North Gorge views score a perfect 10

The SEQ Regional Scenic Amenity Study uses community research to define the characteristics of places which people consider are important. Governments use this information to plan for a balance between protected scenic places and residential and industrial areas.

One thousand people were shown various views. 98% of those surveyed gave our rocky coastal headland 10 out of 10 as their preferred view. The most disliked view was a rubbish dump, scoring 1.

Join SIMO

*SIMO welcomes new members.
Family membership is \$13.20 per year.
For further information and a membership application, please contact the SIMO Secretary, PO Point Lookout, Qld 4183.*

Traffic erodes the tradition of children's street play:

*David Engwicht writes in 'Street Reclaiming. Creating Livable and Vibrant Communities':
'...a belief has emerged that streets are for cars and that children have no right to use this space for play.'
His advice for making roads slower and safer is this:*

Let the kids play near the road.

Get rid of stop signs, centre lines and the clutter that goes in the name of traffic calming.

All these devices say: This is a space controlled by cars, this is a highly predictable space.

Feeling complacent, drivers speed up and set in motion a vicious cycle with an anti-pedestrian message.

What slows cars down is intrigue and uncertainty. Anyone for cricket?

Redland Planning Scheme approved/Mayor not

The latest CARP (Community Alliance for Responsible Planning) update notes that the Hon Ms Desley Boyle, Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women, has described the newly released Redland Planning Scheme as the most difficult in Queensland, generating 6500 submissions from concerned Shire residents.

The CARP update also cites a Channel 7 news survey conducted on 1 March 2006 showing that pro-development Mayor Don Secombe is the mayor most likely to be voted out of office, after Ron Clarke of the Gold Coast.

Point Lookout walking tracks

The informal and often hidden network of walking tracks threading throughout Point Lookout has been surveyed recently by Redland Shire Council in preparation for the installation of visually discreet signage and mapping to orient and inform visitors.

This is a welcome initiative, since it will encourage people to walk from place to place rather than drive. As locals and many visitors understand, the best way to experience the grand vistas and natural delights of Point Lookout is on foot.

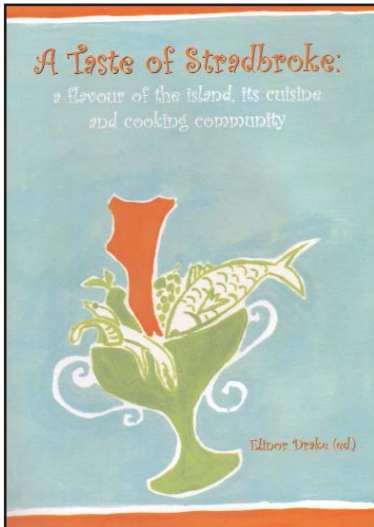
There are some tracks that are heavily eroded. These will be closed. In other places, tracks will be extended to link with existing paths.

SIMO is keen to see the Council's report on the Movement Study carried out in 2004. This study would reveal the extent to which Point Lookout has developed as a pedestrian township.

The increasing numbers of cars at peak tourism periods diminish the natural experience of the popular beaches and also constitute a noisy, intrusive and dangerous element throughout the town. SIMO hopes that the Council will undertake to ensure that the concentration and speed of traffic are both reduced.

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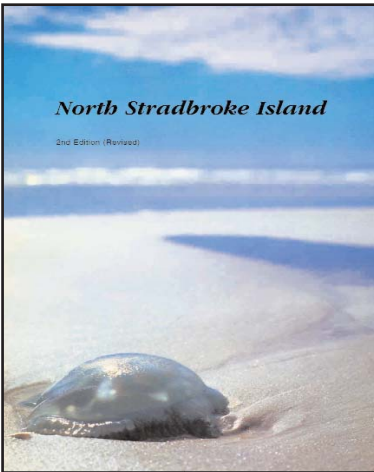


Island cookbook a financial boon for SIMO

Since being launched in December, Elinor Drake's *A Taste of Stradbroke* cookbook has raised a whopping \$5,900 for SIMO. This quintessentially island publication contains a great range of recipes and comments by islander cooks, as well as charming illustrations contributed by island artists. *A Taste of Stradbroke* evokes the authentic experience of Stradbroke as much as being a really useful culinary reference work.

SIMO sincerely thanks Elinor and her mother Alison. We intend to use the money raised by *A Taste of Stradbroke* to fund further scientific surveys and crucial water monitoring bores in key surface water runoff areas.

A Taste of Stradbroke is available for \$19.90 from the island newsagencies; alternatively, Elinor will post you a copy. She can be contacted on 3409 8546 or by email: edrake@acfip.org.



Jellyfish Book new edition

A reminder to SIMO members and friends that the revised and updated *North Stradbroke Island* book is available from the island's newsagents, or we can post copies to mainland members. Just phone our Treasurer Margaret on 3409 8131.

North Stradbroke Island – or the Jellyfish Book – was first published in 1981. Documenting the island's natural and social environment, the book quickly became a classic. The new edition of 2004 is a must-have for Stradbroke Island lovers, with facts on an amazing variety of topics including indigenous and European history, and lists of amphibians, birds, flora, shipwrecks and street names.

SIMO hopes that understanding the social and natural environment will provide a guide to planning directed at retaining the island's unique character.

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SIMO
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Lisa Iselin: *Casuarina on the Headland*, in *A Taste of Stradbroke*