



Summer 2007

Newsletter

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Islanders' relief and joy

With the water take on hold, this might be the happiest SIMO Newsletter yet:

Dancing in the streets in order I think...Craig O

what a great day. Jan Aldenhoven

Great news – congratulations to all that worked so hard on this, Bern

a great result – well done to all. Deb and Richard Dunn

Hurrah! Great news....what a relief, at least for now! Thanks for passing on the Good Word. Love Elinor Drake

SIMO was formed in 1978 to stop a bridge from the mainland. Since then, SIMO has engaged in many campaigns to protect Stradbroke Island's environment and to lobby for conservation, sustainability and wise development.

Premier puts extra water extraction on hold

On October 11, Premier Anna Bligh called a halt to the proposed additional extraction of 22 megalitres/day from North Stradbroke Island; and she instructed the Department of Infrastructure to accelerate investigations into alternative sources of water for SEQ, notably desalination and recycled.

The news of the island's reprieve came as a wonderful surprise. The Premier had heeded scientific advice confirming that the drought-hit aquifer is less full than expected. Taking more water could risk long-term damage.

Ms Bligh said: 'The fragile environment of North Stradbroke Island is too important to take a chance, and it is increasingly likely it is a chance we don't have to take.'

She said that the State Government had made good on its promise to listen to the concerns of island residents, and acknowledged Phil Weightman, MP, who lobbied the government to rethink taking the water. Cr Craig Ogilvie, too, from the outset has been a vigorous champion of the island's aquifer.

Thanks from Water Action Group convenor

'...The island's environment has had a reprieve from extra water removal but we should all be aware a proper Water Resource Plan, Environmental Impact Assessment and whole of island groundwater model need to be completed so that we might know more about our precious island and its lifeblood, water.

'I can't thank enough all the people, wise and committed, who helped in their own ways to bring about this decision. I salute the Premier, who proved true to her word of protecting the island. I pay special tribute to our MP, Phil Weightman, who absorbed the arguments, balanced the interests and saw too how dangerous was this proposal. He has proven himself a responsive, committed, intelligent and fair dealing Member of Parliament who did his job – representing his constituents.

'Thanks too should go to those who reached across to join black hands with white to fight this campaign together. We all know that who loves, cares for and finds their soul in the island is not limited. A sincere thanks to Darren Burns, the QLC and the Elders, to Dale Ruska and every other indigenous owner who pitched in.

'Thanks also to the folk of SIMO and FOSI, seasoned campaigners not easily deflected from a right course. Score this round to our corner.' *from message sent by WAG convenor, Sean Hogben*

It was announced in a press release by Anna Bligh's office yesterday that this is not going to proceed. A triumph for common sense.

I'm delighted, as I'm sure everyone on Straddie is.

Kind regards, Kathy
Kathy Stephens
Senior Botanist,
Botanical Sciences,
Queensland Herbarium,
Environmental Protection
Agency

Commonsense, albeit in the face of hard scientific evidence, has prevailed at long last and do we detect in the government a will to preserve that fast-dwindling commodity known as natural beauty? Three cheers for our lovely island!
Susan Martin

Just got the news from Sean who called me. It's great! I like your phrase, "let's dare to hope that it's in the form of learning more about what makes this extraordinary and precious island tick." Gil Scrine

Wow! Well done to all of WAG! Kate Johnston,
SIN Editor

From the sidelines joy and gratitude. Congratulations to those who helped to obtain the reprieve. I can only keep cheering you on and be a number when you need one.

Kay, Murri Ministry

Congratulations!
This is wonderful news!
Well done all those involved!
Kindest regards,
Kathy Townsend,
Marine Research Station,
Dunwich

Congratulations on this wonderful achievement.
Ian Bell Bribie Island

Water Resource Plan goes ahead: Community Reference Panel appointed

The Water Resource Plan is going ahead. Its task is to set out the principles of sustainable management for the aquifer for the next ten years. The WRP is expected to be completed some time in 2008.

The WRP determines how much water is in the aquifer and sets the rules on how much water can be taken out over time. It may not be as simple as setting a volume per month or year. There may be trigger points, such as *if water levels fall to level x, pumping has to cease*. Determining how much water can be used and when, without causing irreparable damage to the environment, is a balancing act. Defining irreparable damage is also a challenge.

The WRP takes into account social, economic and cultural as well as environmental values.

As part of the WRP process, a Community Reference Panel has been appointed by the Minister: Dr Jan Aldenhoven (SIMO, FOSI, WAG), Don Baxter (President Birkdale Progress Association, Bayside Wildlife Association), Darren Burns (Quandamooka Land Council Aboriginal Corporation Bay Islands, Quandamooka Family Representative Native Title Steering Committee), Jackie Cooper (president SIMO), Gavin Costelloe (Quandamooka Land Council Aboriginal Corporations Bay Islands, co-ordinator of Quandamooka Land and Sea Management Agency), Anthony Dillon (Quandamooka Land Council, South-East Queensland Traditional Owner Land Sea Management Association), Howard Guille (community member), Troy Kaspar (Redland Shire Council Water and Waste), Danni Rago (Unimin), Paul Smith (Consolidated Rutile Limited), Jennie Truman (SIMO), Paul Vekselstein (FOSI).

The CRP provides input into the WRP in the form of the views and priorities of its members, and is also the conduit for community views, attitudes and concerns. The panel will define the guiding values and principles for the WRP. However, it has no decision-making capacity.

On 1 November the CRP met for the first of 5 meetings. Department of Natural Resources and Water staff attended and advised the panel about the scope of its work and responsibilities. We are still far from having the necessary information to fully understand all aspects of the aquifer supply and the complex interconnected environmental systems, but we are becoming more knowledgeable.



Don Baxter and Jan Aldenhoven Right: Danni Rago, Howard Guille and Jennie Truman at the first CRP meeting

Our initial debate ranged over definitions of 'sustainable'; the problems of population growth in SEQ (although what the WRP ultimately decides will be driven by assessing what is sustainable on the island, not by the supply needs of SEQ); how Native Title will affect water licences; monitoring of the aquifer and where data are scarce or missing; whether or not freshwater flow has decreased into Swan Bay, the difficulty of measuring flow there, is the bay silting up? have fish stocks been affected?; development of the

Excellent wonderful terrific news. Congratulations to everyone for hard work so well done and for a top effort sustained over these hugely demanding times in the life of North Stradbroke Island.

A wind shift indeed. I trust the good ship NSI may find herself in kinder waters! Good luck crew – Allister Gee

Fabulous news! Can't believe it – I'm quite relieved. Well done to you all. This just confirms to me how serious the threat was. Yayyyyyyy!!!!!!!!!!!! Lucy Trippett

Absolutely wonderful news! Thanks for letting us know. Regards. Jan Smith.

Let's tell it the way it is. Your committee has been at the coal face for the good of this Island and the Island is indeed grateful. The local member is also a star for his stand and Anna Bligh, well, she has caved in to the onslaught. Personally I can't thank you enough. best wishes Robbie Zutton

What excellent news about the announced moratorium on water extraction for Stradbroke Island. Well done to all the Straddie activists!! Jo Bragg, Environmental Defenders Organisation

SIMO thanks everyone who pitched in and wrote letters to save the aquifer. Specially we thank FOSI, the NSI Labor Party branch, and not least, Simon Baltais.

Stay in the loop
Add your email address to our information list to receive updates about future meetings of CRP and progress of the WRP. Send your details to ume@umemagazine.com

all-of-island groundwater model that will set the baseline for the WRP.

We hope many islanders will become involved and send the CRP their views for the WRP. Please contact us via SIMO.

Equally important, we are also seeking observations, stories, information, photos about the island's water bodies, creeks systems, flows to the sea, vegetation, water birds, wading birds, information such as the Swan Bay observations of low freshwater flows – and any environment feature that could be relevant. A lot of significant information about the aquifer is held in the memories of islanders who recall how things were ten, 20, 30 years ago, or have a particular observation to offer. We can pass on information to the NRW scientists for further research (photos would be scanned and returned). *Jackie Cooper*



Swallow Lagoon, 1986, from Gail Bell's family photo albums

Scientific talks on island freshwater ecology

Dr Jan Aldenhoven arranged a second day of scientific talks about the island's aquifer. At the first day of talks, held in October, Leon Leach from NRW spoke to a packed room at the Moreton Bay Marine Research Station in Dunwich about the island groundwater model that he and his team are refining and developing to inform the Water Resource Plan. On 19 November, five scientists spoke about freshwater ecology. Once again, a good crowd rolled up for the day.

Professor Angela Arthington from the Australian Rivers Institute at Griffith University is a specialist in the ecology of freshwater lakes on SEQ dune islands. She knows Stradbroke well, and first conducted research on the island in the 1970s. Most of her work has concentrated on the lakes, which typically support a range of invertebrates, fish and frogs including threatened species. Two of these are the ornate rainbow fish and the endangered Oxleyan pygmy perch, found in Blue Lake, several creeks and Eighteen Mile Swamp.

Threats to dune lakes include hydrological alteration (such as reduced stream flow, change of groundwater inflows and water levels); habitat disturbance, alteration or loss; nutrient enrichment; motorised boating; and introduced species.

Many present were able to reflect on the extent to which the island's lakes and waterbodies have suffered from several of these vicissitudes. Mining operations have altered stream flows and punctured perched lakes, leaving them permanently drained. Water craft on



The typically undercut edges of Blue Lake are prone to erosion. The level of the lake has been stable for a long time according to past hydrological records and recent pollen and sediment studies by NRW, says Prof Arthington. In 60 years there has been no more than 0.5 metre change in the water level. If the level were to drop, the undercut banks could collapse.

Fauna and flora in Blue Lake are a result of the long-term stability which they are now dependent on. Any radical change in water level or flow could alter the plants and animals significantly. Most of the important habitat for the biota is in the aquatic plants around the shoreline. Drastic change in water levels would impact on this zone greatly.



The pumping facility at Herring Lagoon in Eighteen Mile Swamp, from which both Redland Shire Council and CRL extract water on a continuous basis, each organisation taking turns so that the water level does not drop below a trigger point at which pumping must cease – which from time to time does occur.

Brown Lake have deposited a lasting legacy of polyaromatic hydrocarbons in the sediments of the lake, at dangerous levels; and the ecological effects of these chemicals have not been studied. Boat launching has eroded the bank and destroyed littoral vegetation, fuel spills have occurred, and 4WDs have trampled the terrain. Motorised craft are no longer allowed but the damaging effects persist.

Blue Lake too has suffered. Rising nutrient levels have increased the algal growth on reeds. Access to the lake is now restricted, but we are yet to define tolerable levels of nutrient enrichment inevitably caused by swimming. Blue Lake has also been infested with the alien pest species, *Gambusia*, which competes with native fish, especially the rainbow fish. How the *Gambusia* got into Blue Lake is not known, but mining trucks used to cross a fast-flowing stream, turning it into a big shallow pool that teems with *Gambusia*, and from there the fish likely travelled up the stream and into the lake.

Kathy Stephens from the Queensland Herbarium has studied the flora of Stradbroke extensively and her much-anticipated book on the subject will be published in 2008. Three different land zones are found on the island: quaternary marine clays supporting mangroves and saltmarshes, sand masses, and rocky headlands. These land zones support 18 regional ecosystems, or plant communities. A quarter of the island is *Eucalyptus racemosa* woodland (scribbly gum); another quarter is cleared. There are also mallee, swamps, heathlands, sedge lands and small pockets of rainforest.

Twenty per cent of the island's flora is in groundwater-dependent ecosystems; these contain most of the rare and endangered plant species and provide habitat for rare and endangered animals including the false water rat, wallum froglet and koala.

Groundwater-dependent ecosystems are affected by fire, over-collecting of rare plants, weed infestations, drought, flooding, water extraction and development.

There are 15 rare and threatened plants, some of which have not been seen for years. Ms Stephens is especially concerned about the *Olearia hygrophilia*, the swamp daisy, a sprawling shrub that grows to a height of two metres, and is one of two endemic species found nowhere else in the world. With only 12 known plants remaining, the daisy is at high risk of extinction.

There are just two populations of the submerged aquatic spikerush, *Eleocharis difformis*, which grows in freshwater lakes; although this may recently have been discovered on Moreton Island.

Endangered, but not endemic to Stradbroke, are the *Phaius australis*, the swamp orchid, which grows in several places on the island; and the *Phaius bernsayii*, the yellow swamp orchid, of which there are ten plants left.

Vulnerable species include the tiny Bauer's wattle, the soft swamp fern, hairy-joint grass (last collected in 1915), smart weed (one collection recorded but no longer growing in that place) and toadflax, recorded in 1904.

Rare plants such as Christmas bells, last recorded on the island in 1915, have all gone, the prize of avid collectors. Ms Stephens suggested that it would be good to reintroduce this plant to the island.

Dr Alison Specht outlined her research into Eighteen Mile Swamp, which commenced in 1988 and is the longest-running coastal wetlands monitoring program of its kind. She was commissioned by Redland Shire Council following the decision in 1987 to extract water from the aquifer. Her latest report was submitted in 2006.

Eighteen Mile Swamp appears to be a floating peat bog in parts, and a back barrier swale swamp; it is quite young: 4000 years old. Dr Specht established five vegetation monitoring sites on the east side



Kathy Stephens and Professor Angela Arthington



Chairwoman Judy Hines introduced speakers and moderated questions from the floor.



Mike Hines washes up during a coffee break, while Howard Guille lends moral support. Much effort by many people went into organising the day. For making cakes and biscuits we thank Judy and Mike Hines, Lorraine Winchester, Lucy Trippett (who also provided the great coffee), Varena Oxlee and Jan Aldenhoven. Lucy set up the morning and afternoon teas. Many helped with washing up, including Fran Quinn, Jennie Truman, Susan Martin and Glen Carruthers. Jan would like to thank Jackie Cooper for her role in organising the talks. In all, the community put in a grand effort for an important day of learning.

of the Swamp, and five along the west side, as well as three at Herring Lagoon when extraction commenced in 1992. She has also made hydrological assessments and analysed satellite images of the Swamp which provide data going back to 1983, pre-extraction.

A founding hypothesis was that melaleuca is an invader and a good indicator of the water table; and in recent years the increase of growth in melaleucas in the vicinity of the pumping facilities at Palm Lagoon and Herring Lagoon suggests disturbance in those areas.

The objective of the monitoring has been to discern change. Most of the western side of the Swamp shows no substantial changes since 1988. However, there are large colonisations of tall woody plants along the eastern side resulting from revegetation of dune blows to stabilise this side of the Swamp carried out by AMC, the company that mined the foredunes in the 1960s and 70s, and the changes were probably exacerbated by a fire in 1992.

The activity of the vegetation discerned through satellite imagery has increased on the island in the last few years, more so in the Swamp than in dryland areas. This has not, as yet, been reflected in the monitoring transects mentioned above. Caution must be applied in the interpretation of such data, as change is often difficult to attribute to any single cause. Is it due to changing water levels, to climate change, to drought, to the delayed effects of the 1992 fire, or a combination of all these factors?

Dr Jon Marshall and **Dr Glenn McGregor** are NRW ecologists who have studied Stradbroke Island for some 20 years. Their current research is undertaken through bathymetric surveys and habitat mapping. The boomerang-shaped Blue Lake is a water table window lake with some dune barrage lake features. It holds 498,000 megalitres, and has a maximum depth of 10.7 metres. Inputs are from both groundwater and surface flowing creeks. Amazingly, 17,300 megalitres per day flow out of Blue Lake into Eighteen Mile Swamp; and the entire volume of the lake is recharged every 29 days. Yet the water quality and lake level have been stable for the past 7400 years.

Biota surveys and genetic assessment indicate that Blue Lake is unique. Bore data from the bottom of the lake show no traces of post-European signature, something the scientists have not seen in any other of the 200-odd Australian lakes they have studied. Stone fly, a species associated with high altitudes and fast-flowing cold water, and never before discovered at sea level, is found in the Blue Lake overflow. It seems that this lake is very special for many reasons.

Isolated populations differentiate, and many aquatic species on the island have developed highly significant genetic structuring from species on the mainland and other islands. Within Stradbroke there is a sharp genetic break between the eastern and western sides, implying isolation over millions of years. This has resulted in some species in Eighteen Mile Swamp becoming differentiated from the same species in the western side of the island. This genetic cleavage is a puzzle for the scientists. It is a further compelling argument for preserving Stradbroke Island for future scientific research.

On 1 December we heard **Dr Delton Chen**, author of the island groundwater model (2003). The groundwater mound (aquifer) moves up and down depending on rainfall. Recharge under the larger dunes occurs only with heavy rainfall events. Data at the time of the Chen report indicated that larger island dunes needed around 100 mm per day and up to 400mm rainfall in a month for major recharge to occur. Bore data show that the cyclonic rain in 1974 gave the island its best recharge since records began. During dry times, the water level in the aquifer falls. Analysis of recharge since Delton's 2003 report will be most interesting given the current drought. *Jackie Cooper*



Details of the new Welcome to Minjerrabah mural at One Mile painted by Salt Water Murris Quandamooka Inc, sponsored by Redland Shire Council

Right: Lingbya blooms around Moreton Island. This image was taken by the Tangalooma Island Resort helicopter, 27.11.2007. No dugong were sighted near the blooms, but dugong were seen further south on sand banks not affected by the algae.

Save Moreton Bay campaign

'The first time I looked into a turtle's face I was trying to get a hook out of it. My Hook.' So said Tim Winton at a fund-raising Art Auction held recently in Brisbane to help Save Moreton Bay. Today Tim is an ardent supporter of marine life and the patron of the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), one of the organisations spearheading a campaign to protect Moreton Bay. Less than 1% of Moreton Bay is currently protected, which is extraordinarily inadequate when compared with the protection levels of other valuable marine ecosystems such as the Great Barrier Reef, which has 33.4% set aside in green zones. The Australian Institute of Marine Science stated recently that some species of fish in the Barrier Reef green zones have increased in abundance by 60% in the last two years. It is widely believed that creating no-fishing reserves has positive spill-over effects into non-protected areas, with fish stocks increasing in surrounding areas as well.

The United Nations recommend establishing 'no-take areas' which cover 20-30% of each marine habitat type by 2012. Both AMCS and the Queensland Conservation Council believe it is time that these standards were applied to Moreton Bay.

Moreton Bay is experiencing pressure from extensive coastal development, increased pollution/run-off, boat traffic and increased fishing activity. Up to 200 turtles are found dead in the Bay every year, killed by boat strikes, nets or ingested plastic bags. Under the current protection levels there are no safe havens for species like dugongs, dolphins, whales and turtles. The push is to get the Queensland government to protect at least one third of Moreton Bay Marine Park in 'green zones'. These should be mapped out to cover various marine habitats throughout Moreton Bay considered precious or under threat, plus areas frequented by species such as dugongs, turtles and migratory birds.

For the last eight months the government has been carrying out a review. The EPA has met stakeholders and a draft plan has been written, to be released to the general public probably in the first week of December (see below). This is the stage at which it will be crucial for conservationists to be heard, as this is when the government decides exactly how much area to set aside as green zones.

At present, the pro-fishing bodies seem to be louder than those wanting protection. If the government bends to the will of fishers, the areas set aside could be very small indeed. AMCS has suggested that a meeting between them and all the conservation groups on the island happen after the draft is released, to see what can be done.

According to AMCS, 'Moreton Bay is the only place in the world where significant populations of dugongs and turtles can still be found close to a major metropolitan centre.' We have to try to keep it this way. To stay abreast of the issues and to help, please visit www.savemoretonbay.org.au *Lucy Trippett*

STOP PRESS: 2.12.2007

The State government has announced an increase of the green zones to 15%, not the 30% needed to protect key habitats.

Send submissions by 7 March

www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/marine_parks/moreton_bay_marine_park_zoning_plan_review/



Wildlife Encounters September 2007

A Japanese Devil Ray washed up on Flinders Beach. Only the third recorded in Australian waters.

10.10.07 Manta Rays back in town, and some very big Eagle Rays feeding off the rocks around Camel headland. Massive Black King fish hanging around the Rays.

18.10.07 Thousands of By-the-Wind Sailors washed up on the beaches after easterly winds. Just looked like someone had painted a blue line on the beach.

These creatures, along with bluebottles, occupy the narrow zone on top of the sea called the Blue Layer; they are planktonic, travelling with the winds and currents.

7.11.07 Flocks of Short-tailed Shearwaters have started to stream south through the Group on their way to their breeding grounds in Tasmania. Eighteen million birds arrive each season in Tasmania where there are 167 colonies. They fly south 15,000 km from the Arctic in about six weeks.

16.11.07 Still seeing a couple of Humpback whales a day – mainly mothers with their calves.

Jennie Truman



This giant fish – does anyone know whether or not it is a cod? – was well and truly stranded for some time before it was encountered on Main Beach in early October.

Roadworthy: slowing the road through Point Lookout

Slowing the speed of the road has dragged on for years. The sticking point is Redland Shire Council's refusal to take over ownership of the road. Lately DMR has written again to the Council:



9 October 2007

Department of Main Roads

Chief Executive Officer
Redland Shire Council
PO Box 21
Cleveland Qld 4153

Attention: Susan Rankin

Dear Sir/Madam

STRADBROKE ISLAND BEACH HOTEL REDEVELOPMENT

As you would be aware the Stradbroke Island Hotel has recently been redeveloped. Main Roads, as a Referral Agency placed conditions on the development which included the upgrading of the state-controlled road in the vicinity of the hotel to conform to our current standards in the existing speed environment. The final design will need to include pedestrian islands, street lighting and road widening. The developer is producing a final design to be approved by Main Roads, however is retaining completion due to concerns that the works will dissatisfy local residents. Currently Main Roads is holding a bank guarantee for the estimated value of the uncompleted road works.

Main Roads understands that the upgrading of this section of road has the potential to upset many of the local residents and visitors to the island who wish to protect and enhance the island's relaxed way of life and quiet village atmosphere.

Representatives of Friends of Stradbroke Island (FOSI) have indicated support for the roadworks not proceeding. Likewise heavy opposition indicates Cr Ogilvie is not in favour of the roadworks, including road widening and increased street lighting.

I would like to propose a meeting to discuss the remaining provision to a local government road of the final short section of state-controlled road from Trancean Street heading to the eastern side of the island. In addition I would also like to discuss the possibility of the developer making a financial contribution to Redland Shire Council in lieu of upgrading this section of road to a Main Roads' standard. I envisage this contribution would be equivalent to the value to the cost of undertaking the conditioned road upgrade to a Main Road standard. These funds could be spent by Redland Shire Council on creating a more "island" friendly road in keeping with Stradbroke Island's residents' expectations.

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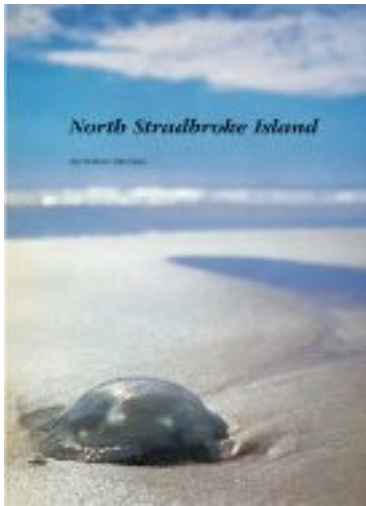
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The offer to make an 'island-friendly' road using funds set aside for roadworks in front of the hotel is one that won't come around again. We urge RSC to accept this offer with both hands and work with the community to design East Coast-Mooloolomba Road to optimise pedestrian safety and amenity. Narrowing the road, speed humps, and landscaping can transform this high-speed thoroughfare into a leisurely, pleasant and safe local island road. But this cannot happen until RSC agrees to participate. And there the matter sticks until we can find an effective circuit-breaker in this absurd and lengthy saga.



Jingle bells

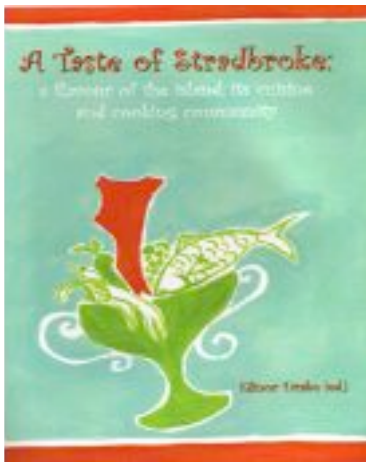
Summer means Christmas means giving.

Two perennial favourite gifts for islanders and island lovers are books about Stradbroke.

Reprinted in 2004 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its first publication, the authoritative and updated *North Stradbroke Island* by Ellie Durbidge and Janette Covacevich is a classic. This book brings together the essential strands of the Stradbroke Island story: the natural environment, social history (Aboriginal, European, industry and development), and the challenges of the future.

A Taste of Stradbroke. A flavour of the island, its cuisine and cooking community, edited by Elinor Drake, is one of those very special books that offers an insider's portrait of the island community. Recipes come with personal stories and illustrations by local artists.

Obtain *North Stradbroke Island* from SIMO for the special Christmas price of \$20; and *A Taste of Stradbroke* from Elinor directly: phone 07 3409 8546 or email edrake@acfip.org: \$19.90. Cheques payable to 'E Drake for A Taste of Stradbroke'. This is a SIMO fund-raiser



Free Beach Bus starts this Christmas

And finally, some more good news to end this Newsletter with.

The Free Beach Bus shuttle service will run at Point Lookout over the peak Christmas holiday period. The service is to be paid for out of funds negotiated by FOSI and SIMO – \$100,000 – for a community bus, in lieu of RSC-required extra car parking, as part of the final approval for the hotel.

RSC is administering the holiday shuttle bus fund and working with the community to produce a timetable/bus route map that will be widely distributed, also to instal temporary shuttle bus stop signs, and to promote the service as an alternative to using private cars during busy periods on the island.

With Point Lookout's population exploding twentyfold and more virtually overnight at Christmas and Easter – from around 900 to 20,000-30,000 – we know we have a problem on the roads. Gone is the easygoing pedestrian experience. The roads suddenly become corridors for speeding traffic, where those on foot feel neither safe nor welcome. Even the iconic Cylinder Beach is parked out.

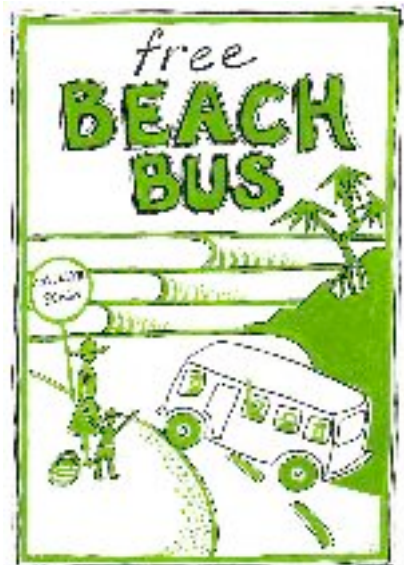
Is this what visitors come to the island for?

The Free Beach Bus will help to wind back the pernicious culture of the car and re-introduce the slower, calmer, safer and convivial culture of walking at the Point.

We hope that many people will leave their cars at home and use the Free Beach Bus.

There are funds to operate the Free Beach Bus service for the next few years, and we hope to see this shuttle bus become an established holiday fixture.

It would be so good if the Council now extended the tree planting program to ensure abundant shade trees for pedestrians and parked cars, and really make our island roads pleasant to occupy.



Jennie Truman's artwork for the Free Beach Bus timetable

SIMO membership 2007/08

Thankyou to members who have recently renewed. Non-email members will get receipts stapled to their Newsletters.

Contact Fran:
3831 6735 (M-F),
quinnbris@optusnet.com.au
if requiring membership forms, info or email receipts.

Membership

Single \$11.00
Family \$13.20
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Send payments to:
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