



Summer 2008-2009

Newsletter

In this Newsletter:

- 1,2 More National Park on NSI still a way off
- 2 Quandamooka building natural resources skills
- 3 Water: Community Reference Panel meetings
- 4 CRL: Environmental Working Group update
- 4 Sand export appeal
- 4 Fisherman's Road closed
- 5 Wildlife encounters
- 5 SIMO wins award
- 6 NSI koalas recognised
- 6 Feral animal eradication
- 7 RCC conversations on NSI
- 7 Non-complying approvals
- 7 De-maining the road
- 8 SPOT a KOALA
- 8 DOB in a FOX
- 8 POPS in seafood?
- 8 SIMO going online
- 8 Bandannas on sale

That was 1992

'Approximately 16,000 ha of North Stradbroke Island will be gazetted as National Park within the next 12 months. 'The park will include wetlands of the Eighteen Mile Swamp, the high dune heathland associated with Mt Vane and the complex of perched lakes at the southern end of the island. 'A management plan will be drafted balancing the preservation of the biological system with the demand for recreational opportunities...Monitoring programs addressing rare and endangered species...will be implemented.

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

More National Park on NSI still a way off

It is a little over a year since SIMO delivered a submission to Minister McNamara requesting the extension of National Parks on Stradbroke Island. At 512 ha, the only National Park, Blue Lake (declared in 1962) is a small fraction of the island's 27,500 ha. Our submission outlined the abortive 1992 proposal to gazette 16,000 ha, forming a continuous wildlife corridor from north to south.

Since 1962 numerous submissions by various organisations have nominated places for National Park: Tortoise Lagoon and the lake outlet creek adjacent to Eighteen Mile Swamp; the beach and swamp behind Flinders Beach and Welsby Lagoons; areas around Ibis Lagoon, Horseshoe Swamp, Tea Tree and Native Companion Lagoons; Mt Scott; an extension to Blue Lake National Park; Eighteen Mile Swamp... Indeed, as one submission noted: '[Almost any available area of sufficient size is likely to have National Park potential](#)' (1972).

Parts of the island have some protection: Brown Lake Conservation Area, Myora Springs Conservation Area, Myora Springs Conservation Park. Near Aranarawai Creek is a wildflower reserve, and there's a small one on Flinders swamp. Most waterbodies are listed under the international Ramsar treaty that protects the habitat of migratory birds. Many places are listed in the National Estate Register, though that carries no legal weight. National Park offers the utmost protection.

During 2008, the government worked on determining which areas of Stradbroke to gazette. We had expected an announcement in 2009. However, at a meeting with EPA in late 2008, SIMO was informed that, while the government still intends including as much of the island as possible in future National Park, no additional Park is likely to be announced for a couple of years. Further, [Stage 1 will not include any land that is under mining lease or due to be handed back; nor will it include areas that are easily accessible to the public.](#)

It's disappointing news. Even leases like 1123 that covers Mt Bippo Penbean, which has never been mined – and cannot be mined because of the presence of endangered heathland – may not be handed back to the State immediately because the government intends to negotiate the mining leases as a whole rather than piecemeal. Some leases that have been mined and rehabilitated years ago may be relinquished in a few years time, once all environmental criteria for rehabilitation have been met. This is encouraging, and SIMO is asking for these leases to be incorporated into National Park immediately upon relinquishment. SIMO is also calling for many other areas not covered by mining leases to be included in Stage 1.

SIMO hopes the National Park process does not return to 1992.



Winter is the ideal time for bushwalking on Stradbroke.



Standing as tall as a man, the Phaius orchid is just one of the island's many orchids.



Chairperson of Quandamooka Land Council, Darren Burns, addressing the gathering of government and community groups at the launch of a program to provide practical work and training in natural cultural resource management.

National Park offers not only environmental protection for the island but also public access to many places of great natural beauty. Currently, it is illegal to enter a mining lease. Since leases cover 70 per cent of NSI, this is a daunting prohibition, making it technically unlawful to hike to Mt Bippo Penbean, or through ancient forest south of Blue Lake, or through many quintessentially island places that almost no one is ever permitted to experience.

With goodwill from the mining companies and a lead from government, the surrender – or partial surrender – of key mining leases that require no further preparation to be available for public access could be resolved without delay. CRL has made it clear in the past that it will hand back such leases; and the company would be making a welcome corporate gesture of solidarity with the community if it now expedites public access to some very lovely parts of the island. It would be difficult to understand why the mining company would want to prolong the relinquishment of these areas for National Park.

The need for more National Park on Stradbroke is incontrovertible. SIMO believes it is in the public interest for National Park to be extended now, rather than in another few years or decades. We call on all the parties responsible to make it possible for more National Park on the island *in our time*.

***'Only 4.8 per cent of Queensland is protected [under National Park]... Queensland has the smallest percentage of land protected of any state or territory and remains well below the national average of 8.3 per cent... [Dr Martin Taylor, WWF, said:] "\$15.5 billion was spent by visitors to Australia's parks in 2006-07. This provided about \$1.45 billion in GST revenue back to the states, with Queensland's share about \$296 million. In the same year Queensland invested \$34.6 million in acquisitions and \$76 million on parks management, in total about \$185 million less than the GST from spending by visitors".'* – Brian Williams, The Courier-Mail, 23 March 2008**

Parks visitation is growing at over 8 per cent a year.

Quandamooka building skills in resource management

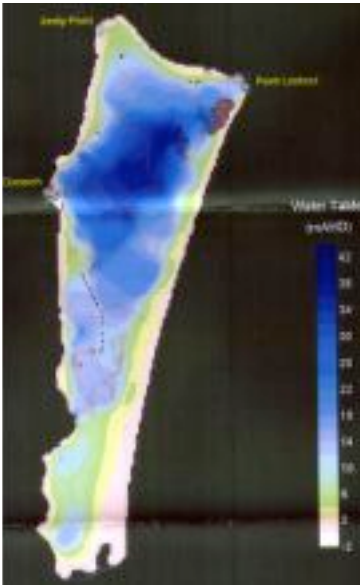
In December 2008 SIMO was invited to the launch of a capacity-building program by Quandamooka Land Council (QLC). The program aims to develop skills in the local indigenous community to enable them to initiate, manage and implement projects of benefit to the island community as a whole and to provide new local job opportunities. The program focuses on gaining work in Natural Cultural Resource Management (NCRM) projects on NSI and Peel Island. QLC's objective is in line with government engagement strategies with indigenous communities, and the promotion of activities that foster Shared Responsibility Agreements.

One of the NCRM projects QLC is seeking funding for is regeneration of the Frenchman's Beach section of the Point Lookout Foreshores Reserve. This area is infested with significant weed species, requiring carefully planned eradication techniques. A management plan for the area, developing strategies for future weeding and rehabilitation, is being planned in discussion with Redland City Council, QLC and community groups such as SIMO and FOSI. As the Reserve is Heritage-listed, all major works require permission from the Minister.

SIMO supports this program and the planned bush regeneration project at Frenchman's. Its success will ensure a well-trained local workforce able to manage and implement natural resource work on Stradbroke. It will give indigenous youth confidence and opportunities to participate in protecting the island's special natural places, and will gain community respect.



Jennie Truman and Jan Aldenhoven, SIMO, with Darren Burns, Quandamooka, at the fifth CRP meeting in October 2008



Aquifer model of Scenario C, seasonally varying extraction at current full water extraction entitlement, in times of extended dry, using data from 1917. The scenario is also run through the model to look at impacts of taking this amount of water in extended wet periods. Recharge is the most important parameter and also very hard to measure. Water moves to the aquifer in a non-linear way. It attaches to sand grains; surface tension slows water movement until sand becomes saturated. Taking any water has an impact. The question is: what is acceptable? Does the amount extracted affect environmental assets? Not all the water in the aquifer is available for extraction: you would affect the whole island and drag in seawater.

Water: Community Reference Panel meetings

The Southern Moreton Bay Islands draft Amendment to the Logan Basin Water Resource Plan progressed throughout 2008. The Community Reference Panel met on NSI. The sixth CRP meeting is to be held in early 2009. Representatives from the island community, SIMO, FOSI, Quandamooka Land Council and traditional owners, CRL, Unimin, RCC Water and Waste and Birkdale Progress Association have been attending. Natural Resources and Water runs the meetings and presents information to the CRP. A Technical Advisory Panel has written a draft report that CRP members have critiqued. The panel has also commented on a socio-economic draft report.

The task of the CRP is to advise NRW on a range of matters: environmental, hydrological, cultural heritage, social, economic. The CRP also defines the planning principles that will guide the WRP.

The WRP sets general and ecological outcomes that must be met. It specifies the monitoring and reporting necessary to assess the effectiveness of water management strategies. A WRP must be reviewed within ten years.

Trigger levels for key environmental assets (such as Blue Lake) are being identified as part of an adaptive water management program. Most on the CRP are concerned to secure the continuing future viability of all NSI's environmental features, key or otherwise.

Essential monitoring bores were installed in many parts of the island in 2007, and data from these bores over time will better inform the groundwater model about the levels and extent of the aquifer, which fluctuates according to rainfall and changing climate patterns. Meanwhile, the groundwater model has been developed using available data, including rainfall records for the past 118 years and existing monitoring bore data, which is still patchy.

The groundwater model is graphically quite dramatic. It can run as an animation, showing the build-up of the aquifer to 1974, a peak flood year, and the progressive decline in levels since that time and through the drought. The model shows the impacts of draw-down since the bores were installed by Redland Shire Council in 1990, and it shows the huge shifts of water from one side of the island to the other as a result of CRL's mining operations (the largest user of water).

The predictive capacity of the groundwater model is dependent on the degree to which it can simulate real conditions, and its accuracy and value will improve as data become available in future. The model has been used to predict three basic scenarios. A: No pumping of groundwater from the aquifer system; B: Groundwater extraction at current rates and volumes (9000ML/year); C: Groundwater extraction at the maximum water volumes that can be extracted with existing water licences (10,600ML/year). NRW is running additional scenarios to assess the impacts of increased demand under various conditions such as extended wet periods or drought.

Such risk assessments must somehow factor in unknowables. Climate change is a major unknowable. The island's annual rainfall (averaged between Dunwich and Point Lookout) has declined in the past decade from 1677mm to 1350mm. **But the problem might be the velocity and duration of future rainfall, if it comes in shorter, sharper bursts rather than the steady soaking over weeks that is required for the aquifer to be replenished.**

There is much about the island's hydrology that is still not well understood: exactly how the aquifer recharges; how water flows to perched lakes, streams and other waterbodies; the functioning of myriad groundwater-dependent ecosystems; the impacts of the huge water displacements by mining activities, and the effects of this on water quality.

Sand export appeal

CRL/Queensland Construction Materials is appealing RCC's refusal of its development application to export sand for sale as construction material. RCC is listed as the respondent; SIMO is one of 13 co-respondents, which include FOSI, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch, Birkdale Progress Assoc, EPA, DMR, as well as indigenous islanders. Two preliminary points are to be heard before the appeal, which is set down for hearing for ten days in the Brisbane Planning & Environment Court.



From Moreton Bay, CRL's operations at Enterprise are visible. Stockpiles of 'waste' sand rise above the dunes, smothering a valley. Open areas await revegetation.



Lake Kounpee, November 2008. The lake drained in 1987 after CRL punctured the underlying perching layer. It remained dry until March 2008 when CRL 'cemented' the rupture. The lake must hold water for a year to be considered repaired.

CRL: Environmental Working Group update

In 2008, SIMO, along with FOSI, continued to attend Environmental Working Group meetings convened by CRL. Quandamooka, RCC, EPA and DNRW also attend these meetings.

The EWG is the forum for discussing CRL's sandmining operations: mine path planning, landform and rehabilitation, management of tailings (sand remaining after minerals are removed, to be put back as landform), water management and operational impacts on waterbodies, and other technical and environmental matters such as soil remediation, hazard reduction burns, koala monitoring.

CRL prefers to restrict attendance at EWG meetings to one person from each organisation; but SIMO considers the complex technical information requires that several representatives be present.

In 2008, SIMO and FOSI were critical of changes to CRL's Environmental Authority that allow it to create 'alien' landforms instead of restoring the premine topography; and we slammed the EPA's disappointing performance as regulator. We opposed the construction sand project, rejecting CRL's contention that it can deal with 'swell' only by exporting it as 'waste'; this sand should be returned to the end-of-mine void; and we also oppose additional trucking through Dunwich. We are concerned about impacts on the aquifer from deep mining at Enterprise. We welcomed the koala mapping program but deplore that nothing has been released on CRL's koala research since 2000, aside from one slight paper in January 2009. We are very worried that CRL is proposing to mine through Fisherman's Swamp and drain Fisherman's lagoon at Yarraman North in 2011-12, despite the presence of listed frogs (including one under the EPBC Act) in the area; CRL argues that it is not bound by the Commonwealth EPBC Act to protect the frogs' habitat. We consider that CRL should list koala trees on the lease, and also map for grey-headed flying foxes. We also have concerns about noise from Yarraman North being heard at Point Lookout, as well as dust and light pollution.

(Uimin plans a Community Consultative Committee forum in 2009 along the same lines as CRL's EWG, to meet twice a year.)

Fisherman's Road closed

CRL is preparing now to move operations into Yarraman North which straddles Fisherman's Road. Despite the creation of this road by locals and its use for over 50 years, it is not a gazetted road. Because it is in the mine path, it is being closed to the public.

This means that access to the popular Keyhole lakes is now either from the beach – a problem for those who don't wish to drive on the beach – or the long way via the main road to Dunwich, then the



This is not a road.

Tazi Road and along the southern end of Fisherman's Road. Diverting traffic onto Main Beach imposes an environmental cost on the fragile dunal terrain. Closing Fisherman's Road also eliminates an emergency access route from Point Lookout to Dunwich in the event that the main road is blocked by an accident or fire.

SIMO wins award

SIMO won the Environmental Award at the RCC's 2009 Australia Day Awards. This is important public recognition of SIMO's achievements in championing NSI's environment for over 30 years. Currently SIMO is helping secure a viable future for the aquifer; contesting CRL's proposal to export sand; watchdogging mining operations; lobbying for more National Parks; and calling for protection for the island's koalas and wetlands.



Mayor Melva Hobson presents award to SIMO president Jackie Cooper



SIMO's medal



Cr Caig Ogilvie, Haig Beck, Jan Aldenhoven, Phil Weightman MP, and Jackie Cooper celebrate afterwards. (Photos Elinor Drake)

Wildlife encounters

Manta rays and Leopard sharks

Manta rays and Leopard sharks appear off the Point's headlands and beaches annually around October. Little is known about where they come from but they arrive in our waters to take advantage of warm summer sea filled with nutrients and schools of small fish in upwellings of temperate water caused by constant northerly winds.

Mantas (see right) are easily recognisable with their black and white colouration and prominent feeding flaps to either side of the mouth.

Leopard sharks are also easy to spot, having a large blunt head, dark to light brown body colour, long thresher tail and wide pectoral fins.

Mantas are the largest member of the ray family, and though they are impressive in size – growing up to 20 feet across the wings – they are harmless, feeding on plankton and small fish and having no sting or barb on the tail.

John and I saw two paired couples off Whale Rock swimming in circles nearly on top of each other in what was probably courtship. Mantas give birth to live young from a single fertilised egg.

Dr Kathy Townsend from the Moreton Bay Research Station is currently heading a study concerning these creatures, trying to better understand their habitat needs and migration patterns.



Wildlife diary

22 October 2008 Pairs of turtles mating off Frenchman's and the headlands. Other male turtles were harassing a mating pair, trying to intervene and pull off the successful male.

1 November Tawny Frogmouth chicks in a casuarina tree on Whale Rock headland

17 November Saw last pod of Humpbacks heading south

17 November Large flocks of Shearwaters moving south through the Group into a 20 knot ESE breeze

3 December Freshwater Creek running out across Main Beach – first time for ages

15 December Spotted a Leatherback turtle off Frenchman's in clear, calm conditions. Very rare now to see these huge animals in our waters

Turtle nesting season information to date

8 nests so far this season: 7 Loggerheads, 1 Green

- 1 on Frenchman's
- 1 on Flinders
- 6 on Main

1 large Green turtle tagged (with numbered metal tag on flipper)

Jennie Truman



Island koalas are healthy and breeding. Nevertheless, SIMO is concerned at the extent to which the population has been diminished by loss of habitat caused by sandmining and the impacts of foxes and dogs. It is essential to include NSI koalas in the government's koala preservation program. We also call for a targeted island educational program to inform locals and visitors of koala locations, the need to control domestic animals and to drive slowly.

Feral animal eradication

A program to eradicate foxes on NSI has commenced. Tally so far: three foxes. The RCC-funded program – conducted by a private contractor, Michael Dickinson – will extend to feral cats and dogs in time. This is excellent news for the island's wildlife. Our help is needed too. If you see a fox, fox den, feral cat or feral dog, please call Animal Management at RCC on 3829 8665 with location, date, time animal was seen and your contact details. There is an answering machine for after hours, and all information will be passed to Michael. Fox dens tend to be in the side of a bank and cathedral-shaped. SIMO has met Michael; his methods are professional and humane. Michael will give a talk at MBRS in Dunwich soon. We shall announce the date.

Premier's Koala Taskforce recognises NSI koalas

The Premier's Koala Taskforce Report was released in September 2008: 'Addressing threats to koala populations in Southeast Queensland'. Recommendations are designed to halt the alarming decline in the koala population, with emphasis on retaining habitat. An 'urgent inventory' of all known koala habitat is to be carried out, and habitat areas mapped and protected. The aim is to 'reverse processes that contribute to the death and injury of koalas'; measures include protecting mature koala trees and curbing dogs. 'Scientifically robust monitoring programs' are recommended every two years to determine the koala population in the region. **The Taskforce acknowledges that without 'significant immediate action, koalas will decline to the brink of extinction in Southeast Queensland'**. It envisages that 'the scale of acquisition and regeneration effort required will be significant and take up to 20 years', and must start immediately.

SIMO welcomes the Taskforce Report and endorses the recommendations. Minister Andrew McNamara has written to SIMO: 'The current mapping project being undertaken by the EPA in conjunction with the RCC, will identify areas of koala habitat on NSI. It will incorporate any suitable areas into the SEQ mapping project which is about to commence. The comprehensive knowledge of koala habitat and potential koala habitat that this new project will provide across SEQ will be a major input to provide stronger protection for koalas. This instrument will be developed over the next six to 12 months.'

SIMO is relieved to have this assurance that NSI koalas will be included in the regional koala protection plan. **However, we are concerned that not all koala habitat on NSI will be included in the SEQ map, and that mining companies are still permitted to clear koala habitat.**

While we welcome the recent island koala count, we consider that follow-up surveys are crucial. It's simply not possible to walk the whole island. So in the first survey, representative sample blocks were searched. We would now like to see surveys of all likely koala habitat, particularly around the wetlands, creeks and lagoons. To complete the picture, we call on mining companies to release all koala sightings they have made over the years. Given how restricted NSI koala habitat appears to be, we ask that mining companies do the right thing and no longer clear trees in which they find koalas. We ask that mining companies spend more time searching for signs of koalas in pre-mine surveys so they can plan to avoid koala habitat.

It is estimated that sandmining will have destroyed around 62 per cent of NSI by the time it ceases. It's likely that koalas will be able to use rehabilitated country in time, but how long it takes for such land to fully support koalas, independent of any buffer from original intact vegetation, is unknown. **The question is: can we really afford to continue destroying any more mature koala habitat on the island?**

It appears that koalas are being seen more frequently around the townships. Whether it's a result of gradual displacement from mining disturbance or some other reason is unknown, but it means koalas are now coming in contact with two major enemies: dogs and cars. Responsibility for the welfare of koalas lies squarely with all of us. The other major threat to koalas is fire. How control burns are conducted in koala habitat has to be reassessed.

Given the desperate plight of koalas in SEQ, the population on NSI may become the only surviving colony in the region. SIMO thinks our community and government have a responsibility to ensure the island population survives. The key planks are **protection of all koala habitat, restoration of koala corridors, dog control, reduced speed on roads and alertness when driving, and protection from fire. We call on the government to prevent any more clearing of koala habitat on NSI.**

Inappropriate approvals of overly large houses at Point Lookout: why?

RCC has approved many large buildings that do not comply with the Point Lookout planning code. FOSI and SIMO have successfully taken RCC to court over past non-complying approvals. Point Lookout may be unique in Queensland in having its own planning code. The provisions are set as **quantifiable specific outcomes**: site cover, landscaping area, boundary setbacks, etc. These provisions are **not negotiable**, unlike planning codes for most Queensland towns. The planning provisions for Point Lookout are designed to conserve and promote the character of the township, producing smallish light-weight buildings, screened by native vegetation, without suburban front fences. The current planning scheme (IPA) incorporates these requirements almost without change from the DCP 3, the product of extensive community consultation undertaken in the early 1990s. But some RCC officers still seem unable to understand and apply the code. Recently an objection to the Council approval of an over-development of a tiny site in Mooloomba Road reached all the way to the steps of the court before the Council and developer agreed to reduce the footprints of the two buildings and include boundary set-backs and landscaping as required. This welcome result comes at no small expense to FOSI and SIMO which have completed thousands of hours of pro bono legal work and paid thousands of dollars for experts' reports and fees in preparing for the court case. However, we are heartened that the RCC and officers now appear to recognise the need to apply the planning code rigorously, and to end the inappropriate approvals.

Redland City Council conversations on Stradbroke

RCC came to the island on 15 November for two of its Conversations with locals, at Point Lookout and Dunwich. Mayor Melva Hobson arrived with Councillors Craig Ogilvie, Debra Henry and Kathy Riemer.

The Point Lookout conversation ranged across many topics:

Limited car parking at One Mile: Not much can be done as there is little opportunity to expand parking.

Calls for tenders for management of the island camping grounds:

RCC makes a loss on running the camping grounds.

Lack of compliance with requirement for 30% of site area to be native landscaping: RCC does not routinely check to ensure that landscaping is properly completed, enforcing compliance if a complaint is made.

Landscaping masterplans for Cylinder Beach, the headland old camping ground area and the flat: The community will be able to comment on the schematic plans for these areas, which are expected to be displayed in March.

Growth of the wedding industry and problems with receptions on public land: On any weekend it is not uncommon for eight weddings to occur at Point Lookout. Some events conflict with others' enjoyment of public parks and picnic areas, and noise bothers nearby residents. Marquees on the old tennis court at the headland occupy ground grazed by kangaroos. It is time for an industry management code. Perhaps some problems will be resolved when areas for ceremonies and receptions are made available as part of the planned refurbishment of the Hall and landscaping of the headland?

The holiday letting code of conduct: Rowdy behaviour in rental properties has caused a lot of anguish over the years. RCC recently produced a useful fridge magnet: 'Say no to excessive noise'. This comes with the magic number to call the police: 3409 6020, and advice if noise continues: 'Call the Police again'. This seems to be working, and many residents are grateful for the police response. Good on the Council for a sensible, practical initiative. If you haven't got your fridge magnet yet, call RCC: 3829 8999.

The bike track from Point Lookout to Amity: This popular idea has been discussed for years. It is 'very expensive', but RCC is working with the State government. However, do not expect the bike track soon.

Refurbishment of the Point Lookout Hall: RCC does not have all the money. But following the meeting in November, it seems that there might be other revenue sources available. Watch this space.

Among other issues raised: **problem of broken glass on roads, and the need for signs noting it is an offence to drink in public; and a suggestion to increase beach driving fees for mainland commercial trekking tours that use island facilities with no economic return.**

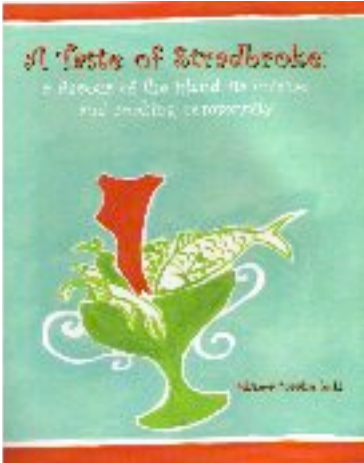
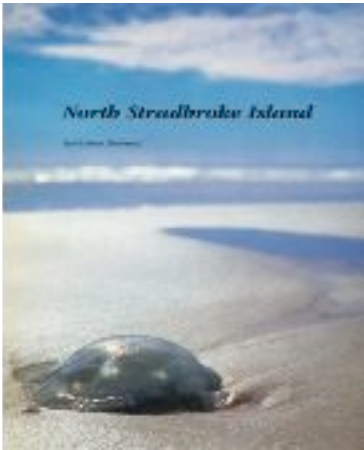
De-maining the road is in sight

Cr Ogilvie announced just before Christmas that Council had voted to discuss with Department of Main Roads de-maining the Main Road through Point Lookout. Many in the community have asked RCC to take back ownership of the road to enable reduction of the 60kph speed limit. As well as numerous letters there has been a petition. It is good news that the transfer of ownership of the road will occur.

This is an opportunity for the engineers to design a slow island road using simple, low-cost traffic calming measures such as shade trees and parking to narrow road width; shared zones giving pedestrians priority; removing the go-faster double stripes and wide bitumen verges to reinstate the look and character of a local island road.

The main road was discussed at the RCC Conversation, along with the need also to calm the back streets of Point Lookout for the safety of wildlife, old people and children.

Order the classic and encyclopaedic revised edition of **North Stradbroke Island** (\$25.80, inc GST), and the delicious and idiosyncratic **A Taste of Stradbroke. A flavour of the island, its cuisine and cooking community** (\$15, inc GST; or \$10 each for 3 or more copies). Contact SIMO at ume@umemagazine.com. Funds from these sales go to help SIMO.



Join SIMO

Help SIMO to fight for more National Park and koala protection on Stradbroke.

Receive the SIMO Newsletter quarterly by email or post.

SIMO membership

Single \$11.00

Family \$13.20

Concession/student \$5.50

Please send your membership application with contact details and payment to:

The SIMO Treasurer

PO Box 4

Point Lookout 4183

SIMO ABN 89 682 323 43

SPOT a KOALA

Don't forget that our koala watch is ongoing. Report koala observations to SIMO, with your name and contact details, date and time of sighting, location (as precisely as possible), number of animals, gender and condition if known to jan@wildlifefilms.com.au. We will ensure this gets into the official EPA database. The information is important.



DOB in a FOX: call 3829 8665

How to identify a fox den: look for the cathedral-like entry. This den (right) is near Blue Lake.

Photo of den by Glen Carruthers
Photo of fox by Michael Dickinson



POPs in island seafood?

UQ National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology has been conducting a seafood consumption survey on the island, and collecting biopsies from migrating whales, to study the presence of persistent organic pollutants, or POPs. These chemicals can be toxic to humans and wildlife, depending on the levels to which they are exposed. We will report on this in a future Newsletter, when results are available. Meanwhile, for more information, check www.entox.uq.edu.au/community-information-on-marine-contaminants

SIMO going online soon

SIMO's new website, in production, will make available much of our work. We'll include pages on news, campaigns, flora, fauna and sea life, as well as – progressively – information sheets about water, whales, dolphins, National Parks, koalas, local history and much more.

SIMO bandannas on sale

SIMO has a limited edition of 100 pure cotton bandannas for sale.

They were popular at the pre-Christmas markets at Point Lookout, and we have stock in all five colours: teal (shown), pale orange, burnt orange, aqua, and royal blue.

Jennie Truman's artwork depicts 'Stradbroke – a special island', showing a turtle, eugarie bird, dolphin and wallaby on compass points, and Point Lookout's latitude and longitude.

The bandannas are \$8.00 each (inc GST).

To order, contact Jennie Truman, 3409 8523.

