

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT MYORA

This year the A.G.M. will be held on Saturday, 8 June 1991, at 10.00 a.m. The venue will be the Durbidge property at Myora - follow the signs and park just off the road.

It will be great weather - bitter westerly winds will be strictly disallowed!!

Prior written nominations for Committee positions are encouraged.

An important item on the agenda will be the proposed new subscription rates:

Family	\$12.00
Single	\$10.00
Student/ Pensioner	\$ 5.00

We will boil the billy. B.Y.O. for the B.B.Q.

Hope to see you there!

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Paddy & Nick CARTER
91 Mooloomba Road
Point Lookout 4183

S.I.M.O. Newsletter, MAY, 1991.
Stradbroke Island Management Organization Inc.

JOIN US FOR THE WALK AND LUNCH
ALONG BLUE LAKE CREEK

Members, bring your friends on a SIMO outing to Blue Lake on Saturday, 13 July. The walk will be a relatively easy one. However, it will be a delightfully different way to enjoy the Lake's environs. We will follow the stream from the outfall (at 18 Mile Swamp) to the outlet at the Lake, stopping at Lemon Tree Flat and Lagoon for lunch.

We hope you will join us and enjoy this beautiful and special place. Further details and transport arrangements may be obtained by contacting El Presidente, Gary on 498 8225.

(Four wheel drive vehicle not necessary).

Lance Blennings

WATER PROBLEMS

It is with great concern that SIMO notes a report from the Water Commission recommending North Stradbroke Island water as a possible source for areas other than Redlands.

Island people were vehemently opposed to the water being taken for Redland's use as we feared this very idea might occur.

The Water commission suggests that a Brisbane Area Water Board should have control of our water source, which they could then pipe to wherever needed. The yield they suggest is amazing - some 10 times above the council limits!

We must convince the Water Board of the potential environmental disaster, should they proceed with their idea. Redlands must remain outside the Brisbane Area Water Board.

Jenny Cooke-Bramley

AUSTRALIA'S MARINE WILDLIFE AT RISK

It is estimated that about three times more rubbish is dumped into the World's oceans annually than the amount of fish caught.

These days almost every beach in Australia has plastic litter on it.

The problem is not just unsightly beaches. Many of our marine mammals and seabirds are dying or being seriously injured by this rubbish.

How plastic kills:

- . Plastic is designed to be indestructible.
- . Once an animal becomes entangled it is almost impossible for it to escape.
- . Because most plastic does not break down it is not digested if swallowed.
- . Plastic is designed to be long lasting. Once dumped it can stay in our oceans and on our beaches for centuries.

Common household products such as sixpack tops, bread bags, bottle tops and all manner of small plastic pieces are causing harm.

Nets and fishing line discarded or lost at sea are a major hazard, entangling sea birds, turtles, dolphin and seals. (Monofilament nets have only been used in fishing for 15 years or so but are responsible for immeasurable damage to our wildlife).

Around 640,000 plastic containers and bags are tossed into the ocean every day.

Fishing boats are estimated to lose or discard more than 100 000 tonnes of plastic nets and other fishing gear each year.

You can help:

- . Make it your boat policy that no rubbish is discarded, washed or blown overboard.
- . Bring damaged or tangled lines or nets back to shore.
- . Participate in beach clean-ups and leave the beach clean after your visit.

From: N.Z. Department of Conservation.



MYORA FISH HABITAT RESERVE

In an article from the Journal of National Parks Association of Queensland (March 1991) the following reasons were advanced to the Ministers to justify opposition to the Revocation of Myora Fish Habitat Reserve.

- . The lease covers significant wetlands that adjoin the extensive mangrove forests and the Fish Habitat.
- . The significance of the conservation and heritage values of the Myora system have been well documented by a number of government departments.
- . Zoned as Public Open Space and Rural/Non Urban under the Redland Shire Council's Development Control Plan 1.
- . The draft Moreton Bay Strategic Plan identifies this area as of high priority conservation.
- . The current Visual Landscape amenity will be severely impacted.
- . Loading facilities will extend well out into the Rainbow Channel and be detrimental to the general amenity of the area that is frequented by the Bay boating fraternity who, at high tide, call at the Myora Spring for fresh water.
- . Once revocation of part of a Fish Habitat Reserve is achieved then it becomes very difficult to refuse another application.

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MYORA - EXPANDED SILICA SAND PROJECT Mining, Infrastructure & Loading Jetty (including M.L. 7064, 7065, 7074, 7194)

Following representation from environmentally orientated groups the Impact Assessment Study guidelines now include:

- a) consideration of alternatives,
- b) forecasts of future demand for silica sand on world markets,
- c) outline of benefits of the project to the community.

In relation to the revocation of part of Myora Fish Habitat, the Australian Littoral Society is seeking assurance from the Minister for Primary Industries that:

"....the Government will not proceed with the Revocation Notice until such time as the outcome of the Impact Assessment Study, Mining Warden's Court hearing and subsequent decision by the Minister for Resource Industries have been finalised."

Ellie Durbridge

**PROPOSED CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
RADAR TOWER - MT HARDGRAVE**

SIMO have challenged the validity of the Public Environment Impact Report on the following grounds, that:-

- a) the object of the Commonwealth Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974 has not been fulfilled. There is a complete disregard of community participation;
- b) the PEI guidelines as set out in Appendix B have not been fulfilled. Alternate sites on Stradbroke Island have not been documented;
- c) the consultants, Dames & Moore, have made statements without supportive documentation;
- d) Dames & Moore have understated:
 - i) the aesthetic impact of the proposal on the area, and
 - ii) the environmental impact on the lake-dune complex, with a significant reduction in both the recreational and scientific value of the area;
- e) the consultants have not fully addressed the fact that:
 - i) the area has been proposed as National Park, and
 - ii) the area is presently under consideration for Heritage listing.

Ellie Durbidge

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LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In March, 1991, a Land Use Advisory Committee was established by the Department of Lands, Division of Planning & Policy. It consisted of representatives of major interest groups from the island community and from State and Local Government. Its aims are to produce strategies for the use of areas of Crown land on North Stradbroke Island which are subject to competing interests for use. SIMO has one representative on the committee.

The most important matters to be considered at the next meeting will be:-

- a) how the unused Crown land on North Stradbroke Island should be used, and
- b) awareness of the needs of the local community on the island.

Members are asked to let the Secretary know of any matters concerning (a) and (b) above, which should be brought to the notice of this committee.

Althea Vickers

**TOWN PLANNING RESEARCH GRANT FROM
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE**

SIMO have been granted \$2 000 under the State Government Scheme of Assistance to Non-government Conservation Groups for the preparation of an alternative Town Planning Scheme for Pt. Lookout. Students from the Department of Geographical Sciences, University of Queensland will undertake this task.

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INDUSTRIAL LAND SCRAPPED AT PT. LOOKOUT

Advice from the Redland Shire Council states the proposed Industrial 'A' subdivision in George Nothling Drive will not proceed. SIMO commends this sensible decision undoubtedly the result of the concerns of objectors to the rezoning of the land to Industrial Purposes.

One nearby resident to the proposed subdivision alerted landowners in the immediate vicinity and organised an effective and objective letter-writing campaign. This is a positive example of how making the effort to write a letter stating your wishes produces the desired benefit in due course.

A comprehensive review of the Pt. Lookout Town Plan is needed to minimise the continual public objections to insensitive and fragmented development. The new Council should be urged to this end.

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FIELD TRIP

On Sunday, 26 May, 1991, a field trip along the ridge above Claytons Road has been organised. All are welcome. B.Y.O. Lunch and drinks.

Further details and transport arrangements may be obtained by contacting -
Gary at 409 8225 or
Lance at 409 8345.



A Walk up Candlestick Road

A couple of months ago SIMO ran another of its excellent bush walks. Eighteen members and friends, and four children, gathered at Lance Blemmings' house early on the sunny morning of Saturday, 16 March.

The party set off towards Dunwich in four 4WD vehicles and, just past the rubbish tip, turned south along a track which runs beside Cooroon Cooroonpah Creek, hidden under the heath and other vegetation. The delicate white blossom on the heather and the pretty shape and vivid green of the foxtails were a lovely sight.

They stopped first below Mt Bipbo Penbean. Some had already been to its summit so they decided to scale the adjacent peak. The writer and others made the steep climb to the top of Bipbo Penbean and were rewarded with a spectacular view of the north coast of the island, Moreton Island, Amity Point, Myora and Moreton Bay. On the horizon the Glasshouse Mountains were visible. To the south and west were two unnamed peaks, Two Cent Hill, and Mount Hardgrave, easily identified with its tall post on top.

Below the north face of Mt Bipbo Penbean a large yellow scar stood out from the various shades of green, where silica sand is being mined at present. In the distance the rutilic mining operation near Amity was clearly visible and the recently replaced hills were obvious because of their regular shape and new vegetation. Gary North and Lance Blemmings, both of whom have extensive knowledge of the island, pointed out

the extent of land which is either already under mining lease but as yet untouched, or included in new mining lease applications.

The next stop was at the bottom of Candlestick Road where Cooroon Cooroonpah Creek is usually exposed as it crosses the road but, probably due to lack of rain, no water was visible, only mud. Everyone enjoyed the steady climb up cool and shady Candlestick Road to a point near the headwaters of the creek from where the surf breaking on distant Main Beach can be seen through the trees. Along the path were splendid Candlestick Banksias, some showing the three stages in the life of their "candlesticks". There were many tall grass trees with enormous spears, one shaped like a giant shepherd's crook. One good bushman harvested a few midjimberries which looked like frost ball bearings and had a spicy taste. Good bush tucker!

By the time everybody returned to where the vehicles were parked, they were ready for lunch. A small fire was lit and tea boiled in the billy. The party turned for home along the old Tow Road, driving through beautiful stands of gum and other native trees. En route two more climbs were made, to the tops of Two Cent Hill and the PEI Lookout.

It was a most enjoyable day with pleasant walking and agreeable company. These opportunities to explore the interior of the island with such knowledgeable guides are not to be missed!
Paddy Carter

This article, entitled *Lord Howe Island - a lesson for us all*, comes from the *National Parks Journal* of April 1991 and is written by Peter Wells, a member of the National Parks Association. What it says could as easily apply to North Stradbroke Island.

Development

Housing on Lord Howe is low-key. The majority of houses are set in amongst vegetation, and are of a moderate visual impact. This provides an aesthetically pleasant outlook and also serves as a windbreak for the stormy winter months. From ground level, there appears to be too few houses for the 280 residents and up to 400 tourists.

Tourism to Lord Howe is popular, though well controlled. Due to a complex land tenure system administered by the Lord Howe Island Board, large resort style complexes are not present. To obtain land tenure, one must reside continuously on the island for at least ten years. This is clearly not a viable option for the modern resort developer. This allows the majority of the island's tourist accommodation to be locally owned, leading to a relaxed and informal style of accommodation.

Nature preservation

The Lord Howe Island Permanent Park Preserve is managed by the Lord Howe Island Board. There is broad community acceptance of the need for preservation of the majority of the island for reasons of environmental stability, aesthetics, tourism and the local Kentia Palm industry.

Mainland Australia has a national park system averaging around 5% of the land surface. This comparatively small total has been hard won, and was often granted on political rather than ecological grounds. Currently national park managers must actively seek new lands for reservation in competition with other land users. I look forward to the day when preservation and protection of the environment is a universally recognised truth such that adequate lands are reserved and protected with broad public support from the outset.

Is the Environment an issue?

On Lord Howe, I would contend that though environmental decisions are clearly not perfect, the important point is that the environment is automatically on the agenda with all decisions. Perhaps it is the island mentality - if we spoil the environment, we are still stuck here with it. There is also a direct dependence of the island's two major income earners upon the quality of the environment (tourism and the Kentia Palm industry).

Is it really so different on mainland Australia? Clearly, we are just as dependent on the environment. The complexity of modern society and the 'distancing' of people from nature, may lead us to believe we are not so utterly dependent on the environment for our well being. But we must not delude ourselves. The link between mankind and all other species and the basic processes of the environment are beyond question. Once we widely acknowledge this as a society, we are part way to achieving a better environment.