



Newsletter

Summer 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.

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- Update on the Ibis 'dune'
- Water Action Group
- Wildlife encounters
- SIMO fundraising books: 'A Taste of Stradbroke' 'North Stradbroke Island'
- Membership renewals due

Elected to the SIMO Committee

President: Jennie Truman

Vice-president:

Susan Martin

Treasurer: Margaret Nash

Book treasurer: Gail Bell

Secretary: Fran Quinn

Committee: Jackie Cooper,

Sean Hogben, Ellie

Durbidge, Gary North,

Susan Aboud

Is your SIMO membership up-to-date?

Our hardworking treasurer

Margaret Nash wants it

to be known that membership fees are now due.

New members are welcome too.

Please make Margaret's

day: send a cheque to

SIMO - \$11 for single

membership, \$13.20 for

a family, \$5.50 for

concession/student -

along with your particu-

lars: name, email address,

or postal address if you

wish to receive the

SIMO Newsletter by post.

The SIMO Treasurer

PO Box 4

Point Lookout 4183.

Annual AGM

SIMO's 24th Annual General Meeting was held at the Point Lookout Hall on Saturday 5 August 2006. Our guest speakers were Nikki Parker and Simon Birrell, veterans of successful battles to save old growth forest in the Otway Ranges in Victoria from becoming Japanese wrapping paper, and public land known as Pooh Corner in Queensland from sale for development. They offered inspirational and practical advice on how to conduct an effective environmental, community-driven campaign.

SIMO is not short of worthy causes on the island to fight for. The hot topic, not surprising in the worst drought on record, is turning out to be water.

President's report: Jennie Truman

Water: SIMO members met the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Water, Henry Palaszczuk [since resigned], to discuss water. Everyone is talking water, and everyone is looking at getting their hands on more of the Island's pristine groundwater. SIMO asked for the installation of four new automatic monitoring stations, at \$10,000 each, so that surface water flow can be calculated. The Minister told us that the Premier would ask Redland Shire Council for 20 megalitres per day from the island.

The SIMO committee has approved the formation of a Water Action Group to make sure that authorities and stakeholders can agree on a sustainable yield and recharge rate, based on up-to-date scientific monitoring data, and to lobby for the completion of the Whole of Island Groundwater Model with all its recommendations enacted.

The Revised Draft of the Point Lookout Movement Study: back in July 2001 a well-attended traffic conference was held at the Hall to discuss concerns in the community regarding safety and congestion. The Council undertook a Movement Study in 2003. This Revised Report is from that study. However, SIMO is concerned that it doesn't really address the problems aired at the conference. SIMO has made a submission stating the Report should focus more on de-commissioning the Main road, on

Wildlife Encounters

Trumans' humpback whale count this season was 2033. The average pod has increased to 2-3 whales and the size of the whales has also increased, and we have seen at least 12 newborn calves.

The Short-tailed Shearwaters (mutton birds) returned this year migrating south through The Group in huge numbers between 4th-5th October. There was a continuous brown streak of birds from early morning to mid-afternoon. Last year was the first time in 15 years that we hadn't seen mutton birds migrate.

Strong north-east winds swept thousands of planktonic By-the-wind Sailors (*Velella velella*) onto the shore in September.

All the sea turtle nests this past season were washed away by high seas. But it is mating season again and already some amorous and dangerous-looking mating has been going on in Frenchmans Bay. Mating will occur over November-December, and then keep a lookout for turtle tracks and nests all you early morning beach walkers.

Some interesting birds have been sighted - a Beach Stone Curlew pair at Flinders, some Caspian Terns and Black Noddys and some amazing Northern Giant Petrels.

The weird purple, ball-topped jellyfish we found four years ago on Frenchmans showed up again this winter. There is excitement at Dunwich Research Station because it may be a new species.

Jennie Truman

reducing the speed to 40km/hr, and concentrating on the amenity and safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

Proposed new sewerage treatment plant for Point Lookout:

Redland Waste and Water told us that the proposal is awaiting Environmental Protection Authority approval. Then once Redland Shire Council has also approved the proposal, construction can start in 2007.

CRL: SIMO members have been attending the Environmental Working Group meetings organized by Consolidated Rutile Ltd to inform stakeholders of mining operations. CRL was fined \$12,375.00 for an incident involving 70,000 tonnes of sand slipping into an off-path area.

Jennie thanked Susan and Bruce Martin for donating the red paper banners for the Jellyfish Book, proclaiming it a New Edition. And a big thankyou also went to Elinor Drake and her mother Alison Drake for Elinor's book, *A Taste of Stradbroke*, which has been very successful. SIMO has received donations from the book sales totalling \$5,900 so far.

Treasurers' reports

STRADBROKE ISLAND MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION INC

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 25 MAY, 2006

ASSETS	
CBA Cheque Account	6384.61
CBA Book Account 1030 5306	5513.54
CBA Book Term Deposit	51172.71
Stock on Hand	8484.28
Photocopier	2225.00
	<u>553,788.00</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	
Accumulated Funds brought forward	44802.72
ADD: Excess of Income over expenditure (less stock add & plant disposal)	8885.57
	<u>553,788.00</u>

The Organisation does not have any mortgages, charges or securities of any description affecting any of the property of the Organisation as at 25 May, 2006.

GENERAL ACCOUNT 1013 7450 RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

CASHBOOK RECONCILIATION AT 25 MAY, 2006

BALANCE 26/05/05	414.62
ADD: DEPOSITS	7675.89
	<u>8090.51</u>
LESS: WITHDRAWALS	1092.80
BALANCE AT 25/05/06	<u>56,392.61</u>

BANK RECONCILIATION AT 25 MAY, 2006

BALANCE AS PER BANK STATEMENT 25/05/06	<u>56,394.61</u>
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BOOK CHEQUE ACCOUNT - NO 2 ACC 1036 5306 RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

CASHBOOK RECONCILIATION AT 25 MAY, 2006

BALANCE 26/05/05	3945.59
ADD: DEPOSITS	2081.00
	<u>6026.59</u>
LESS: WITHDRAWALS	513.05
BALANCE AT 25/05/06	<u>55,513.51</u>

BANK RECONCILIATION AT 25 MAY, 2006

BALANCE AS PER BANK STATEMENT 25/05/06	5,480.64
ADD O/S DEPOSITS	33.00
	<u>55,213.50</u>

Below: Ibis mine site, 2005.

On the left you can see the scar where 70,000 tonnes of sand cascaded into the undisturbed valley, burying tree trunks metres deep.

CRL was fined for this breach, but no conviction was recorded.

To the right you can see the back of the so-called 'disoriented dune'. This large body of sand tailings has been amassed across the valley in a formation that lies at right angles to the prevailing south-east to north-west winds that over thousands of years have created the Island's large transgressive parabolic dune system.

Photo by Susan Martin

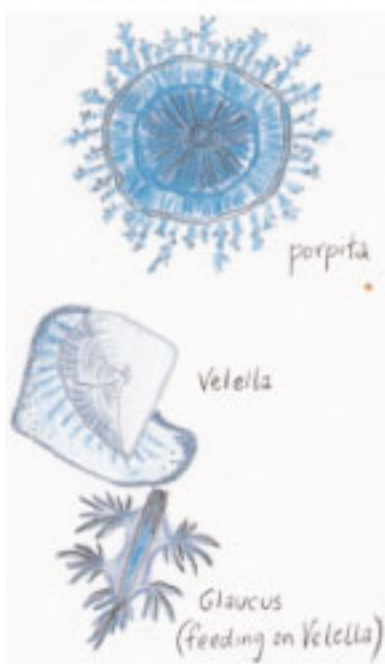
Update on the Ibis 'dune'

Our last Newsletter reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had issued CRL with an Environmental Evaluation Notice regarding the post-mine landform at Ibis mine placed across a valley and boxing in Mungaree Lagoon. EPA's grounds for requiring an investigation: 'the administrating authority is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the placement, storage and rehabilitation of mine materials across a valley adjacent to Mungaree Lagoon on Mining Lease (ML) 1121, at the Ibis mine, rather than with the natural alignment parallel to the valley, has the potential to cause environmental harm'.

CRL has appealed the notice on two occasions, the second to the Planning and Environment Court. During mediation, the EPA and CRL agreed to an amended Notice. CRL now has until March 2007 to respond to the Evaluation Notice. SIMO and FOSI members were not happy with the slow progress. It has taken four years to get to this stage, and now we have to wait another six months for a decision. We met the Executive Director of Environmental Operations at EPA to express our frustration. It was a positive meeting with agreements on improved communications and the provision of progress reports.



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Water Action Group

The Water Action Group is in full swing with a series of meetings held at the Dunwich Research Station. Participation ranges from indigenous representatives to CRL officers, indicating the extent to which the island's water is a concern to the broad community.

The aims of the meetings are to gather existing information and facts, ascertain what's missing and data that's incorrect, to ensure that any decision for future water extraction is based on complete and sound scientific evidence. Current scientific data are incomplete and contain large errors and assumptions.

Redland Shire Council delivers a report on November 1 2006 informing the Premier how much water the Redlands can supply to the SEQ Water Grid. The Water Action Group's next action is to obtain and critique this report (which is not expected to be released publicly). SIMO and FOSI have employed a hydrologist to do this and to make recommendations on further action.



Give a wonderful Christmas present twice over

A Taste of Stradbroke is an affordable and practical Christmas gift that gives pleasure to those who receive it and at the same time benefits SIMO.

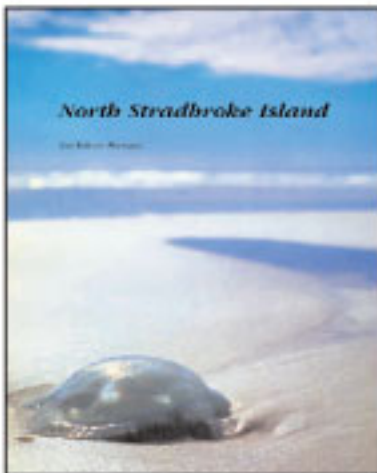
Where else will you find a recipe for Rum-Glazed Brown Lake Brownies by Drew Brake, or Frank Lambert's infamous Frank's Fury? The cookbook is peppered with lovely illustrations of local scenery sketched by local artists.

The funds from the sale of *A Taste of Stradbroke* are donated to SIMO, and this is proving a great boost to our coffers.

To order a copy, contact Elinor Drake on 3409 8546 or by email - edrake@acfip.org.

Elinor is happy to mail books anywhere in the world, with a gift note from the giver.

If you are on the island, *A Taste of Stradbroke* is available for \$19.90 from the island newsagencies.



Jellyfish Book: the quintessential island reference

The 2004 revised *North Stradbroke Island* book is also available from the island's newsagents, or we can post copies to mainland members. The price is \$27.50 a copy. Just phone our Books Treasurer Gail Bell on 3409 7158.

North Stradbroke Island - familiarly known as the Jellyfish Book - documents the island's natural and social environments. The book quickly became a classic when it was first published in 1981. The updated edition 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 a deeper understanding of Stradbroke's social and natural environments will lead to informed planning that preserves the island's unique character.

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Cylinder update: Cr Craig shows locals version 4 of Council's design for a bus turnaround and car park in the beach park. A far cry from versions 1, 2, 3, but still too many car spaces...