

# Newsletter

Vol. 8 No. 3, Spring, Oct. 2004

**Stradbroke Island Management Organization Inc. , PO Box 8 Point Lookout 4183**

*SIMO was formed in 1978 by residents of, and visitors to, the Island. Its members share an interest in, and concern for, the Island's future and wish to see it developed wisely.*

## 2004 Annual General Meeting

The AGM, held on August 28th at the Point Lookout Hall, was well-attended and most stimulating. Although SIMO has many matters in hand at any given time—and the end of August was no exception—Jennie chose to give a shorter report this year, then called for questions from the floor. This led to a lively discussion and, following Guest Speaker Elinor Drake's talk, there was plenty to talk about later over tea and bikkies. Councillor Craig Ogilvie attended. Here's Jennie's report and a summary of the questions.

### President's Report—2004

Over the past year SIMO has been concentrating on three main issues: the impact on the environment from CRL (Consolidated Rutile Limited) sand mining operations; the impact on the environment and health of the island from water extraction by both CRL and RSC (Redland Shire Council); and the manicuring and bollarding of the streetscape by RSC engineers, who have no desire and no talent to think past Cleveland concrete garden beds and acres of paving.

Late last year SIMO made allegations to the mining regulatory body, the EPA (Environmental Protection Authority), regarding illegal excessive pumping of water from Palm Lagoon in Eighteen Mile Swamp by CRL. This occurred over a 4-year period and caused substantial and significant death and change in vegetation in the Eighteen Mile Swamp adjoining the pump station. SIMO has accused Department of Natural Resources and Mines of negligence for not monitoring the recorded data to pick up the illegal pumping.

CRL have admitted they pumped to excess and SIMO has recently entered into negotiations with CRL and EPA to achieve some positive outcomes and improvements in mining practices as retribution for their actions. SIMO's proposals include CRL financing the finishing of the Report on Saltwater Intrusion which was to be completed and read in conjunction with the Whole Island Groundwater Model; CRL to save 75% of cleared timber for habitat and mulch; koala corridor planting plans; and CRL to negotiate with RSC to minimize the variability of the water pumping from Herring Lagoon, because the 2 pumping groups were previously not liaising with one another. SIMO is worried that if problems continue at Herring Lagoon, then vegetation changes could be expected, and the whole of the Eighteen Mile Swamp could be affected. These negotiations are continuing.

We have slowly been gathering information (including under the Freedom of Information Act) on water extraction rates and future use by RSC. The exact extraction of water off the Island by RSC is not publicly known. More information is sought to better regulate the outcome for the Island. The fire in the treatment plant earlier this year, and the following response by Redland community to Council's request to restrict water use, shows that Council's waterwise education is not effective. Strict recycling and incentive-based management plans for water conservation must be introduced. It was very worrying to read in RW&W's (Redland Waste and Water) annual report that, in the future, all water will be sourced from the Island; and that Council Officers and the Mayor believe the island water is a cheap infinite resource, one which they can trade and sell in the future to other needy Shires.

Just quickly touching on other matters – The development of the Ladbroke's Tourist Park has been a successful venture for Consolidated Properties, and sold out completely in two hours. This shows that people want, and will pay for, well

designed low-key coastal style properties which sit within their landscapes.

The Foreshore Camping and Recreation Reserve 1781 has been Interim listed with Queensland Heritage. This is significant in that Council is now required to formulate a conservation plan for this area and will have to gain permission from the Heritage Council for any major works within the Reserve.

Negotiators for the Hotel redevelopment: objectors have been meeting with Hotel owners and developers to sort out a solution and apparently good progress has been made. Newsletters will keep members informed.

### Questions

**What's happening with the Flinders Beach Committee? (from Gary North)** Jennie said that the meetings which were held were good, but then nothing much seemed to happen. We were expecting some feedback some time ago, but nothing came. Local Councillor Craig Ogilvie offered that the process has been taken over by Dan Carter in Council, and he was putting things together for release, maybe in a month. Jennie said why doesn't Council finish projects! Craig said it was happening.

**What's happening with Blue Lake and the possibly insufficient signage? (from Mike Hines)** Jennie explained that Quandamooka's consultants were working on a plan, and that there was some confusion for us about just who was putting forth the various suggestions that SIMO was asked to comment on. SIMO thinks that, once 4WDs stop going in, there'll be less swimming anyway. Also, the boardwalk through the swamp might not be a good idea, because it would be disturbing a new area. We assume that the signs came down because of the consultation process. We still haven't heard back from National Parks.

**Comment re the water (from Craig Ogilvie).** There were some changes in the wind at RSC - they are trying to think about getting consumption down. Some Councillors think there's an endless supply on Stradbroke, but others like Craig, Debra Henry and Karen Williams are encouraging more sensible perspectives. The fire at the treatment plant on Stradbroke has started people thinking. We may see positive changes at Council in the next year or so, eg, there's no Council policy about water tanks. Redlands may have the cheapest water in Australia, and also the highest consumption. Price sensitivity is politically difficult, but the issue needs better understanding. Work is being done on the water issue.

**Question to Craig - is the water work to do with the National scheme? (from Susan Martin)**. Craig thought probably it was.

Re tanks (from Judy Hines). One reason tanks were banned in Brisbane is that some were poorly maintained and bred mosquitoes which spread dengue fever. **Re** tanks, from Jan - tank screens these days are better designed. Someone said, though, that tanks will still need

maintenance.

**Where are we with sewerage,** ie, is there still to be injection into the aquifer? (from Jackie Cooper). Jennie said that, from the reports, that seems to be the situation. Craig said that 30% was to be going to the melaleuca area, but that area may be taken over for a Land Claim, so a new area, in lieu, needs to be found. Jennie said that we need a new meeting with Redlands Waste & Water. Craig said he would chase this up, because RW & W didn't get around to answering his questions in time for this AGM.

**What's happening with the walking track at the top of Timbin Rd? (from Mike Hines).** Jackie Cooper said FOSI had a Master plan done some time ago. It seems that RSC have the say. Bruce Johnman said that there was a budget allocation for an upgrade about 2 yrs ago. Bruce suggested also that money was saved by doing the Lily Walk instead of what Council had originally budgeted for. He said that while other little jobs were done, Jonathan was supposed to get money, which somehow disappeared. Bruce said it is very hard to understand RSC works area! He said the Council needs better processes, ie, promises disappear.

**Will the Reserve (1781) be burnt? (from Mike Hines).** Jennie thought maybe a burn would be OK, but Gary North and Jan Johnman thought the Reserve vegetation types wouldn't cope with the burn very well - eg, said Gary, the brush box don't burn. Susan Martin said that the one resident pushing for the burning should be told by Council that there will not be burning. Bruce said there is no justification for burning it. Jan said that Angela Steinke from the Council wasn't in favour of a burn in the Reserve. Ellie Durbidge said that, besides, fires get out of control. Recently, a burn got out of control, and was luckily saved by rain! Now that the Reserve is listed, there is a need for a permit to be required to burn it. Bruce asks, does local fire committee have latest information about what fires do to vegetation in terms of management? Gary says, there is a lot of experience in local fire people. Bruce says, eg, repeated fires can permanently alter the vegetation growing in a particular area, therefore there is a need to determine optimal time between fires, so that permanent vegetation changes don't result. Susan says that the Heritage Council is aware of various plans, eg, the Conservation Plan, but maybe RSC isn't. Bruce says that RSC has a whole of Shire fire plan. Ellie said that a management committee for the Reserve is needed. Susan agreed, and added that Reserve committee should have representatives of local groups such as Bushcare, as well as RSC. Jan added that there was a need to consult with the Heritage Council. Susan agreed with Ellie's point that locals with the latest information, are the most useful, and added that we needed to take this to Craig. Craig said he was on a steep learning curve. Jennie said that a lot of work had already been done by RSC - they just needed to use it. Craig said it always comes down to money, but that we

needed to agitate for special things. Susan said we should start straight away with the existing Conservation Plan, because it has all of the basics, though there would probably be more weeds to include by now. Bruce agreed that it was a good resource document. Susan suggested forming a Reserve Committee and starting work on upgrading the Conservation Plan if it needed it. Jennie said she had already asked RSC about the need for a Reserve Committee, but that SIMO should write again.

Jennie ended the Question time, and thanked the old SIMO Committee for their support and dedication, saying that it has worked well. She said Gary North has been our Vice President over the last 7 years and before that he was President, and he would like to resign from this position. Gary is one of the quiet achievers; he conducts fantastic informative talks on Island history and environment to school groups and earns SIMO valuable money

throughout the year through these talks. Jennie sincerely thanked Gary for the support he has offered her in the past years and for giving the straight

#### *Committee 2004-5*

<b>President</b>	Jennie Truman
<b>Vice President</b>	Susan Martin
<b>Treasurer</b>	Margaret Nash
<b>Book Treasurer</b>	Gail Bell
<b>Secretary</b>	Fran Quinn
<b>Committee</b>	Murray Haseler Allister Gee Gary North Ellie Durbidge Jackie Cooper
<b>Auditor</b>	Anna Harris
<b>Newsletter</b>	Margaret Shields

#### *2004 Guest Speaker—Elinor Drake*

Jackie Cooper introduced Elinor to AGM guests, saying that Elinor and her husband Michael Dawson are newly returned to Australia. Elinor has had a long association with Stradbroke Island—they were involved with the original "Leave Straddie Unabridged" campaign—and her family were involved in pioneering environmental activism in Queensland. Jackie invited Elinor to address us.

*(Reported in AGM minutes)*

Elinor said she was honoured to be with SIMO like minds. She'd be speaking about her family links to Stradbroke through generations of her family, and about the changes she's noticed over the years.

Elinor's maternal grandfather was the remarkable Romeo Lahey - a visionary man who wanted to preserve the natural beauty around him. He was inspired by that vision all his life. He was a timber-getter and saw-miller so he particularly noticed the pristine forest around him and realized that all of the forests would be gone if nothing was done. He was instrumental in founding the National Parks Association of Qld, and the proclaiming of Lamington National Park. Romeo Lahey also started Binna Burra, and, he spotted North Stradbroke Island too.

Elinor feels she has benefited from her grandfather's choice of beautiful land here on Stradbroke.

Her grandfather also demonstrated that he was willing to put in his time for the environmental things that were important to him. He used his personal resources - his money and land - to that end also. He was persistent in his environmental activism - and Ellie well understands this concept too. Environmental education was another aspect of his activism. For example, he would knock on doors and talk to people, and appeal to their enlightened self-interest. He took it upon himself to write to politicians.

Elinor's parents met during the war, married and settled in South Carolina. When the family moved to Australia in 1962, they used to come from North Quay by boat, and the children would have to do their homework on the boat. Then it was onto the bus, and hopefully there wouldn't be too much travel disruption getting to Waller's Headland Chalet at Pt. Lookout, where they would go to sleep with the sound of the surf in their ears. Elinor clearly remembers rolling down the sandhills at Deadmans, as a child. She also remembers having to help clear the land on Lighthouse Hill, before going surfing. The smell of the generator, and the unique smell of the grasses (she thinks) at Stradbroke, are also childhood memories. Elinor said she has lived in six countries and ten different places - that's why she knows that Stradbroke is worth saving.

So what's different about Stradbroke today? The traffic is a change. There is architectural change. But the same "can do" spirit is still here. In fact the beauty of Stradbroke has stayed with Elinor as she moved all around the world, and she was drawn to come back. She is aware of the conflict of interest here now, and people's desire to live peacefully together. However, Elinor was reminded of a saying that was used in a place she lived in Italy—"La lotta continua!" *ie.* The struggle goes on!

2004 Guest Speaker—Elinor Drake (cont'd from p 5)

Elinor expressed her appreciation for SIMO's work over the years, and that of other Island organizations such as Bushcare, FOSI and the Surfriders. She is especially grateful for Ellie's (Durbidge) activism. There seems to be more awareness nowadays, which is wonderful. For example, our local Redland Shire Councillor Craig Ogilvie is attending today. Elinor said she wished to support SIMO by organizing a fundraising Cook Book - any assistance would be welcome.

## SIMO goes to politicians' Forum about Moreton Bay

SIMO and others were invited to this Forum in September 2004, with a view to helping the State Opposition parties formulate their policies for the future.

We were told that one of the highest earning industries around Moreton Bay is Tourism. We were also graphically shown that Sydney has more protected green space around it than Brisbane does! Although flying over Brisbane you'll see ample green areas, importantly, these are generally not protected into the future. On Stradbroke, we were shown only one such area - Blue Lake National Park. (Therefore Stradbroke's existing green areas need careful management so that they can be valued into the future for their eco-tourism potential, and for clean water catchment area.)

Susan Martin, for SIMO, ably presented a talk to the Forum about our concerns regarding sand mining on Stradbroke. Susan detailed the serious damage that has occurred to the environment, even though the State Government regulatory body, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), is supposed to prevent such things happening with it's regulation and policing of mining licences. SIMO is worried the EPA is insufficiently funded, but the Opposition didn't really seem interested in this.

Susan also talked about Redland Shire Council's daily, large volume, water extraction off the Island. SIMO is very concerned that there is insufficient data support for this level of extraction to be sustainable. (That is, does a large volume of water come *into* Island underground reservoirs every day? It seems common sense that eventually, ecologically, something on the Island will suffer because it doesn't have the water it depends on. Or are we seeing the effects already, on the vegetation at Palm Lagoon near Eighteen Mile Swamp?)

There was also a lot of talk at the Forum about the water quality of Moreton Bay, and especially the public concern about the toxic green algal blooms in the Bay. It was acknowledged that these problems begin in the catchment.

*Fran Quinn .*

## Wildlife Encounters

**8.9.04** In the past week five dugong have washed up dead in the Moreton Bay region - two on Point Lookout beaches. Causes of death are yet unknown, autopsies to be carried out.

**10.9.04** We were disturbed at dinnertime by loud thumping noises, then squealing. We raced out onto the verandah and realised there were whales just off Bream Rock. It was a still night with calm seas - they must have been right up against the rock. They carried on squealing and spouting for half an hour. It was a pity the moon wasn't up so we could see them.



**10.9.04** John was on the barge coming back from mainland; he spotted a mother and calf Southern Right whale near Peel Island. It is very rare to see Right whales this far north.

**6.10.04** Two large Green turtles have been washed up dead on Deadmans Beach. Both looked like females. One carapace was 114cm. No external sign of cause of death.



# Treasurer's Report—2004

## GENERAL ACCOUNT

### Reconciliation Statement

#### Cashbook Reconciliation at 25 May, 2004

Balance 26/05.03	3224.72
Add: Deposits	<u>1493.48</u>
	4718.20
Less: Withdrawals	<u>1645.90</u>
Balance at 25/05/04	<u>\$3,072.30</u>

Bank Reconciliation at 25 May, 2004 - Balance as per Bank Statement \$3,072.30

#### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 25 May, 2004

##### Assets

CBA Cheque Account	3072.30
CBA Book Term Deposit	39138.83
Photocopier	<u>1500.00</u>
	<u>\$43,711.13</u>

##### Accumulated Funds

Accumulated Funds brought forward	44485.48
Add: Excess of income over expenditure (less stock adj)	<u>774.35</u>
	<u>\$43,711.13</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, 2004.

#### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 MAY, 2004.

	2003	2004
<u>Balance 26 May, 2003</u>		
6935.00 - General Account		3224.72
1505.03 - Book Account Passbook		0.00
<u>29129.12</u> - Term Deposit		<u>38107.66</u>
37569.15		41332.38
<u>Receipts</u>		
226.50 - Books		0.00
1286.65 - Donations		85.40
7.24 - Interest - General Account		7.36
0.03 - Interest - Book Account		0.00
1761.98 - Interest - Term Deposit		1031.17
1131.00 - Membership Fees		293.55
125.74 - Sale of T shirts, T towels etc		48.00
22.73 - Sale of Calendars		0.00
24.55 - Sale of Plants		20.91
409.12 - Talks		683.69
203.64 - Workshop		0.00
<u>31.00</u> - Net GST Collected June 2004 qtr		<u>0.00</u>
<u>5230.18</u>		<u>2170.10</u>
<u>\$42,799.33</u>		<u>\$43,502.48</u>

Continued on p 4)

## Treasurer's Report—2004—cont'd from p 3.

Payments

0.00	Appeal expenses - Cylinder Beach	163.18	
300.00	Auditor's Fees	380.46	
12.10	Bank Charges - General Account	7.80	
15.00	Bank Charges - Book Account	0.00	
0.00	Books - Library	149.68	
350.00	Donations	0.00	
57.44	Hall Hire	106.40	
0.00	Memberships	60.00	
0.00	Miscellaneous	33.10	
196.78	Newsletter / Postage	279.35	
409.10	Workshop	0.00	
126.53	Sundries	83.60	
<u>0.00</u>	Net GST paid June 2004 qtr	<u>27.78</u>	
1466.95			1291.35

Balance as at 25 May, 2004.

3224.72	- General Account	3072.30	
<u>38107.66</u>	- Term Deposit	<u>39138.83</u>	
<u>41332.38</u>			<u>42211.13</u>
<u>\$42,799.33</u>			<u>\$43,502.48</u>

## QUALIFICATION

It is not practical for the Stradbroke Island Management Organisation Inc to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations and fundraising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, the audit in relation to these activities was limited to amounts recorded.

## QUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, subject to the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation of scope referred to in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial statements of the Stradbroke Island Management Organisation Inc are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Organisation as at 25 May 2004 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

AL Harris BBus PNA FTIA

Accountant

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

## Newsletter by E-mail?

For the first time, this newsletter will be going out to some members by E-mail. As you'll recall, in recent newsletters we have asked that, if you'd be willing to receive your newsletter by e-mail, saving paper and postage costs, then please send your e-mail address to our Secretary, Fran Quinn - fran\_quinn@hotmail.com. We also included a space for an e-mail address on the membership form. We're pleased by the response so far.

The newsletter will be in *pdf* format, so no visual features are lost. To read this format, you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.5 or 6 (it is produced in Adobe 6). Most of you will already have this reader, but if you don't, it's easily and quickly downloaded, free of charge, from the Net. (It's also included on every disk which comes with a Computing magazine.)