

# Stradbroke Island Management Organisation

AMITY POINT P.O.

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## NEWSLETTER

Since our last advice to members several catastrophes have befallen Stradbroke

1. Aboriginal middens near the causeway south of Pt. Lookout were destroyed deliberately by sand miners.

Investigations by Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Affairs officers and representations to the Minister responsible seem to confirm that such wantonly destructive action will not take place again. A team of archaeologists has been engaged to map the location of significant middens in ML931 where mining operations have commenced. This action by the relevant authorities is, of course, commendable. It has done nothing, however, to "punish" the offender in the first instance; nor will it restore the middens lost.

2. A landslide, the direct result of Consolidated Rutile's mining operation at Blaksley's Lagoon, 6 km S of Dunwich, wiped out a section of coastal swamp, plus mangrove and seagrass areas.

Evidence of the impending slip was obvious for 2 years prior to the disaster but all the signs (and SIMO's warning letters) were ignored by both government departments responsible and the company.

3. "Cabinet decided on 10th May, 1982 to support in principle the early construction of a bridge between the mainland and Russell and North Stradbroke Island"...

In response to this announcement SIMO has held a public meeting at Pt. Lookout, met with staff of the Co-ordinator General, and ensured a steady flow of news items hit the papers. The battle is an ongoing one which, I am afraid, we (i.e. those opposed to bridge construction) are beginning to lose. Cabinet's decision to support bridge construction in principle and to have the Co-ordinator General prepare a strategy for development incorporating a bridge has been made in the face of its own and other expert advice and in the face of overwhelming public opposition. SIMO organized a very successful public meeting about the bridge. This was attended by 500 people. Twenty-two voted for a bridge. SIMO is doing its utmost to change Cabinet's Decision.

4. Mining has commenced in ML931 and threatens the future of the outlet creek from Blue Lake, the many middens associated with it, and the quality of Blue Lake National Park which adjoins the lease.

In addition, recently SIMO has begun organizing a photographic competition to capture the "spirit of Stradbroke", set the wheels in motion to restore the historically significant North's Dip at Pt. Lookout, and supplied the Redland Tourist Committee with information for tourist advisory signs on the island.

Results of the photographic competition will be announced between 5.30 and 8.30 pm at Imagery Galleries on October 18th. Prizes are substantial (\$500.00 cash, plus goods and a silver medal) and some works will be on sale. Further advice may be obtained by ringing (075) 498115.

*SIMO needs support to stop the bridge and ensure that good plans for Stradbroke's future are implemented. Send money to our Treasurer at Amity Point. Write letters at least to Mr. Hinze and Mr. Goleby, and to the "Courier Mail" and "Redland Times". Ring Jurek Grodecki (075 498198) or Ellie Durbidge (075 498115) if you can support this "battle" in any other way.*

Thank you for your support.

Jurek Grodecki,  
PRESIDENT.