



News and views

SIMO: PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ASSETS SINCE 1978



Welcome to spring on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island)

SIMO is your island-based community organisation championing environmental, social and educational causes since 1978. We value your membership and encourage your feedback.



2017 Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the members of SIMO was held on Sunday 27 August. Pictured is Greg Litherland, Tom Quinn and Desley Blemmings who attended the meeting. Read more on page 2.



2016 achievement report

The AGM provided an opportunity to reflect on the previous year, and we are proud to report that we achieved some great results in our key focus areas. Details on page 5.



Wetlands, window into climate change

Researchers have found that NSI wetlands date back more than 200,000 years, information that could reshape climate change research on the Australian continent. See page 6.

2017 Annual General Meeting

More than 30 SIMO members turned out for the 2017 Annual General Meeting on Sunday 27 August, in Dunwich.

President Murray Haseler delivered his President's Report, mentioning a summary of 22 projects undertaken by the Management Committee during the year.

The Treasurer's Report was also presented. However, it will be necessary to hold an adjourned AGM to sign off the audited financial statements, with further details on page 4 of this newsletter. The membership report detailed current SIMO membership at 100. We are looking to boost this in coming months, so please tell family and friends about us!

Our guest speakers for the meeting were David Nalder, Principal Ranger QYAC and Simon Hughes, Senior Ranger Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

The pair presented a very informative update on the Quandamooka Rangers /QPWS joint management arrangements being undertaken on the island. They outlined various aspects of Native Title land management, as well as current work being undertaken by Quandamooka Rangers and QPWS in key areas such as fire management and feral and pest animal control.



Geoff Moore and incoming Treasurer Renee Brigden.



SIMO President Murray Haseler with Ron Jackson.

Prior to the election of office bearers, the President thanked the outgoing Committee. He paid special thanks to Bruce Johnman and Mark Elliott for their work as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Those who stood down from the outgoing committee are Bruce Johnman, Mark Elliott, Elisabeth Gondwe and Nat Mazzoni. A big thank you was extended to the outgoing committee members for their hard work. We sincerely appreciate their time and effort during the past year.

The President and other members of the Management Committee then stood down, and Geoff Moore stepped up to the chair for the election of the incoming Committee.

Peter Spinner, who has worked tirelessly for SIMO since its inception, was elected to the 2017-2018 Committee. Peter has since decided to resign from this position. We recognise Peter's passion and hard work in making SIMO what it is today. May he continue to campaign long and hard for the protection of this island!



Jackie Cooper and Janita Cunningham catch up over a cuppa.

Meet your 2017-2018 Management Committee:

Executive:

President - Murray Haseler

Vice President - Gail Bell

Treasurer - Renee Brigden

Secretary - Nicole Niotakis

Committee:

Elinor Drake

Lee Curtis

Emma Meyer

SIMO committee future-focused

The SIMO Management Committee has changed some of its membership, as of the AGM on 27 August. We have a re-energised, diverse committee with a great mix of old and new, male and female, young and more mature...

Any time a team changes its members, even by one person, it's a new team with altered dynamics, strengths, skills and 'chemistry'. So, it is valuable to invest time in identifying roles, talents, experience and expectations to see how we can best combine to capitalise on our strengths.

As agreed last year, the Committee determined to hold a strategic planning workshop for the incoming team to help establish the group's operating framework and guidelines, and to identify the priority focus areas for the coming year.

We are pleased to report the 2017 workshop for the new team was held on 1 September at the MBRS. The day was facilitated by Elinor Drake, with all committee members participating.

The day was a great success, with a series of agreements reached about how the team will operate and the key priorities for the coming year.

"It was an intensive, constructive process, but a worthwhile investment of our time to get ourselves aligned and focused for the coming year."

"We are delighted to report that one of our priorities is communication with members, through a regular newsletter, website and social media," Elinor said.

"This builds on the great work previously done by other SIMO members such as Jackie Cooper, Haig Beck and Anthony Broese van Grenou."

Watch this space!

Key focus areas 2017-2018

- Input into the NSI Economic Transition initiative projects
- Organise two educational boat trips for SIMO members and key stakeholders
- Work with other island-based organisations to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes
- Regular communication to members via email newsletters
- Reinvigoration of website and social media presence



All members of the Executive and Management Committee took part in the full day strategic planning workshop, facilitated by Elinor Drake.

MBRS Open Day

25 November 2017, 10am-3pm

The University of Qld. Moreton Bay Research Station Open Day is a free event. Hands-on workshops, wildlife displays, cultural tours and science demonstrations on the day highlight the rich diversity and importance of Minjerribah and Moreton Bay. Click on image below for full program or visit www.uq.edu.au



Motorists urged to slow down for wildlife

In a show of true community-funded spirit, the island got behind new wildlife signage for the September school holidays. Impossible-to-miss signage was strategically placed to encourage people to slow down and look out for native wildlife.

Denis Glindemann of Wildlife Rescue Minjerribah/NSI and Michael Bulloch, renowned island artist and owner of Coffee on Cylinders, approached Councillor Peter Mitchell about obtaining some flashing speed signs, and a grant covering 50% of the cost of the two digital signs.

The community generously donated funds to cover the other 50% of the cost, and also enough for the production of static signs, which have been strategically placed around the island where Wildlife Rescue has had to respond to the most vehicle hits.

The remainder of the funds raised will be used to produce future holiday signage for crossing spots still not covered by the existing warnings. The printed signs will be put up again before each major holiday period.

This initiative takes wildlife protection to new levels on the island, however we really need local and state government authorities to take this matter seriously.

We must remember that our native wildlife, most of which does not exist on our sister islands (Moreton and Fraser), is heavily promoted by government and private interests as a tourism drawcard – and they are undoubtedly right!



SIMO would like to recognise the island's Wildlife Rescue volunteers for their efforts. These good citizens take on one of the most selfless, heart-breaking tasks that one can imagine and are deserving of the highest possible praise.

Notice of adjourned AGM

While the 2017 AGM was a very successful event, two matters were not able to be concluded at the meeting. These will be dealt with at an adjourned AGM:

When: Friday 10 November

Afternoon tea: 3.45 - 4.15pm

Adjourned AGM: 4.15 to 4.45pm

Where: Little Ship Club, Dunwich

Who: Open to all current members

Please RSVP to elinordrake@gmail.com by Monday, 6 November 2017.

The only two official matters for the adjourned AGM agenda are:

- approval of the audited accounts for 2016-17 (which, due to illness of the auditor, were not ready in time for the AGM on 27 August), and
- appointment of the auditor (or a verifier) for 2017-18.



We need lower speed limits and physical traffic-calming measures such as speed bumps, chicanes, roundabouts and mobile speed cameras. Until truly effective measures such as these are introduced, the wildlife road-kill carnage will continue.

SIMO's 2016-2017 Achievement Report

- Hosted a boat cruise of southern Moreton Bay, as part of the Quandamooka Festival
- Provided submissions to SEQ Regional Plan and the RCC Town Plan
- Campaigned against illegal wild dolphin feedings at Amity Point
- Provided input into studies on Cylinder Beach and Island Traffic Management
- Opposed Toondah Harbour development process
- Engaged with the NSI Economic Transition Strategy process
- Held a strategic planning day to strengthen and focus SIMO committee
- Investigated risks of increased water extraction from this island
- Provided input to feral animal, pest and land management committee (fox and dog control)
- Input into Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan
- Provided historical record files to the NSI museum
- Developed a SIMO publicity brochure
- Monitoring island signage program
- Information stall at the Moreton Bay Research Station Open Day
- Continued to monitor fire management plans for NSI



SIMO is turning 40!

Next year, we celebrate SIMO's 40th anniversary. We invite all members to dig into their memories (and photos) for us to use to mark this wonderful milestone, and reflect on all the great things SIMO has achieved since 1978. Stay tuned for more information.



Bushfire management

The island's community and SIMO are deeply grateful to the Queensland Fire & Emergency Service (QFES) and Redland City Council for the total fire ban imposed on

the Moreton Bay Islands for the duration of the September school holidays.

Once again, this very wise employment of the 'precautionary principle' shows how seriously SEQ fire authorities are treating this issue, especially considering the still-lingering effects of the devastating 2013-14 island bushfires. Those fires have contributed to a dangerously high fuel load across the island landscape. This, combined with tinder-dry conditions and thousands of holiday makers (many of whom are camping) creates a very dangerous mix.

This is especially so, given that with urbanisation and societal change, many people are increasingly disconnected from natural forces and may not realise just how easily bushland can rapidly be transformed into a raging inferno.

So, our most sincere thanks to QFES, particularly First Officer Bill Ewing and the auxiliary crews, together with the entirely voluntary membership of the NSI Rural Fire Brigade, especially the founding and driving force of Lois and Greg Litherland.

No matter what the roadside fire clocks may indicate, the overall situation and trend - unless there is significant and drenching rainfall - is one of a very high fire danger continuing throughout the region, especially on the fast-drying sandy substrate of the island.



Minjerribah/NSI wetlands a window into climate change

New research has found that the Island's wetlands date back 200,000 years and might have been an important refuge during periods of extreme weather.

The study, led by the University of Adelaide in collaboration with scientists from the Queensland Government, involved taking sediment cores from lakes and swamps across 16 wetlands on the island. Their research showed the island has more wetlands dating back to the last ice age than anywhere else in Australia.

These findings further confirm the island's environmental significance, and gives SIMO even more reason to push for increased protection of our natural assets. Click on the links below to read more on this ground breaking research:



- [ABC News](#)
- [Sydney Morning Herald](#)
- [The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP, Science Minister media statement](#)

We need you!

Annual membership fees are now overdue. Sign up now to help us protect this beautiful and fragile island. We have a lot to look forward to this year, and your membership is invaluable. Please consider telling family and friends who may be interested in helping us protect North Stradbroke Island's natural beauty.

Membership fees:

Individual: \$12

Family discount (2 adults from same household): \$18

Student / Concession: \$6

Email membership@simo.org.au to secure your membership today.

To direct deposit, transfer to SIMO Inc.

Bank Australia

BSB: 313 140

Acct: 12070553



[Fern Gully Lagoon, above Flinders Swamp, dates back 200,000 years and may help rewrite what we know about climate change. Photo: Jan Aldenhoven.](#)

September school holidays

Each year, in the September school holidays, Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) has become increasingly used as a destination for 'pre-schoolies' activities. This has resulted in negative impacts - mostly at Point Lookout - where residents and visitors have experienced anti-social behaviour, particularly at night.

We commend the Queensland Police Service (QPS), which has worked to minimise the impact of these activities to the community and environment.

This year, a community meeting was held at the Point Lookout Surf Club before the start of the holidays, with Senior Constables Ivan Parsons and Jai Taylor outlining their strategies to deal more effectively with anti-social behaviour.

We have seen increasing community engagement by the QPS, with a zero-tolerance attitude to disruptive behaviour, leading to a better outcome for the broader local community.

SIMO continues to campaign for low-key, nature-based tourism on the island. We applaud the QPS for their sterling efforts and are grateful for their work in helping keep the island as peaceful as possible during this time.