



News and views

SIMO: PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ASSETS SINCE 1978



A milestone approaches as we prepare for our 40th AGM!

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



Annual General Meeting 2018

We will be holding the Annual General Meeting for SIMO members at 2pm on Sunday 26 August at the Point Lookout Community Hall. All members are warmly invited! Find out more on page 2.

Ramsar wetlands celebrates 25 years

October marks the 25th anniversary of the listing of Moreton Bay as a Ramsar Wetland. It is important to remember the significance of this, particularly in the face of proposed development. See page 3.

Champions of the Bay Boat Cruise

We spent a lovely day on Moreton Bay and St Helena Island, learning about Quandamooka culture, early European history and listening to Dr Jan Aldenhoven's talk on the unique ecology that is the Bay. A full wrap up on page 3 and 4.

SIMO 2018 Annual General Meeting

WHEN: 2pm, Sunday 26 August 2018

WHERE: Point Lookout Community Hall

Members are cordially invited to attend our Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Sunday 26 August 2018, at the Point Lookout Community Hall, 102 East Coast Road, Point Lookout.

We will have afternoon tea (with homemade cakes) from 2-2.45pm, prior to the start of the meeting. If you're coming, please feel welcome to contribute a plate!

Dr. Jan Aldenhoven will be our keynote speaker, talking about some of the critical water issues facing the island.

Among the agenda items of business will be the election of office bearers for the 2018-19 Management Committee.

A number of the Committee members will not be re-nominating, so there will be vacancies on the Management Committee. It is imperative we keep the committee numbers and support up to ensure a secure future for our group.

Only a few advance nominations have been received by the Secretary, therefore nominations will be accepted from the floor of the meeting. Please feel free to chat to any one of the Management Committee members if you feel you can help out in the coming year.

Please come and show your support for SIMO in our 40th year!

We need you!

Help us continue to protect Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) for the next 40 years (at least!).

Spread the word! Your friends and family may be interested in helping us preserve North Stradbroke Island's natural beauty.

Email membership@simo.org.au to secure your membership today. You may pre-pay up to 3 years in advance

Family \$18, Individual \$12, Student/Pensioner concession \$6

Payment can be made electronically to

SIMO Inc, Australia Bank

BSB: 313-140 Account # 12070553

Or post payment to SIMO Inc,

PO Box 304, Point Lookout Qld 4183.

Quandamooka Festival wrap up

SIMO has been lucky enough to be part of the Quandamooka Festival this year, hosting a stall at the Yura! in Dunwich in early June, and again at the Yura Yalingbila (Welcome the Whales) at Point Lookout.



Come and say hi at the Kunjiel on 25 August as the Quandamooka Festival comes to an end for 2018.



After the Yura Yalingbila, we joined Reef Check Australia for a beach clean up. This data is sent to Tangaroa Blue to be entered into the Australian Marine Debris Database to help better understand and tackle the issue of marine pollution. Since 2004, more than 11 million pieces of data have been entered into the system, creating a comprehensive overview of amounts and types of marine debris are impacting beaches around the country.



If you are on Facebook, don't forget to follow our page @SIMOstradbrokeisland to stay up to date with what's happening in our group.

Invite your like-minded friends to like our page, and don't forget to share and comment to keep us in your newsfeed.

Champions of the Bay Boat Cruise

In late June, the SIMO Moreton Bay cultural and environmental boat cruise was held, as part of the Quandamooka Festival.

This year, the weather was magnificent! About 40 people joined us as we set off across the Bay on the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre's vessel 'The Inspiration', captained by Dave, and hosted by Dianne and Mark from the Education Centre. The dolphins and birdlife gave a magnificent display, whilst we listened to Dr Jan Aldenhoven's presentation on the ecology and marine life of Moreton Bay. Jan also talked about recent application for UNESCO World Heritage status. See page 4 for the highlights of Jan's talk.

Once onshore at St Helena Island, we had a guided visit to the ruins of what was once one of the most profitable (and toughest) prisons in Queensland's history. Ranger Daley Donnelly told us the some of the dark and foreboding tales of prison life, which spanned 60 years, from 1867.

Then, over lunch we were treated to a cultural presentation by Quandamooka man and traditional owner Matt Burns. Matt talked about the distinctive culture of the three clans that comprise the Quandamooka People - Nughi of Moorgumpin (Moreton Island) and the Nunukul and Gorenpul of Minjerribah. He described traditional practices that have been upheld in contemporary form across the Bay.

A huge thanks to all who helped make this wonderful day happen!



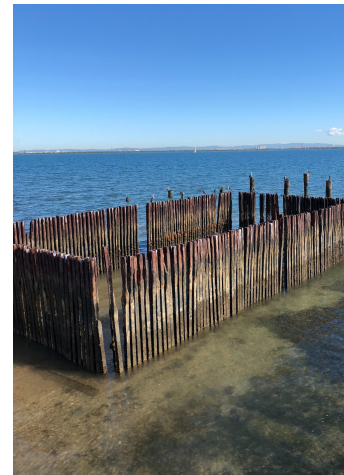
Ranger Daley Donnelly took us for a guided tour of the ruins on St Helena Island.



Jan spoke about the ecology and marine life of Moreton Bay, and the recent application for World Heritage status.



Matt Burns spoke about Quandamooka land and sea, and how we can all help care for and protect this Country.



Above: the St Helena guards' shark-proof swimming pool, circa 1870



The Inspiration docked at St Helena jetty. Image by Chris Walker.

Wetlands of Moreton Bay celebrate 25 years as a Ramsar site.

Moreton Bay has a rich diversity of habitats, supporting a multitude of species. The tidal wetlands of Moreton Bay support 50,000 migratory shore birds, comprising 34 species, including threatened species like the Eastern Curlew. Many of these birds migrate from Siberia to feed in the bay during our summer, and then return to the Arctic to breed.

This October marks the 25th anniversary of the listing of more than 110,00 hectares of Moreton Bay wetlands as a Ramsar site, protecting it as an area of environmental importance.

Why we fight to preserve Moreton Bay

The following information has been taken from a presentation given by Dr Jan Aldenhoven, as part of the SIMO boat cruise in June this year. We know the Bay and islands are beautiful and special. Really special. Here's a few more reasons to love our Bay:

Biodiversity values:

The Bay has exceptional diversity of fish, corals, sharks, reptiles, and marine mammals, making its conservation internationally significant. There is a staggering 1,154 fish species, 944 gastropod molluscs and 351 bivalve molluscs across the Bay, and at least 72 endemic species, which means they exist only in this area.

Moreton Bay is also home to 14 species of marine mammal including dolphins, whales and dugongs. The two resident dolphin species are the bottlenose and the Australian humpback dolphin. The latter is paler, has a small dorsal fin and is often seen in the water around Amity.

Interestingly, male dolphins are very political. Pairs or small groups of males form very strong bonds and work together as a team to win access to females. There is a lot of argy-bargy between them, working out dominance and keeping tabs on each other!

Dugong

Dugongs are in decline worldwide. Australia is the last strong hold for them. They are on the IUCN red list as a vulnerable species. Moreton Bay is the southern-most population in the world, and we have a stable breeding population of around 850- 1000 individuals locally.

Dugongs appear to "farm" sea grass by mowing through their feeding sites as a herd and in such a way that promotes favoured pioneer species and nutritious new growth. There is nowhere else known in the world where dugong do this in such large herds. (Preen 1995, Hodgson, 2004)

Turtles

An amazing six of the seven world species of turtle are found in Moreton Bay! It's one of the most important feeding grounds for the Loggerhead Turtle on the east coast and important feeding ground for Green Turtles.



Image by Chris Walker.

Corals

While Moreton Bay is 300 kms south of the Great Barrier Reef, it has a remarkable diversity of stony corals. A total of 143 species of corals have been recorded in the Bay.

Grey Nurse Shark

Moreton Bay is home to the east Australian sub-population of this beautiful shark. There are only about 1000 individuals left. One of the important refuges for them is Flat Rock off Minjerribah.

World heritage listing for Moreton Bay

On behalf of the Quandamooka People, the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) is seeking to have various protected areas of the bay and islands declared a World Heritage site. QYAC has already taken the first step. A document outlining the site's outstanding values has been submitted to the Australian Government in a bid to have the area placed on the World Heritage* Tentative List. It's the first time in Australia a bid has been led by traditional owners.

*Note: A World Heritage site is an area selected by UNESCO as having outstanding cultural, historical, scientific or other significance important to the collective interests of humanity.

QYAC are seeking the listing under two criteria, cultural and biodiversity values.

For more information on Quandamooka World Heritage bid see <https://redlands2030.net/quandamooka-world-heritage-listing/>

40th Anniversary Gathering at the Museum

As part of our 40 year celebrations, we held a morning tea at the North Stradbroke Historical Museum in Dunwich.

This event was an opportunity to acknowledge and thank those who had made significant contributions to SIMO over the decades through their Management Committee work or as very active, stalwart supporters.

Many were unable to join us on the day, but it was terrific to see those 'old hands' who came!

The gathering was also a wonderful chance to share stories and memories of past campaigns, outings, excursions and educational programs all aimed at protecting this island environment. The museum kindly made audio recordings of the oral history.

One of SIMO's stalwart supporters, Dr. Errol Stock made a brief and illuminating presentation with photos and facts of key hydrological issues and outcomes affecting the island. It was an important reminder of the fragility and unique beauty of this ecosystem.

Please continue to send us your stories, memories and any photos you have. We hope to continue this oral history project in conjunction with the Museum to capture these stories and help inform and educate future generations who come after us.



Aunt Evelyn Parkin gave the Welcome to Country, with her daughter, Stephanie Parkin.



Gail Bell, one of SIMO's founding members introduces the session.

Calling wildlife heroes

As we head towards the September school holidays, the island gets busier. As do our very dear friends at Wildlife Rescue Minjerribah.

This vital organisation is run solely by volunteers and it receives no regular source of funding. The volunteers pay for medicines, tests, transportation, equipment and the phone expenses required to run a wildlife rescue service. Recently, SIMO made a gift of \$500 to Wildlife Rescue Minjerribah.

Please help support this vital operation in any way you can. Every cent donated goes directly to WRM for they work with island wildlife, and you can donate to:

Wildlife Rescue Minjerribah/NSI, BSB: 124 025, Account number: 22627861

You may also be in a position to donate your time. You can volunteer by calling Kirstie Elliott on 0402 234 815.



L-R: Judy Hines, Jan Aldenhoven, and Errol Stock



Greg Litherland recounts mining activities and water issues

This is the current number for wildlife injuries and emergencies.

Please share the number with friends and family visiting the island, and keep the number in your phone.

