



General Meeting

**First for 2012:
Monday
23rd Jan
7pm**

Bribie Island Library

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Editorial

Welcome to the first BIEPA newsletter for 2012.

We hope that you find the information it contains helpful in your efforts to better understand the environment of Bribie Island, and in your efforts to act to preserve and defend that environment.

We have a focus on issues affecting Woorim in this edition. You will

see interesting information about our rare and endangered Turtles.

You will also read about



Dale Marsh's painting 'Spirit of Bribie Island'

concerns regarding vegetation management in Woorim and efforts to

change Morton Bay Regional Council policies and practices.

We have included an update on the issues BIEPA is actively working on.

You may wish to have your say about these, and other matters discussed here. Please send any correspondence to

biepa.mail@gmail.com

or come to the General Meeting.

2012—the year ahead

BIEPA has a Management Committee structure and several 'Focus Groups' dealing with specific issues.

Focus Groups include:

1. Publicity
2. Endangered species
3. Infrastructure impacts
4. Professional relationships
5. Vegetation management

BIEPA also has membership on the Woorim Erosion Ref-

erence Group and the Borefields reference group.

BIEPA members have been active in frog and water mouse monitoring to establish base line data on endangered species, and turtle monitoring.

BIEPA is involved in Clean Up Australia activities, and part of the Sunshine Coast's annual Wild Flower Walks program.

We have connection with the Bribie & District Wildlife Res-

cue group, and the Wallum Action Group who grow local native seedlings in the Community Nursery on First Avenue.

Jobs to be done:

New members or people with time on their hands might be interested in helping with:

- our Rotary Market stall
- letterbox drops
- book reviews and newsletter articles

Send us an email to let us know what you'd like to contribute.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION



**Creation of National Parks:
Stradbroke Island**

BIEPA has applied for and gained, Affiliate Membership of the Qld National Parks

Association.

The National Parks Association (NPA QLD) is a not-for-profit voluntary organisation that exists to:

further the preservation of National Parks in their natural condition, and promote the reservation of other suitable areas; promote the good management of National Parks, and education regarding the importance of National Parks; to co-operate with the National Parks administering body and other bodies with similar aims. The NPA QLD has been active in lobbying for more National Parks in Qld (our state has the smallest area designated as National Park of any state in Australia). National Park status enables the preservation of endangered ecosystems- (communities of plants, animals etc.)

This is a primary focus of the current Federal Government in regard to National Parks. Funding is

available to state governments to increase the Na-

tional Park estate as well as declare National Reserves for small areas where extraordinary or unique ecosystems occur.

The NPA QLD has acted to encourage and support the efforts of its Affiliate member groups in their local battles to preserve and protect their local areas.

They are currently working with small local groups to lobby government about Coal Seam Gas exploration.

They have also been instrumental in getting a National Park declared on (north) Stradbroke Island and restoration work organised for the dunes, at the completion of sand mining.

NPA QLD also organises walks in National Parks as well as working bee days for bush regeneration and maintenance work.

As more people live in cities and have busy lives, people also seek to have access to natural areas more. The pressure on our natural areas is great. Increasingly, complex recreational activities are developed and encouraged in National Parks and Reserves. Less people are bushwalking. More

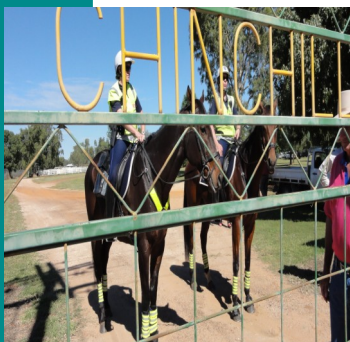
people are using 4-wheel drive vehicles. The hunger for natural areas, with easy modern access and comfort, presents a dilemma for our National Parks. Their primary aim is preservation of habitat and species, but they need community support to be preserved and maintained. Without enthusiastic visitors enjoying their natural riches there would be little pressure on government to maintain them.

National Parks are of course, a long way down the priority list in any government's budget.

BIEPA heard from our local Ranger on Bribie Island in 2011. He described his battle with pine 'wildings' - pine trees that seed in the National Park from the surrounding plantation pine forests (American species). These aggressive seedlings spread quickly through native vegetation displacing native trees, changing the natural habitat for native plants and animals. Our ranger struggles to get funding to assist in his efforts to control this plant pest.

BIEPA now has a chance to draw on the assistance of the NPA QLD to help us with local concerns.

"Lock the Gate" Coal Seam Gas protestors at Chinchilla confronted by mounted police



Message from our President

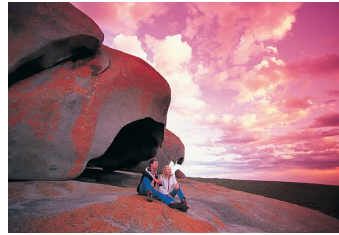
President and Acting Treasurer - Alan Kerr

I wish you all the best for 2012.

A highlight of my holiday season this year was a visit to Kangaroo Island. The community there has taken advantage of their "island" opportunities and the protection of their very special environment is high on their agenda.

They are gaining international recognition for this, if the number of different accents we heard is any indication!

The next general meeting will be spared from any 'Envirofund' debate as individual committee members are contacting the trustees and a special Management Committee meeting is being scheduled for February to resolve any issues.



Scenes of Kangaroo Island

I have been invited to a State Government "Community Cabinet Afternoon Tea" on Monday 23rd January. I will take our major issues of concern to this meeting, to talk to members of state parliament. I will report back to you on this at the General Meeting.

Worries at Woorim....

A number of BIEPA members and other residents have had cause for concern at the way Morton Bay Regional Council maintains and manages vegetation in Woorim. Unlike most other local councils in Australia, MBRC does not have an 'Environment' department dedicated to natural habitat preservation. Nor does it have a vegetation or tree preservation policy. This has resulted in vegetation being managed by the Engineering, Construction & Maintenance section, and work being carried out by what appear to be unskilled maintenance workers. Rather than preserving 'habitat trees',

and shade trees, the works team routinely remove mature trees (often for unspecified 'safety' reasons) and prune trees and shrubs to facilitate mowing machines.

This has resulted in the gradual removal of trees and undergrowth from our streets and parks.

Lately:

- Removal of 4 local casuarinas along Oxley Way
- Understory pruning along First Avenue & Boyd Street
- Removal of mature cadagi trees along Arcadia Ave (surely called "Arcadia" because of its arcade of trees?)
- Removal of cadagi & pruning of mature Morton Bay Ash, Winnett St
- Excessive pruning of bottlebrush, grasses & Hibertia vine

This unnecessary maintenance cost us, the tax payer, money and leads to an ongoing cycle of maintenance work. Council plantings have most recently only included grasses. Most streets have no street plantings. We need council workers to follow Council policy which advocates "protection of biodiversity and ecosystems" not destruction of habitat and facilitation of mowing machines.

“Council aims to achieve: (from MBRC website)

*Biodiversity and ecosystems are protected and enhanced

*Sustainable development is achieved through high quality planning and design outcomes

*Provision for balanced development to support sustainable growth, healthy lifestyle and strong communities

*Sustainable marine life, fore shores and coastal areas



Woorim Beach

*An environment with reduced pollution

*A region that is resilient to climate change

*Maintain a region of natural beauty”



Loggerhead Turtle

Green Turtle



The introduced Red Fox is a predator of hatchling turtles on our beaches.



tles nest here in the sand dunes. Healthy dune systems are needed to enable the female turtle to select a suitable site to lay her eggs. The factors needed are access to the

Baby turtles hatching and racing for the sea. Mon Repos Conservation Park, Bundaberg



fore dune, good deep sand on the fore dune well above the high tide mark and lack of disturbance once eggs are laid. The major threats to turtles in our area include:

- Coastal development: loss of habitat

Turtles

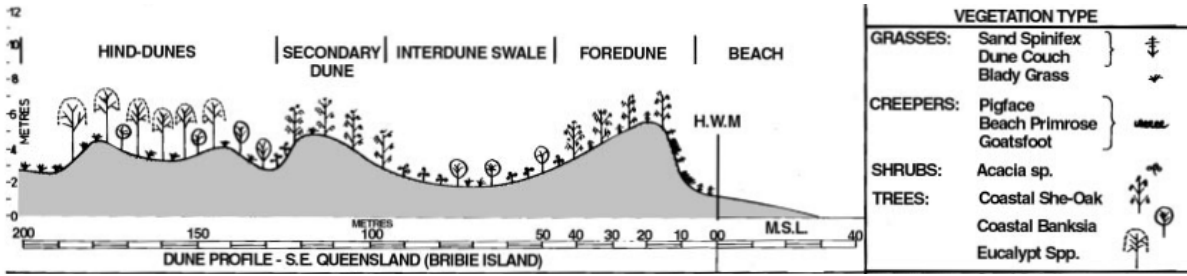
The beach at Woorim, Bribie Island, along with other sites along the Queensland coast, is an area of turtle nesting. Both Green and Loggerhead tur-



- Excess lights in the night sky (confuses hatchlings as they naturally head towards the light once hatched. This would normally be the light of breaking waves, but with human development, street and housing lights attract the baby turtle in the wrong direction)
- Destruction of the dune shape, by removal of vegetation, excess people traffic, removal of dunes, and the subsequent reduction of nesting sites in the fore dune
- Predation by introduced and feral animals (foxes, dogs, cats)
- ‘Boat strike’ of mature turtles by speeding boats in coastal waters (a turtle can die after having its shell slashed by a boat propeller)
- Fishing:- turtles are caught up in fishing nets and drown
- Driving on beaches disturbs adults & hatchlings (car tyre ruts in the sand can trap the tiny hatchlings and exhaust them in trying to climb out of ruts)
- Natural predators including sea birds, sharks and other fish

On Bribie Island we have accredited “Turtle Monitors” who contribute to research on turtles by monitoring nesting, hatching and turtle deaths. To help in the protection of this internationally endangered animal, you can:

1. Obey the boat speed limit
2. Drive on the hard sand on beaches– if you must drive
3. Lobby your Council to maintain trees and natural vegetation on the dunes



Sand Dunes

Above: healthy dune profile

Left: erosion at Boyd St 'Lookout' (from Northern Times)



The Shoreline Erosion Management Plan for Woorim (SEMP) was prepared by experts for Council in 2007. It advocated:

- Pumping of sand to replenish the beach

- all along the beach front at Woorim
- The maintenance and increase of dune plantings of native trees, shrubs and grasses
- Pedestrian walkways minimized, narrow tracks with plank & chain paths

Instead, we got:

1. Pumping of sand at one spot only, with subsequent massive erosion further along the beach
2. Removal of dune vegetation in several areas along the beach
3. Widening of several beach access points with total destruction of the dunes in 2 places

Call Council to express your concerns on: 5433 3000 (request a Reference number)

Face Book page for BIEPA

B.I.E.P.A. has now entered the era of modern technology with a social networking Facebook page set up by Colleen, your Committee Member.

How does it work?? If you have a Facebook profile (ie for a person), then you can click on the B.I.E.P.A. page (which is for a 'thing') and 'Like' it. This gives the OK for you to receive any updates from B.I.E.P.A. through

your Facebook profile where they will show up as a 'newsfeed'. You can also communicate/email B.I.E.P.A. through your Facebook profile.

This will allow us to communicate through another avenue what is happening environmentally around our island, plus any work that BIEPA is currently involved in, decisions that are being made by the relevant authorities that will affect our natural fauna

and flora.

Many young people use Facebook and it is envisaged that this may help get some younger people involved. It is also hoped that this will generate a lot of interest for people we would not generally come into contact with.

If you are a Facebooker, or know of someone who is a Facebooker, just search for B.I.E.P.A. and it should show up with our beautiful bee-eater logo. Then get them to 'Like' it!!

As at 13 January after only 4 days of being up & running we have over 40 'Likers' – so a great start for the year!!



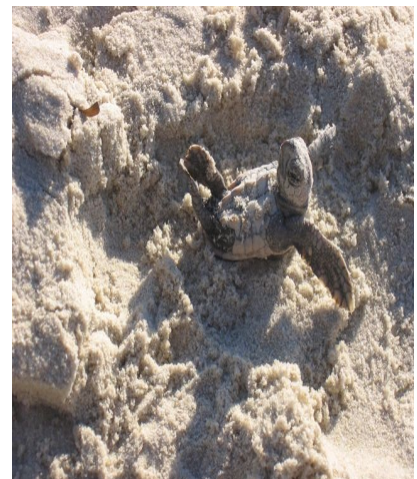
This year's turtles: report from our monitors

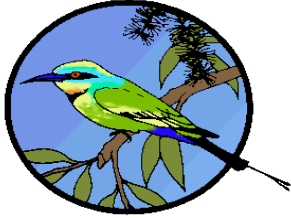
Nests have been identified from the northern most end of the eastern beach around to the southern end at Red Beach. Cooler summer weather means the eggs will incubate for longer than the normal 8 weeks. Sadly, 2 nests were washed away by higher than normal

high tides even though they were above the Highest Astronomical Tide mark. The nests on the northern tip have been meshed to protect them from foxes, sighted in this area. We are seeing an unprecedented number of 4-wheel drive vehicles driving up the

beach north of Woorim. Unfortunately some drivers drive up over the soft sand dunes into the area where turtles have nested. Tyre ruts are also a problem in this area, for hatchlings. See more pictures over page .

Right: Stuck!





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“Caring for our special habitat
and its residents”

Bribie & District Wildlife Rescue:

0400 836 592

Wildlife Hotline:

RSPCA: 1300 ANIMAL

Aust Zoo Wildlife Hospital:

1300 369 652

QPWS: marine strandings:

1300 130 372

TURTLES:

Diane Oxenford: 3410 0757

Val Jones: 3410 8192

See you at the General Meeting!



Date Claimers:

2nd Feb:- World Wetlands Day

This year's theme is “**Wetlands & Tourism**”. World Wetlands Day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands (1971) in the Iranian city of Ramsar. Government is committed by this convention to follow guidelines for the protection of important wetlands and to promote the benefits of wetlands. Buckley's Hole is one such area of international importance for migratory birds. Join us at **Buckley's Hole, 9am** to celebrate BIEPA's part in preserving this area. Bring morning tea, sunscreen, hat and walking shoes.

**Right: Turtle tracks up the beach
8th Ave**

**Far Right: Turtle tracks to & from
the sea 2nd-3rd Ave**

4th March:- Clean Up Australia Day

This year we will be concentrating on Shirley Creek. Join us at the park next to Busy Fingers, Coterrill Ave, Bongaree, btw 7am & 11am. You must phone Diane to register: 34100757 or register on the Clean Up Australia website, on the BIEPA page www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au



Below: the Human Foot Print

