



General Meeting

Monday
28th Nov
7pm

Bribie
Island
Library

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editorial	1
Alliances & Politics	2
President's message	3
Message from the wise	3
Your Committee	3, 4,
Your Committee	5
Tribute	6

Editorial

Welcome back Dear Members - the BIEPA News is up and running again. The Management Committee wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy Festive Season and much Good Will now and for the future.

Your Management Committee has sooooo much to share with you, it may need to be spread over the next couple of months. Earlier in the year, two

long-time, hard-working members of our committee resigned for personal reasons, leaving a void



Glasshouse Mountains from Sylvan Esplanade

and three important jobs vacant - Treasurer, Web Master and Newsletter

Editor. This meant, with an inability to recruit from the membership, the Management Committee team assumed responsibility for these jobs over and above their already busy schedules and commitments. We are still constructing the newsletter and web site from scratch, but we felt it important to get some BIEPA News out to you before the Festive Season. Read on for some snippets about issues we have been following.

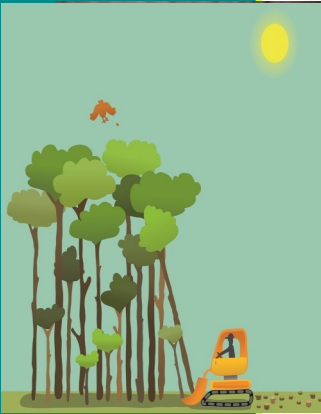
2011— a year of challenges

2011 has been a year of environmental challenges on Bribie Island. However the BIEPA organization is evolving with some revolutionary changes, allowing the Association to align itself within a global context to address Bribie Island's environmental issues. It is also important for environmentalists to see "the big picture" in the context of our own backyards. We can no longer delegate responsibility and put the

onus and trust on someone else to take care of our environment. We can all make a difference - by doing the right thing in our own back yards; through choices we make when we shop / consume; with our use of energy and water; how we travel; and how we vote, for example. The BIEPA Management Committee has been working towards improving its affiliations with other environmental groups, such as the

Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Queensland Conservation Council, the Environmental Defenders Office, National Parks Association, Australian Conservation Foundation, etc. in a united effort of support, sharing the burden, harnessing strength, knowledge and assistance in addressing the ever increasing issues of environmental degradation we witness daily - not just on Bribie Island.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS



Environmental Challenges.....

General meeting:

Don't forget: the last meeting for 2011 is

**Monday 28th November, 7pm
Bribie Library.**

It will be a most interesting night - a celebration of BIEPA.

Where are the golf course mob?



BIEPA made presentations at two conferences this year.

BIEPA Member (Past President), Ian Bell, presented at: Queensland Coastal Conference Cairns September 2011

This important Queensland conference, opened by the Hon. Desley Boyle Member for Cairns, was hosted by the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation. The major theme throughout the conference was the care and management of coastal northern Queensland and the Northern Territory by local indigenous communities and indigenous rangers.

Ian and Chris Bell attended the conference representing Friends of Woorim Beach. Thanks go to John Ward and the Wallum Action Group (WAG) who sponsored Ian's attendance.

Ian presented a paper entitled "**Woorim Beach Bribie Island and the revolutionary FFF dune fence**" which was co-authored with David Percival. FOWB members have made a tremendous contribution to Bribie Island and to all coastal communities with the Coastcare funded project at Woorim.

All aspects of the project from the initial erosion problems to design and implementation of a totally new system of foreshore management were featured in the presentation which received widespread acclaim from the

delegates at the conference.

All presentations made at the 2011 Conference will be accessible soon at the Queensland Coastal Conference web site: qldcoastalconference.org.au

BIEPA VP, David Percival, presented at Australia's Third Wild Laws Conference - 2011

Earth Jurisprudence: Building Theory and Practice

In September 2011, Griffith University and the Australian Wild Law Alliance (AWLA) hosted Australia's Third Wild Law Conference. Delegates came from across Australia and around the world - including South Africa, USA, Austria, India and New Zealand - to explore and build the theory and practice of wild law and earth jurisprudence. The conference brought together a diverse mix of people, including researchers, regulators, legal practitioners, activists, students and interested members of the community.

BIEPA sponsored representatives at the Conference were, David Percival and Richard Proudfoot. David made a Powerpoint presentation entitled, "**So Many Laws, But Where's the Environmental Protection? Bribie Island's Disappearing Sand Dunes and Sea Turtles**". The presentation can be viewed in its entirety on the Wild

Laws web site, <http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/wild-law-2011>

at the *Conference Papers* link.

David and Richard agreed they gained an extraordinary amount of insight into the many serious issues plaguing Australia's natural environment as well as emerging ones caused by the sudden increase in coal seam gas activity and mega coal mines planned for southern and central Queensland.

They found that there is a huge amount of law, legislation and policy already in place at the international, national, state and local level that if implemented and followed, much of the destruction, rained down on Australia's migratory and resident wildlife and associated habitat, would be avoided.

The Conference highlighted the deficiencies of enforcing the regulations at the political decision-making and on-ground worker levels, where ignorance of legislation is a factor. It became plainly obvious that the community and rate payers have a duty to transfer the "burden of proof" to those responsible for the decisions and work at the ground level, to ensure that the laws and legislation are followed.

Both these presentations will be repeated at the next BIEPA meeting.

Message from our President



President and Acting Treasurer - Alan Kerr: I welcome this interim form of the BIEPA Newsletter and thank the coordinator and contributors for their efforts spent

preparing it. Although BIEPA is under-resourced in some areas at the moment the community on Bribie Island can be seen going about protecting the flora and fauna and other natural resources. The BIEPA contribution continues in the areas of advocacy through the support of the Environmental Defenders Office; Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Queensland Conservation Council and other umbrella environmental groups of

which BIEPA is a member. BIEPA has also been involved in discussions with WetlandCare Australia concerning Caring for Our Country funds that could be applied to the protection of Buckley's Hole. Surface water monitoring continues and we look forward to having SEQ Catchments enhance this program in 2012. Our endangered frogs continue to be monitored and a Griffith University graduate has started a complementary research activity on Bribie Island. The first batch of Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vines has been planted for the "Create a Corridor" project involving the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network, the Wallum Action Group, Banksia Beach State School, MBRC and BIEPA. The plan is to involve more schools in the near future. The sales of our *Bribie Birds* book have been very pleasing. I thank the retailers for their support and again compliment the creators and distributor of this second book. It has built on the great legacy Ian McRae's original book left us.

Learning from the wise....

Finally, thanks to members who have taken on extra responsibilities in the last few months.

The following is a quote from David Suzuki (geneticist and PhD in zoology, environmentalist and science broadcaster) when reflecting on Science and Technology in the 21st Century:

We can't go anywhere on the planet without using the products or encountering the debris of science and technology..... Without a basic knowledge of scientific terms and concepts and an understanding of how science differs from other ways of knowing, I don't believe we can find real solutions to such issues.

"Today the most powerful force affecting our lives is not politics, business, celebrity, or sports, despite the coverage they receive in the media. By far the greatest factor shaping the world is science as applied by industry, medicine and military.

The consequences of scientific illiteracy among the general public are not trivial." and "No amount of simplification by technical staff will overcome the barrier of scientific illiteracy....." in our political decision makers who need to be "...informed about climate change, alternative sources of energy, biotechnology, stem cell research" and the interdependence of ecosystems, etc.

Your Committee:-

Prof John Harden AM - Vice President - Is a dedicated educator and contributes his expertise in vegetation management as a member of BIEPA's Vegetation Management Committee, to the community at large and to MBRC management and on-ground staff.

He has led a number workshops on the importance of plants and interdependent ecosystems. **Continued over page.....**

All the Glasshouse children



"By far the greatest factor shaping the world is science as applied by industry, medicine and military."

Colleen Ogilvie: Committee Member



Ferryman Cruises
www.ferryman.com.au

“Over the last 5 years over 1.5 kilometers of the beach has been lost.”

Bribie Island from Wild Horse Mt



Ferryman Cruises has been operating for approximately 21 years touring the Pumicestone Passage within the Moreton Bay Marine Park. The vessel is “purpose built” with Hamilton Jets fitted so that seagrass beds and our wildlife cannot be hurt or damaged during the cruises. In its early years, the business was involved in a study counting the number of dugongs seen in one day in Pumicestone Passage. This was done via a grid pattern of Pumicestone Passage and a helicopter, zigzagging across the Passage, recorded each dugong spotted in each square of the grid over the day. Ferryman Cruises is the only operation that records dugong and dolphin sightings in Pumicestone Passage with dugong sightings reported to Dr Janet Lanyon (University of Queensland) and dolphin sightings reported to the Marine Research Station on Moreton Island. This information is also recorded on the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) database. We anticipate this information will ultimately be used towards evidence to justify some Go Slow Zones for dugongs and turtles in Pumicestone Passage and could be used in the future to ar-

gue better protection of this waterway for these magnificent, mystical, gentle creatures of the sea.

Ferryman also reports any dead or floating turtles to the relevant authorities. Each year Ferryman provides the boat at no-charge for volunteers on Clean Up Australia Day to clean up normally inaccessible areas in the Pumicestone Passage. This rubbish could otherwise end up back out in our Marine Park and ocean possibly to be fatally ingested by our marine wildlife.

Western Foreshore Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP)

In 2008, Council was notified of the serious and unprecedented erosion occurring along the Western Foreshore of Bribie Island, particularly just north of the Bribie Bridge. Never before has erosion put at risk the future viability of businesses that have been operating in this area on Bribie Island for more than 50 years.

Over the last 5 years more than 1.5 kilometres of the 5 kilometres of beach (from Brennan Park to Banksia Beach) has been lost. Initially, erosion took the sand from the beach then a rock wall structure was installed which now prevents the natural process of beach rebuilding and has accelerated the erosion. As a result, beach users, boats, kayaks and jet skis have limited beach access to the Passage in this area, result-

ing in an increase in safety issues.

Over the past few years local businesses and residents have exerted consistent pressure on Council to take some action regarding this erosion, using many historical photos to illustrate the extent and progressive loss to erosion and rock walls. Finally a SEMP Stage 1 was compiled by consultants, GHD, which confirmed the extent and serious loss of land and vegetation due to this unprecedented erosion. Recently, a SEMP Stage 2 was released which offers management options and solutions for Council to ‘action’. This includes sand replenishment, some dredging and some rocking of the problematic revetment wall. For complete document, see MBRC web site:

www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/.../Bribie-SEMP-References.pdf No Community Consultation has been conducted by Council as yet with regard to their proposed works, timeframe and/or budget.

An Alternative Solution:

We are lobbying for Council to seriously consider all options and particularly look at an alternative solution that could actually build and maintain our beach naturally. It is called, ‘Undercurrent Stabilizers’ (www.saveflaglersbeach.com) and it has proven to be 100% effective wherever it has been installed in over 100 beaches throughout the world. The American company involved has been privately contacted to try to have our issues assessed and priced to determine the viability of this visionary solution that would use the natural ebb and flow of sand onto our beach. It is a smart solution and investment that could, in the long term, save the rate payers (Council) funds, satisfy beach users and businesses as well as protect the marine and terrestrial environment and natural assets of the Pumicestone Passage.

Jenny Donovan: Committee Member



Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Project:

BIEPA has become a participant in progressing the coastal habitat corridor for the re-establishment and conservation of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly into our environ-

Ray Seddon at Banksia Beach State School

ment. The Project anticipates the corridor will extend from the Glasshouse Mountains area to Pumicestone Passage and Bribie Island. Recorded sightings now occur at Beerburrum which already extends the butterfly's range about 18 kms from the closest viable breeding colony at Beerwah – 24 kms to Bribie. The MBRC donation of extra

funds allowed BIEPA to purchase 50 vines on which the RBW Butterfly depends as habitat. The Banksia Beach Primary School has commenced a "Butterfly Garden" and Ray Seddon (Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network) together with three of our members oversaw the children plant vines. This hopefully will encourage community engagement within this particular school and begin a program to attract the butterfly to Bribie Island. This will also strengthen the coastal corridor to Redcliffe, Brighton and the Northern suburbs of Brisbane, where there are already thriving vines.

Gerald Clark: Committee Member

Gerald is BIEPA's representative in liaising to improve the understanding of the impacts infrastructure has on the natural environment and the importance of baseline studies of ecosystems and Environmental Impact Assessments before any infrastructure proposals are approved. It is also of

consequence to measure the impacts of existing infrastructure. Gerald is part of the volunteer water monitoring teams who, every month, go out collecting data on the surface water at designated sites around Bribie Island. This is a project under the auspices of South East Queensland Catchments.

The data changes considerably during dry versus wet seasons - a natural process - and with the added impacts from the built environment (infrastructure), assessments can determine the possible degradation and health of Bribie's interdependent flora and fauna ecosystems.

More reports on BIEPA members and their activities next edition!

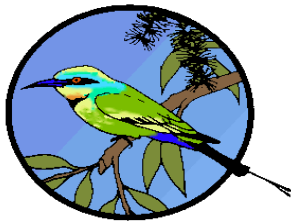
Richard Proudfoot: Committee Member

Richard is the new BIEPA Web Master and is presently constructing the web site, www.biepa.org. There are informative links to web sites where members can browse to gain information on many environmentally active organizations. The web site will also have links to

all the work BIEPA does to conserve Bribie's natural assets. Richard represents BIEPA on advisory committees in an active lobbying capacity, particularly on the Vegetation Management group that is trying to address with council the serious issues of the unnecessary de-

struction of vegetation that is continuing on Bribie Island.





Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association

ABN 18064 697 900

PO Box 350

Bribie Island Qld 4507

Phone:

Alan Kerr: 040 062 7477

E-mail: biepa.mail@gmail.com

**“Caring for our special habitat
and its residents”**

Bribie & District Wildlife Rescue:

040 083 6592

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

SNAKES:

Frank Bigg: 3408 2732



Marion & Noel Beattie: Recognition and Thank you to two BIEPA veterans

The following tribute to Marian and Noel Beattie has been compiled from past and present BIEPA members

Marian and Noel Beattie are long time members of BIEPA and have been honoured with Lifetime Membership

Since joining BIEPA in 1994, Marian and Noel have made dedicated contributions towards the protection of Bribie Island's natural assets through their volunteerism with BIEPA. Marian took on a wide variety of roles as an active member of BIEPA. They include:

- Treasurer for six years
- Secretary for two years
- Newsletter Editor for ten years
- Web Master for three years

Noel's roles as an active member of BIEPA include:

- Vice President to two BIEPA Presidencies

Past BIEPA President, Dr Joan Jacobi, states that Marian, “...was a tireless worker for BIEPA during the Lot 402 battle. She typed, took phone calls, hosted many meetings and remained cheerful, was always helpful and diplomatic. I enjoyed her energy and I felt absolutely reliant on her. It was a pleasure to work with her”.

BIEPA members, Len Baglow and Jack Baker, who led the Lot 402 battle into Court without the benefit of a barrister or so-

licitor (but with help and advice from the Environmental Defender's Office), relied heavily on the support they received from the Beatties during the whole Appeal process.

BIEPA's landmark victory for Bribie Island's natural environment has taken on legendary status in the environmental community.

Read the story at: <http://www.rag.org.au/legal/edo.htm>

BIEPA would not be what it is today without the Beatties.