



# BIEPA News

*Caring for our special habitat and its residents*

## Editorial



Dear Readers

2015 has come and gone. Our final meeting for 2015 is November 23rd. The BIEPA Committee thanks everyone who has given positive feedback on the quality of our Guest Speakers and the content of your monthly BIEPA News. We will endeavour to continue with the standard.

We have seen some major political changes in Australia and internationally where voters are expressing their need for a change in how the business of our countries is carried out. More and more citizens, especially the younger generation, are demanding that better care is taken of their natural assets, resources and environment. Citizens are expecting that their political and corporate leaders are accountable and responsible for the environmental, social and economic welfare of our Planet and recent political changes in Australia and Canada reflect this.

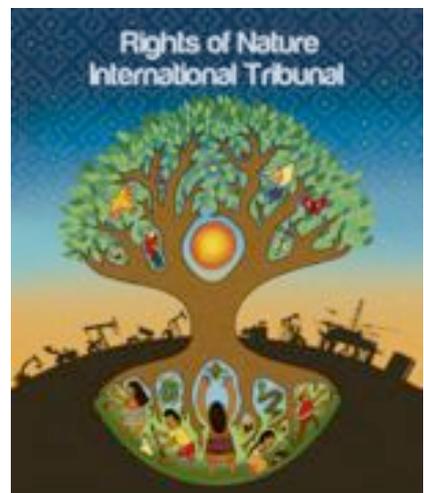
In your September/October BIEPA News, we linked you to a video on the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature, that will give Mother Earth a Voice in Paris on 4th and 5th December at the 21st Convention of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is hoped the Australian government representatives at these important talks will be accountable not only to Australians but all of Mother Earth's inhabitants. **Join People's Climate March. See Page 2.**

**We wish all BIEPA Members and Affiliates a wonderful Festive Season and look forward to resuming regular meetings on January 25th 2016.**

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# Brisbane's CLIMATE CHANGE MARCH

## 9.30 am Saturday 28 November 2015

Join us at Queens Park, corner of Elizabeth and George Streets in the Brisbane CBD, at 9:30am on Saturday 28th November, as we stand together for a better, safer, and fairer future for all.

There will be dancing, singing, bands big and small, kayakers, rock climbers, banner drops, artists, marionettes, special guests and celebrities, young people, seniors, cultural groups and more! We're all stepping up on the 28th to make a commitment to act on global warming and send our governments a united message.

We'll walk in colourful marching 'blocs' representing Brisbane's vibrant community.



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# Rising seas threaten to drown important mangrove forests, unless we intervene

Source: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v526/n7574/nature15538/metrics/news>  
And “The Conversation”

Mangroves are some of the world’s most important trees. They provide food and resources for people and animals, protect coasts, and store huge amounts of carbon. The world’s largest mangrove forest - the Sundarbans in the Bay of Bengal - supports millions of livelihoods. In terms of the services they provide, they are worth nearly US\$200,000 per hectare per year.

But these coastal forests are threatened by rising seas and human development. In a study recently published in *Nature*, the authors show that some of these forests will drown unless they are helped.

## Getting to the root of it all

Mangroves grow along tropical coasts. Unique amongst the world’s plants, they can survive in salt water and can filter seawater. The rain of leaf-fall from tropical mangrove forests provides food for crabs and other herbivores, the foundation of a food web that extends to fish (and therefore people) right across the tropics. One of the distinguishing characteristics of mangroves are their roots, used to anchor the plant on unstable ground and buttress against wind, waves and currents. The form of root architecture varies greatly between families of mangrove, including the dense prop-roots (*Rhizophora*), cathedral-like buttresses (*Bruguiera*), and numerous pneumatophores - literally narrow breathing-tubes - of the common grey mangrove of southeast Australia (*Avicennia*).

A high proportion of the living mass of mangroves exists below-ground. This means mangroves are the most efficient ecosystem globally in the capture and sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide. The uniquely oxygen-poor, salty characteristics of mangrove soil provides the perfect setting for long-term preservation of carbon below ground. The typical mangrove forest sequesters several times more carbon dioxide than a tropical rainforest of comparable size.

Mangrove roots trap sediment as currents carrying suspended particles are intercepted and slowed. Between the carbon sequestered below-ground, and the sediment trapped within the tangle of roots, mangroves are effectively able to raise the height of the land over time.

## Keeping up with rising seas

Analysis of these sediments shows mangroves can deal with low to moderate sea-level rise by building up land. But how will mangroves respond to future rising seas when people are in the way?

The researchers measured how fast mangrove forests in the Indo-Pacific region increase the height of the land. They used a tool called Surface Elevation Table-Marker Horizon, as you see in the video below. Mangroves also build up land height by accumulating roots below ground. Previous studies have focused on this. Their study, using up to 16 years of data across a range of coastal settings, shows that sediment build up is also important.

The researchers also compared the rate of land height increase in mangroves to local tidal gauges, to assess whether mangroves were keeping pace with the local rate of sea-level rise.

In most cases (90 out of 153 monitoring stations) mangroves were lagging behind. This is not an immediate problem if mangroves are already high enough to delay the effect of expected sea-level rise. However, mangroves at the low end of their elevation are highly vulnerable.

This insight was used to model how long mangroves might survive rising seas across the Indo-Pacific. The study group used a range of sea-level rise projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including a low-range scenario (48 cm by 2010), high-range (63 cm by 2100) and extreme (1.4 m by 2100). Mangrove forests with a high tidal range and/or high sediment supply such as Northern Australia, eastern Borneo, east Africa and the Bay of Bengal proved to be relatively resilient. Most of these forests will likely survive well into the second half of the century under low and moderate rates of sea-level rise.

The prospect of mangrove survival to 2070 under the 63 cm and 1.4 m scenarios was poor for the Gulf of Thailand, the southeast coast of Sumatra, the north coasts of Java and Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

**Dams holding mangroves back**

The results imply that factors that prevent sediment building up may prevent mangroves responding to sea-level rise. This might include dams holding sediment within water catchments.

This impact is already being felt. An 80% reduction in sediment delivery to the Chao Phraya River delta has, for example, contributed to kilometres of mangrove shoreline retreat.

Similar developments are planned for the Mekong River. These threats compound those already being felt, including the widespread conversion of mangrove to aquaculture.

Appreciation of the financial contribution of mangroves has been slowing the trend of decline. However, long-term survival will require planning that includes both the continued provision of sediment supply, and in many cases the provision of retreat pathways, to allow mangroves to respond to sea level in ways they always have.



**BIEPA MangroveWatch volunteers, Rhys and Gerald prepare to record mangroves on the shores of Bribie Island and the Pumicestone Passage.**

Mangroves and tidal saltmarshes are amongst the most endangered marine wetland habitats worldwide.

*'MangroveWatch'* is a program that has been established to address the urgent need to preserve and protect threatened tidal wetland ecosystems as well as addressing both scientific and environmental management needs.

Like *"Seagrass-Watch"* the program uses a partnership between community volunteers and scientists.

<http://www.mangrovetwatch.org.au/>



## BP has no right to risk the Bight

### BREAKING NEWS from WILDERNESS SOCIETY:

BP's risky plans to drill in the pristine waters of the Great Australian Bight have been rejected (for now)! Thanks to your support – the 30,000 people who've signed the petition – we've won the first round of this battle, but the truth is BP won't go away that easily. It'll now be provided with additional time to resubmit its application for approval.

We know that BP has conducted oil spill modelling for the Great Australian Bight, but is refusing to release it. Because BP won't release its oil spill modelling, we commissioned an independent scientist to model potential spill scenarios.

The results are in: the impact of a spill would be far-reaching and devastating.

Just five years ago, one of the worst oil spill disasters in history shocked the world when BP's undersea oil well, Deepwater Horizon, exploded in the Gulf of Mexico. Now, BP has its sights set on Australia.

Tragically, 11 workers lost their lives and for 87 days, oil spewed into the Gulf of Mexico. Millions of animals died while local fishing and tourism industries collapsed.

Here in Australia five years later, BP plans to drill four wells in the pristine waters of the Great Australian Bight.

### A place like no other

The Great Australian Bight is home to one of the world's most important southern right whale nurseries and communities depend on its healthy fisheries and clean coastlines not just for recreation, but for their livelihoods.

It's such a one-of-a-kind place that over 85 per cent of known marine species in the Great Australian Bight are found nowhere else in the world.

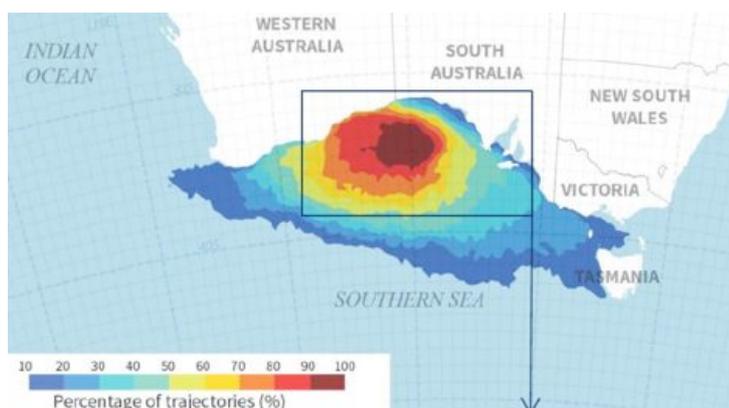
### One step away from disaster

If BP get their way, this previously untouched marine wilderness will be just one mistake away from our own Gulf of Mexico disaster. We can't afford to let BP take such a big risk. The damage is irreversible.

- See more at: <https://www.wilderness.org.au/articles/great-australian-bight>

When an oil rig explodes or a spill occurs, the damage is done. Lives are lost forever. Countless marine life and seabirds vanish for good. We cannot let this happen! Exploratory drilling, particularly in the deep, rough and remote waters of the Bight, is inherently risky. And the damage could be irreversible.

**Independent research shows if oil leaked from a planned drill site in the Great Australian Bight, it could spread west to Perth and as far east as Tasmania or even New Zealand.**



# Volvo to build kangaroo detection system for Australian roads

The Australian 30/10/15

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/technology/volvo-to-build-kangaroo-detection-system-for-australian-roads/story-e6frgax-1227587472649>

Two Volvo engineers from Sweden recently spent time at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, near Canberra, filming kangaroos at the start of a two-week mission down under. Video will be taken back to Volvo headquarters for analysis. More than 20,000 kangaroos are hit on Australian roads each year, costing more than \$75 million in claims, NRMA figures show. Volvo Australia says the company hopes to dramatically reduce this incidence. The move is also a necessary part of



developing the driverless cars for Australian conditions. Volvo senior safety engineer Martin Magnusson said although predicting kangaroo movements was difficult, it was not impossible. The key was to assess quickly whether a collision would happen based on the kangaroo's movement, and adjust the speed accordingly; it might be a matter of slowing down rather than stopping. "Kangaroos are very unpredictable animals and difficult to avoid, but we are confident we can refine our animal detection technology to detect them and avoid collisions on the highway," he said. The analysis would add to Volvo's studies of deer, moose, elk, cattle and horse movements. "Kangaroos are smaller than these animals and their behaviour is more erratic," said Mr Magnusson. "This is why it's important that we test and calibrate our technology on real kangaroos in their natural environment." He said the company intended using mid-range and long-range radar and a high-resolution camera. The first stage was to recognise a kangaroo through its shape and behaviour. The system would then monitor its movements. "If the system discovers there is an imminent risk of collision, it will warn the driver and most likely at the same time apply the brakes. The decision to apply the brakes would take 40 to 50 milliseconds. You can then have a speed reduction in half a second," Mr Magnusson said. Alternatively, a car might be programmed to steer away from the path of the kangaroo. Yet if Volvo can apply the brakes in half a second, could the car behind plough into you? Mr Magnusson said that risk could be addressed through speed reduction rather than stopping and Volvo's tail light warning system. Volvo Car Australia managing director Kevin McCann said kangaroo detection would help realise Volvo's vision that no one was killed or seriously injured in a new Volvo car by 2020. Kangaroo research is an evolution of technology that Volvo originally developed under the umbrella of City Safety, to detect cars, cyclists and pedestrians at day or night. A radar sensor in the grille scans the road ahead to detect moving



objects like animals, cars, cyclists and pedestrians. A camera in the windscreen works in parallel with the radar to detect which way the object is moving and helps the computer decide what action to take, if any.

The system can react to an emergency in half the time of a human.

**HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE TO SEE AN END TO THE CARNAGE!** Editor

# Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) (EDO) acts for Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)

..... in launching what the ACF has called an “historic landmark case”.

The ACF has lodged papers in the Federal Court in Brisbane arguing Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt failed to consider whether the impact of burning coal and climate pollution would be inconsistent with Australia’s international obligations to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

ACF president Geoff Cousins said the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) stated that the Minister must not act inconsistently with Australia’s responsibilities under United Nations’ World Heritage convention.

The Indian mining company Adani wants to build the largest coal mine in Australia and one of the largest in the world, in Queensland’s Galilee Basin. It will produce 60 million tonnes of coal per year during its 90 year lifespan. This coal will have to be railed to the coast for export and shipped through the GBR. Not only will this mine threaten the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Site, but the more than 60,000 jobs dependent on the tourism industry of the GBR. Its long term impact on water tables, farms and the environment can not be assessed.

You can listen to all of the ABC Lateline interview with ACF president Geoff Cousins here;  
<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2015/s4348402.htm> .....quoting India’s Energy Minister.....

## EXCERPT

**GEOFF COUSINS:** He said that within two or three years India wishes to stop importing coal from Australia because India wants to move to renewable energy, and indeed, when you look at that country, a massive country with scattered population, the concept that in a country like that you’re going to have coal-fired power plants and then you’re going to have to build a massive distribution network to spread it out is: a.) uneconomic and b.) very bad for the environment. So what India wants to do and they’ve said it pretty clearly: solar power in villages with battery storage - and battery technology is advancing at an extraordinary rate - is a much more efficient way to do it economically, even if you don’t care about the environmental aspects of it. So Malcolm Turnbull’s entirely wrong. You have in this country at the moment the biggest user of coal, the biggest polluting company in Australia, AGL - you’ve had the CEO come out and say, "We’re getting out of coal completely. We’re going away from it." So the Government’s out of step. You had the President of the United States on the weekend say, "We’ve got to leave fossil fuels in the ground."

**EMMA ALBERICI:** But Adani is an Indian company.

**GEOFF COUSINS:** It is.

**EMMA ALBERICI:** They’re the ones who want this coal.

**GEOFF COUSINS:** Yes and ...

**EMMA ALBERICI:** We’re not making them buy it from us.

**GEOFF COUSINS:** No. No, we’re not. An Indian company with one of the worst environmental records of any company in the world, prosecuted in India several times.

**EMMA ALBERICI:** And indeed, Malcolm - in fact, Malcolm Turnbull says isn’t it better that they get our coal, which is a lower emission coal, than coal from other parts of the world that is worse for the environment?

**GEOFF COUSINS:** With due respect, that is an entirely immoral argument and is based simply on money. No more and no less. We want to make money out of digging up our coal and sending it somewhere where we know it’s going to add to climate pollution. What an immoral position to take.

**EMMA ALBERICI:** Is there any validity to the argument that coal sourced from elsewhere in the world is worse for the environment than our coal?

**GEOFF COUSINS:** But in fact, of course, as I just said, the Minister for Energy doesn’t want our coal. He doesn’t want it. It’s a commercial enterprise that wants it. So Mr Adani, by one means or another, has figured out he can make some money out of it for the short term. That’s all it is. It’s not the Government of India who wants it. It’s not the people of India. It’s Mr Adani. He apparently can, one way or another, manipulate things to make some money in the short term, and we should help him??? You’ve got to be kidding!!



# THE GOODNESS INC

Some time ago, BIEPA was approached by the delightful young people from **The Goodness Inc** requesting our participation. They were filming the many community groups in the Moreton Bay Region who “do good things” for their community. We recently received the following and hope you enjoy their end results. They wrote:

*Hello to all of our collaborators,*

*We are pleased to let you know that the short films are now up on our youtube channel for your viewing and sharing:*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtDDxLsNObz8rY9FcxWZ-5w>

*Direct link to BIEPA video:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHcllrhJ5lw>

*Apologies for the delay with this!*

*Thank you so very much for being a part of this project. It was truly inspiring to meet with you all (and heaps of fun!). We really believe that it is people like you who will change the direction of our world. It has been great to be able to celebrate this work with you.*



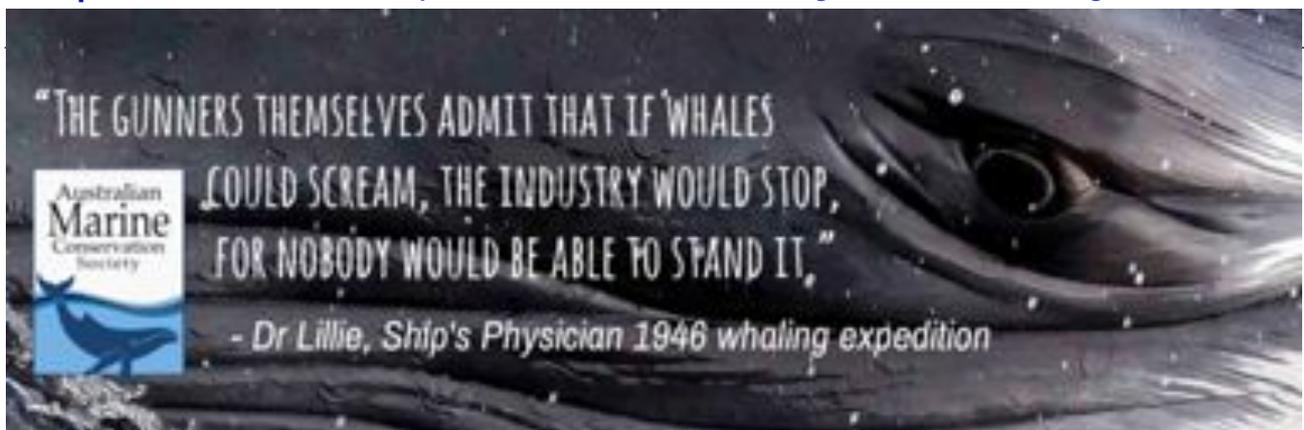
**A lifestyle free from  
greed, inequality  
and mass consumption  
by focusing on  
change from within...  
are you ready for goodness?**

Published on Oct 7, 2015

Sustainability Films - a series of short films showcasing inspiring organisations supporting a sustainable future. Brought to you by **The Goodness Inc** and proudly supported by the Moreton Bay Regional Council

## Protect our Whales

**The Japanese Government plans to resume illegal whaling this Christmas – in our Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.** If we don't stop their illegal hunt, hundreds of minke whales will be cruelly slaughtered by the time our summer holidays are over. As an Australian, your action is essential to stop this. **Please make a donation so that together we can protect our whales.** <https://secure.marineconservation.org.au/donate/2015Whaling2>

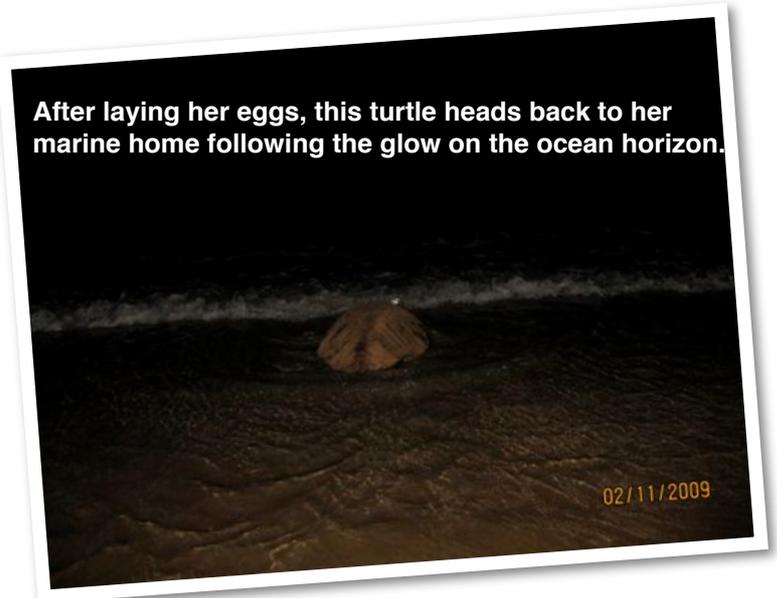


# TURTLE TALK

## The 2015 - 2016 Nesting Season Begins

In an effort to rebuild the dwindling loggerhead turtle population, a dedicated team of volunteers from across the region spends thousands of hours locating and caring for turtles nesting on Sunshine Coast beaches, such as Coolum, Marcoola, Shelly, Mudjimba, Bribie Island. TurtleCare Sunshine Coast operates at the request of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and is fully supported by the Sunshine Coast Council. Volunteers are required to spend at least a week each year, volunteering, learning and honing skills at the Mon Repos Conservation Research Park, to maintain their accreditation to care for the turtle nests. They also attend workshops where knowledgeable experts in the field, such as Dr Col Limpus, give presentations. There are only 500 nesting females in eastern Australia and the Sunshine Coast population continues to be vital to the long-term survival of this species. Because of the concern for the survival of this particular gene pool, a *Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle (Caretta caretta) in the South Pacific Ocean* was put in place. [http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/COP11\\_Doc\\_23\\_2\\_2\\_Rev1\\_Annex\\_2\\_SSAP\\_Loggerhead\\_Turtle\\_E.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/COP11_Doc_23_2_2_Rev1_Annex_2_SSAP_Loggerhead_Turtle_E.pdf) Australia, Peru and other nations within the South Pacific Loggerheads' migration range signed the agreement committing to protect this species and its habitat in order to prevent extinction.

After laying her eggs, this turtle heads back to her marine home following the glow on the ocean horizon.



TurtleCare volunteers do a remarkable job relocating 'at risk' nests, recording numbers, identifying species and protecting nests from predators. There are a number of threats at the nesting, egg and hatchling stages on Coast beaches. They include: destruction of habitat; 4 Wheel Drive vehicles; coastal development and light pollution; introduced feral species such as foxes and pigs; unrestrained dogs, etc. Where appropriate, volunteers cover turtle nests with construction mesh which prevents predation by foxes, pigs and dogs, while still allowing hatchlings to emerge naturally and unassisted. Everyone can do their part. Beachgoers on Bribie

Island who observe turtles should call Diane on 0438 111 163 or on the Sunshine Coast, call TurtleCare on 0437 559 067. This allows volunteers to find the turtle nest and care for it during the incubation period of between 7 - 10 weeks. It is also important to switch off any torches and ensure dogs are secured on leashes and kept well away from nesting habitat.

The TurtleCare program is a great example of the Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection, Council and the community all working together to protect the environment.

For more information, go to: [www.turtlecare.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.turtlecare.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)



Bribie hatchlings heading towards the morning ocean glow

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

We have chosen these two books to illustrate that there is no need for developers to continue foisting unimaginative environmentally unsustainable boxes on the populace under the guise of providing affordable housing. It seems some developers believe they have to clear every tree and living thing to pack in as many generic houses as possible on a site. We have only to ponder what quality of life there will be in the most recent housing development in Ningi, as an example.

30 years ago, developers such as Pettit and Sevitt employed architects to provide quality affordable project homes. The company has been immortalised with a permanent exhibit at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum. The Pettit and Sevitt homes were simple, functional, distinctive and affordable houses that used space cleverly (as opposed to just a lot of space). In order to minimise heating and cooling costs, not to mention the cost to the environment, natural sunlight and cross-ventilation were used to maximum effect. Thank goodness, Pettit and Sevitt have decided to make a come back and raise the bar once again.

### Innovative Houses: Concepts for Sustainable Living

BY Avi Friedman

While it seems every second architecture book these days has the words "innovative" and "sustainable" on the front cover, this publication is by no means run-of-the-mill. Divided into four broad sections called: Demographic and Social Trends; Design and Production Methods; Energy and Resource Efficiency; and Innovative Landscaping, this publication delves far beyond superficial notions of sustainability to examine how our residential environments can make a meaningful contribution to combating Climate Change and the depletion of natural resources. Thirty-five housing projects illustrate how innovative concepts are being put into practice, complete with easy-to-comprehend diagrams.



### Inspired Homes: Architecture for Changing Times

BY Avi Friedman



A timely, thought-provoking, and highly informative book on architectural designs that meet the need for a new ethical and sustainable approach to architecture. *Innovative Homes* addresses a growing demand for books on houses that are smaller in scale, have less impact on the land, and utilise eco-friendly technology and materials. Written by a world expert in the field, *Innovative Homes* offers information on contemporary design concepts and illustrates them with examples of truly outstanding designs. Current modes of dwelling design are facing challenges of both philosophy and form. Approaches that have prevailed in past decades no longer sustain new demands and require innovative rethinking. The need for a new outlook is propelled by fundamental changes to the environment, economy, and society. These challenges include designing for: an aging population, in dense urban environments, for fast-paced development and health-conscious inhabitants. Design for passive solar gain, solar-powered homes, minimizing a dwelling's physical footprint, Net-Zero residences, and preserving a site's natural assets are some of the strategies that the international architects and builders, featured in this book, are integrating into their thought processes and design practices. Australian practices included are: BVN Donovan Hill, Richard Cole Architecture and Bark Design Architects.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### *Thysanotus tuberosus* (Common Fringe Lily/Fringed Violet)

**Family:**

Asparagaceae

**Distribution:**

Widespread in grasslands and woodlands in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

**Thysanotus;** From Greek *thysanotos*, fringed, in reference to the flowers.

**tuberosus;** From Latin *tuberculum*, a swelling, referring to the tubers on the roots.

**General Description:** *Thysanotus* is a genus of about 47 species all of which occur in Australia. Two of these species also occur outside of Australia. They are perennial herbs with 'lily-like' flowers that are characterised by the fringed margins to the flowers.

***Thysanotus tuberosus*** is the most commonly encountered species. It has narrow, linear leaves to about 50 cm long arising from a tuberous rootstock. The flowers occur on branched stems up to 80 cm long, each stem bearing up to eight flowers. Flowers are mauve to purple, about 25 mm diameter and usually occur in spring and early summer. Each flower only opens for a single day but new flowers are produced over an extended period.



Fringe lilies are not often seen in cultivation despite their obvious beauty. Generally they have proved to be difficult to maintain in cultivation. *T.tuberosus* should be grown in a well drained sunny position. It is also suited to growing in a container.

Propagation is relatively easy from seed which does not require any special pre-treatment.

Although these lovely little flowers were not in bloom for our Wonders of the Wallum Spring Wildflower Walk in August, they were in abundance a few weeks later. There is always something blooming in Bribie's Wonderful Wallum!

## BIRD OF THE MONTH

### Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*)

Pelicans are a widely distributed species of bird, they are found in all continents except Antarctica. There are seven species divided into two groups, the white ground nesters and the grey/brown tree nesters.

The Australian Pelican is a large water bird 1.6 to 1.8 m long, 2.3 to 2.5 m wingspan and 4 to 13 kgs in weight. Its plumage is white with black primary feathers; younger birds have brown primary feathers.

Pelicans are good swimmers, they have short, strong legs with webbed feet. Their tails are short, but their wings are long, for gliding and soaring. They can fly great distances and have been recorded at altitudes of 3000 metres. The characteristic pouched bill is pink in colour - the largest avian bill in the world (the longest recorded Australian Pelican bill is 49 cms with a capacity of 13 litres).



An unusual feature of the Pelican is a layer of bubbles under the skin of the torso, which assists with flotation and insulation. Australian Pelicans are sociable birds and may sometimes be seen hunting together in a line to herd fish together. Small fish are scooped up in their expanded throat pouch, which must be drained before the fish can be swallowed. Larger fish are caught with the tip of the bill then tossed into the air and swallowed head first.

Something unusual about our populations of coastal pelicans is that baby pelicans are never seen. This is because pelicans nest far away in inland or remote locations in large breeding colonies.

They have no particular migration or breeding pattern. Huge breeding colonies of coastal dwelling pelicans suddenly appear in remote temporarily flooded inland lakes and waterways, such as Lake Eyre.

**Entanglement in fishing gear is a major problem for pelicans.** (Further information [www.seabirdrescue.org](http://www.seabirdrescue.org))

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# 2015 FOR BIEPA

## Recap of 2015 Guest Speakers

**January:** Wiebe ter Bals, Executive Director, Sunshine Coast Environment Council. Wiebe gave an impassioned and informative presentation on the battle Sunshine Coast environmental groups (including BIEPA) and the Sunshine Coast Council are waging to prevent the State government from including the Hall's Creek section of the Inter Urban Break for development and thus creating Noosagatta. For updates go to:

<http://www.scec.org.au/campaigns/halls-creek/>

**February:** Special Members' night for discussion regarding issues and concerns about Bribie Island's natural assets and environment. Members listed 14 issues of priority with Number 1 being the need for a Tree and Vegetation Protection and Maintenance Policy. See BIEPA News, February/March 2015 edition for List.

**March:** John Oxenford, retired engineer. John explored the current uncertainty affecting the Energy Industry, both in Australia and throughout the world. He discussed some of the complex issues including the Carbon Tax, Renewable Energy Targets, Balance of Supply & Demand, Reducing Greenhouse Gases, Economical and Viable Energy Storage, and the overall trend to reduce usage.

**April:** Friends of Stradbroke Island (FOSI), Sue Ellen and Richard Carew and Mary Barram (VP of FOSI and daughter of long time BIEPA member, Jim Barram) gave inspiring presentations of their battles with sand mining company Sibelco and the Newman government. And, Tegan Lather from Wildlife Emergency, Bribie Island gave a talk about her upcoming fund raiser.

**May:** BIEPA AGM and the surprise movie, "Frackman" A story about an accidental activist and his struggle to oppose fracking on his land against international gas companies. You can watch the Trailer here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ifUjjP3aL4>

**June:** Dean McNulty from the Australian Firefighters' Climate Alliance. Dean gave a sobering presentation on the links between Global Warming and Climate Change and the increase in fires and their intensity. Here is the link to the AFCA web site: <http://www.ausfca.org.au/>

**July:** Ian Bell (Moreton Bay Eco Alliance - MBEA) and Rod Ridley (Moreton Bay Community Alliance - MBCA). Ian and Rod gave enlightening accounts of the reality of not being able to engage in proper public consultation with the MBR Council on the Draft Planning Scheme.

**August:** Two guests from Unity Water expanded on what we learned on BIEPA's tour of the Sewage Treatment Plant. They were King Intrapaloon, Manager Treatment Plants and Kim Moore, Learning and Development Programs Manager.

**September:** Susie Chapman, Northern Area Manager, Coastal Catchments Team, South East Queensland Catchments. See BIEPA News, September/October edition for topics Susie covered in her presentation.

**October:** Hon Wyatt Roy MP. Wyatt gave us an update on the Green Army project as well as the exciting work he is doing in his new role as Assistant Minister for Innovation.

**November:** Dr Ben Diggles, (DigsFish Services). Ben is a marine biologist and will discuss some of the work undertaken by DigsFish and will focus on his efforts to establish the Shellfish Reef Restoration project as a way of improving the declining water quality of the Pumicestone Passage. <http://www.digsfish.com/>

We would like to acknowledge that Hon Rick Williams MP for Pumicestone attended as many BIEPA meetings as possible and sent a representative to give updates and take notes if he could not make the meeting.

We are happy to report that we are collaborating with Mr Williams on solving the issues associated with 4WD vehicles on the beach. There are some options under consideration. Mr Williams attended a turtle nest dig last season that contained 4 straggler hatchlings and took the initiative to dig a rut like those made by 4WD vehicles. He was able to see for himself that ruts stop the hatchlings reaching the ocean.

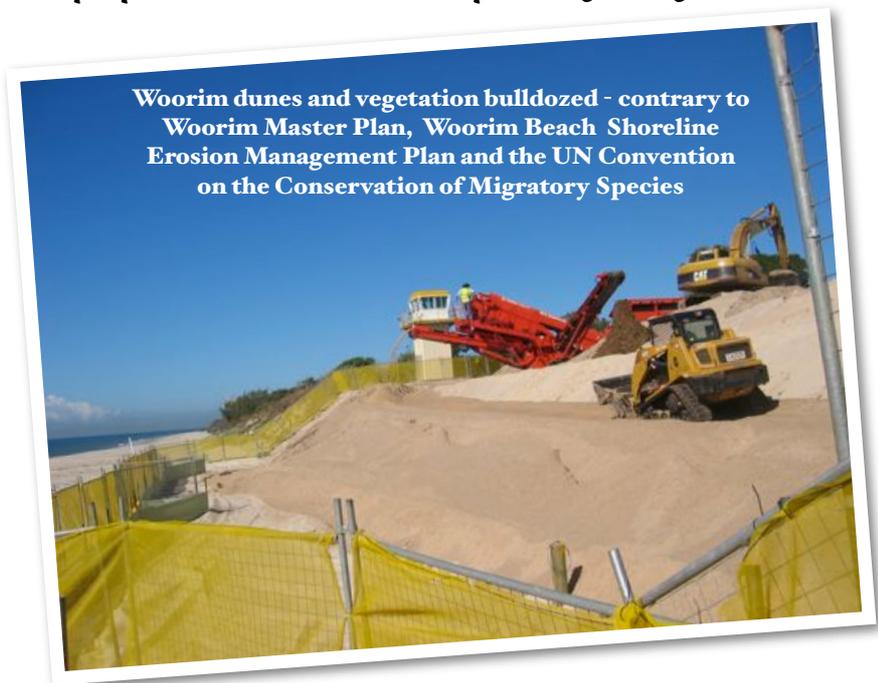
Also, attending meetings is Brooke Savige the recently announced candidate for next year's council election. Brooke is the daughter-in-law of long time BIEPA members Julie and Greg Savige.

# THE POWER TO EXEMPT

## Noosa councillor raises concerns about proposed State Government planning changes

From *Noosa News* 16 October 2015

Concerns for due process have been raised over proposed planning changes by the Queensland Government that would enable councils to issue exempt minor developments from undergoing the scrutiny of an application process. Councillor Tony Wellington made comment to Noosa council’s planning committee about proposed powers for a local government or a chief executive to issue exemption certificates to development applicants if the effects of the development are considered “minor or inconsequential”. Cr Wellington pointed out that this “pretty loose wording” was “...clearly open to interpretation”. He went on to point out to the council’s planning manager that, “maybe we should be looking at the bigger picture” ..... “It does open itself to corrupt practices or misinterpretation or abuse.” The planning manager agreed that under the present system, exemptions could not be issued. Cr Wellington said that Noosa Council placed a very high degree of faith in its planning staff, “but there are other councils that aren’t so fortunate”. The planning



**Woorim dunes and vegetation bulldozed - contrary to Woorim Master Plan, Woorim Beach Shoreline Erosion Management Plan and the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species**

manager agreed that there was the potential for “some councils to take it too far”. Other councillors agreed that Cr Wellington’s concerns regarding the possibility for avoiding due process were valid and it is important all development should be well managed.



## SCOUTS LEARN SEA KAYAKING

A number of Scouting groups came to Woorim Beach recently to learn Sea Kayaking.

This Scouting initiative is the first Sea Kayaking School in Queensland.

It was wonderful to see the young people enjoying the challenge of kayaking and getting healthy exercise in an activity that does not endanger marine animals.

# B.I.E.P.A.

*Caring for our special habitat and its residents*



## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Diane Oxenford President
- Ron Watson Vice President
- Lia Saint-Smith Treasurer
- Jenny Walker Secretary
- Kathleen Catalan Committee
- Kay McIntosh Committee
- Therese Puffett Committee

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 Phone: 3410 0757



## How to support BIEPA's ongoing work

We wish to thank all those BIEPA members who have so generously made donations to the Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association in the past.

We continue to work, lobby and advocate to prevent environmental damage to Bribie's natural assets.

All donations to BIEPA's Public Environment Fund are tax deductible and may be easily and securely made by bank transfer to:  
**BIEPA Inc Public Environment Fund - BSB 064448, Account 06444810041186**

Receipts will be mailed to donors, so please remember to put your name on the transaction and follow up with an email to: BIEPA Treasurer at [biepa.mail@gmail.com](mailto:biepa.mail@gmail.com)

## WILDLIFE & GENERAL CONTACTS

Bribie & District Wildlife Rescue, 0400 836 592  
 Aust Zoo Wildlife Hospital, 1300 369 652

Turtles: Diane: 0438 111 163;  
 Val: 3410 8192; Ann: 3410 1771

QPWS: marine strandings: 1300 130 372

QPWS Rangers: Bribie Island: 3408 8451

Wildlife Hotline: RSPCA: 1300 ANI MAL

Snakes: Qld Wildlife Solutions,  
 Geoff: 0414 962 688 (Fee charged)

Bat Rescue Hotline - 24 hours 0488 228 134

Dept Agric, Fisheries, Forestry (DAFF)  
 Fishwatch Service for reports on marine plant damage (eg. mangroves)  
 1800 017 116 (24 hour hotline)

Pelican & Seabird Rescue (Brisbane):  
 24 hour hotline: 0404 118 301  
<http://birdrescue.com.au/>

Twinnies Pelican & Animal Rescue (Sunshine Coast) Tel: 07 5439 9995  
 Mob: 0421 476 561

MBRC Requests: (Ask for Reference #)  
 Ph: 3205 0555

Walum Action Group Phone: 34100088

## DATE CLAIMERS

- November 23 BIEPA meeting
- December 05 International Volunteer Day
- December 10 Human Rights Day
- December 11 International Mountain Day
- December Festive Season

## 2016

- January 01 New Years Day
- January 25 BIEPA Meeting
- January 26 Australia Day

QLD Parliament Sitting dates:  
 December 1-3

## BIEPA BOOKS FOR SALE

- Bribie Birds ..... \$16:50
- Annotated Check List Birds of Bribie Island ... \$ 6:00
- Wildflowers of Bribie Island ..... \$17:00
- Wildflowers and Birds Package (2 bks)... \$20:00
- All 3 books ..... \$25:00

