



BIEPA News

Editorial



Dear Readers

The Silly Summer Season is upon us and the residents of Beautiful Bribie Island are bracing themselves for the influx of visitors. Most are welcome, but some - eg. the disrespectful noisy hoons and litterbugs - are not! Bribie's natural environment is attracting not only increased numbers of day-trippers from the mainland but visitors from

many parts of Australia and Overseas.

Bribie is blessed with: beautiful beaches; pristine fresh-water lakes and wetlands; National, Conservation and Marine Parks; the tranquil waters of the Pumicestone Passage and a myriad of flora and fauna species that attracts naturalists from far and wide. *(continued on page 2)*

GUEST SPEAKER - OCTOBER 27 - DR PHILLIP WILLIAMS

Dr Williams worked for over 15 years as a civil engineer on a wide range of infrastructure projects before returning to university to pursue a career as a researcher and lecturer at Griffith University. He added Environmental Science & Engineering to his portfolio.

Dr Williams will talk about where our water comes from and where it goes when we have used it. Bribie's water



has been in the news lately and as the Island is part of the SEQ water grid our supply can come from many sources, including dams, weirs and underground aquifers. It is treated in over 40 different water treatment plants and distributed to consumers via >600km of pipelines. Then it is piped to waste water treatment plants and discharged back to the environment.

BRIBIE ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION INC

www.biepa.org

Next BIEPA Meeting will be 7pm Monday November 27th at the Bribie Island Library.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr Phillip Williams

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EDITORIAL (CONTD)

Bribie is a bird watchers paradise; hikers/bush walkers and cyclists enjoy Bribie's trails and beaches; kayakers, canoeists, surf-boarders, windsurfers and sailing enthusiasts take advantage of the Pumicestone Passage and Moreton Bay Marine Park where they regularly encounter, turtles, dugong and dolphins. Bribie boasts two beautiful golf courses, an active Community Arts Centre, Seaside Museum, Weekend Markets, picnic areas and a diversity of eateries.

Bribie is free of the big city, noise, hustle and bustle and polluted air. Instead, soft, clean sea breezes waft over the Island cooling summer temperatures.

Bribie has been the perfect place to live and visit for quiet family holidays & romantic getaways.

Best of all, Australians have agreed to protect Bribie Island's natural environment with international conservation agreements, federal environmental protection acts, and state legislation.

Bribie Island is the only island in Moreton Bay with bridge access to the mainland.

And, therein lies the potential for all these unique assets & lifestyle to be squandered. Until recently Bribie managed to avoid the noisy, hedonistic self-indulgent and hoon culture. Bribie had escaped the developers' ugly, copy-cat American style coastal real estate developments. Bribie's unique character exhibited none of what we all knew we

disliked about the concrete jungle of vulgar Gold Coast resorts and casinos that have obliterated Queensland's once scenic and relaxing beaches to the south. On Bribie, visitors did not have to pay to relax in expensive spas and bars. The very Nature of Bribie was relaxing & rejuvenating.

Sadly, things are changing on Bribie. Our political decision makers are being influenced by developers and have begun turning Bribie into "somewhere else". The **Draft MBRC Planning Scheme** lacked appropriate public consultation in the first round and since its release, communities have been voicing their concerns and it appears they are being left out of the next round of consultation. Our councillor is quoted in a recent media release: "*Councillors are working with (Planning) staff and highlighting the issues that are of great concern to their residents during workshops being held regularly during this month (October)..... Community workshops will also be held*" - we are not sure when. BIEPA wishes to advise our readers that **no councillors have attended a BIEPA meeting since being elected and have not consulted with BIEPA on the Draft Planning Scheme.** BIEPA is most concerned about what, "*issues of great concern to their residents are being highlighted*". Certainly not BIEPA's environmental "*issues of great concern*" at this time.

Fortunately it may not be too late to be heard and avoid turning Beautiful Bribie Island into "somewhere else". The MBRC Draft Planning Scheme remains under revision, thanks to the many individuals and community groups who voiced their concerns about the lack of due process.

You will recall that BIEPA wrote to the Mayor asking for more effective and comprehensive public consultation and for the due

date for submissions to be extended by at least two months. Since then the communities have convened and formed the Moreton Bay Community Alliance. **In a recent Media Release, MBCA Con-venor, Ken Park said: *that anger was the common bond: anger at the lack of community consultation before the plan was published, anger at the lack of consideration of the ratepayers' interests by council and the state government, anger at the adverse effects on property values, insurance costs and development potential. There is more anger over the recalcitrant attitudes by the Mayor and now, finally, a proposed consultation is planned but without any input from ratepayers about the form of that consultation. Both the state and regional councils are on notice that the Mark2 plan and its processes will need to address all of these angers. Ken Park added that there had been two months of local group meetings and email communication between groups, all questioning the science, the law and the processes that had been followed. The unanimous opinion has been that the residents, ratepayers, businesses and the environment need a single strong voice to represent their interests and to demand that all levels of government listen to the people and uphold their interests.***

Former BIEPA President, Ian Bell, is on the MBCA Committee representing environmental issues for the Region. BIEPA has also joined the MBCA.





GREENPEACE

simply too toxic to work with. Whatever Shell does, wherever it tries to hide, we'll be there -- exposing its true face, condemning its environmental destruction, and standing up for the Arctic.

Thanks for everything you do.

(MESSAGE TO GREENPEACE SUPPORTERS)

Dear Friends of the Arctic

Something awesome happened: **LEGO has announced it will not renew its contract with Shell!**

I wanted to thank you - it is because of thousands of you standing up for the Arctic that LEGO has put an end to helping Shell attempt to clean up its image for dirty oil drilling. It's a huge blow to Shell's strategy of partnering with much loved brands to mask its destruction of the world's most pristine places.

Soon it'll be time to put more pressure on Shell. But meanwhile, **congratulations and thank you!** Over 25,000 of us sent a clear message straight to LEGO - so this is our victory.

Some people don't really believe that we can make a difference together. But LEGO's announcement shows we really can. **This was a half-century long relationship**

between two extraordinarily powerful, global corporations.

Now Shell is more alone than ever, but it's still racing full speed ahead to get permission to drill in the fragile Arctic waters of Alaska in 2015. Meanwhile, just days ago, the Arctic sea ice cover reached one of its **lowest points on record.**



Beluga Whale

Alexandra Harris
Arctic Campaigner
Greenpeace Australia Pacific

PS. LEGO's move is proof that our voices are heard in the boardrooms of even the biggest corporations. Unilever, Nestle, L'Oreal, Proctor & Gamble — and now LEGO — have all changed their ways because of public pressure from all of us. **If you haven't signed the petition to Save the Arctic please join the movement today.**



Puffin

We know this is a battle we can win. Every day we're getting closer. Our movement to Save the Arctic is now more than **six million strong** and last month we took our proposal for an Arctic sanctuary all the way to Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary General.

This news is proof we're making waves together. It sends a strong message to other brands that **companies that support Arctic drilling are**

Greenpeace Australia Pacific is part of a global movement of people taking action for a green and peaceful future. We rely entirely on voluntary donations to carry out our campaigns. **The best way to help us keep fighting climate change, defending our oceans and protecting ancient forests is to make a donation.** Thank you! To get in touch with a friendly human being, use our **website contact form.**

Oil spill reading:
<http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/152720/>

<http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/161185/>



Polar Bear

Source:

<http://westarnhem.nt.gov.au/the-wire-news/>

KAKADU RANGER JOBS TO GO IN BUDGET CUTS

Travelers' Tales from the North



“We spoke at length with a Kakadu ranger who had an unbelievable knowledge of the culture and during the presentation to a group we asked the question *'How can we help'* and the immediate response was *'Vote differently!'*”

KAKADU National Park may be affected by Federal Government budget cuts with up to 13 staff at the park, including rangers, being offered voluntary redundancies. The Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) said five rangers and three people from research and cultural programs had agreed to take the offer. Parks Australia has not confirmed any details of decisions made by staff. **The Kakadu redundancies are among 480** being offered to Department of Environment staff Australia-wide, over 36 months. The job cutbacks, combined with pressure from state and territory governments on the **Federal Government to fast-track mining developments**, have environmental groups concerned about impacts on World Heritage sites and protected species.



The Federal Government will soon make states and territories responsible for “matters of national environmental significance” including uranium mines, water resources, World Heritage areas such as Kakadu, migratory species, wetlands of international significance, and threatened species. In a statement to the ABC, Parks Australia said: “While the particular positions will not be



replaced, Parks Australia is taking the opportunity to modernise its operations, with a particular focus for Kakadu on new positions in threatened species, science and marketing.” CPSU deputy secretary Beth Vincent-Pietsch said there were concerns about some of the rangers affected from remote districts of the park. “Their only security now is radio contact with a buddy in another district, but obviously if they get hurt or injured while on patrol in a remote area of their district,

they may not be able to get to the radio.” Djabulukgu Association Chief Executive Liam Maher said fewer rangers in Kakadu would mean fewer hands to work with its indigenous park rangers clearing invasive weeds like salvinia and



mimosa. “If Kakadu’s flood plains are filled with mimosa it’s a lose-lose for everybody,” Mr Maher said.

http://www.kakadunationalparkaustralia.com/Kakadu_Maps.htm

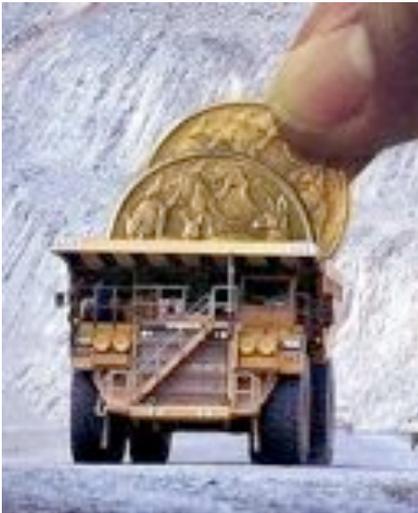


OLD LIBERALS REGULATE ON MINE MONEY FIGHT

15 October 2014

Source:

<http://www.greencareer.net.au/>



A former Liberal Party leader and former Liberal prime minister have told their currently-serving colleagues to stay out of ANU's business.

Treasurer Joe Hockey and Education Minister Christopher Pyne are accused of attempting to "bully and coerce" the Australian National University over its decision to dump investments in fossil fuel companies it deemed "unethical".

ANU has divested itself of seven stocks in mining and energy companies, representing about 5 per cent of its total holdings or about \$16 million worth of shares.

"To suggest that companies like Santos and Iluka, which are both excellent companies, are somehow not ethical investments is a bizarre decision," Federal Education Minister Christopher Pyne said earlier this week.

Treasurer Joe Hockey recently claimed the university was "removed from reality" for cutting its stake in companies he says drive the Australian economy and create jobs.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott accused the ANU of "unnecessary posturing", while Environment Minister Greg Hunt and Assistant Infrastructure Minister Jamie Briggs have spoken against the ANU too.

Now, former Liberal Party leader John Hewson has come out in support of the university's decision.

"The big story here is what got the politicians so stirred up? Was it the Minerals Council? It virtually owned the previous government and appears to have large influence over this one," Mr Hewson is quoted as saying by Fairfax Media.

"I'm surprised the superannuation industry isn't up in arms about government trying to tell institutions how they should invest. What if the big super funds were told they should be investing 25 per cent of their money into infrastructure, 30 per cent into government projects?"

Fifty prominent Australians and ethical investors have taken out a full page ad in the Canberra Times for an open letter supporting the ANU this week, with former Liberal prime minister Malcolm Fraser and businessman Graeme Wood among those putting their names to the statement.

"We cannot understand why a government that is committed to deregulating the university sector would question the ability of a university to make investment decisions," the letter says.

"It is every investor's right to make their own investment decisions without bullying from vested interests and government ministers. It is ANU's obligation to invest responsibly, which includes thinking about their environmental social standards, how they impact on financial returns and how they reflect on the character of the institution."

ANU is the first Australian university to join a global fossil fuel divest movement, although it retains shares in BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto.

Many are waiting to see if any other local universities will take up the challenge to stand against companies some believe will damage the future of humanity.

More relevant reading on the fossil fuel industry.

<http://www.tai.org.au/node/451>

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/southern-crossroads/2014/feb/02/fossil-fuel-subsidies-tony-abbott-spc-ardmona-corporate-welfare>

https://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/ending_fossil_fuel_subsidies.pdf





Australia's 1st **Rights of Nature** Tribunal

Great Barrier Reef (Plaintiff)

VERSUS

Queensland and Australian Governments (Defendants)

Wednesday 15th October 2014, the Scales of Justice weighed heavily against the defendants who were found guilty of Ecocide and violating the Rights of the Great Barrier Reef.

This was the first hearing of Australia's Regional Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature. Lawyers and Expert Witnesses assembled at the Queensland University of Technology in order to test Earth Jurisprudence and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth <http://therightsofnature.org/universal-declaration/> which recognizes that all members of the Earth community have the right to exist, thrive and evolve. Given the current threats facing the Great Barrier Reef, it was asked are the inherent rights of this complex coral ecosystem being violated by Australian governments? Is the Great Barrier Reef a victim of Ecocide?

The Expert Witnesses provided evidence for inclusion in the Great Barrier Reef case, which will be decided at the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature in Lim, Peru on 5-6 December 2014.

As you have read in previous editions of the BIEPA News, the Great Barrier Reef currently faces unprecedented threats, including sea port development, an increase in shipping due to the expansion of

coal extraction in the Galilee Basin, land based marine pollution and the impacts of climate change.

The Tribunal is part of an international series of "People's Tribunals" (or "citizen's tribunals") which examine and make formal observations on ethics and violations of Nature's Rights with regard to issues that have remained outside the consideration of formal government institutions. The findings and judgement from this Tribunal will form part of the Great Barrier Reef Case, which is one of nine cases being heard in Lima, Peru on 5-6 December 2014 in parallel with the UN Framework on Convention on Climate Change - Convention of the Parties meeting. http://unfccc.int/meetings/lima_dec_2014/meeting/8141.php

In addition to examining the plight of the Great Barrier Reef, the Tribunal also placed on trial current legal and economic systems that legalize and monetize the destruction of Nature.

It was noted that the government, has been actively removing legislative "green tape" with cuts to protections for the Reef.

It was noted that the Government has been removing citizen rights to challenge new mining developments.

It was noted that these changes are now benefiting the political donors to the government.

It was noted that planning instruments are failing with policies that no longer include reference to the World Heritage listed Universal Values of the Great Barrier Reef;

It was noted that the Coordinator General has assumed decision making power from the Environment Department.

For more information:
<http://www.earthlaws.org.au/>

LADY OF JUSTICE



The Scales : Impartiality
The Sword : Power behind decision
The Blindfold : Shows that Justice is not subject to influence (Blind Justice)

TIME FOR MBRC TO WORK WITH MOTHER NATURE

Unlike Noosa, Mooloolaba & Gold Coast the MBRC Region (Bribie) does not have the rate base to expend money on proposed dubious outcomes. The WBSEMP's sound scientifically based recommendations should be followed. Otherwise Bribie residents may face sacrificing their natural assets & lifestyle if the State government sells the centre of Bribie to developers to pay for a second bridge and questionable beach management solutions.

BIEPA is concerned about a recent motion put to Council's Coordination Committee without any public consultation, especially with the Woorim Erosion Reference Group made up of representatives from the community to provide advice on the ongoing protection and stabilization of Woorim's dunes - part of the council's commitments in the Woorim Beach Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (WBSEMP), compiled by internationally renowned consultants BMT WBM <http://www.bmtwbm.com/>.

No doubt you will be fully aware of the eight year saga behind the community's battle to protect the Woorim dunes from ill-conceived political decisions and mismanagement that has had extensive coverage not only in the

front who were reported to have lobbied and pledged donations to get "ocean views". So protective dunes and vegetation were bulldozed without any understanding of the science and dynamics of our "Living Beach". See December 2013 Book Review and we urge you to watch the video again!!

<http://www.silverdonaldcameron.ca/living-beach>

In the September BIEPA News we lauded the MBRC for its proactive response to the wake-up call ex cyclone Oswald provided. Finally, decision makers were understanding the need to grow our dunes and beaches with appropriate and intense plantings and replacement of the Envirofund protective fencing on the dunes.

So we were surprised to find that the following "confidential" motion was passed at Council's Coordination Committee Meeting on 23/09/14 without consultation with the Woorim Erosion Reference Group.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved by
Cr Gary Parsons

Seconded by **Cr Greg Chipendale CARRIED 13/0**

1. That the Council resolve, in accordance with section 235(a) of the Local Government Regulations 2012, it is satisfied Slurry Systems Marine Pty Ltd is the only supplier who is reasonably available to provide specialist concept design services for a sand back-pass system for Woorim Beach, Bribie Island.
2. That the Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate terms and enter into a contract on behalf of the Council with Slurry Systems Marine Pty Ltd to provide



preliminary concept design services for a sand back-pass system for Woorim Beach, Bribie Island.

BIEPA acknowledges that this option is in the preliminary concept phase, but the community must be consulted before any further discussions occur and ratepayer funds wasted.

Did beaches, where hard engineering solutions were used, in particular sand back-pass systems, survive Oswald better than Bribie?



BIEPA News but by our local community newspapers.

Suffice it to say, BIEPA believes, if Council had followed recommendations in the WBSEMP and advice from community representatives from the Woorim Erosion Reference Group, the Woorim foreshore would not have suffered unprecedented erosion over the past seven years and ratepayers would not now be responsible for such costly reparations. Instead, decisions were made in favour of property owners along the beach



WHAT'S HAPPENING? IS IT WHAT WE WANT?



What's Happening:

- ***Sea Level Rise from climate change dismissed by the Queensland Government
- ***Lack of transparency for Strategic Environmental Areas (Wild Rivers)
- ***Queensland's Water Resources under threat by proposed amendments to the Water Act in favour of mining consortiums
- ***Last Chance to save your Rights against big mining companies.

More information at: <http://www.edoqld.org.au/whats-happening/> from a not-for-profit group of lawyers. And: <http://www.wilderness.org.au/queenslands-wild-rivers-0>



YOU'RE INVITED
TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE QLD'S



What do Ghandi, Jerry Springer, and Peter Garrett have in common? No, it's not dance moves – it's law degrees. For more trivia questions book a ticket now to come to EDO Qld's First Trivia Fundraising Night. The night will feature wine, trivia, prizes, food and fun. Join our amazing Quizmaster Benedict Coyn on the 20th November from 5pm at the Queensland Law Society House, 179 Ann St, Brisbane.

Tickets are available for \$80pp, or \$600 for a table of 8, and in return our [Ticket order form](#) . We would like to thank all those who donated towards food and drink for the evening.

Places are very limited so book now while you can! Simply download for our products or time. Special thanks to sponsor [Bankmecu](#), Australia's first customer-owned bank.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Coast Banksia/Honeysuckle Oak (*Banksia integrifolia*)

Dear Readers, you may be hearing the wailing calls of the Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos these days as they head for Bribie's Coast Banksia stands - especially along the eastern foreshore. They begin in the south and systematically "do" the banksias northward along the coastline. It is a sight to behold.

The *Banksia integrifolia* - has wonderful golden yellow flower spikes seen at various times of the year. The smooth leaves are dark green on top and silvery white or grey underneath, mostly without serrations. As the name suggests, the Coast Banksia is salt resistant and has an extensive natural distribution in coastal sandy and inland areas of NSW, Victoria and Queensland. *Banksia integrifolia* is a perfect choice to be part of the revegetation project along the Woorim foreshore. It does not need fire to release seed from the woody cones, and seed drops to the ground in late summer. Birds enjoy Banksia nectar & seeds. The **Big Bad Banksia Men** were happy to pose for this photo shoot along the Woorim foreshore.



BIRD OF THE MONTH

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo - *Calyptorhynchus funereus*



This species of YT Black Cockatoo is found in Qld and Vic. They have longer wings and tails and darker plumage than other species. They have prominent yellow cheeks and

a yellow tail band with the body feathers edged with yellow. In flight they flap deeply and slowly with a distinctive heavy fluid motion and their loud eerie wailing calls carry for long distances. They eat mostly wood boring grubs and seeds, nesting in hollows high up mostly in Eucalyptus trees with large diameters. Fragmentation of habitat and loss of large trees suitable for nesting has caused a population decline. The Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo is protected by CITES <http://www.cites.org/> Listen and watch for them - they are birds with a cheeky character.

Enjoying Woorim's Coast Banksias



Flock over Woorim Beach



B.I.E.P.A.

www.biepa.org



Caring for our special habitat and its residents



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

WILDLIFE 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)

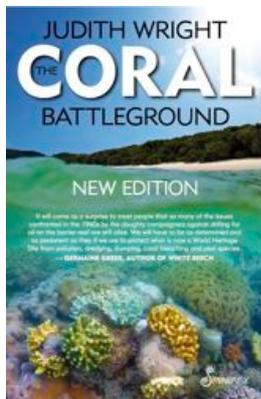
Bat Rescue Hotline - 24 hours:
0488 228 134

DATE CLAIMERS

- Oct 27 BIEPA Meeting**
- Nov 09 Rotary Mkts/BIEPA stall**
- Oct 18+ Bird Week
- Oct 20+ Aussie Backyard Bird Count aussiebirdcount.org.au
- Oct 20+ National Water Week
- Oct 24 United Nations Day
- Nov 06 International Day for Preventing Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- Nov 07 National Walk to Work Day
- Nov 10+ National Recycling Week
- Nov 12 Asia Pacific Rainforest Summit
- Nov 12+ World Parks Congress
- Nov 13 9.30am - 11.30am Join Montessori school & Wyatt Roy MP, Red Beach Clean-up

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Coral Battleground by Judith Wright (1915-2000)



In 1977 Australian poet Judith Wright published a book chronicling her involvement in a campaign to protect the Great Barrier Reef from mining interests. In 2014, with the Reef under threat again, her book is being republished.

"Where is the fire in their belly?" Judith Wright asked me of the millions who claim to be environmentalists but do nothing or, worse still, vote for the wreckers. Her **Coral Battleground** is a call to action from last century to save the Great Barrier Reef from ending up as a barren ruin this century. This book is a classic of ecological literature. **Bob Brown, Environmentalist and former Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Greens.**

"This is the story of the battle of a few people who loved it; the battle to save that thousand-mile stretch of incomparable beauty from the real destroyers - who are ourselves. I myself had seen only a very small part of it, in the fringing reef of Lady Elliott Island many years

*before the battle started. But when I thought of the Reef, it was symbolised for me in one image that still stays in my mind. On a still blue summer day, with the ultramarine sea scarcely splashing the edge of the fringing reef, I was bending over a single small pool among the corals. Above it, dozens of small clams spread their velvety lips, patterned in blues and fawn, violets, red and chocolate browns, not one of them like another. In it, sea anemones drifted long white tentacles above the clean sand, and peacock-blue fish, only inches long, darted in and out of coral branches of all shapes and colours. One blue sea-star lay on the sand floor. The water was so clear that every detail of the pool's cran- nies and their inhabitants was vivid, and every movement could be seen through its translucence. In the centre of the pool, as if on a stage, swayed a dancing creature of crimson and yellow, rippling all over like a wind-blown shawl. That was the **Spanish dancer**, known to scientists as one of the nudibranchs, a shell-less mol- lusc. But for me it became an inner image of the spirit of the Reef itself. The Reef's fate is a microcosm of the new battle within ourselves. The human attitudes, the social and industrial forces, and the people who represent a much wider field, and one in which the future of the human race may finally be decided. The governments that should be protecting the Reef are not doing so." **This is an edited extract.***

