



Bruny Island
Environment Network

Bruny Island Environment Network Inc

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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Committee 2018 -2019

Co-Convenors - Bob Graham, Paul Davis

Secretary/Public Officer - Margaret Graham

Treasurer - Daniel Sprod

Committee Members - Lindon Haig, Linda Graham, Jeff Self, Ric De Carvalho, Brad Moriarty, Nick Weetman. (Seconded members John Cameron, Tonia Cochran)

Bird Festival Coordinator - Cat Davidson

Bruny Island Environment Network

Annual General Meeting 7 September 2019

Co-Convenor's Report



Introduction

I have much pleasure in presenting the Co-Convenor's report for 2018-2019. This is our tenth anniversary year and survival for that length of time together with the other successful activities and initiatives is a cause for some celebration.

It has been another busy year with some notable events and achievements. In presenting this report I would like to acknowledge the continued support of our members. In addition we have built on past relationships with INALA, Kingborough Council, Tas Land Conservancy, Birdlife Tasmania, and established new links with the University of Tasmania, IMAS and TAMP. These relationships are critical to us as we begin the second decade of our existence.

Bird Festival October 2018



Richard Clarke guiding a bird watching tour on his property at Great Bay.

My sincere congratulations to Cat Davidson who crafted another very successful Bird Festival with 4 days crammed full of favourite and new events. Cat worked many long hours to coordinate this highlight event in our calendar and was once again assisted by a team of dedicated and able volunteers, the Bruny Island community, businesses and landowners. Thank you to all those who guided, presented or helped in the preparation or running of events. Special thank you to Kerry Marvell, Rod Hartvigsen and the art exhibit team, Daniel Sprod for managing the speakers' series, Christa Wernick and Michele Travanner for coordinating market day, Tonia Cochran and Inala staff for the many extra roles they took on, Brad Moriarty for video and photographic

recordings and Eric Woehler and Birdlife Tasmania members who guided and provided information and coordination support. .

Financially the festival made a good profit with numbers attending being similar to the 2016 festival. Many of those who attended have been to all five festivals. The next Bird Festival is scheduled for October 2020 and I am very pleased to confirm that Cat has agreed to be Coordinator. .

December 2018 - Ceremony to place the Dennes Hill Tribute Seat on Dennes Hill.

A very successful and celebratory day with around 40 family and invited guests attending to mark the placement of this beautiful bench seat created by Dan Tucker. Thank you to Dan, Sally Bryant and Parks and Wildlife Staff for assisting to make this happen and to Simon Allston and Janeil Hall for welcoming us to gather at 'Lauriston' and share some good memories of Ross and Jo and a delicious afternoon tea.



Relatives of Jo and Ross Denne stand behind the seat.

The inscription on the plaque reads:

"In 1991 Ross and Josephine Denne generously donated a large portion of their bushland for the protection of the Forty-spotted Pardalote resulting in the creation of the Dennes Hill Nature Reserve in 1995. Their vision to protect this precious woodland bird is recognised by this beautifully carved tribute seat.

Take a moment to sit, look and listen and appreciate the wisdom of protecting nature."

Cat Management Project :

We have continued our involvement and financial support for the Bruny Island Cat Management Strategy. After an extensive public consultation phase the Bruny Island Cat Management By Law was passed by Kingborough Council and due to begin on July 1st. 2019. I congratulate Kingborough Council for taking this important decision. The By-law has been lauded as a breakthrough, positive initiative for the protection of native wildlife. The By-law includes compulsory registration, 24 hour containment on owner's property, de-sexing of domestic cats before six months of age, and a limit of two cats per household in the absence of a permit. The \$5000 this financial year has mostly contributed to supporting cat owners with enclosures (12 Bruny cat owners to date have been assisted) and \$2000 is now allocated to development of a Cat Containment Guide (addressing cat behavioural and training issues + containment options graphics and product links). The Guide will support the 3 new videos "At Home with Cats" (which are all about 'how' to contain cats including behavioural transition to containment). The videos were developed in partnership with TCT and Ten Lives. Thanks must also go to BIEN members Andrew and Sandy Nicholson, Tonia Cochran, Jenny Boyer and film maker Brad Moriarty. who contributed to this project through participating in the making of the videos series. The project Co-ordinator, Kaylene Allen, has worked tirelessly to progress the strategy, and at the same time on the major feral cat project and I am proud that BIEN has been able to be a strong supporter of Kaylene's work.

March 2019 - Day of Discovery of Climate Change impacts.

This was another successful event. Thanks to Nick Weetman who arranged the screening of the movie by Bill McKibben of 350.Org. Coastal geomorphologist Chris Sharples led walks on coastal erosion and Science writer Peter Boyer led discussion and Q & A after the movie. Those who attended were able to gain a much better appreciation of the complexities of climate change and some idea of the type and extent of impacts - particularly on the western coastline of the Island. Thanks to Richard Clarke for contributing towards pizzas for evening refreshments.



April 2019 Bruny Is Wildlife Field Day

The Field day held at Apollo Bay with Kingborough Council and Tas Land Conservancy. Local experts who led a series of practical workshop sessions throughout the day on maintaining diverse wildlife habitat, restoring native plant communities, habitat creation (e.g. nest boxes), and wildlife monitoring.

Kingborough Council Environmental Fund:

BIEN arranged two information sessions with the coordinator of this new fund which invited expressions of interest from landowners seeking to place conservation covenants or undertake regeneration and other conservation works on their land.

Shorebird protection:

Our ongoing awareness and protection of shorebird nesting sites continued in 2018 and 2019. Whilst the focus has been on Hooded plovers, there has also been an increase in other species - particularly Pied Oystercatchers and Masked lapwings. The number of successful Hoodie nesting sites has increased and at least 20 chicks successfully hatched 🐣. A new nesting site was established in the middle of the main Adventure Bay Beach and the coming year will be the third year it has been used.

Bruny Environmental Account:

Thanks to the fantastic work of Daniel Sprod this project has really moved along this year. BIEN members Dr Christine Crawford and Cat Davidson are also valuable contributors to this project participating in the organisation and workshops. Daniel has secured the participation and interest of UTAS, Tas Land Conservancy, Tourism Industry and Local and State Government in scoping this project. It is now poised to swing into the data collection and research phase. Daniel has provided the attached summary of all action to date for our information.

Salmon Farm extension:

BIEN joined with BICA and FONB in calling for a moratorium on the expansion of marine farming in Storm Bay, The three groups came together as Bruny Sustainable Aquaculture to become a member of the umbrella group Tasmanian Alliance for Marine Protection.(TAMP). This group has continued to call for a moratorium on marine farming expansion in Storm Bay and highlighted boating hazards from floating escaped equipment, pollution levels in Storm Bay, the forecast eleven fold nutrient additional load from approved expansions, and reports of the tiny lease payments made for a publicly owned marine resource compared to Norway where marine leases are subject to a public auction process.

Ferry Community Reference Group -

In July 2018 BIEN combined with BICA and FONB to host a public meeting to invite community views about the Bruny Ferry service . From this meeting the Bruny Ferry Community Reference Group was formed. Whilst this has facilitated liaison between the community and the operators on day to day operations and ferry infrastructure works it is disappointing that opportunities to raise longer term strategic planning and impacts on Bruny environment and community life are not so readily available. A second public meeting in July 2019 reiterated community opposition to a booking system and urged for timely minutes of Ferry Reference Group meetings be made to the community. Since that meeting the reference group has responded to community concerns by opening up meetings to community members and ensuring that its deliberations are documented and made available to the community in a timely manner. Thanks to Paul Davis for his attendance at Reference Group meetings and reporting to BIEN.

Virtual Fencing Trial-

After becoming aware of the apparent success of this technology in the Tarkine area in reducing the number of wildlife fatalities on the road, BIEN agreed to pursue the possibility of a Bruny Island trial. John Cameron volunteered to seek out further information and possible alliances with researchers with the result 200 of these devices, and scientific expertise have been offered as a basis for a trial. BIEN will need to find/arrange funding to (ideally) double the number of devices to cover 10km for the trial.

Other involvements

- BIEN was involved in a workshop on the Island's water supply which revealed that there are supply and environmental risks associated with the current system.
- Some minor initiatives proposed by BIEN and BICA for the tourism DAP are being implemented, but progress on key proposals has been static.
- BIEN has for several years lobbied Council and the State Government to remove illegal signs on our roads. It is pleasing to report that many signs have been removed in the past few months.
- Members of BIEN took part in beach clean ups during the year.
- Congratulations to Fin Thornton who won the Shaun Bromfield Environmental Champion Prize for 2018.

BIRDSONG books

Sales continue to trickle with with a boost around Christmas each year. We have sold close to 2/3rds of the second edition. We may have to look at other grant rounds or fundraising options in the year ahead to support our projects.

Finally

Again I would like to thank all of those who have contributed throughout the year and the membership for their continued interest and support.

Bob Graham Co-Convenor

7 September 2019

Bruny Environmental Account

Update 7 Sept 2019 – Daniel Sprod

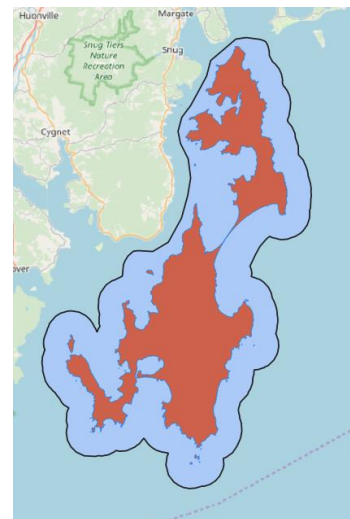


What is it

- independent, authoritative set of accounts measuring how the environment is doing
- monitor interactions between people and Bruny’s environment
- initial focus is tourism
- projected timeline 10 years minimum
- both sea and land
- provides a basis for 'citizen science' and potentially input into regional/national accounts

Who's involved?

- Environmental NGO: BIEN, TLC
- Community: Bruny Network, BICA, FOBN, BIAC
- Academia: Utas, CSIRO, IMAS
- Industry: Inala, Pennicott, SeaLink
- Government: Tourism Tasmania, Kingborough Council



Progress

- Started with talk by Peter Cosier (Wentworth Group) and TLC experience
- recognised that broad support on Bruny would be needed
- tried working through NRM South, BIAC
- Bruny Life project recommended similar approach
- UTas workshop involved academia
- Tourism and government invited and tourism chosen as focus
- agreed initial standard approaches
 - [Bureau of Meteorology workbooks](#)
 - [Open Standards](#) for the Practice of Conservation
 - The [Partnering Initiative](#)
 - set up data repositories and approaches
- working groups formed around each Asset
- workplans being developed as a basis for a durable partnership

Asset	Details and measurables
Waters	potable supply, wastewater
Sea	marine habitats and wildlife - recreational fishing, fish farms, water quality, protected areas
Land	terrestrial habitats and wildlife – abundant and charismatic wildlife, rare and threatened species, forests, land use, protected areas
Coast	coastal landforms, habitats and wildlife– beaches, shoreline stability and flooding, estuaries and saltmarshes, wildlife nursery and breeding areas
Bruny's 'nature'/brand	peoples' appreciation of place, vistas, unspoilt nature, and the people: visitor movement and dynamics – number of people, transport options, favourite places and sights; residents and shackies



BIEN Treasurers Report for the 2019 AGM

Daniel Sprod - 1 September 2019

2018 – 2019 account

Last financial year was again quiet for BIEN, with a negative cash flow of \$10,364. (overleaf), but still showing a strong financial footing.

This was largely due to donations, mostly expected, we donated:

- the final \$5,000 to support the cat education program on Bruny, which is still going very well
- \$4,400 to finalize the Dennes Memorial seat on Dennes Hill in celebration of the Dennes gift of the land to Parks and Wildlife and
- a once-off \$500 donation to WildCare to help care for wildlife injured in the very extensive fires this last summer that burned 3% of Tasmania

Nestboxes for both the 40 spotted pardalote and the Swift parrot cost \$1,741 and were distributed to islanders, although there are still some in the container for distribution.

We also passed through some monies for the 2018 BirdFest, which now has a separate account (reported below)

Birdsong continues to sell and gives profit (**\$3,004.66**) to BIEN to be invested to further BIEN's values. This year, it contributed \$1,314.

Membership is holding steady numbering in the mid-fifties but is down from a peak of over 100 members in the past.

Thus BIEN funds are:

- **\$15,760.44 is available for general BIEN use.**
- **\$46,865 in Louise Crossley's bequest for special purposes**

Bruny Island Bird Festival 2018

The accounts for the 2018 Bruny Island Bird Festival are yet to be finalised, but are showing a very healthy balance around \$15,000 – a gain of \$5000 over the last Festival. This account has been separated from BIEN as the Festival now stands on its own feet. This balance will help to set up the 2020 Festival in good stead.

Audit

Once the BirdFest account has been finalised, both BIEN and the Festival account will be audited.

BIEN	Profit & Loss	2018 - 19	notes
Opening Balance			\$72,989.44
Income			
	Membership	\$ 230.00	
	Donations	\$ 290.00	
	Grants	\$ 240.00	LAP grants
	Fundraising	\$ 247.00	
	Birdsong sales	\$ 1,314.65	
	Misc	\$ 2,433.00	mainly monies transferred through to BirdFest
	Bequest	\$ -	
	Subtotal	\$ 4,754.65	
Expenses			
	Admin/Office	\$ -	
	Advertising	\$ -	
	BirdFest	-\$ 2,793.00	monies transferred through to BirdFest
	Meeting/Activity exp	-\$ 533.15	
	Donations	-\$ 9,930.00	Denne memorial seat (\$4.4K), Cat Education (\$5K), Wildcare (\$0.5K)
	Insurance	-\$ 121.00	
	Grant expenditure	\$ -	
	Birdsong book	\$ -	
	Misc	-\$ 1,741.50	Nestboxes
	Bequest	\$ -	
	Subtotal	-\$ 15,118.65	
Profit/Loss	YTD	-\$ 10,364.00	
Closing Balance			\$ 62,625.44
Reconciliation		Committed funds	
Account at bank		Bequest balance	\$ 46,865.00
Add deposits to be made			
Less expense unaccounted		Total committed	\$ 46,865.00
Balance	\$0.00		\$ 15,760.44
			Available for general BIEN business

Bird Festival 2018	Profit & Loss	from Bank statements	AC: 63300/162781728		
Opening Balance			\$0.00		
Income			notes		
	Sponsorship	6,800			
	Donations	3,014			
	Event sales	26,711	likely some of this is merchandise		
	Art Exhibition	711			
	(Private art sales	5,826	(mainly artist income, \$223.50 is BirdFest)		
	Catering	1,415	some income accounted as sales		
	Merchandise	2,888			
	Raffles/Auctions	1,909			
	Interest	123			
	Seed from BIEN	10,000			
	Subtotal	59,397			
Expenses					
	Advertising	827			
	Merchandise	4,119			
	Admin/Misc	4,036			
	Presenter costs	3,154			
	Event costs	12,817			
	Location hire	2,076			
	Catering costs	433			
	Coordinator	11,423			
	(Art sales)	5,598	(artist income, not BirdFest)		
	Bank charges	30			
	Subtotal	44,513			
Profit/Loss		\$14,884			
Closing Balance			\$ 14,884		
	Actual Bank Balance		\$15,826		
	Yet to be accounted		\$942.00		