

## 2001 : running on the spot

### A marina at Clump Point again?

The jetties just north of Clump Point and at Dunk Island are the responsibility of the Mission Beach Marine Facilities Joint Board, which is made up of Councillors drawn from Johnstone and Cardwell Shire Councils. It is their responsibility to set fees for commercial use of the jetties that are supposed to cover the cost of maintenance and the ultimate cost of replacement.

At a public meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November, following a private meeting of the Board with Department of Transport and local industry stakeholders, it was admitted that the fees collected had only been enough to cover jetty maintenance.

**So here we are, seven years down the track, and only three years to go before the jetty needs to be replaced, and we learn there is no money set aside for replacement. This strikes me as being a gross dereliction of duty on behalf of the Board.**

In its defence, the Board's Secretary, Richard Giuliani, laughed and said that it was obviously ridiculous to suggest that they should charge the commercial users more than \$4 per passenger, as the users would go broke. The users agreed, not surprisingly. Quick Cat currently charges \$19.50 return to Dunk Island.

So faced with the Board's determination to run the community's infrastructure into the ground, we now have 3 years to decide what to do.

One proposal is to have a pontoon next to the public boat ramp at Clump Point, but this would need approximately \$750,000 worth of dredging to get deep draft boats alongside.

Another suggestion is to resurrect Mission Beach Harbours Pty Ltd's 1993 proposal for a marina to be built in the bay. This was costed at \$93 million back then, so it is anyone's guess what it would cost today.

The project would be privately funded, unless of course it goes broke and the taxpayer has to step in and bail it out, like happened at Nelly Bay on Magnetic Island.

I wonder if commercial boats using the marina would have to pay more than they do now.

### Not One Mission Beach

The clear and unambiguous result of the survey on the issue of Shire boundaries was that 85% of respondents wanted a single local authority for the Mission Beach area.

Nevertheless at the Johnstone and Cardwell Shires Joint Facilities Advisory Committee (JACSJFAC) held on 31st October, the Councillors couldn't bring themselves to do anything more than ask Department of Local Government and Planning for advice on how to proceed.

During a visit from the Minister, Nita Cunningham, to the beach on November 14th, it was agreed that an officer from her Department and an officer from Local Government Association of Queensland would visit to discuss the matter. But at its meeting on 26th November, Johnstone Shire Council decided that the whole idea was a waste of time and money, and so they withdrew their support for the whole concept of democratic decision-making.

I have passed the news on to George W, and you can expect the precision bombing of Innisfail and their mountain hideouts to begin shortly.

### No 'No Trawl Zone' yet

Senator Hill decided it would be good politics to keep a low profile throughout the election, so he didn't make any promises about our No Trawl Zone, and now he has passed the problem on to the new Minister for Environment, Duncan Kemp.

After the Mission Beach Marine Advisory Committee's decision to express 'no confidence' in their Secretary, Cr Robyn Godbehere, she has resigned as Cardwell Shire Council's representative on the committee. The commercial fishermen have resigned too, and Johnstone Shire's representative, Cr Terry Hampson, didn't make an appearance at the meeting on November 14th.

### South Mission roadworks

If you have driven to South Mission Beach recently you will have noticed that there has been a change to the road layout near Commodore Street. Now instead of the entrance to

the shop being from Commodore Street, the new entrance is from the main road directly into the car park.

I believe everyone agrees that this is a safer solution, but the question has always been - who is going to pay for it?

Council had already spent about \$10,000 on having the plans drawn up, and after receiving legal advice that the responsibility was "a legal grey area", they caved in and agreed to spend the ratepayers' money on doing the work themselves.

### No sewerage funds yet

Yes, here we are coming to the end of 2001 and still waiting on news of funding for sewerage.

The Minister, Nita Cunningham, did come to Mission Beach, and she was shown a failing septic trench at Mission Hills Estate, but this was a clear case of people not putting in an adequate trench for the local soil conditions, and Council not inspecting the installation or enforcing repairs.

I doubt that this would convince her that we need to spend \$18.9 million on a new system for 2,000 Mission Beach residents, when 260,000 residents in South East Queensland are still on septic.

The Minister promised that we would know the funding outcome within two weeks, but as we go to press, the deadline has just passed without any announcement.

Meanwhile it has been confirmed that the proposal to pump raw sewage 24 kilometers to Tully will need to be referred to the Federal Government under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, because of its potential impact on World Heritage values.

If you drive the Tully-Mission Beach Road regularly, you will know that the water main that runs alongside the road is often under repair by Council workers.

What do you reckon are the chances that the proposed pipeline will not leak raw sewage into the World Heritage listed Hull River catchment during its planned twenty year lifetime? Buckley's, I'd say.

□ Dave Kimble