

Lord Howe Island Board



Community Information Bulletin June 2014

Introduction

Welcome to the June 2014 edition of the Lord Howe Island Board Community Information Bulletin.

It has been a very busy three months since the first edition of the new Community Information Bulletin was published in March, with lots happening on the Island, at the Board and also at the State Government level.

The changes in the State Government after Mike Baird took over as Premier replacing Barry O'Farrell has had an impact on Lord Howe Island. We have a new Minister with responsibility for Lord Howe Island in Rob Stokes, who as Minister for the Environment replaced Robyn Parker. There have been some administrative changes, which means that the Board no longer comes under the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), but has been moved to come under a new Department of Planning and Environment. And this has meant that Chris Eccles, the head of DPC, can no longer be the Board's Chair. A replacement Chair has not yet been announced.

But life goes on at the Board, with many projects on the go and work happening all around the Island. There are updates on many of the projects in this Bulletin.

The Island has been busy as well, with a bumper autumn season for visitors particularly in April and early May. The Autumn Marketing campaign has successfully promoted the Island with more visitors now arriving in the shoulder season. There is more information on visitor numbers further in the Bulletin.

I hope you enjoy the June Bulletin and feedback is very welcome.

Penny Holloway, Chief Executive Officer



Draft Coastal Study to be placed on exhibition

The Board has now received a copy of the draft Coastal Hazard and Management Study prepared by Haskoning Australia. The detailed report and appendices will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days during July 2014. A summary of the report will also be provided describing the coastal processes within the Lagoon, sediment transport patterns, key coastal hazard issues and immediate and potential future management options to manage erosion and recession risks. The community is invited to make submissions on the draft study. For those of you with the Internet, a copy will be placed on the Board's website and a printed copy will be available at the office for viewing.

Can you remember what were you doing on 25 June 1984?



Gower Wilson was starting his first day of work with the Board as the Plant Mechanic. And on 30 June, he finishes up as an employee of the Board after just over 30 years of service. Much like the Queen has seen lots of Prime Ministers, Gower has seen lots of CEOs come and go through the Board, but he won't tell us his favourite!

Gower's smiley face won't be absent from the Island as he retires down south, but we will miss his experience at the Depot, his cool-head and his ability to fix just about anything. We wish Gower well in his retirement and hope the fish stocks are ready for the Omega onslaught.

Whilst the recruitment to replace Gower continues, Gower has kindly offered to continue to undertake registration checks after he retires. Rather than these being weekly, until the position is filled, Gower will carry out registration checks every Wednesday fortnight, with the first day being Wednesday 9th July and then the next being Wednesday 23rd July. Please contact the Board so that we are aware of how many vehicles require inspections so we can inform Gower.

What's happening at the Nursery?

Activity at the former Nursery will soon start again with Kentia Fresh Pty Ltd having signed a lease for the northern portion of the Nursery.

Kentia Fresh is a joint venture between Mike Maxwell and Rob van Staalduinen. Kentia Fresh have taken the first steps to revitalize the Kentia Palm industry by commencing tests on seeds from various parts of the island to determine which offer the greatest commercial potential.

Later this year Kentia Fresh will import and build a large, state-of-the-art greenhouse on the site. Initially it will be used for the production of Kentia seedlings, fresh vegetables, fruit and flowers. Beyond that Kentia Fresh hopes to involve local producers in the expansion of the range of produce that it offers.

The galvanised pipe used for the frame of the dismantled igloos, the internal shelving and many other items left over from the clean-up operation will be made available for purchase by residents through a clearing sale to be held in September this year. September has been deliberately selected so that residents off the Island for holidays during winter will have an opportunity to participate in the sale. More information on items for sale will be provided as the date approaches.

Quarantine Strategy

The Board is currently reviewing its Quarantine Strategy, which helps to protect the economy, environment and the community of Lord Howe Island from the negative impacts of weeds, pests and diseases.

The value and importance of good quarantine or biosecurity in preventing the establishment of new species on the island have been demonstrated by the impact of such arrivals as the fruit fly and banana borer as well as the ground and creeping asparagus.

There is also little value in working hard to eradicate pest plants and animals from the Island, if they can easily return to the Island by boat or plane.

The Environment Trust and Caring for our Country have agreed to fund improved biosecurity for the island in order to prevent the establishment of any new invasive species that could have a negative impact on the island environment, economy and lifestyle.

So the quarantine or biosecurity project will get underway in 2014/15.

This new system will include all recognised biosecurity risks to the island including reptiles (brown tree snake is recognised as posing a significant risk to the island), plants, invertebrates and pathogens and importantly their pathways for establishing on the Island.

A community-working group is to be established to guide the development and implementation of the plan.

Review of the Lord Howe Island Regulation

The Lord Howe Island Regulation 2004 is being reviewed as part of a Government requirement that all Regulations are reviewed every five to ten years.

The Review is being undertaken by the NSW Office of Local Government. The draft Regulation 2014 and the Regulatory Impact Statement have been on public exhibition for 28 days with the closing date for public submissions being 30 May, but with late submissions accepted up to 6 June 2014. A fact sheet was circulated to all households on Lord Howe Island and the Review was advertised in the Signal.

Following analysis of submissions the draft Regulation will be finalised, taking into account any relevant matters raised in the submissions. The final Regulation will then be submitted to the Minister for the Environment for approval. The Regulation must be remade by 1 September 2014.

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Upcoming Events and Dates to remember

May to September - The winter operating times for the Waste Management Facility have started and operate through to September 2014. During this period the WMF will be open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 7.00am to 10.00am.

5 June – World Environment Day

30 June – Incentives for wastewater system upgrades run out. Pay a deposit on a new system with one of the preferred suppliers and provide evidence to the Board before this date to take advantage of the offer.

9 July – 1st day of changed registration inspections and every fortnight after that.

August – Community consultation regarding the Winter 2015 runway resurfacing and drainage works. If you won't be on the Island and would like to be involved, please let the Board know.

September – 40th birthday for the Island's Airport.

2 September – LHI Board meeting

Rodent Eradication Project – Change of Direction

The Rodent Eradication Program has changed direction. The Board has agreed that we need to draw a line and go back to the Lord Howe Island community and talk about what the community actually wants to see happen in relation to the eradication of rodents (both rats and mice) from the Island

The Program has therefore been divided into two stages.

The first stage will involve community engagement and consultation so that community members can make an informed decision on the project. During the consultation process, all the issues will be identified and addressed. The community will be able to consider the consequences of either proceeding with the eradication or not proceeding at all. At the completion of this stage, the views of the community will be sought and it will only be if there is a high level of community support that any further steps will be taken. During this stage, Project Manager, Pete McClelland, will be taking 12 months leave without pay.

Stage Two is entirely dependent on the outcome of Stage One. This involves the planning and implementation of the eradication program, but will only take place if there is sufficient community support for the project following the consultation process.

All operational planning for the eradication has been put on hold pending the confirmation of community support for the project.

A contract to undertake Community engagement and consultation was tendered with the assistance of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. A number of consultants put in tenders for the work. After a comprehensive evaluation process, consultants have been selected to undertake the community engagement and consultation.

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Rodent Eradication Project – Change of Direction continued

The successful consultants are Elton Consulting, who are very experienced and reputable with an excellent track record of work with local and state government. Their job on this project will be to listen to how you would like the Board to consult with you on important issues, such as environmental threats, and then use this approach to help the community decide on how we can best deal with the rodent problem.

Firstly Martin Klopper and Brendan Blakely from Elton Consulting would like to meet with as many residents as possible to:

- understand how best the community and the board can work together to find a suitable solution to the rodent problem
- identify what your concerns are, and what information the community needs to come to an informed decision about this important matter for the island.

They hope to start off working with small groups but will be available to meet individuals on a one on one basis, if desired. Be assured that confidentiality will be maintained throughout the process.

This is a new beginning for the project. Martin and Brendan aren't experts on rodents, their role is to help us all find the right process through which we can be confident we all have the information we need and reach a decision. They are not here to try and persuade people one way or the other.

Regardless of your view on the project, supporter, opponent or don't really care, all residents are asked to make the time to meet with the consultants to raise any concerns, be they the risks of doing the project or the possible consequences of not doing it! The contractors will be available on the island for informal drop-in meetings, or scheduled appointments at a time convenient to you, be it work-hours or after hours.

As the potential negative impacts of environmental threats, particularly the rodent problem, on the island's crucial tourism industry are a major point of concern for some people, it is proposed that at the right time in the process the consultants will work with the Tourism Association to design and undertake an independent visitor survey. The purpose of the survey is to quantify tourist perspectives of the rodent problem and seek their views on the impacts of any potential rodent control program on tourism across the short/medium and longer term.

Contact details for Martin and Brendan, along with a timetable for when they will be on the island, will be distributed as soon as it is available. But the first visit will be in July. Please feel free to contact them to either share your thoughts on the project or to arrange a meeting.

Roadside grading during winter to reduce ponding.

Water ponding on the sides of the sealed roads is the major reason for the failure of some of the roads around the Island. The ponding is a result of runoff being unable to clear the edges of the road due to the buildup of sand and grass. During winter, Works staff will be grading many areas of the road edges to improve the drainage and prolong the life of the roads. There will be some short term disturbance of the roadside edges, which is expected to recover quickly following rain and a bit of sun.



Racing the clock for renewable energy funding.

For the last year, the Board has been working with consultants to secure 50% of the \$11 million funding required for the Island's renewable energy project. The urgency of the funding application was increased when the Federal Treasurer announced in the May budget that the funding body, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) would disappear. However, until the legislation changes, ARENA continues to operate and review funding applications, so the Board has been working hard to complete our funding application and meet the tight deadlines from ARENA for additional information.

With the most recent step successfully completed on Tuesday 3 June, the remaining steps in the process will occur in June and will involve the ARENA Board meeting on 18 June and then hopefully negotiations regarding funding arrangements by the end of June.

We are confident of the uniqueness of our project and the benefits to the community and renewables in general, so other than crossing everything available and hoping for the best, it is now a waiting game.



Airport Activities

Whilst the number of flights at the airport has reduced, the activity hasn't.

In April, Board staff hosted Kevin Dyer from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) as he carried out his last audit for the Island's aerodrome. Kevin is retiring from CASA in June after 40 years of service. Whilst there were no significant issues raised at the time of the audit, we are awaiting the report from CASA. Congratulations must go to Kate Dignam for her work in administering the complicated arrangements at the airport, her preparation for the audit and the work that has happened with the Works crew to resolve some long-standing issues.

GHD, the consultants engaged to prepare the design for the new runway surface and improved drainage works were on the Island in mid May undertaking the geotechnical investigations for the project. Many of you would have noticed the activity on the aerodrome, which involved the excavation of test pits and a number of different types of geotechnical tests of the runway seal and the underlying material. The general consensus was that the runway was well constructed and for its age and location, it is in relatively good condition. A number of Islanders have been generous with their time in discussing with GHD what has happened in and around the aerodrome over the years. If you have something to contribute, such as a story of what happened or photos, which might assist the designers in understanding the area, please contact the Board.

As part of the project, GHD and the Board will be undertaking some community consultation to present options for the works. The community consultation is likely to occur in August 2014.

We are aware that many Island residents take the opportunity to leave the Island for a period of time during winter, but we would like to be able to have input from as many residents as possible. If you are likely to be away during August 2014, and would like to participate in the consultation process, please provide an email or postal address for the period you are away and we will send the information to you.

The airport also celebrates its 40th birthday in September this year and the Board is looking for suggestions and contributions from the community to celebrate this milestone. If you have any photos we can copy or stories from the early days or ideas on how we can celebrate the event, please let us know.

Please contact the Board on 6563 2066 or administration@lhib.nsw.gov.au if you have some history to assist in the runway design process or to provide your contact details for the runway community consultation in August or ideas for the airport celebrations.



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New Corporate Plan 2014-2016

The Board has a three year Corporate Plan which provides the framework for the Board's work. The Board's Corporate Plan for the last three years had expired, so it was time to draft a new one.

A complete review has been undertaken and a new Corporate Plan has been developed looking forward over the next three years, for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2016. The Board adopted the Plan at the last Board meeting.

The Corporate Plan is a strategic document based on the Board's Charter under the *Lord Howe Island Act 1953*. It identifies the key strategic directions of the Board, the priority issues for the next three years and how the priority issues will be addressed.

Six strategic directions are identified, which provide the framework for a series of strategies and actions by means of which the strategic directions will be achieved, and key performance indicators or KPIs for measuring results. The strategic directions are:

- Effective Governance and Leadership
- Strong and Sustainable Economy
- Sound Infrastructure and Services
- Outstanding Environment
- Responsible Land Management
- Strong and Engaged Community

For each of the three years, there will be an associated one year Operations Plan (or business plan) and budget.

The new Corporate Plan can be seen on the Board's website or you can view a copy at the Board's offices.

Development of a precinct plan for Neds Beach Rd / Lagoon Rd area

The Board is currently planning the demolition and remediation of the old powerhouse site. Three Concept Plans for the precinct have been prepared and were provided with the last edition of the Bulletin.

Comments on the concept plans will close on **Monday 30 June 2014**. To make a comment on the concept plans please write to:

**Project Manager
Precinct Plan for Neds Beach Rd
PO Box 5
Lord Howe Island NSW 2898**

or send an email to administration@lhib.nsw.gov.au with the subject title Precinct Plan for Neds Beach Rd

Destination Management Plan – Draft is on its way

Lord Howe Island has been very fortunate in that the State's tourism authority, Destination NSW, provided funding for a consultant to facilitate and prepare a Destination Management Plan (DMP).

The DMP will provide direction for the tourism industry on the Island, enhance the Island's relationship with Destination NSW and is essential if we want to attract funds for marketing campaigns.

Consultant Bill Calderwood was commissioned by Destination NSW to prepare the Island's Destination Management Plan (DMP) on behalf of the Tourism Association and the Board.

Bill came to Lord Howe in April, toured the Island, spoke to a range of people and conducted two Workshops with the following objectives:

- To gain a perspective from a cross-section of the community on the key issues which the DMP must reflect,
- To ensure some consensus is reached on the key issues and opportunities which must be reflected in the DMP, and
- Assist in defining the direction and role of tourism in the future economic development of Lord Howe Island.

Bill is now busy writing the DMP, which is expected to be finalised by the end of June.

Review of Land Allocation and Land Tenure Arrangements

The Review of Land Allocation and Tenure Arrangements on Lord Howe Island is well underway with The Hon. Ken Handley AO QC being appointed by the NSW Government as the independent reviewer.

Mr Handley made a brief visit to the Island in March 2014 to experience the Island first hand and to get a better understanding of the current land allocation and tenure system.

Mr Handley is now overseeing the preparation of a discussion paper, which will be released for public consultation. There will be an extended period of public consultation so that everyone has the chance to have a say and provide feedback. Mr Handley will return to the Island after the discussion paper is released and community members will have the opportunity to see him on a one-to-one basis and provide their views individually. Written submissions in response to the discussion paper will also be invited.

The Terms of Reference of the review can be downloaded from the Board's website: www.lhib.nsw.gov.au or a copy obtained from the Board's offices.

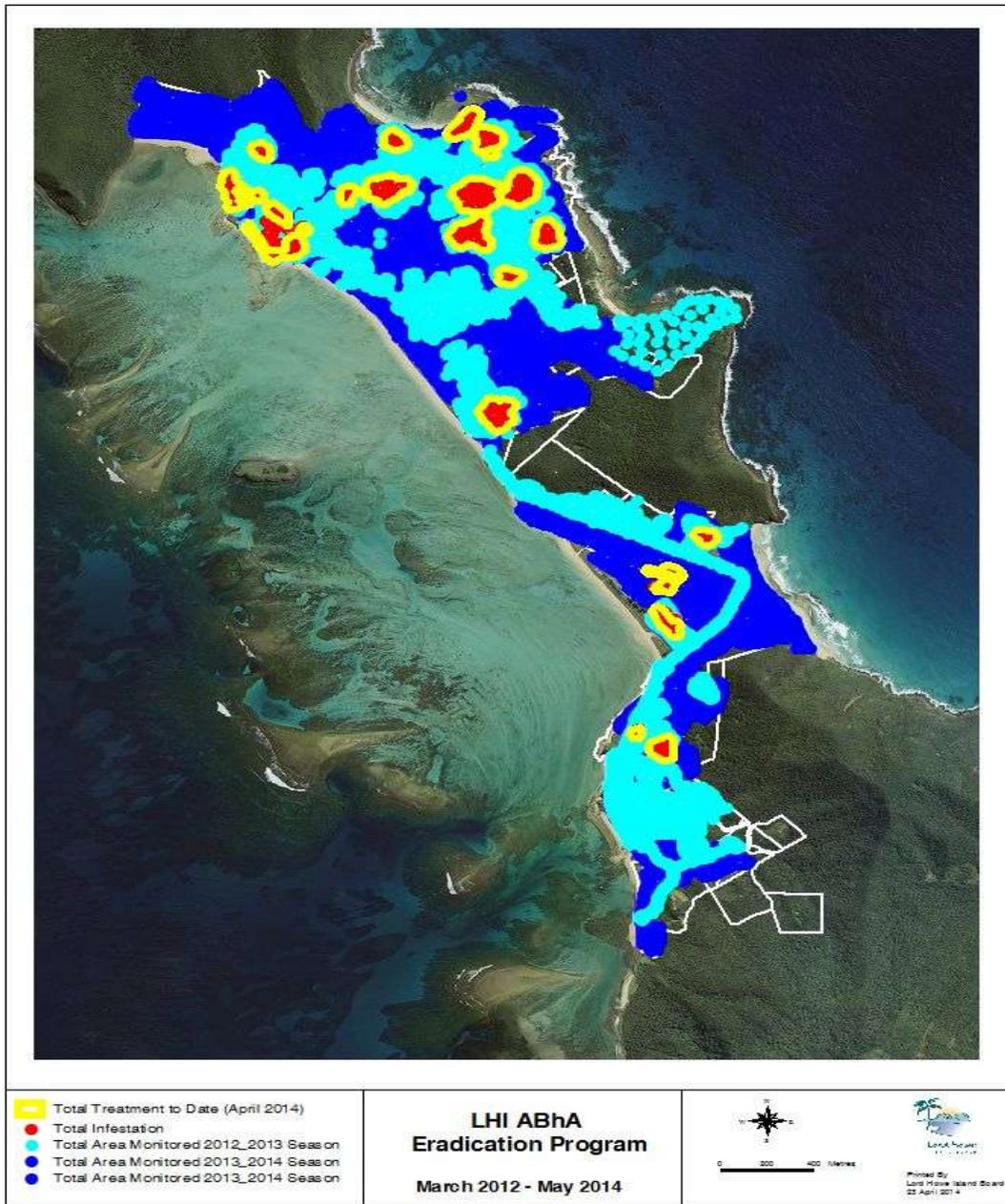
Track Improvements



The Board has recently constructed new steps at the commencement of the Max Nicholls track, and have replaced the footbridge over the creek heading up to the Catalina wreck. Ian Hutton provided the team advice on how to improve habitat for the endangered twiner *Calystegia affinis*, which is being smothered by exotic grasses. The team will revegetate the area down slope with native plants to create a windbreak and will control the grass to enable the *Calystegia* to flourish. The team has pruned young Norfolk Island pines along the foreshore to maintain the windbreak whilst allowing more light into revegetation areas.



African Big Headed Ant Update



The team has completed surveying and treating African Big-headed Ants (ABhA) with the onset of cooler weather. Follow up surveys and treatments for ABhA will recommence with the return of warmer weather from October 2014. The Board would like to thank all leaseholders for providing access to their leases to undertake surveys and where required targeted treatments. The map above shows the areas that have been monitored (light & dark blue) and mapped infestations that were treated (yellow around red) for the 2013/14 ABhA season. As shown, there is still one area to be treated shown in red (without yellow border)

Root Rot fungus surveys

In April Dr Matthew Laurence from the Royal Botanical Gardens undertook soil sampling to test for the presence of Phytophthora on the Island and to check for any other plant pathogens. 71 soil samples were collected, targeting the previous known Phytophthora site, trees exhibiting signs of decline, the walking track up to Mount Gower and the stand of declining Kentia Palms north of Blinky Beach. The survey resulted in two positive records for Phytophthora, both at the site where the pathogen had formerly been detected. The leaseholder has been notified and protocols are being established to undertake ongoing treatment and to quarantine the site. Please remember to regularly use the boot scrub stations provided to reduce the potential spread of any plant pathogens.



New Noxious Weeds Declarations

Several species of garden plants have recently been declared as noxious weeds on Lord Howe Island. The new listings are based on a weed risk assessment process and include species that are invading the LHI Permanent Park Preserve including Kahili Ginger, Flame Tree, Silky Oak, White Cedar, Small-leaved Privet and Umbrella Tree.

Other species such as Montpellier Broom, Leaf Cactus and species that are known weeds in similar habitats in eastern Australia such as Winter Senna, Murraya and Climbing Nightshade have been listed.

Two community workshops to introduce the new noxious weed declarations have been planned. The information sessions will be held on Monday 23rd June (9.30 – 10.30 am & 3.30 – 4.30 pm). Everyone is welcome to attend, and the workshop will provide an excellent opportunity for you to speak to the Board about weeds on your lease, their risks and control measures.

The Board will also be conducting another round of Noxious Weed inspections from 23rd – 29th June 2014.

Terry Schmitzer (Mid North Coast Weeds Coordinating Committee) and Terry Inkson (Great Lakes Council) have offered their time to visit the island in the last week of June 2014 to deliver the presentations and to assist with noxious weed inspections. They will work alongside the LHIB authorised noxious weed inspectors.



Leaf Cactus is on the federal alert list. This plant was removed from a garden on LHI. A young woodhen was found dead, trapped in its spines.

Birds and cuttings spread this plant.

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Weeding Update

The Board has now finished the second year of a major program funded by the NSW Environmental Trust “*Progressing the Eradication of Weeds from Lord Howe Island*” project. Over 340 hectares have been thoroughly searched with over 74,000 individual weeds removed.



White Cedar seedling recently found within the PPP above the Big Waterfall by LHIB weeder Isaac. White Cedar fruit is dispersed by birds and can germinate in low light. It is native to eastern Australia.



The weed team below Eddies Cave in search of Cherry Guava

Weed Block Totals	Hectares	Hours
Gower	15	792
Intermediate Hill	71.74	2273
Lidgbird Remote	14.81	63
Lidgbird South	82.55	1020
Lidgbird North	16.22	1061
Malabar	66.91	4329
Settlement South	6.41	216.35
Transit Hill	6.5	197
Settlement North	62.4	752.12
Grand Total	343	10,704

LHI Progressing Eradication of Weeds ~ NSW ET Report 2



Tracks
 GPS track log
 NSWET2013
 NSWET2014
 Weed_blocks

0 2 Kilometre

Weeding Update

Whilst some of the team will be having a break over winter, a team will continue work in the Northern Hills to control Bridal Creeper before it fruits in spring. The team will also carry out follow-up works on Climbing Asparagus through the shearwater breeding areas and settlement. We'd like to thank the teams for their effort this year recognising that the terrain and dense scrub can be a challenge.

To combat weeds on cliff lines the Board is planning targeted spot spraying of Bitou Bush and Ground Asparagus by helicopter before the return of the Sooty Terns, in late August.



Banyan Research



Researchers from the University of Western Sydney, James Cook and Jane DeGabriel recently returned to the island to monitor the psyllid insect outbreak that caused mass leaf fall of banyan trees. They found that the islands fig trees are recovering well across the island with most of the severely affected trees sprouting new growth with no sign of adult psyllids and only low numbers of eggs when compared to their previous visit. Members of the research team will return to Lord Howe in early summer to monitor the banyans and observe the insects associated with them.

Rehabilitating LHI Phasmid Habitat on Balls Pyramid

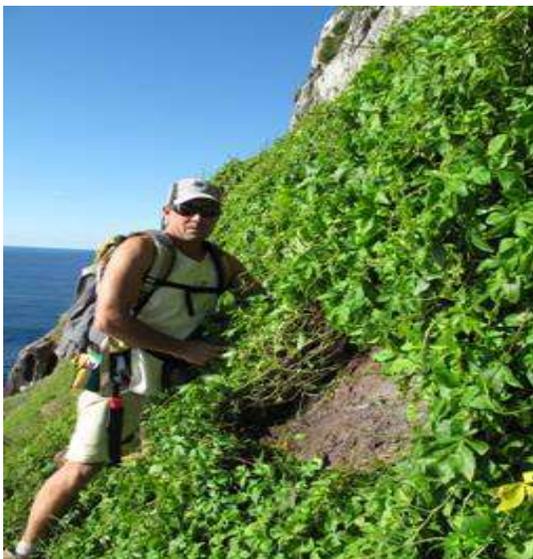
Balls Pyramid holds the only known wild population of the LHI Phasmid in the world.

The LHI Phasmids persist on a small clump of *Melaleuca howeana* growing on a ledge on Balls Pyramid, about 70 m above sea level where a fresh water seep provides suitable conditions for their survival. In 2009, reptile researchers guided by Dean Hiscox reported the LHI Phasmid plant being smothered by the exotic vine Five-leaved Morning Glory *Ipomoea cairica*. This vine is native to tropical Africa and Asia and poses a significant threat to the survival of the plant and the last remaining wild population of the LHI Phasmid. It has an explosive seed capsule that is dispersed by wind and over the ocean. It self colonized Balls Pyramid from plants growing on Lord Howe Island. Since 2009 the Lord Howe Island Board has conducted several targeted weeding trips to Balls Pyramid, applying a habitat approach to protect the food plant, to reduce the extent of the vine and to promote the regeneration of native grasses and melaleuca. Another successful visit was undertaken on 20 May 2014. This treatment confirmed that there had been no regrowth of Five-leaved Morning Glory on the food tree and significant improvement to habitat condition surrounding the food plant. The LHIB are planning to resurvey the phasmid population (requiring a nocturnal survey) and aim to undertake ongoing care of the site.

Before: 11th May 2012. Dean Hiscox and John Trehy



Dean Hiscox showing just how dense the Five-leaved Morning Glory was in May 2012



After: 20th May 2014. Hank Bower and Damien ODwyer



Bruce Thompson down slope of the Phasmid food tree



Review of Significant Native Vegetation

The Lord Howe Island Board will soon be undertaking a review of the LHI Local Environmental Plan (LEP). As part of this process, the Board will be reviewing the mapping of Significant Native Vegetation within the Settlement area.

What is Significant Native Vegetation?

Significant Native Vegetation is vegetation of high conservation value, which provides important habitat for threatened fauna and flora species. Significant Native Vegetation is mapped and included in the LEP, which is a legal instrument approved by the Minister for Planning.

Significant Native Vegetation does not include predominantly exotic vegetation, established gardens, palm plantations, existing roads and primary access to leases. Areas mapped within the LEP will exclude these areas.

The protection of Significant Native Vegetation is central to the LEP. Under Clause 11 of the LEP, the Board must not consent to the carrying out of development, which will result in any damage to, or the removal of, significant native vegetation.

The review process

The existing Significant Native Vegetation mapping was prepared in the 1990s and was revised in 2005. It was based on low-resolution aerial photography and is inaccurate or inconsistent in some places.

The Board has completed preliminary vegetation mapping, using high-resolution digital imagery together with the latest technology in air photo interpretation and data mapping. Maps have been prepared of each individual lease.

Have your say:

The draft maps will be placed on public exhibition during July 2014. During this time, the Board staff will discuss the mapping with each leaseholder. If you feel that the map is inaccurate, written feedback on the draft mapping and where possible marked up maps are welcome.

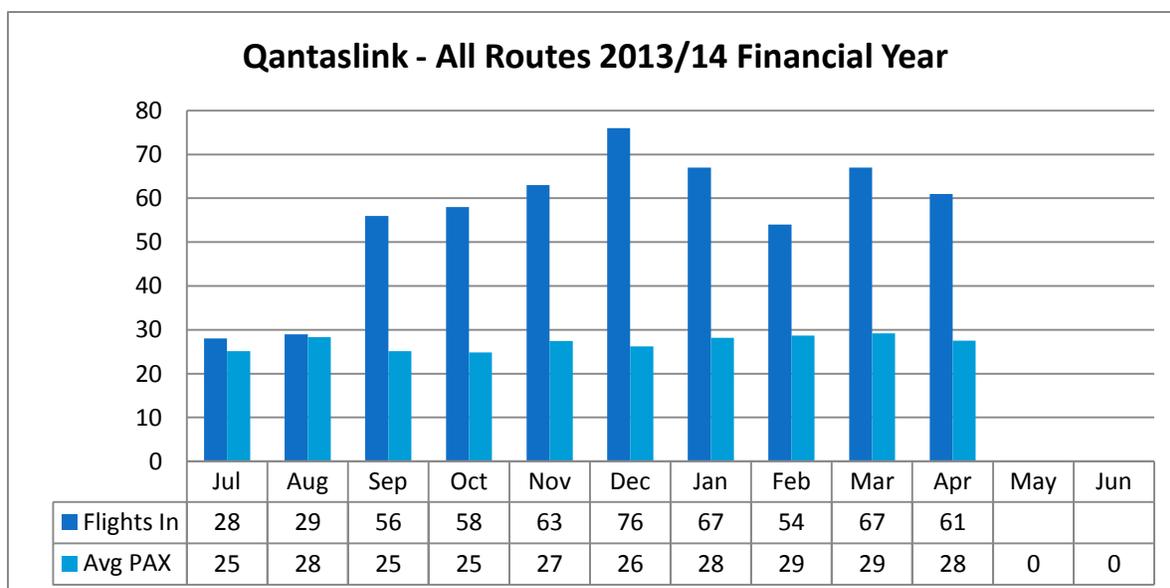
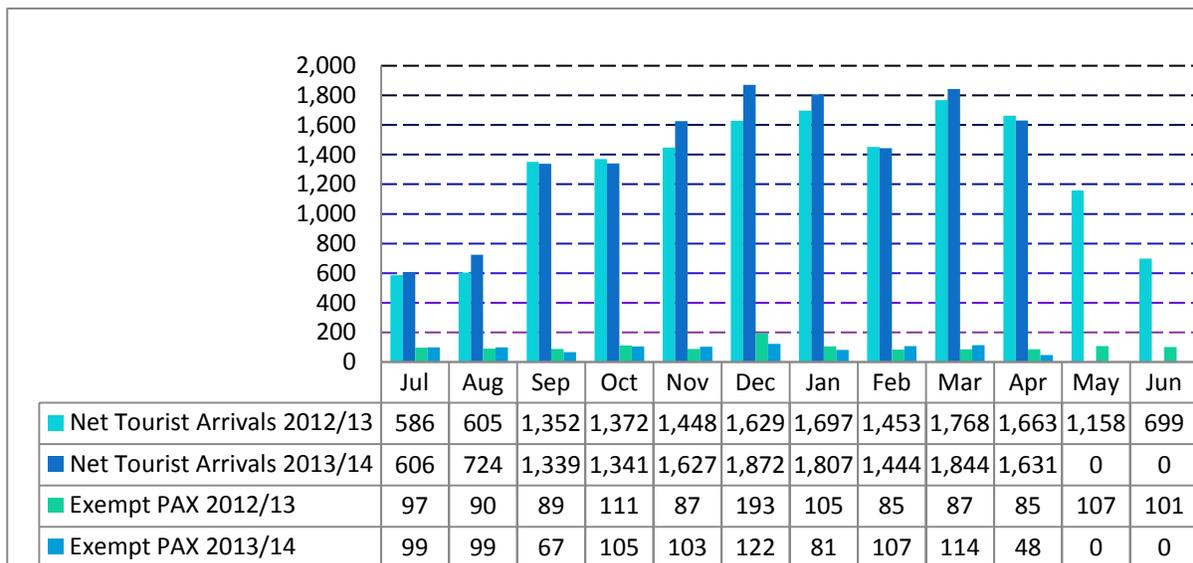
For further information regarding the review please contact David Kelly on (02) 6563 2066.

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Tourism Trends Continue Upwards!

Visitor numbers continue to show an upward trend. Net tourist arrivals to the island from 1 July 2013 to the end of April 2014 totaled 14,232 people, as compared to 13,571 people in the corresponding period last year – an increase of 4.9 per cent.

The following chart provides information regarding the number of flights per month and average passenger loadings for Qantaslink for all routes.



A great Autumn Marketing campaign has focused attention on good deals to be had in the low season. This has translated into additional visitors on the Island at a time when activity is usually slow.

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Pesticide Notification

Over the next months LHIB staff may be using pesticides in the following areas: Playground and Oval; all picnic areas; all vacant Crown Land within the Settlement area; Road Verges and Reserves; Windy Point footpath; Airport grounds and Airstrip; the former Powerhouse grounds including the Signal building; the Community Hall grounds; LHI Co-Op, Not Just a Salon and Post Office grounds; Hospital grounds; Satellite dish grounds; Jetty buildings; Lagoon Foreshore; LHIB Residences; LHI Cemetery; PPP boundaries and fence lines, all LHIB reforestation areas; for the treatment of grasses and broad-leafed weeds; or environmental weeds such as Ground Asparagus, Climbing Asparagus, Blue Periwinkle and Cherry Guava. Bush regeneration works will be undertaken throughout the PPP, Transit Hill and other crown reserves and roadsides/revegetation areas; working up to and including track edges.

Product/s & active constituent (to be used for foliar spray) - **Clear Up Bio:** active constituent Glyphosate 360g/L; **Fusillade:** Fluzifop-p present as butyl ester 28g/L; **Associate:** active constituent Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg; **Spearhead** active constituent Clopyralid 20g/L 15g/L, Diflufenican 300g/L and MCPA **Sierraron G:** active constituent Di-chlobenil 67.5g/Kg; **Starane** Fluroxypr 333g/L + diesel.

Product/s & active constituent (to be used for cut and paint applications) **Clear Up Bio:** active constituent Glyphosate 360g/L; **Associate:** active constituent Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg; **Safari** – (Garlon) tri-clopyr 600g/L

LHIB staff will also treat areas throughout the settlement for the control of the African Big Headed Ant (*Pheidole magacephala*): Product/s to be used & active constituent- **Amdro:** 7.3g/Kg Hydramethylnon. LHIB staff bait rodent stations with **Ratex:** active constituent Coumatetralyl 0.38g/kg.

Please refer to the “Lord Howe Island Board”s Pesticide Use Notification Plan” www.lhib.nsw.gov.au for specific details regarding the notification of the use of pesticides on the Island. For any further information please contact the LHIB

Silent cop to be trialed at the airport turnoff

Throughout winter, we will be trialing the placement of a ‘silent cop’ at the Lagoon and Airport Road intersection to reduce the potential for an incident on this corner due to motorists cutting the corner. During the trial, a temporary marker will be placed in a number of spots on the intersection and following feedback from the community we will select a final spot for the permanent solution. The permanent ‘silent cop’ will be similar to the one in place near the Public Hall.



Wastewater strategy – the facts

1 The choice of system

There has been some confusion in the community about aspects of the decentralised wastewater system, so it is important that everyone gets the facts.

The Board decided on a new Wastewater Strategy in 2011. This was in response to the need to improve wastewater systems on individual properties on the Island so as to reduce contamination of ground and marine waters, and reduce public health risks. The Board had considered a centralised wastewater system, but after consultation with the Island community on centralised and decentralised options, community feedback was strongly in favour of a decentralised system.

The differences between a centralised system and decentralised system are as follows:

Centralised

This would have involved establishing a centralised treatment plant for all wastewater from the Island. Buried sewer pipes would be required to transfer the sewage from residences and businesses to the treatment plant. A treatment plant would likely consist of large treatment tanks, settling ponds and a large area of land for the dispersal of effluent from the treatment plant. It would be difficult to find an appropriate location for a treatment plant on the Island given the space requirements and the need for a buffer zone between the plant and residences because of odour. An ocean outfall for effluent from a centralised treatment plant would not be possible because there is a moratorium on ocean outfalls in NSW, and a marine park surrounds Lord Howe Island, so approval for an outfall would not have been possible. Centralised treatment plants require significant amounts of monitoring and maintenance, involving additional staff for the Board and an environmental protection license from the EPA, which would increase management costs for the system.

The total cost to construct a centralised system for Lord Howe Island in today's figures is estimated to be approximately \$12 million.

If a centralised system had been introduced on Lord Howe Island, individual leaseholders would have had to pay to be connected. No government grant would have paid for the entire system. On the mainland, connections to new centralised waste water systems cost individual domestic property owners up to \$10,000 per property plus ongoing charges.

Wastewater strategy – the facts

Decentralised

The decentralised system, which is now being implemented on Lord Howe Island, consists of separate on-site treatment systems for individual properties. Cluster systems, where properties share treatment systems or irrigation areas, are also possible. In a decentralised system, the treatment system is designed to fit the individual property's circumstances, and the disposal of effluent is localised and suited to the specific environment. The property owner has responsibility for their system including installation and ongoing maintenance and monitoring. Preferred suppliers of systems have been identified through an expression of interest process. NSW Health must accredit systems for single domestic dwellings.

The total cost to install a decentralised system for the Lord Howe Island community is estimated to be \$5 million.

This is the combined figure of all leaseholder contributions to systems on their properties. The Board has been advised that there are no government grants for installation of individual property-based waste water systems. No such grants are available to property owners on the mainland.

2 Implementing the system - update

The Board has approved three OC applications for new wastewater systems, which haven't yet progressed to DA, five DAs for new wastewater systems have been approved and four systems have been installed.

Board staff have also had discussions with leaseholders or provided information to suppliers for 24 domestic properties and nine commercial properties.

The Board's incentives to leaseholders ends at 5pm on 30 June 2014, so to be eligible for the \$1,700 of savings, leaseholders must have paid a 10% non-refundable deposit to a supplier and provided a receipted tax invoice to the Board. You don't need to have installed the system by 30 June to be eligible for the incentives.

The Board will maintain a register of who has paid the deposit, so that when the time comes for them to install the system, they can take advantage of the incentives. If not registered with the Board, residents won't receive the incentives.

Whilst a system supplier may provide a quote now to assist in your decision, it is expected that the quote will be valid for typically 30 days, so if installation occurs in 2 years time, a revised quote would be required.

Andrew Logan remains available for discussions with leaseholders to assist with decisions regarding wastewater on their leases.