

# Booral Bulletin

Issue 105  
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Initiative of the Booral Community Association Inc.  
**Booral, "The Wildlife Centre Of Hervey Bay"**  
web site [www.booral.org.au](http://www.booral.org.au)  
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Just to the north of the road which joins Hervey Bay to Maryborough, and less than 10 km to Maryborough itself, lies the proposed Colton open cut coal mine. It lies in the Susan River catchment which empties into the lower end of the Mary. The proximity of the site to not only the Susan River but particularly to the Great Sandy Strait with its wetland listing and high environmental value not to mention World Heritage status, gave 87% of Fraser Coast Chronicle readers in 2016 enough reason to vote "No, it's too risky" when asked if they supported the mine.

Test bores at the site show a number of heavy metals already present along with the presence of acid-forming soils around the coal itself. The mine, in low-lying country, would require continual de-watering and this, along with other site water, would be discharged into the Mary River just 8 km upstream of the Great Sandy Strait. While the levels of several heavy metals are anticipated to exceed water quality guidelines, the proponents argue they will be diluted and mixed before reaching the Great Sandy Strait.

The release point is in tidal reach of the Mary and given that there is often very little fresh flow over the barrage further upstream, the discharge water, along with its dissolved heavy metals, would simply move to and fro with the tide over an estimated 10 km excursion, accumulating and with the potential to be laid down in the river's fine sediment.

Nonetheless the state government granted the necessary approvals for an open cut mine with an anticipated life of some 8 years.

There has been concern expressed also about mercury in the discharge water. Coal typically contains 1 to 2 parts per million of mercury and it's difficult to imagine that half a million tonnes of coal can be removed without at least some of this mercury finding its way into the water. East Booral Water4Life Group stands squarely with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, the Fraser Island Defenders Organization and the Greater Mary Organization in supporting their role to explore probable impacts and gathering background data.

Booral and River Heads communities are directly in the firing line. If you would like to get involved, contact MRCCC on [admin@mrccc.org.au](mailto:admin@mrccc.org.au) or their website [www.mrccc.org.au](http://www.mrccc.org.au) or email [eastbooralwater4lifegroup@gmail.com](mailto:eastbooralwater4lifegroup@gmail.com).

(As this publication goes to print we hear that two subsidiaries that own the Colton coal mine project have gone into voluntary administration. According to the company's Annual Report, recently increased charges for access to the Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal "have a material impact on the viability of that project," and have prompted the company to write off the value of the Colton exploration project's assets and reconsider whether it will keep going ahead with it. It's now listed as an "onerous contract" on the company's books. New Hope's AGM will be on 20th November.)

Submitted by East Booral Water4Life Group from a report by MRCCC (copyright June 2018) and the Sunshine Coast Council

## Message from The President's Desk



Hello all,

It's that time of year again-our last Bulletin for the year! (Already!)

A big thankyou to the team who make it possible (article writers, editor, all the sponsors , Ted Sorensen's office for printing & Darren Everard for his page, Bulletin folders and delivery people.) And you, the community for feedback and contributions.

We have been kept informed, entertained and educated about goings on in our area and look forward to continuing next year.

This year we welcomed the completion of the toilet in Community Park Oslove Drive (many relieved residents & visitors) .

We participated in Clean Up Australia Day with great results. (We will host this again next year). Some ongoing issues highlighted. Council are still regularly removing rubbish from the gravel stretch on Mathieson Rd. If you see any dumped rubbish please ring 1300794929 and report it, generally same day removal. That is also the number to ring to report dead animals-sadly there have been quite a lot of kangaroos hit by cars this year-every time I have reported one there has been same day removal. We are fortunate to have such a responsive council.

I would also like to welcome all the new people to Booral (lots of SOLD signs and new houses) and hope you enjoy our wonderful environment and great community as much as I have over the last 3 years.

Our final meeting this year is on Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 3-4pm @ Community Park Oslove Drive (BYO chair).

All welcome. This will be followed by our Christmas gathering (snags on the BBQ, chicken & salad) BYO drinks.

( Non-members a donation would be appreciated to cover costs). Membership Single \$5 Family\$10)

A great chance to catch up and meet new members of our community . Bring the kids!

Wishing you all the best for remainder of 2018 and look forward to 2019 in beautiful Booral!



Cheers

*Lisa*



### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

*How exciting for our region to host a visit from the Duke and Duchess of Sussex! BCA was there at River Heads boat ramp to snap Prince Harry giving us a wave from the barge! The Royals were here to unveil a plaque on K'gari as part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy initiative towards the dedication of the forests of Fraser Island.*

*We would like to welcome new residents in East Booral, Linda and Colin, as well as new members from West Booral, Lauretta and Don. Thank you for your input and popping in to say Hi. I would personally like to thank members of the community who have contributed stories and ideas towards the Booral Bulletin, making it an informative and interesting publication. This what the BCA is, a voice for our community.*

*Till next year, may you all indulge in the Love, Spirit and Blessings of Christmas!*  
Violet Whitaker ~ Editor

*"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" — Bob Hope*



### HAVE YOUR SAY

If you have anything you would like to contribute,  
a photo or a story you would like covered,  
either email to [allaboutbooral@gmail.com](mailto:allaboutbooral@gmail.com)  
or post to PO Box 1143 Hervey Bay Qld 4655

Your name and contact information must be supplied before anything is published.

### **Next BCA Meeting & Christmas party**

*Saturday, 1st December 2018 at 3pm*

At the Booral Community Park, Oslove Dr, East Booral



# Do the birds know?



Have you ever heard someone say: "Storm Bird. We are going to get a storm"?

The bird they heard is more than likely to be an Eastern Koel, a large, distinctive looking blackbird with red eyes (male). The female has brown, spotted with white and a black crown on the upperpart with cream and fine black bars on the underpart.

The bird is a member of the cuckoo family and every spring, which happens to tie in with storm season, they fly into Queensland and NSW. They come from as far as Papua New Guinea and Indonesia for the breeding season over summer. And as cuckoo's typically do, they lay their eggs in other

birds nests and let the host bird incubate their eggs. They feed in the canopy of trees on fruit taken from the trees, especially figs.

Some people swear by the hearing of their cry that bad weather is ahead, others say its coincidence.

Richard Fuller from the University of Queensland (School of Biological Sciences) says birds have an uncanny predictive ability to tell what the weather is going to do. They have an amazing sense for anticipating weather changes and they can sense stuff that we can't.

So it would seem that these birds have their own inbuilt barometer and can read the rise and fall of barometric pressure.

So next time you hear these birds with their 'koo-el' which they constantly repeat, might be time to start looking at weather forecasts. Listen out for them, I have heard them around Booral recently.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Booral Community all the very best for the festive season. Please stay safe especially if travelling. See you all in 2019 with some more 'local wildlife'.

Vicki  
BCA Wildlife Officer



## Sharing the Road with Horse Riders

There are quite a few horse properties in Booral and riders are often seen hacking out along the road. Unlike cars, a horse and rider are allowed to travel on footpaths and nature strips unless the local Council has laws against it. Since a horse and rider are considered a vehicle, they are bound by the same rules and must follow the same signs. As horses are slower than cars, riders must ride as close as possible to the left-hand side of the road and travel the same direction as the traffic.

Motorists, please be mindful of a potentially dangerous situation when approaching a horse and rider.

The Qld Government Road Rules state that "If a horse rider signals that their horse is jumpy or agitated, vehicle drivers must stop at the side of the road and turn off their motor. The horse rider can signal to the driver by raising a hand and pointing to the horse. The driver must not move the vehicle until the noise of the motor, or the movement of the vehicle, won't aggravate the horse. Drivers should take great care and treat all horses as a potential hazard." Never sound your horn, rev your engine or pass a horse at high speed.

Drivers "should pass wide and slowly" when passing a horse and always listen to a rider's request to slow down or stop. If a driver doesn't slow down or drives in a dangerous or inconsiderate way around horses on the road, try and get their number plate and report it to your local police station.

*Happy Horses Hervey Bay (Ref: Australian Road Rules & Qld Govt)*

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## COUNCILLOR EVERARD'S CORNER



BOORAL BULLETIN DECEMBER EDITION



Well that was quick! It seems only yesterday I was wishing everybody a Safe, Happy and Merry Christmas and now we are doing it all again!

A big thank you to residents who have been supporting my monthly community chats in Oslove Park this year. Some great discussions have been held covering a very wide range of topics. We have had some great outcomes and a few that are still works in progress which will require a little more work. I welcome everybody to join us at 9am on the last Tuesday of the month for a chat. I have had several requests to change to a Saturday morning and I will look at that next year for an extra chat in the Booral area.

Just in case you are heading to the Hervey Bay Carols by Candlelight this year please note the change of location to the Hervey Bay Sports Club this year. For more information please visit: [www.visitfrasercoast.com/Detail/ID/Hervey-Bay-RSL-Carols-by-Candlelight](http://www.visitfrasercoast.com/Detail/ID/Hervey-Bay-RSL-Carols-by-Candlelight)

### Get on board the Christmas Lights Trail:

If you're lighting up your house for Christmas let Council know so your display can be part of the Fraser Coast Christmas Lights Trail. Log on to the Council website [www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/light-up-the-fraser-coast](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/light-up-the-fraser-coast) to nominate your house so the addresses can be displayed on an on-line map so people can create a Christmas lights trail and visit as many as possible. Nominations for display and Christmas Street close 5pm Wednesday, November 28th to give Council time to create the maps so they are available from Saturday 1st December 2018.

Residents can still get together to compete for the title of **Christmas Street**. The current Christmas Street is Lakeridge Drive, Dundowran.

Council will join in the festive fun and decorate a giant Christmas Tree in front of the Maryborough City Hall on November 27th and the living Christmas Tree in Scarness Park.

### Council Contact:

Just a little reminder that if you see matters that require urgent Council attention please contact the Council call centre on 1300 794929. There have been times that I have missed vital calls on important issues which could not be helped. Please note the call centre is manned 24-hours a day seven days a week.

### Community Chats:

Just a little reminder that my November community chat will be on **Tuesday November 27th 9am to 10am** at the Community Park, Oslove Drive. I encourage you to call in if you have any Council matters to discuss. I will advise on the January date early in the New Year.

If you can't make it, I am happy to visit you at home. To make an appointment, please contact me on **0448 045 041** or email: [darren.everard@frasercoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:darren.everard@frasercoast.qld.gov.au)

I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you are leave the Fraser coast for a break, please travel safely over the holiday period and enjoy your break. I really look forward to working with you all next year to make the Fraser Coast an even better place.

Merry Christmas!

Kind Regards

Darren Everard

Councillor Division 7



**BOORAL COMMUNITY CHAT**  
Community Chat with Darren Everard  
Tues 27th November 2018 ~ 9am to 10am  
Oslove Drive Community Park, East Booral



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Booral Community Association Inc.

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My donation of \$10 (family or couple) is by:  
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Please return to:  
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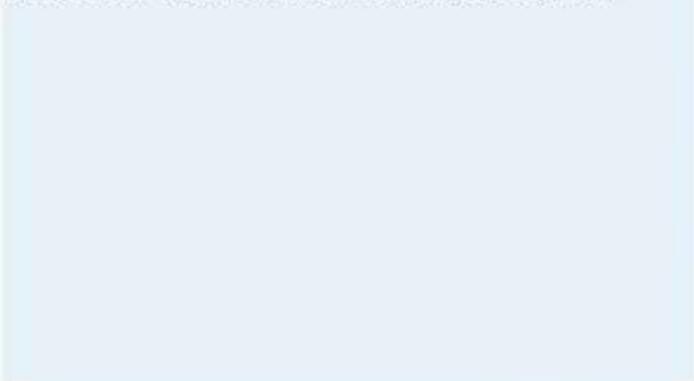
It was great to see some rain over the past few week which has really made everything nice and green just in time for the royal couple to pass through our beautiful town.

The sales market across River Heads has continued to thrive with plenty of properties being snapped up quickly and enquiries on houses and land is still remaining steady.

This means we are in desperate need of more listings, in particular half acre block under \$200,000 and houses in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 price range. We have buyers ready to buy in these price brackets so please get in touch with us if you are wanting to sell.

We are expecting enquiries to increase as we approach Christmas time as this is one of the busiest times of the year for us.

Rentals are still very thin on the ground with available properties being snapped up as soon as they hit the market. If you are having trouble renting your property or not happy with you current agent please give Tracey a call on 4125 7777 and she will look after your every need.



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## Contact Us

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