

PP Convergence 2021
Community Knowledge & Stewardship:
Whip-skew and other Acronyms

Presented by Jude Crighton, Secretary

& Helen Kershaw, WPSQ *Conservation News* Editor

Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld, Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc

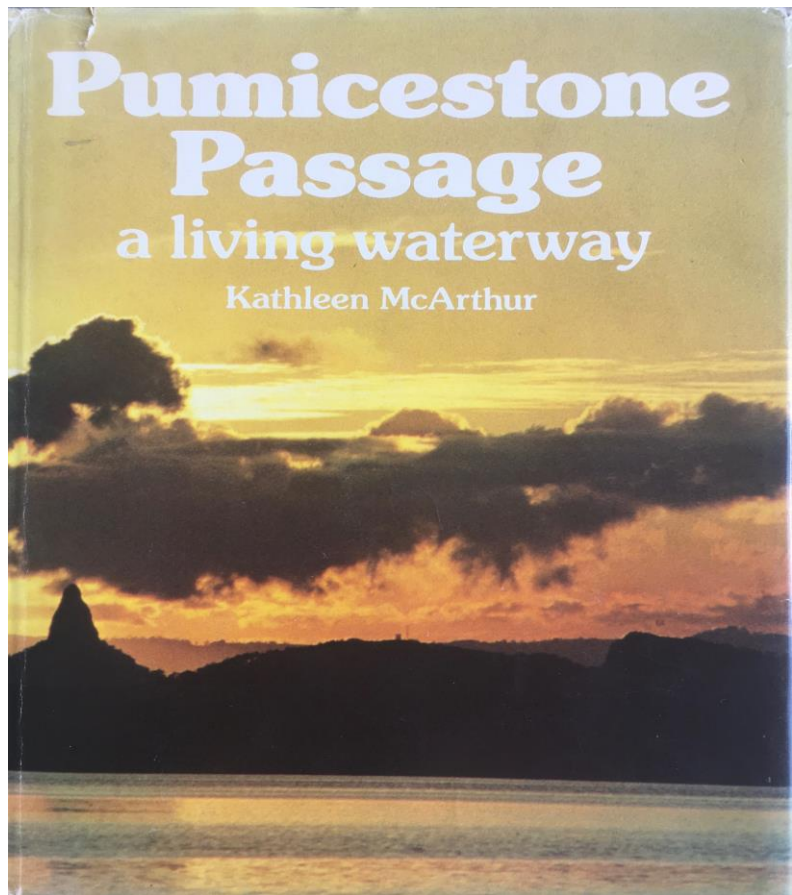
Kathleen McArthur (2015-2000)

- **WPSQ Caloundra Branch founder, 1963**
- **Sunshine Coast Citizen of the Century 2002**

During the 70s, 80s and 90s Kathleen McArthur was one of a group of driven individuals working within community groups who capitalised on their intelligence and far-sightedness and ability to communicate. They brought science to their group members and the wider community, and reached out to government.



Kathleen keeps on fighting



Sunshine Coast
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Kathleen keeps on fighting

● By GARRY WEST

ADVANCING years have calmed Caloundra's environmental watchdog Kathleen McArthur, but they have not reduced the strength of her convictions.

At 68, she is just as firmly committed to protecting the natural environment as ever.

Her home of the last 41 years gives an insight into this author, painter and environmentalist. The two-storey wooden house is within earshot of the Kings Beach breakers and the yard is overgrown because she prefers to leave it in its natural state.

Kathleen sits in her living room where books and other literature are stacked high on crammed shelves. Sea shells line the top of an open window through which the ocean breeze blows.

Surrounded by papers relating to Pumicestone Passage, she says: "I used to be very emotionally disturbed but I realised it was self-destructive."

"I am calmer now, but then again I am a lot older. But emotionalism is very necessary to give people the drive to act."


"I have always tried to play it low key because when you become a name, people are more interested in you than your message."

Kathleen could not keep her name out of the 1969 campaign against mining of the Cooloola coloured sands. She also gave evidence at a hearing on the issue.

The campaign involved the printing of postcards which were sent to the Premier, Joh Bjelke-Petersen and the end result was victory — declaration of the Cooloola National Park.

Such experiences have taught her a few lessons. "Keep the issue simple and clear. Don't confuse it with separate issues."

"There are a lot of conservationists who are irrational. They want everything at once."



● KATHLEEN McArthur — still firmly committed to the environment.

'An individual cannot do much alone'

Her last eight years have been devoted to, among other interests, studying coastal management and estuary ecology. A proposal to declare a marine park in Pumicestone Passage is her major talking point at the moment. And she can talk about it for hours.

Her research involved wading through a 1600-page government committee's report on environment and conservation and other literature.

In a submission to the State Coordinator General she will oppose the proposal. She says fishlife is protected under the current fisheries habitat and wetlands reserves but if the Passage is declared a marine park it could be used for multiple purposes.

Kathleen has been observing the Passage ever since her family started holidaying at Caloundra where she delighted in climbing among the rock pools and swimming.

● To page 3

Passage battle looms

● From page 1

But annual holidays were not enough. She visited Caloundra almost every weekend when she was old enough to drive.

"When I went overseas after I got married I think I was homesick for Caloundra — not Brisbane," she says.

She watched the destruction of frontal sand dunes at Kings Beach following the removal of wire fences soon after World War Two.

Angered by the destruction of part of the beach she loved, she fought a lone losing battle to preserve the dunes. That taught her another lesson.

"An individual cannot do much alone," she explains. "With politicians it's numbers that count."

You would condemn this sort of thing but it's done out of ignorance. They never seem to ask for any advice.

Kathleen cannot pinpoint who shaped her environmental instincts although her father was a marine engineer.

"I think it's just me," is her explanation.

A 1961 trip to the United States to paint wildflowers rekindled her interest in the environment. She read a paper on wetlands ecology by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the United States' oldest conservation society. Her interest in waterways has blossomed.

She is a member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Noosa Parks Association, Caloundra branch of the Queensland Wildlife Association, the Sydney-based Coast and Wetlands Society, a life member of the Australian Conservation Foundation, the David Stead Memorial Foundation, Caloundra lunch-hour theatre and Sunshine Coast Wildflower Society.

Her published works include *The Bush in Bloom*, *Queensland Wildflowers*, *Pumicestone Passage — A Living Waterway, A Living River — The Noosa*, and *A Living Beach*.



Kathleen travels the countryside painting wildflowers, constantly researches subjects and reads literature which arrives in her mail box. She is currently writing a follow-up to *The Bush in Bloom*.

She also runs lunch-hour theatres in schools and in the Caloundra Committee for the Ageing hall.

How does she find the time? "I don't have much of a social life," she explains. "But it interests me — it's my life."

● ABOVE: Kathleen McArthur in the garden of her Kings Beach home where she has lived for 41 years. Time has calmed her, but she is still committed to protecting the environment. Her latest project is the Pumicestone Passage marine park proposal.

Letter wars of the 1980s

faces zoning snag

30/5/81

A STATE Cabinet decision to site the south east Queensland pulp mill anywhere in Caboolture Shire would have to run the gauntlet of rezoning and public objection.

Caboolture Shire chairman Alex Barr said yesterday a pulp mill was a scheduled noxious industry in the shire's Town Plan. He said the Narangba Industrial Estate was the only site zoned for noxious industry.

Cr Barr said he was shocked by the suggestion Bribie Island may be a site for the APM/Mount Isa Mines pulp mill. He said the shire had received no official contact from either the State Government or the consortium.

"As far as council is concerned the State Government's decision can only be to name a preferred site," Cr Barr said.

"A pulp mill is scheduled a noxious industry and as such a rezoning application would need to be made before it could be constructed anywhere — other than a small parcel of land at Narangba — in this shire.

"We have received no applications to this point. When and if we do, it will be treated with the normal consideration to public objection and material in support from the developers."

Cr Barr said he would be shocked if the State Government invoked its recent State Development and Public Works Organisation Bill without first informing council.

The Bill allows the government to classify an industry as being essential and takes it outside normal town plan requirements.

"There are no statutory provisions for objections to the Minister in the Bill," Cr Barr said. "It would disfranchise everyone opposed to the project."

Cr Barr said he had refrained from expressing a personal view on the mill siting because of the essential need to sit in judgement on a town planning application.

land — with an area of least 2m below the land surface.

Koolamara Motel proprietor, Mrs Margaret Guthrie, said residents were concerned at where effluent would carry the "black water" waste, she said locals were worried the effluent would upset the area's fishing and fish breeding.

Mrs Guthrie said with an estimated 100,000 people per year coming to the Federal Minister for the Environment Ian Wilson.

Caboolture Shire Council (Division 1) told the meeting the referendum on the pulp mill.

Cr Gasser said the group would petition bearing the names of 10 electors in the local government area for Local Government Russ Hinze.

Mr Hinze could then call a referendum.

new road along the northern boundary of the Noosa Shire, carried out by professional consultants carried out by Haskins & Davey, for the Co-ordinator General.

In August 1979, the Co-ordinator General's Department published a 43-page interim report on Pumicestone Passage. The final report is yet to appear.

All of this must have cost the State at least \$100,000 — too much to be ignored or even blatantly rejected. One cannot help but wonder when reading and listening to statements

MAY 7, 1981

9/6/81

Bribie resource

POINT TAKEN

Sir. — There are something like 100,000 reasons for not siting a paper-pulp mill either on Bribie Island or anywhere near Pumicestone Passage. Those 100,000 reasons represent money that has been spent by the Queensland Government on studies of the island and waterway and their published reports.

Take the last 10 years. In 1972 there was the Survey of Major Islands of Moreton Bay, carried out by the Co-ordinator General's Department. Next there was a study of Moreton and Wide Bay Burnett Regions, carried out by the Queensland Museum for the Co-ordinator-General's Department with a fine, photographically illustrated printed report on the survey published in 1975. This was specifically for "planning to protect the National Estate".

The following year (1976) saw the publication of the four volume report on the Coastal Management Investigation from the Queensland-New South Wales border to the northern boundary of the Noosa Shire, carried out by professional consultants Cutteridge, Haskins & Davey, for the Co-ordinator General.

In August 1979, the Co-ordinator General's Department published a 43-page interim report on Pumicestone Passage. The final report is yet to appear.

All of this must have cost the State at least \$100,000 — too much to be ignored or even blatantly rejected. One cannot help but wonder when reading and listening to statements

made by state and local politicians, whether any of them ever read these reports.

In the Coastal Management Report Vol. 1, pages 115-125 are listed "Areas of Critical Concern to the Region", including a section on "Pumicestone Passage and Bribie Island" from which the following sentences have been extracted:

"Bribie Island represents a highly rated recreation resource . . . It has some 80 km of coastline including ocean and sheltered beaches. Much of the island is Crown land and remains open to planning options.

"The retention of Pumicestone Passage in a condition as close as practicable to that now existing is recommended. Its pleasing landscape and value for recreational fishing and boating should be safeguarded.

"The finding of the Survey of Major Moreton Bay Islands (1972) that Bribie Island should be treated essentially as a recreational resource is endorsed."

Are all these studies and surveys and investigations to be ignored and all that money wasted by allowing a noxious industry on Bribie Island or anywhere adjacent to Pumicestone Passage?

KATHLEEN McARTHUR, Caloundra.

An Estuary Institute

Sunshine Coast Daily

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1985

PRICE: 25c

CLASSIES DIRECT 43 4188

Institute plea

● From Page 1.

"The idea is for the institute to find out just what can be done without ruining the area," she said. Mrs Pares said development should not occur in an environmentally delicate area without full knowledge of all the complexities involved.

She said it was essential for the community to foster a complete understanding of the biology of Pumicestone Passage.

Mrs Pares said the committee had already outlined some specific investigations for the proposed institute. These include: ● The causes of sand loss by erosion; ● effects of natural forces on Moreton Bay estuarine systems; ● effects of proposed developments on Caloundra bar and Pumicestone Passage; ● causes and effects of bad water — too high a temperature and too little oxygen to allow marine animals to thrive.

She said that Bribie Island or the adjacent mainland were ideal sites for the institute.

Mrs Pares said the committee would meet next Monday to adopt a constitution and to start organising for the project. The meeting will be held at her home at 10 Bryce Street, Moffat Beach, at 2 pm.

Move for estuaries institute

AN institute to research Sunshine Coast estuary regions should be established, according to Caloundra's Betty Pares.

Mrs Pares said a public meeting last week resolved to push for a research institute in a bid to protect estuary waters.

She said such an institute would constantly monitor river mouths and other important areas, and hopefully come up with a plan which would set out what sort of development could take place without damaging the environment.

The advantages of an institute, she said, was that

WES THOMAS, Qld Bribie Island, Qld

Call a division

MANY thanks for your editorial. The "Week of Angles Comes To The Crunch (6/2) is a shame to call for a division. Let every one stand up so that we can see who supports the other side and who supports the other side."

Daily 13/2/85

OPINION

Daily 11/9/85

Coast needs estuary research institute

CLOSE to \$4000 was generated into the Sunshine Coast economy by the Estuarine Research Group in fostering its secondary aim of furthering awareness of the importance of estuaries and the need for research and monitoring of these fragile areas; while almost 200 people, at a low cost, were shown the Pumicestone Passage and its Glasshouse country watershed. This took place in July and August.

The main aim of ERG is promoting the establishment of an Institute of Estuarine Zone Research so that a good management plan may be implemented for the coastal area from the Noosa River to the Tweed Rivers.

Director of Industrial Development Don Young, gave his personal overview of estuarine development and its planning conflicts at ERG's September 3 meeting which reinforced our belief that a good management plan is urgently needed.

At present time planning is fragmented and being done without sufficient knowledge. Local authorities have authority to the highwater mark, although this can be overridden by State Government port authorities. As more than one local authority is usually involved in the planning of each estuary and its watershed, conflicts arise which reveal the need for a comprehensive management scheme.

Mr Young revealed that the essential utilities, ports (exporting and importing), power houses (and their attendant industrial land needs) are incompatible with residential areas and, so too, are harbours for small craft and commercial trawlers and their associated industries, while their training walls often alter a river's hydrology and ecology which in turn affects the fish habitat.

Also incompatible with fish habitat are canal estates; and extractive industries as they cause turbidity; while dams, besides reducing the availability of sand and gravel for extractive industries also affect fish habitat adversely. Even some recreational uses cause conflict and need zoning.

There is a limit to the availability of estuarine land and these conflicts will become every more acute with the need of maintaining fish habitats coming a bad last. There is no big money to be made from maintaining mudflat, mangroves and the whole marine ecology so that marine life thrives; but, if action is not taken to protect some of these coastal waters will become a marine desert.

We need ports, harbours, power stations, residential and recreational areas and the fish habitats; therefore, we need a comprehensive plan so that all receive consideration.

ERG believes an Institute of Estuarine Zone Research would be the best organisation to achieve this and that the Sunshine Coast is the area for it to be.

I was disappointed that no councillors or representatives of chambers of commerce were present to hear Mr Young's interesting and informative address. Apathy is the worst enemy we have on the Coast and it is certainly entrenched here.


BETTY PARES
Hon. Sec. ERG.

Love Boat Cruises on the Passage:

The Estuarine Research Group educates and coordinates.

Love Boat Cruises – followed by a smorgasbord lunch and a complimentary glass of wine – triggered a cross-fertilisation of ideas among community members, wetland experts, historians and politicians.

PUMICESTONE PASSAGE AND ENVIRONS BOAT AND COACH EXCURSION



To enable people to realise the desirability of preserving the natural characteristics and geography of the Pumicestone Passage a unique full day excursion by boat and coach has been arranged. Half the passenger complement will travel by the LOVE BOAT from Caloundra down the Passage, with a wildlife observation stop at Lighthouse Reach, to Donnybrook where a Smorgasbord Lunch will be shared with the other half complement who will have travelled by coach from Caloundra to Donnybrook via backroads and Glass House country with sight seeing stops. After Lunch the boat passengers will become Coach passengers and vice versa back to Caloundra. Morning and afternoon tea will be served.

SUNDAY MAY 26th has been chosen for the excursion because on that date the tide will be suitable for the boat trip to Donnybrook and back.

EXCURSION \$20.00 EACH, INCLUDES BOAT AND COACH TRIP, MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEA HAM AND CHICKEN SALAD, FRESH FRUIT, TEA OR COFFEE, COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF WINE.

EMBARKING BOAT AND COACH AT 24 MALOJA AVENUE CALOUNDRA WHERE PARKING SPACE WILL PROVE NO PROBLEM AT 8.30 A.M. RETURN APPROXIMATELY 5 P.M.

WRITE TO B. PARES, 10 BRYCE ST, MOFFAT BEACH 4551 OR PHONE 071 91 2482
OR PHONE 071 91 2981

OR " " R. MAUDSLEY 18 BEAGLE AVENUE BRIBIE ISLAND 4507 075 48 7245

BOOK EARLY. BOOKINGS END 10/5/85 CHEQUES: PUMICESTONE PASSAGE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Jill Chamberlain OAM:
WPSQ's letter-writer
extraordinaire for over
28 years

'I believe one letter is worth a thousand people
jumping up and down and making a noise'.

22/11/94

ENVIRONMENT

Bell's Creek toll road to devastate wetlands

THERE is currently a proposal to construct another, albeit privately funded, toll road on the Coast. The idea is to build a new access road into Caloundra, to be known as the Bell's Creek Arterial road.

However, it will not only be yet another toll road, but will have damaging effects on both human and natural environments. The impact on the amenity and quality of life of Golden Beach residents will be considerable.

It will pass within 500 metres of the State school and the bowls club, and the Nelson Street roundabout will channel a great deal of non-local traffic through formerly quiet suburban streets.

It will destroy and fragment wildlife habitat; devastate one of the few remaining melaleuca wetlands in southeast Queensland, which have been designated by the Department of Environment and Heritage as having high conservation value; and could uncover acid sulphate soils, leading to sulphuric acid discharge.

It will cut across catchment areas of the Pumicestone Passage, one of south-



ECO LINES
Jill Chamberlain

east Queensland and Caloundra's main boating and fishing regions. This is against recent State Government guidelines for future management of the Pumicestone Passage, and recommendations from SEQ2001.

The northern end of the Passage is a vitally important nursery for fish and crustaceans. Sediment, pollution and nutrients from run-off can cause havoc to food stocks and water chemistry on which the juveniles depend.

The most alarming aspect, however, comes from results of water testing un-

dertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the road. Bell's and Lamerough Creeks were both found to have levels of mercury and lead well above the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council's policy guidelines on water quality.

Mercury in Lamerough Creek was found to be seven times the acceptable level. Mercury is a highly toxic substance. Microscopic organisms convert elemental mercury and mercury compounds into methylmercury. Fish and crustaceans ingest and accumulate this form of mercury which then passes up the food chain to humans.

Is a road of dubious benefit, saving only about 5.8km and six minutes, with a toll in today's dollars of \$1.50 a car, worth a trade-off of increased toxicity and environmental degradation?

**Jill Chamberlain is secretary of the Caloundra branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (phone 44 2707). The Society is a member group of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council. For membership inquiries or further information about the Council, phone 41 5747 or write to PO Box 269, Nambour, 4560.*

Ken Mewburn OAM

TAPP (Take Action for Pumicestone Passage) restores mangroves to protect foreshores at Golden Beach.

Under the independent banner of Healthy Land and Water, three levels of government and government grant funding support TAPP, Night Eyes Water and Landcare Association, the Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation, the T S Onslow Australian Navy Cadets and the Caloundra Power Boat Club in soft engineering solutions for a state-owned reserve.



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