

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD Community Information Bulletin



Volume 1, Edition 6 - December 2007

Celebrating 25 Years of World Heritage 1983—2007

This weekend, **December 1 & 2, 2007**, the Lord Howe Island Board will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Lord Howe Island's World Heritage Status. To mark this important milestone the Board will be putting on a number of free events and activities, including a free concert by the renowned Australian band **SIROCCO**. See Page 4, and the November edition for details.

NEDS BEACH CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR THE **SIROCCO** CONCERT

Just a reminder that Neds Beach will be closed to vehicle traffic on December 2, 2007 between 2:30 pm and 8:00 pm for the free **SIROCCO** concert (see Page 4). The concert starts at 4:30 pm and set up will start at around 2 pm.



Could you please move your vehicle out of the area by 2:30 pm. Between 2:30 pm and 7:45 pm, access will be for pedestrians only, other than authorised vehicles.



A free shuttle bus service, operated by **Whitfield's Tours** will run between Pinetrees Lodge and Neds Beach every half hour between 2 pm and 4 pm, and then 7:30 pm and 8:30 pm. Thanks to the Whitfields for this generous support.

No other restrictions are in place, so feel free to wander down, have a picnic, listen to the music, swim, barbecue and join in the celebration.

NEXT BOARD MEETING—DECEMBER 3 & 4 2007

The next meeting of the Lord Howe Island Board will be held on Monday December 3 and Tuesday December 4 at the Public Hall. This will be the first meeting of the new business and tourism representative, Mr. Robert Pallin.

The closed session of the meeting will be held on the Monday from 9 a.m. onwards. The NSW Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water, the Hon Phil Koperberg MP is expected to attend this session and address the Board.

The Open Meeting of the Board will commence at 4 pm on the Tuesday, with an afternoon tea for the public from 3:30 onwards. Residents and visitors are encouraged to attend.

Perpetual Leaseholders help keep island weed free

Annual Weed Inspections

Following on from the article in the November issue, the island now depends on tourism for its economy, and it depends on a high quality natural environment to stand out from other destinations and attract tourists. Weeds are the biggest threat to the island's environment, and therefore tourism product. They pose a problem wherever they occur, be it permanent park preserve, Special or Perpetual Lease. Weeds don't recognise fences, and we need to work together to control them. To support leaseholders with this challenge, the Board will again be carrying out property weed inspections in December 2007 and January 2008. Staff will inspect your lease, identify problem species, and provide advice on how to control them.

You will be notified when an inspection is planned for your property. To get maximum benefit from the inspection, you should try to be in attendance to point out issues, and obtain advice. A number of invasive weeds that occur on the island have been declared as 'noxious plants' under the NSW *Noxious Weeds Act*, in addition to those listed under the *Lord Howe Island (General) Regulation*. **Leaseholders are reminded that while the control of weeds generally is good for the economy and the environment, the removal of declared noxious plants is required by law.** If you have any questions about the inspections, please contact Terry Wilson or Chris Haselden at the Environment Unit on 6563 2066.

Battling the Big-Headed Ant

Work continues to try and eradicate rodents from the island, and with pigs, goats and cats gone, the island will be free of pest mammals if rodent eradication succeeds. However, just as troubling as the rodents are the smaller invaders, such as ants and other insects. In other places, invasion by certain ant species has had a devastating effect on the environment, quality of life and economy. The effect of Fire Ants on Christmas Island is a perfect example and has been well publicised in the media.

The threat which ants and other pest invertebrates can pose underscores the need for constant community vigilance and co-operation with quarantine. In particular, building material, plants and garden produce have the potential to bring in insect pests. Unfortunately, LHI now has a number of feral ant species. Probably the most threatening is the African Big Headed Ants (ABHA) *Pheidole magacephala*.

The ant is omnivorous, meaning it will eat almost anything. It is a voracious seed harvester, and will actively attack any invertebrate that it encounters. They are capable of causing serious social, environmental, structural and agricultural damage, particularly to an island that relies on nature tourism. ABHA's are present in a number of locations throughout the settlement on Lord Howe Island (LHI). ABHA's (also called brown house ant, coastal brown ant and lion ant) are recognised as a major pest ant species throughout the world. The good news for us is that while it is impossible to eradicate this species from mainland Australia, it is possible to eradicate it from locations such as LHI. During December, the Board will be carrying out a control program at a number of locations throughout the settlement area to try and eradicate the ant.



The Pesticide used will be 'Amdro Granular Ant bait', active constituent: 7.3g/Kg *Hydramethylnon*. Hand spreading of corn granules soaked with the poison *Hydramethylnon* has been successfully used to eradicate ABHA's in Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory (Hoffmann 2004). No adverse impacts on non-target species were reported from this program. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) was prepared by the Lord Howe Island Board (LHIB) in September 2006 to consider the environmental impacts of the use of *Hydramethylnon* for the control of ABHA's on LHI. The REF was prepared as a safeguard to ensure all environmental issues were considered as part of the operational planning for the activity.

The activities proposed will not generate significant or excessive negative impacts on the environment. A copy of the Lord Howe Island Pesticide Notification Plan can be viewed at the LHIB Administration office free of charge during business hours (830 – 1630 Mon - Fri). If you have any questions about this activity, please contact Terry Wilson or Chris Haselden at the Environment Unit on 6563 2066.

Notice of Intended Pesticide Application

Notice to residents of:
Lord Howe Island

Date or dates of pesticide use:
December 2007 – 2 February 2008

Full name of pesticide product(s):
mdro Granular Ant Bait

The pest(s) to be treated are:
African Big Headed Ant, *Pheidole magacephala*.

Where the pesticide(s) will be applied:
The Settlement area of Lord Howe Island

Re-entry period restrictions (if any):
N/A

The pesticide will be applied by:
Hand

Pest controller contact number(s):
Terry Wilson or Chris Haselden
02 65632066

Date of this notice:
28 November 2007

Nursery Closed Over Christmas

The Lord Howe Island Nursery will closed between 21/12/07 and 7/1/08.

The last nursery tour will be on 21/12/07. They will recommence on the 11/1/08.

Marine Park News

Scientific Dive Training Course

The PADI Scientific Dive Training Course held on the 18th and 19th November was a great success with 10 participants successfully completing the theory and practical components. Participants gained knowledge on the various aspects of research diving, diving physics, diving safety and oxygen administration. The practical sessions held at Ned's Beach, involved underwater search skills, the use of line reels and buoyancy control techniques and all skills were undertaken in no visibility (divers were required to wear a 'blacked-out' mask) - this was challenging and fun. We would like to extend a big thank you to the course presenter Peter Payne, the Lord Howe Island Board (who paid for Peter's flight) and to all participants who attended.



Sci Divers Tasman, Anthony, Luke, Lauren, Christo, Todd, Rachel, Peter, Sallyann, Brian, Peter.



Vessel "Belle Chase" not in Balls Pyramid Sanctuary Zone

On the 23rd October 2007 a Customs Australia surveillance flight report showed a Lord Howe Island vessel located in the Balls Pyramid Sanctuary Zone. As the only vessel in that area at the time was "Belle Chase", a check of the vessel's JRC 550 chart-plotter with skipper Scott Wilson and owner Darrin Nobbs confirmed that the vessel was NOT in the sanctuary zone at any time during the 23rd October.

The disparity between the Surveillance Australia's forward locating infra red (FLIR) system and the JRC 550 chart-plotter is still being investigated.

Historic shipwreck status for "Lamachan"?

The latest photo of the vessel "Lamachan" on the 17th November 2007 at Elizabeth Reef showed the vessel still in remarkable condition. As the wreck is the only known example of a German built Hanse 30 in Australian waters it will be due for historic shipwreck nomination in 2082!



Lord Howe Island Board & ArtsNSW
Celebrating 25 years of World Heritage Status

Present

the internationally acclaimed band

Sirocco



*Join us at this FREE concert to celebrate
25 years of
World Heritage Status
NEDS BEACH
Sunday, 2 December 2007
4:30 pm to 7:30 pm*