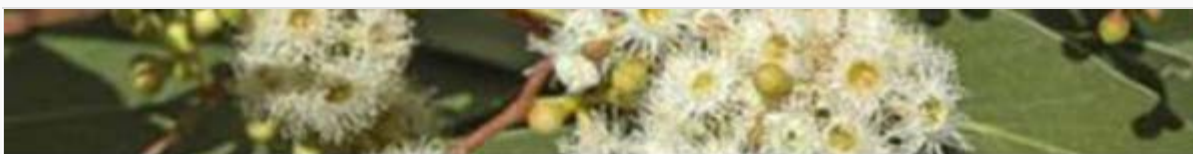


From craft to the courts we are doing everything we can to protect Bimblebox and surrounds



Bimblebox Updates

Dear Bimblebox Supporters,

There is lots going on out here in Central Western Queensland and around the country. We have heaps news and events to update you on so please read on and forward this news to anyone you think might be interested.

Bimblebox Art: EVENTS Galore

[*Bimblebox 153 Birds*](#) is a creative exploration of the bird species that inhabit the Bimblebox Nature Refuge. With spoken word, music and fine art prints, 153 artists, 153 writers and 153 musicians engage with the bird species that make this threatened habitat their home.

Where? Impress Printmakers Studio Gallery, 143 Kedron Park Rd, Wooloowin, Brisbane.

When? 6 – 17 May 10am–4pm, Wednesday - Sunday.

Opening event: 2pm, 9 May (Saturday) Speaker: Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe AO

Facebook: [Bimblebox 153 Birds](#)

[*Bimblebox: art - science - nature*](#), a multi art form exhibition, continues at Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery until 7 June, 531 Ruthven St.

Opening Event: 5.30pm, 14 May

Facebook: [Bimblebox Art Project](#)

[*The Art Science Nature camp*](#) has become a [stimulating](#) annual event. The 2015 camp at Bimblebox will be between 3 – 13 September, subject to weather conditions. It's open to artists, writers, musicians, scientists and people who care for nature. If interested send an EOI to: bimbleboxartproject@javitas.com.au

Someone said 'when are we going to fundraise'?

Maureen Cooper promptly obliged and created a wonderful quilt that can be seen on the [The Bimblebox Alliance Inc. \(TBA\)](#) website. TBA is a newly formed not-for-profit organization working to protect so-called 'protected areas' from inappropriate and unwanted development. Maureen's quilt will be displayed at annual shows at Barcaldine, Clermont, Emerald, Rockhampton, Mackay, and at the Brisbane Ekka (Royal Queensland Show). Raffle tickets are available at most show venues and [on-line](#). The winner will be drawn in Brisbane in late August. We are grateful to Maureen for her tireless fundraising efforts. Jude Garlick, a member of the TBA, will be at the opening of [Bimblebox 153 Birds](#) with raffle tickets.

Galilee Mine projects and their legacy so far

Alpha town inflates and deflates! The influence of the lure of money on the township of Alpha has continued its downward trajectory. Those who speculated that the mines would proceed and bought into the property market caused a major inflation in land, house and rental prices. Meanwhile, local council rates have risen while the town population has declined. The newsagency is closed most hours each day, the grocer has sent out flyers pleading for customers or else, the butcher shut up shop and the post office for sale. Some view the so-far unrealized prospect of mines as the cause. The promised panacea has, at best, been [short lived](#). With a quick bird's eye-view, Tom Crothers reports on how a ["Strong Plan" for Queensland](#) would have caused irreversible damage to our water resources, destroyed our rich biodiversity and internationally recognized ecosystems and even further diminished the rights of Queensland landholders. Similarly, the [Independent Expert Scientific Committee on CSG and Large Scale Coal Mining Development](#) has highlighted the need to understand potential impacts of the mines on the Alpha town water supply.

Alpha Coal in Supreme Court appeal: The recent decision by the Qld Land Court on the Alpha Coal mine and the granting of the Environmental Authority by the former State Government has been [challenged in the Supreme Court](#). [The judicial review](#) has just been heard and judgement is pending. Paola Cassoni and other [graziers are very supportive](#) of the appeal by Coast and Country Association Queensland of the Land Court recommendations and the granting of the Environmental Authority by the former State Government.

Curiously, the farmers' protectors par excellence, [Agforce](#), doesn't recognize the merits of an NGO supporting groundwater rights in the Courts. To balance the call by Agforce for conservationists to stick to splashing water on whales' backs, there is an [EDO information session](#) on the 'Eco-Charity' Tax on Monday 11 May 2015, 6pm, at the Griffith University Ecocentre. There is also a [Senate Inquiry](#) into the Landholders' Rights to Refuse (Gas and Coal) Bill 2015, submissions should due by 29 May 2015.

Carmichael Mine in Land Court: The [biggest coal mine](#) proposed for the Galilee and in Australia became a [spring water guzzler](#) in a just-finished [dramatic Land Court hearing](#), where many remarkable [mistruths were exposed](#). Anyone familiar with Environmental Impact Statements in Queensland may or may not be rejoicing at the long-awaited exposure of the type of information governments base decisions (eg. conceptual hydrological models), the type of methods employed to justify [erosion of natural capital](#) (eg. offsets), employing spin for social acceptance (eg. Advertising [inflated perceived positives](#)). Another decision pends. This case has also highlighted discord between non-indigenous and [indigenous connections to country](#).

China First: Waratah Coal is out and about [rehabilitating exploration drill holes](#) left lingering since 2008. Conditions in the Environmental Authority Code for Exploration Permit EPC 1040 request them decommissioned within months if not in use by the mine.

News for Nature Refuge (NR) owners: [The Bimblebox Alliance \(TBA\)](#) has now reached 34 members and growing! The [Department of Environment and Heritage Protection](#) (DEHP) has established a website where the 453 Nature Refuges owners in Queensland (3.4 million ha) can [register](#) as members however this site states exactly what is needed without delivering it: *'Land Management Online was created to bring nature refuge landholders together; to share and connect, as well as being a place to discover other groups and organisations with common interests.'* TBA together with [Protect the Bush Alliance](#) wrote a letter to Minister Steven Miles stating our frustration of not being able to freely interact with each other and members of the public due to privacy laws. Individual NR owners raised this issue in the past but nothing was done.

Freelance Italian Journalist Roberta Giaconi came to Bimblebox in January during a heat wave with cicadas screeching day and night, but nevertheless a [report](#) was put together for a prominent Italian newspaper. Grazie Roberta.

Thanks for hearing us out

All the best

The Bimblebox Team

[Be our friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Our mailing address is:
bimblebox@gmail.com

The Bimblebox Alliance Inc. is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, ABN 40145809497.

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