

The sighting of so many dead and dying birds was distressing and many people voiced their concern causing the Minister for the Environment to instigate a rescue operation. The Environment Department needed to respond cautiously in their approach to the rescue and made an order that no one should go near the birds until it had been confirmed that they were not carriers of Bird flu. There was a delay therefore of 2-3 days before 80 birds were collected, half from Main Beach and the other half from south Straddie. Wildlife carers from Straddie and DERM officers collected and took the birds to the Pelican and Seabird rescue station at Manly. The Government scientist's testing for bird flu proved negative. It is highly unlikely that pelagic birds carry the virus. These birds are notoriously difficult to rehabilitate according to researchers at the UQ Research Station. However, of the 40 birds collected from NSI and 40 from SSI which

were rescued, 18 were nursed back to health and released, regrouping to fly south. 200,000 or more shearwater chicks are harvested commercially under licence in Tasmania each year, being prized for their down, feathers, oil and flesh.

If you find shearwaters or other birds on the beach the Pelican and Seabird Rescue asks that you contact them on 0404118301. UQ Research Station is of the opinion it is best to leave shearwaters alone as they are notoriously difficult to rehabilitate. First check if they have a numbered metal band around a leg. If so, contact Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme as well.

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*Angela McLeod*



## The Friends of Stradbroke Island Association Inc.

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*FOSI was formed in 1988 to oppose the construction of inappropriate development at Cylinder Beach. FOSI continues to monitor proposals for this site, and others on North Stradbroke Island, with the aim of preserving the island's unique features: coastal villages, remarkable landscape and beaches, and areas of significant vegetation and wildlife. Membership is open to those who support FOSI's aims.*

**MEMBERSHIP RATES, 2011: Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00 Concession \$5.00**

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