



**MIPC e-bulletin    March, 2012**

**Email: [mipc@moretonisland.org.au](mailto:mipc@moretonisland.org.au)**

### Coming Events

#### Blue Lagoon Weeding Trips

**Friday March 30 to Sunday April 1,  
Friday April 6 to Monday April 9th (Easter)  
Friday April 20 to Sunday April 22,  
Saturday May 5 to Monday 7 May (May Day week-end)**

All trips depart on the Friday 8.30 am MICat barge (Howard Smith Drive, Lytton) with a Saturday 8.30 am departure option available for a minimum of 3 volunteers.

Volunteers will be transported to the Moreton Experience campsite at Blue Lagoon campground and will be able to utilise the commercial camp facilities there.

Details of what to bring and what is provided will be provided on booking.

#### Transport Cost :

**For volunteers: Free!!**

All transport costs are covered by MIPC, except for parking at the barge departure point which is \$10 per vehicle per day (\$30 for 3 days) Parking fees are paid directly to MICat at their ticket office.

Please book your place at least 1 week in advance of the trip. If there are insufficient numbers (less than 3 people) booked 1 week prior to departure the trip may be cancelled.

To qualify for a free trip, volunteers are required to undertake 8 hours weeding over the weekend. Those who prefer not to weed so much can pay during the trip at a rate of \$15 for each hour not completed. This may be especially helpful for those unable to come until Saturday morning.

**For non-workers: \$120**

Members who do not wish to weed and prefer an 'all relaxation' weekend are very welcome to come along. The cost is \$120 per person (plus parking as above) which covers barge fares and transport on the island.

#### Extended stay option

An option to extend your stay following most of these trips is available, but volunteers must pay any extra transport costs for the Blue Lagoon to MICat transfer. Each day extra requires 2 hours of weeding in return for costs incurred for the extra days.

Transport options for volunteers extending their stay include:

4WD Taxi - around \$120 for up to 7 persons with luggage; bring your own 4WD vehicle or Moreton Experience may be able to provide transport.

#### Volunteer Weeding Weekend at North Point Campground

**Friday April 20 – Sunday April 22.**

For those who are willing to bring all their own camping gear, there is an opportunity to camp at the North Point Campground over this weekend, and do some weeding there.

Again transport on the MICat barge and to the campground is provided free of charge.

Linda Back will be the group leader and all volunteers will be given guidance and instruction as to their duties. A detailed list of what to bring will be provided on booking.

#### Rubbish Clean-up weekend

**Saturday April 21 & Sunday April 22.**

This weekend will focus on rubbish removal on beaches and road sides. Tangalooma Resort is providing free transport to the Island for volunteers, whilst transport to the work sites, and camping facilities at Blue Lagoon Campground will be courtesy of Moreton Experience.

#### Programme:

Saturday 21 April

9.30am: Volunteers arrive at Tangalooma Ferry Holt Street wharf departure point.

10am: Tangalooma ferry departs and arrives at Tangalooma Resort at about 11.30am.

After a picnic lunch, volunteers will undertake rubbish clean-up on the beach south of Tangalooma with transport support from Moreton Experience, followed by a late afternoon transfer to Blue Lagoon campground to camp at the Moreton Experience site on Saturday night.

Sunday 22 April

Volunteers will work on East Ocean beach and /or road cleanup. Quite a bit of rubbish on the road sides has been exposed by the recent fire.

Sunday afternoon return to Tangalooma resort for ferry departure at 4.00pm.

Please note that if seats on the 4pm Tangalooma ferry are required for house guests some volunteers may be moved to the 8.00pm ferry.

#### Bookings for all trips:

By Email: MIPC Secretary at

**[mipc@moretonisland.org.au](mailto:mipc@moretonisland.org.au)**, or

By Phone: 3321 1463 and leave a message

## Presentation versus Preservation

### **Queensland Tourism pushes to open National Parks for tourist developments.**

There is concern about indications that Queensland Tourism is lobbying for government to 'open up' National Parks in Queensland by allowing more infrastructure development on the principle that 'showing the Park' to visitors be given equal weighting to preservation in management decisions.

Such moves would require a change in the Nature Conservation Act 1992, Section 17 (1) which currently states; *A national park is to be managed to provide to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values. And (2) The management principle stated above is the **cardinal** principle for the management of national parks.* (our emphasis)

MIPC has sent letters to the leaders of each Queensland political parties seeking a commitment on this matter.

In the response received from Campbell Newman, Leader of the LNP, he states, *'The LNP currently has no plans to change the section of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 pertaining to the management principles of National Parks, nor do we currently have any plans to revoke or excise from any National Park for the purpose of private development of accommodation.'*

However number 3 of the LNP's 5 pledges says they will: *Deliver Better Infrastructure and Better Planning: we will share the proceeds of the mining boom to build roads and provide critical local infrastructure, **open up National Parks so all Queenslanders can enjoy them**, and protect prime agricultural land.*

National parks are currently completely open to the public so it is unclear what 'opening up' national parks actually means. It can only infer some sort of development such as roads, or tracks at least. Mr Newman's statements appear to be contradictory as any development of this kind would

require a change to the Act, which he says they have no plans to do. We encourage you to seek clarification from your local member of parliament.

## Update on QPWS activities on Moreton Island

Late in February MIPC executive members attended a meeting with QPWS staff members, Chris Hanlon, (Ranger-in-Charge on Moreton Island) and Andrew Hoffmann (Operations Manager for Moreton Bay) and were given an update on their activities in the Park. There was also discussion on ways MIPC members can continue to work co-operatively with QPWS on various conservation projects, specifically feral pig monitoring and ongoing weed removal at Cape Moreton, North Point campground and Blue Lagoon campground.

**Cape Moreton Information Centre** – work is still underway on the upgrade of the Information Centre and the completion date is anticipated in early June this year. We are assured that the flat behind the Information Centre will continue to be available as accommodation for MIPC volunteers staffing the Centre or working on pig monitoring or weeding projects in northern sections of the Park.

**Upgrade of Mirrapool Bypass road** – The extraordinary rain and wild weather experienced over summer has resulted in severe beach erosion on the southern end of the island and washed away the bypass track at Mirrapool, cutting access from the Eastern beach to Koorinal township. A lot of QPWS time and resources will now be tied up with approvals and construction of an alternative track.

### **Moreton Island Community Website**

Phill Webb from Moreton Island Real Estate has set up a community website at

[www.moretonislandrealestate.com.au/blog](http://www.moretonislandrealestate.com.au/blog)

on which MIPC has been invited to put a link to our website. Have a look!



*Spoonbills on Western Beach of Moreton Island, just south of Little Sandhills - Photo courtesy of Len Martin*