



Newsletter

## Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc.

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## National Park lands to be leased for Resorts

The Queensland Government presented to Parliament on 13<sup>th</sup> November amendments to The Nature Conservation Act 1992, to enable the granting of leases on National Parks land for private resort development. The amendments to the Bill were referred to the Health and Community Services Parliamentary Committee and they are to report to Parliament by 7<sup>th</sup> February. The legislation will then be passed unless the electorate can convince the Minister to withdraw the legislation. MIPC has made a submission to the Committee (six of the 8 members on the committee are members of the government.) The changes to the Act will provide for a 30 year private lease (with an option of 30 year renewal) of National Park land for private ecotourism facilities (ie resort).

*Below is a summary of submission No 70 made by Peter Ogilvie to the Health and Community Services Parliamentary Committee inquiry into the Nature Conservation and other legislation Amendment Bill 2012. Peter a long time employee of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service brings to his submission a historical and environmental perspective.*

“The primary purpose of national parks is to protect natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental process, and to promote education and recreation that is compatible with that protection.

That goal is clearly enunciated in the management principle of national parks in Section 17 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act). That particular section clearly establishes that the cardinal principal shall be 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.”

The legal and ethical strength of the cardinal principal is the foundation on which national park management has been built since the principal was first exposed in 1959 in the *Forestry Act 1959*. A study of departmental files prior to 1959 clearly shows that the intent of the principal was practiced by the department and politicians as early as the late 1930’s when overt

and funded national park management was instigated in Queensland.

Since the establishment of national parks in Queensland in 1908, tourist resorts have not been permitted in mainland national parks in keeping with the dictates of the cardinal principal. The rationale has always been that commercial facilities should not damage the natural resources and should, if the public use potential was high, be established on private land adjacent to, or contiguous with the national park. The proposed amendments actually reverse and effectively make a mockery of more than 100 years of national park management in Queensland.

The often-presented argument that resorts occur in national parks in other jurisdictions ignores the history of their establishment. In many instances, those jurisdictions would give their eye teeth to have the resorts located outside the parks.

*Cont page 3*

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### Executive Members

#### President

Alan Gennings 0428 783781

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Peta Frampton

#### Executive Committee

Pam Schindler

Helen Sutherland

Marissa Grant

Leonie Hegvold

Dennis Maher

Nanette Kempel

#### Statement of Aims

1. To promote the preservation of Moreton Island as a natural area to be managed for public recreation and enjoyment provided always that the recreational uses are consistent with conservation aims.

2. To foster the conservation of the vegetation, fauna and natural features of Moreton.

3. To facilitate public awareness and appreciation of Moreton Island as a natural area and encourage support for its preservation and management in accordance with these objects.

4. To co-operate with, or promote co-operation by any means with and among persons, trusts, corporations, firms, associations, institutions, governments, instrumentalities or government, municipal authorities and other bodies in the Commonwealth or its Territories or elsewhere for the purpose of carrying out any object of the organisation.

5. To oppose any development or usage of Moreton Island which is contrary to the preservation and good management of the island in accordance with these objects.

6. Generally, to take such lawful action as it considers necessary or appropriate in the interests of promoting the preservation and good management of Moreton Island in accordance with these objects.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Moreton Island Protection Committee or its members.

Contributions to this newsletter are welcome, but the editors accept no responsibility for alterations made to articles.

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Edited by Alan Gennings, Lisa Dowall

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## Cape Info Centre opens

The Cape information Centre re-opened at the end of last year. The display features the flora, fauna and history of Moreton Island. Also presented is information on how most of Moreton Island came to be a National Park. The display also highlights the contribution made by MIPC and other volunteers.

We thank NP&WS staff for efforts to put together a display which provides insight into not only the nature of Moreton, but also the community involvement in caring for Moreton.

## Island News

The Summer 2012 - 2013 issue of the to be quarterly Moreton Island National Park Island News has been published by National Parks.

*A copy is posted on the MIPC websites news page.*

## Cruise ship to visit

### Tangalooma

The Pacific Jewel, with a passenger capacity of 1,950 is scheduled to visit Tangalooma 6 times in 3013. The first visit is scheduled for Sat 16 March.

*MIPC expects that tours into the National Park comply with the current daily passenger quotas and that the Parks do not authorize any special exemptions for Tangalooma.*

## Executive changes

At the August AGM, Peta Frampton rejoined the executive as Treasurer.

Linda Back retired from the executive. Linda, as well as being Treasurer, shared many of the responsibilities of the Secretary and was Volunteer Organiser for many years. On behalf of the Executive

and Members I thank Linda for her more than generous input into the working of the Committee over many years. Christine Sanders (prev Hall) did not intend to renominate but as we did not have any nominations for Secretary she graciously agreed to continue until December to help with transiting to the new executive. *Alan*

## Membership due

Confirmation of payment of your membership can be found on the address label which lists when your membership is due. Members can pay in advance for several years and this information will appear on your label.

## Donations to MIPC.

MIPC welcomes donations. Tax deductible donations can only be used for conservation activities. Eg. Funding transport for volunteers and public education programmes.

## EFT details

**BSB 633 000 Bendigo Bank,**

**Account number 141368456**

**Account name;** Moreton Island Protection Committee.

**Reference** Enter your name in the reference box – otherwise we have no way of knowing who made the deposit.

Please notify us of your payment by mailing your membership form, or by email, or phone.

## MIPC Phone 3321 1463

It is only possible to leave a message on this number.

Please clearly state your phone number at the beginning of the message. This helps when replaying to ensure we have your correct number.

*Cont. from page 1*

## **National Park lands to be leased for Resorts**

By way of example, the resorts in some NSW national parks were established long before the State had a jurisdiction-wide system of park management. Board of Trustees were required to find their own income for management and therefore parks were used for a number of purposes that would be unacceptable now.

Unlike NSW (and, in fact, all other Australian states), Queensland had jurisdiction-wide legislation from the very outset (*The State Forest and National Parks Act of 1906*). That may be the very first piece of legislation in the world to provide for the establishment and control of national parks across a whole jurisdiction. Even in the USA the early parks (eg Yellowstone) were established by a separate act for each park.

There are multiple environmental reasons why resorts should be kept outside national parks. These relate to such matters as (a) the environmental damage to the resort site, (b) the continuing damage associated with the access required, (c) the waste material and other pollution associated with such a facility, (d) the enhanced incidence of fire, and (e) the necessity to inappropriately manage a substantial area associated with any resort in terms of fire protection. In other words, the park staff effectively become workers for the resort as the 'duty of care' requirements consume their time and detract it from much needed conservation matters.

There are also commercial reasons why it shouldn't happen. It effectively creates an exclusive-use monopoly inside a public resource. Tour operators who may have been bringing visitors on a daily basis will find themselves at a distinct disadvantage, as the resort can offer the same service at a reduced rate.

It's also interesting that the tourist industry hasn't been advocating this level of entry to national parks. The Bill is talking about permanent facilities on long-term leases, a situation that many operators would find difficult to establish and sustain. Also, no resort has ever remained static. It has always either expanded and/or died. Both actions are dangerous to the national park.

The definition of a 'tourist facility' in the Bill is somewhat farcical. If it was the definition for a standard visitor centre for a national park, it would be ideal. To charge a commercial operation with a 'primary purpose' which would ultimately be secondary to its commercial survival is quite ludicrous. Also, for the Bill to require such a facility to be ecologically sustainable and provide for the preservation of the land's natural condition is an interesting foray into unreality.

In fact, the legislation has the gall to use the wording of the cardinal principal to describe what a resort will comply with, whilst going on to say that the action can happen despite the cardinal principal (see section 35(2)).

In many instances the resorts actually devalue the resource they wish to show people. In addition, guests often have difficulty appreciating the conservation values when they are living in the modified environment of a tourist facility.

The matters presented above are not anti-tourist. There are many ways for visitors to enjoy national parks and those that engender minimal damage to the park are fully supported. It's interesting that the Bjelke-Petersen government accepted the argument, based very much on the evidence from the USA, that tourist resorts in national parks was both damaging and counter productive.

Being responsible for opening national parks to such irreversible damage is a legacy that, if I were a politician, I would not want to live with when the history of parks is written and the case is clearly presented that this move cuts across and ignores the action of every government in Queensland since national parks were established in 1908."

*end of summary by Peter Ogilvie's submission*

**This legislation is a direct threat to Integrity of Moreton Island National Park.** The Minister will be able to grant a private lease for ecotourism resorts of any size and anywhere in the Moreton Island National Park.

**Write or email to politicians well before Qld Parliament sits on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

Hon Steven Dickson MP, Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing,  
PO Box 15187 City East Qld 4002  
[NationalParks@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:NationalParks@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Hon Campbell Newman  
PO Box 15185  
CITY EAST QLD 4002  
[thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)

Hon Andrew Powell Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection GPO Box 2454  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
[environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Go to <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au>

# Update on Re-opening of Beach Safety Zones on Moreton Island.

by Linda Back (dated Nov2012)

The Beach Safety Zones (BSZ) at North Point and Comboyuro Point remain open to vehicle traffic, and there has been no news from QPWS as to the outcome of the three month trial period which ended in early August. In response to a phone call at the end of last year Galen Mathews, Senior Ranger /Northern Bay Islands /Moreton Bay, cited the disruptions caused by the major re-structuring of the department as the reason that the reports on the BSZ trial period are yet to be finalised.

These reports will review the results of the visitor surveys, stakeholder surveys and monitoring of fore-dune vegetation condition before and after the trial period. Will the decision on whether the BSZ vehicle restriction at North Point and Comboyuro Point is reinstated depend on the outcome of these reports or the opinion of the Minister?

The Right to Information request MIPC made in July was granted, and we subsequently received 117 pages of documents relating to the 2009 Review of the North Point BSZ. Although the primary purpose of this Review was to assess the effectiveness of the Beach Safety Zone at North Point, it also sought to find out whether North Point beach was still popular with visitors after the vehicle restrictions were put in place in 2007. The assessments were made through two surveys; one surveying users of the beach (tourists and visitors), and the other surveying various stakeholder groups

## Visitor Survey

This was undertaken as a research project in collaboration with UQ comparing the popularity and amenity of North Point beach with that of the beach adjacent to the Blue Lagoon Campground. Through observation and visitor interviews, the research showed that the beach at North Point did remain a popular site, and that visitors there felt significantly safer and more relaxed than those on the beach near Blue Lagoon. **Also the review found that the North Point BSZ provides a relatively unique option for significant numbers of visitors seeking to relax and participate in a range of passive recreation activities.**

## Stakeholder Survey

A mail-out survey form was sent to 28 different organisations representing government, tourist industry, island residents / landholder, traditional owner, recreation and conservation sectors and groups, asking the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about the impacts of closing

the beach to vehicles. There is no indication of who was on the mail out list. The 9 responses were as follows;

### *Government Organisations – 2 responses*

Qld Ambulance Service supported beach closure, and Tourism Qld was ambivalent.

### *Commercial Tour Operators – 3 responses*

Moreton Bay Escapes supported beach closure, whilst Moreton Experience and Sunrover Expeditions were opposed.

### *Residents Associations - 3 responses*

All three resident's associations (Bulwer, Cowan-Cowan and Koorringal) responded, and all were strongly opposed to the beach closure, although the Cowan-Cowan Association noted that some its members are strong supporters of beach closure to vehicles.

### *Conservation Groups – 1 response*

MIPC was the only conservation group to respond and was strongly supportive of beach closure.

Also noted was that an E-petition on the beach closures was posted by William Gollan, sponsored by David Gibson MP, to the Qld Parliament website on 24 April 2008. The petition attracted 1703 signatures and requested the house to reverse the decision and re-open the beaches to 4WD vehicles. The petition was tabled and referred to the then Minister for Environment, Mr Andrew McNamara, on 28 August 2008. Mr McNamara responded to Parliament on 23 September 2008. His response indicated that he was aware that some visitors and residents were opposed to the closures. He also indicated that **it was important for a range of experiences to be provided for the range of visitors to the island, and that vehicle-free beaches should be part of that range.** He added that while the closures may cause some inconvenience to users accustomed to driving through these areas, the benefit to the safety of beach pedestrians was very important, and that he remained committed to their continued implementation.

I received feedback from Mr Gollan to my article on this issue in the last MIPC newsletter saying it was arrogant of me to claim that North Point is not a suitable destination for people with limited mobility, and that my views are 'extreme'. The outcomes of the 2009 Review show that my views about the value of keeping North Point Beach vehicle free, are shared by

at least 50% of people who visit the Island. The beaches there and at Comboyuro Point represent less than 2% of the beaches on Moreton accessible to vehicles. I believe the actions of the current Minister in unilaterally reversing a policy which had been implemented for legitimate reasons of public safety and recreational values, and which had been subsequently thoroughly reviewed and assessed to have been delivering on its objectives, could be described as arrogant. It shows a complete disregard for the efforts over the past five years by the rangers on the island to enforce the policy. They had been working with the local community in the face of some stiff resistance from disgruntled locals and fishermen, and had finally succeeded in a general overall acceptance.

I await the outcome of the current 'trial period' with interest, and hope that the decision will be to re-instate the Beach Safety Zones at Comboyuro Point and North Point.

*All the documents we received relating to the 2009 Review of the North Point Safety Zone can be downloaded from the MIPC website at [www.moretonisland.org.au](http://www.moretonisland.org.au) on the News page.*

**If you wish to express your point of view you can directly contact the Minister, Steven Dickson MP, Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, PO Box 15187 City East Qld 4002, email [NationalParks@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:NationalParks@ministerial.qld.gov.au)**

## **Federal Environmental approval powers to transfer to States?**

The Federal government, in response to mining company demands, was intending to present to the December 2012 Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting a plan to transfer the environmental approval powers for large projects to the states, apparently to expedite the approval process. It was these powers that stopped the Traveston Dam proposal. These powers could be useful in blocking inappropriately state sanctioned developments on Moreton. In response to electorate pressure, the Federal Government just before the meeting undertook to postpone this initiative until the next COAG meeting.

We thank MIPC members who responded to our email in December to take action and await a firm commitment that the Federal will not transfer to the States their role in Environmental Protection of endangered species. Your views should be made known to the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard and the Environment Minister, Tony Bourke.

## **Plastic Pollution Revolution**

Healthy Waterways has launched a Plastic Pollution Revolution to create a movement of people committed to reducing their plastic footprint. Dr Kathy Townsend from the Moreton Bay Research Station has found that up to 30% of Moreton Bay's sea turtles are being impacted by ingested marine debris.



Healthy Waterways has launched Community Waterway Litter Cleanup and Education Grants as part of the Plastic Pollution Revolution campaign.

The grants will support catchment groups, schools, landholders and the general community in undertaking on-ground, waterway litter cleanup and education activities.

Up to 40 projects by catchment groups, schools, landholders and the general community can be supported through the grant scheme and each successful applicant will receive \$500 to support a South East Queensland based waterway litter project focusing on cleanup or education.

Moreton Island has two of the recognised marine debris 'hotspot' sites within Moreton Bay, Moreton Island Ocean beach and Koorinal.

*MIPC has applied for a grant to clean up the Eastern beach which, if successful, is to be completed by 31st May 2013. Following the extreme weather on Australia Day there should be plenty of beach rubbish exposed.*

Make pledge to reduce your plastic footprint at [www.facebook.com/HealthyWaterways](http://www.facebook.com/HealthyWaterways) and be in the draw to win one of 6 family holidays at Tangalooma Island Resort.



*Ocean beach rubbish, June 2012*

## **North Point & Cape Moreton weeding**

On Saturday 10 November, Philip Squire, Christine Sanders, Colleen Farrell, Stephen O'Halloran and I travelled to Moreton to undertake another of our regular North Point weeding weekends. On our way to the Cape, just before reaching the Ocean Beach on Middle Track we were confronted by the sight of swathes of healthy, green Gloriosa Lily plants emerging through bare areas cleared by recent fires. This is of great concern as conditions are perfect for this invasive weed to flourish.

We have since been informed that because of the extent of the Gloriosa infestation overall on Moreton Island it is listed very low on the QPWS priority list for control. Prickly Pear, Mother of Millions, Mossman River Grass, Umbrella Tree, Asparagus Fern, Slash Pine and Groundsel are just some of the weeds with a higher priority.

The weekend coincided with a volunteer beach clean-up sponsored by SEQ Catchments. As we travelled up the Eastern beach we passed groups of 4WD enthusiasts working along the fore-dunes, busily filling bags with rubbish.

When we arrived at the Information Centre, where we were staying for the weekend, we were very pleased to find the new display completed and installed. Apparently it had only opened to the public that day, so we felt privileged to be among the first to view the exhibits, including a prominent panel just inside the front door dedicated to information about MIPC activities.

### **Work undertaken:**

Saturday afternoon we started work at Cape Moreton, weeding the cleared area around the Information Centre house, and along the margins Cape Moreton walking track until rain and strong winds drove us inside.

The wind picked up to gale levels during the night and continued to blow strongly all day Sunday with some brief showers in the morning. We spent the day working at North Point where we focussed on removing the usual suspects (Mossman River Grass, Cobblers Pegs, Fleabane, etc) in the campground, and Lantana, Vinca, Nightshade, Asparagus Fern and Groundsel from the surrounding bush and along Honeymoon Bay track. Monday morning was still windy but with clear skies, so we headed off to explore the area of the Cape south of the helipad down to the rocky beaches north of Cape Cliff, removing Prickly Pear and a couple of huge Asparagus Ferns from the Casuarina forests just above the beaches. After a final session working around the Cape Moreton circuit track, it was time to pack up and catch the barge home

Thanks again to QPWS for providing accommodation at the Cape – it is very much appreciated.

### **Nature Notes:**

Midge (Austromyrtus dulcis), Blueberry Ash (Elaeocarpus reticulatus) and Brush-box (Lophostemon confertus) were in flower. Good view of an immature Australasian Darter on the rocks at North Point.

*Linda Back*

## **Seagrass Survey Annual report.**

MIPC continued to conduct Seagrass Surveys, three times a year at a site on the western shore of Moreton Island, near the Little Sandhills. Each survey records seagrass, epiphyte and algae growth as well as observations of organisms in thirty 50x50cm squares on 3 transects. The site is on sand flats that are exposed at low tide. Surveys were conducted on 9 November 2011, 20 March 2012 and 29 August 2012.

In November there was a considerable amount of Lyngbya on the site. This was a concern given it was so early in the summer and it had previously only been observed in late summer when the water had been warmer for longer. However, in March the site was clear and the seagrass was healthy and abundant. A small green turtle, trapped by the receding tide, provided a rare opportunity to observe this beautiful species up close.

August surprised the observers with an unusual number of birds feeding on the site. The survey revealed healthy new seagrass growth, and an abundance of life on the flats – lots of snails and other molluscs, several species of worms, sea slugs, starfish, shrimp and several creatures we could not identify from "Wildlife of Moreton Bay".

The survey also gives MIPC an opportunity to observe changes on the western side of the island and a dramatic increase in erosion has been evident with the shore line receding and trees being undermined and falling. There is also a lot of litter all along the shore, mostly blown in from the Bay but some from campers and visitors.

Thank you to Tangalooma Island Resort continues to provide all transport for volunteers including 4WD transport to The Little Sandhills.

MIPC volunteers also participate in monitoring a site on the Wynnum foreshore, which only takes about an hour. Members find the differences between the western and eastern bay sites interesting.

*Janet Dovers*

*The sea grass team invites new volunteers to come along and you can quickly become a fully trained sea grass monitor.*

## Volunteer weekends report

Volunteers based at Blue Lagoon, completed 283.5 hours of weeding, propagating plants and collecting rubbish over the following week-ends 24-26 Aug; 31 Aug – 2 Sept; 28 Sept – 1 Oct, 19 -21 Oct and 2-4 Nov.

### Weeding

Mossman River grass (MRG) was given priority as conditions were unsuitable for planting at the Cape. Seasoned Mossman weeders noted a significant reduction in MRG infestation at many sites eg. the 22 campsites at The Wrecks took less than an hour for 1 volunteer to clear (other volunteer groups have been targeting this area !) The worst camp site during the oil spill in 2010, EB7, again proved to be this year's worst. We had not worked on this site since 2010. Volunteers took a very tough 30 hours to achieve about 80% removal. From the beginning of 2012 the amount of time spent weeding each campsite has been recorded. so we can quantify the effectiveness of our hand weeding.

### Rubbish

On 19-21 Oct we targeted rubbish. All enjoyed the break from MRG. 6 volunteers collected 58 bags of rubbish plus numerous objects too big to bag.

### Propagation

Banksia, Pig Face and Paper Daisy seedlings growing in campsites and on roads were rescued and stored at North Point ready for planting at the Cape. Weeding of pots at the North Point nursery was regularly carried out. It was very satisfying to be able to harvest hundreds of Coastal Wattle seeds from the plants planted at the Cape two and a half years ago.



*Weeding pots at the North Point nursery waiting for suitable rains to plant out at Cape Moreton.30<sup>th</sup> Sept*

## Cape Planting

In October we had over 1300 plants at the North Point nursery ready for planting onto bare areas at the Cape. We have been patiently waiting for significant rain before planting. MIPC has undertaken to plant of

1500 plants planted by 31<sup>st</sup> May.

- ◆ 700 *Casuarina equisetifolia* Horsetailed She Oak
- ◆ 470 *Banksia integrifolia* Coastal Banksia
- ◆ 82 *Pandanus tectorius*
- ◆ 56 *Carpobrotus glaucescens* Pig Face

Currently hundreds of *Acacia sophorae* Coastal Wattle are being germinated by Merv Tyler. All propagation stocks are from Moreton Island.

We are heartened by the significant rains during the Australia Day weekend which should replenish subsoil moisture. This project is supported by Caring for our country grant administered by SEQ Catchments.



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

## SEQ Catchment sponsored cleanup

SEQ Catchments sponsored P7OFFROAD to organise a beach clean up on Nov 10<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers were asked to spend 4 hours removing rubbish from Moreton beaches. MICat ferries provided 4WD fares at around half the cost to volunteers, and ran an extra service on Sunday night so all who wanted to participate could. Since the winter storms exposed massive amounts of beach rubbish, many have spent time cleaning up the Ocean Beach just south of the Cape. It was pleasing to see the rubbish removal of this area finally completed by these volunteers.



*4WD owners organised by PF Offroad and SEQ Catchments finish the beach clean up south of Harpers. 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. Photo supplied by Joel Bolzenius*



*Some of the rubbish collected by 4WD owners clean up on 10<sup>th</sup> November Photo Joel Bolzenius*

## Pied Oyster Catcher Awareness Day

Volunteers conducted a Pied Oyster Catcher (POC) Awareness Day on the MICat on Saturday 29th September. The aim was to alert drivers to an awareness of POCs and their chicks during this busy weekend in the school holidays. The Pied Oyster Catcher costumes were generously provided free of charge by Vulcana Womens Circus. Barge fares for the volunteers were donated by MICat .

The message was to take care driving, and avoid disturbing birds, particularly during the breeding season. (September to December). POCs are accustomed to sharing the beach with vehicles but react differently when protecting chicks and the chicks have yet to learn the ways of traffic.

Michael had some great photos of POC chicks and, with the help of Philip Squire and Lisa Dowall to enhance and print them we used the photos as props when talking about the POC's and their chicks. POC brochures (printed from the Oil Spill Recovery Fund) were also used to help promote the need to be aware of wildlife when using the Moreton Island beaches.



*Costume generously provided by Vulcan Women's Circus*

We found talking to people in the barge line up worthwhile, all positive interactions, families and large groups of campers who were interested in finding out more about the wildlife on Moreton. The costume was a novelty and made sticking my beak in the window of cars waiting to board a great way to introduce the topic. Some people asked questions about other conservation objectives for Moreton and all interactions were met with a positive response.

*Christine Sanders*

Any volunteer who would like to do some work on the MICat towards their week-end work quota, please step forward and we'll arrange for the costumes and a photo and brochure kit.

**VULCANA**  
WOMEN'S CIRCUS



*Pied Oyster Catcher chick on the ocean beach.  
Photo Michael Rooke*



*Seal on the Ocean beach 6<sup>th</sup> August. Photo Alan*

“I attended to the seal last week on the Eastern Beach and we managed to get the seal off the Island and to Sea World for further prognosis and medical assistance. The seal was a sub Antarctic seal and not a NZ fur seal . We have both species visiting our shores again at this time of year. I found a small puncture wound on the right which appeared consistent to a bite mark possible from another seal  
email RIC Chris Hanlon



*Brisbane Grammar Biology Students removing beach rubbish. 17 August.*



*The September wildfire Photo Michael Rooke.*

## Wildfires

Two significant wildfires occurred in 2012.

The January wildfire was started by a vehicle which caught fire on the Cowan bypass. The fire burnt for over two weeks and consumed over 5,700 hectares.

The September fire is suspected to have originated from an unattended campfire near Tangalooma Point. At times the fire came very close to Tangalooma resort and took over two weeks to contain and burnt approximately 5,400 hectares.

*source Moreton Island National Park Island News Summer 2012*

## Control burns

The Rangers conducted two burns in 2012. In the north of the Island a conservation burn was undertaken in the large block around the Five Hills area. In the south of the Island a hazard reduction burn was conducted in co-operation with the State Land Assessment Management Team and the Koorngal Rural Fire Service.

*source Moreton Island National Park Island News Summer 2012*



*MIPC clean up at The Wrecks in 1983. photo MIPC collection.*

## Watch for turtle hatchlings in Feb

A number of turtle nests (green and logger-head) have been recorded on the island's beaches during November and December. Some of these nests are located high on the beach on the first slope of the beach dunes. Help us to protect these important nesting sites:

- ◆ Avoid driving at high tide
- ◆ Never drive high up on the beach or on the frontal sand dunes
- ◆ Please do not disturb the nests. These turtle hatchlings should emerge during February. It is estimated that only 1% of hatchlings reach maturity. Keep an eye out for these little battlers and let's give them a chance

*source Moreton Island National Park Island News Summer 2012*

## Feral Pigs

A total of 35 pigs have been caught and humanely killed by QPWS rangers in 2012.

*source Moreton Island National Park Island News Summer 2012.*

## Information Centre Opens

Following extensive renovations, the popular Cape Moreton Information Centre has re-opened with a brand new interpretative display. Situated in the former Second Assistant Lighthouse Keeper's house at Cape Moreton, visitors are now able to spend time learning more about the flora, fauna and history of Moreton Island and the national park.

The new interpretative display contains information on the natural and cultural values of Moreton Island. Visitors can learn about the history of the lighthouse and the World War II island fortifications. There are interactive displays for children including audio recordings by some 'local residents' (frog and bird calls). The centre is filled with information, history and photographs of Moreton Island.

Thank you to all QPWS staff and island stake-holders (including Moreton Island Protection Committee) for their valuable work and input during the planning and design process. The new information centre is open every day of the week at Cape Moreton. While you are visiting the Cape, make sure to complete the walk up the hill to enjoy the incredible ocean views, spot a few turtles or dolphins and marvel at the historic Cape Moreton lighthouse.

*source Moreton Island National Park Island News Summer 2012.*

## Whats on .....!!!! Ph33211463

Feb 22 – 24 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Mar 1 – 3 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon ##

Mar29 - Apr 1 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Apr 1 – Apr 4 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Apr 19 – 21 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon ##

Apr 26 – 28 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon TBC

May 10 – 12 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon ##

May 24 – 26 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

## Sat 8.30 depart available

**NB \$10 per day parking for all trips. Volunteers can submit their parking receipt to be reimbursed.**

### Bookings

♦0428783781(Alan) text only please

♦email [mipc@moretonisland.org.au](mailto:mipc@moretonisland.org.au)

♦ 33211463 please commence your message with your phone number said slowly, easier for us when replaying to check your number.

Please book at least 1 week in advance - trips with less than 4 volunteers may be canceled.

**Depart from 14 Howard Smith Drive, Port of Bris.**

### Blue Lagoon Trips except Easter

Depart Brisbane 8.30am Friday

Depart The Wrecks 4.30pm Sunday.

BYO sleeping bag, food, plates, cutlery and esky. A camp kitchen and tents with stretchers are provided. Prefer not to share with others then BYO hike tent.

### Recreational week-ends at Blue Lag

Prefer not to or are unable to volunteer then you are welcome to come on any of the volunteer week-ends. An excursion to the Cape will be provided.

**Cost \$160 payable to MIPC.**

## Easter and 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> April

**Brisbane Depart**

9.30am Fri 28 Mar or 12 noon Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Apr

**Moreton Depart**

1.30 pm or 5.30 pm 1<sup>st</sup> April

3.30pm Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Cost Same arrangements as for 3 day weekend plus 2 hours work or \$20 for each additional day.

### Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

This season work will include; planting out at the Cape, weeding Mossman River grass, and collecting rubbish. The planting of 1500 plants at the Cape has to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> May. Following the extreme Australia Day weather we expect plenty of beach rubbish will be exposed, so we will concentrate on beach rubbish on the first two weekends.

### Cost.

Trips for volunteers prepared to do 9 hours work will be free. For those opting for the Saturday depart, 8 hours work is required. MIPC volunteers, who prefer to work fewer hours, are asked to pay MIPC \$18 for every hour not worked. Children on volunteer week-ends are welcome. Parents are asked to be realistic about your child's capacity to contribute, and to pay MIPC \$9 per hour not worked to cover their costs.

### Extra volunteer events

Extra volunteer trips are scheduled to take advantage of opportunities as they develop eg favourable weather for planting out. We will email members as these events unfold. If you did not receive an email in December from MIPC about government legislation changes then you are not on our email list. Please email us so we can add you to the list.

## Membership form

Name .....

Address.....

..... Post code .....

Email .....

Phone..... Mob .....

*I consent my photo, taken during MIPC activities, and my name being published in the public domain*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Newsletters printed on recycled paper are mailed to members. If you prefer not to receive a newsletter in the mail please circle ~ DO NOT SEND NEWSLETTERS.

**Annual fee \$10;** Household \$15; Pens./Conc. \$5

\$..... for ..... years membership.

\$..... as a tax deductible donation;

**Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.** The MIPC Public Fund is a public fund listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations under item 6.1.1 of subsection 30-55(1) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*

Pay by cheque, money order or EFT transfer.

**BSB 633 000 Bendigo Bank Acct No 141368456**

**Acct Name** Moreton Island Protection Committee.

PLEASE enter your name in the EFT reference box. Please report EFT payment by mail, email or phone.

**Ph: 3321 1463**

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

**PO Box 2182 Ashgrove West 4060**