



Newsletter
**Moreton Island Protection
Committee Inc.**

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Volume 36 No 2 July - December 2014

Native title claim lodged over Moreton Island (Mulgumpin)

Sourced from

<https://www.facebook.com/QuandamookaYoolooburrabeeAboriginalCorporation/posts/904298896256481>

The traditional owners of Queensland's Moreton Bay region, the Quandamooka people, have lodged a claim in the Federal Court for a native title determination over Mulgumpin (Moreton Island). The claim, made under Australia's Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), is for legal recognition of native title over all non-freehold land above the high water mark on the island .

Who are the Quandamooka people?

- "Quandamooka" is a word from the Jandai language used to describe Moreton Bay and the islands within it. Therefore, the Quandamooka peoples are the peoples of Moreton Bay.
- Quandamooka is the ancestral homeland of the Nunukul, Ngugi and Goenpul peoples, the sub-groups that make up the Quandamooka people.
- For more than 20,000 years the Ngugi (pronounced new gee) sub-group have lived on or been connected to Moreton Island.
- At the time of colonisation in the early 19th century there were hundreds of Ngugi living on Moreton Island. Colonisation had a negative impact on the

group and many were forced to transfer to North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah). However, they and other Quandamooka have maintained close connections with their Mulgumpin "Country" to this day.

The decision to lodge the claim was first made at a meeting of the native title claim group on North Stradbroke Island on 25 February 2012. It is part of the ongoing process of the Quandamooka getting determinations over all their traditional lands and waters around Moreton Bay. It follows the Federal Court's consent determination on 4 July 2011, which formally recognised, for the first time since colonisation, the laws and customs of the Quandamooka people had survived in respect to their lands and waters (their Country) on and around North Stradbroke Island.

In summary, this second claim seeks exclusive native title rights over small sections of unallocated State land on Moreton Island and non-exclusive rights over the rest.

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Help Keep Moreton Cane Toad Free

The Brisbane City Council is doing their bit to keep Moreton cane toad free by sponsoring a cane toad detecting dog to search urban areas on Moreton Island during the Easter school holidays. The recent rains have increased toad numbers on the mainland and so there is an increased risk of visitors and contractors accidentally bringing toads to the Island.

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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.

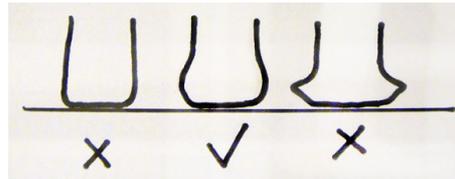
Edited by Alan Gennings, Helen Sutherland

Printed on Envirocare 80 gsm made from 100% recycled fibre waste.

Printed by Graphic Skills Pty Ltd

Printed 20th February 2015

Driving on Soft Sand



Optimum tyre pressure for soft sand depends entirely on your load. To prepare for soft sand driving lower the tyre pressure on a hard level surface (ferry deck is ideal) until the sidewall has a nicely rounded bulge. Remember to allow for the weight of your passengers if they are not in the car. If the bulge takes on a wedge shape you've gone too far. Typically pressures for soft sand range from 12 to 21 psi depending on the load.

As the rear tyres typically have more weight over them, they are usually left a little higher to achieve a similar bulge to the front. After unloading your camping gear you may need to let out more air for soft sand driving. Trailer tyres also need to be let down so they also have a rounded bulge.

When driving on hot inland tracks tyres heat up and so their pressure increases. You may have to let more air out if you become bogged.

If bogged use your gauge to decrease the tyre pressure by the same amount in each tyre. Gauge is recommended as the rounded bulge tends to disappear in soft sand.

NB WARNING!!!! Having a nice bulge usually means the tyre pressure is below manufacturers specifications and so it is important to travel slowly at all times and do not turn sharply at speed as this can result in tyres coming off rims.

Donations to MIPC

MIPC welcomes tax deductible donations which can only be used for conservation activities.

Bulwer residents meet to discuss letter. 14th Feb

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines has sent letters to Bulwer landholders who immediately adjoin two Reserves for Strategic Land Management Lot 2 on AP 15583 and Lot 27 on USL20221 for which they are trustees. Bulwer residents report that letters were only received by landholders who immediately adjoin these reserves. An application has been made for use of two reserves that adjoin the lease which is currently used for "glamping". The letter states "This information has been provided in confidence for the purpose of seeking your views on this matter. It is not to be used for any other purpose, or distributed to any person, company, or organisation, without express written permission of the department unless required." (ed. last two words probably makes sense to a solicitor).

Well that's one way to limit the number of objections to deal with! Residents report that at both of their meetings there was unanimous objection to the requested use of these reserves.

MIPC (07) 33211463

Only messages can be left at the number above. Please start your message with your name and phone number.

EFT Details

BSB 633 000 Bendigo Bank

Account # 141368456

Acct Name Moreton Island Protection Committee.

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

Please always notify us by email, phone or mail of your payment.

Phone banking; EFT transfers authorised by phone do not include any identification details so **please forward details of your payment** as above.

Native title claim lodged over Moreton Island (Mulgumpin)

Cont. from page 1

The claim will not impact on freehold land, as freehold extinguishes native title, or current leases with community groups. The majority of Moreton Island is national park.

In making the claim the Quandamooka assert:

- (a) the native title claim group has, and the predecessors of those persons had, an association with the area; and
- (b) there exist traditional laws and customs that give rise to the claimed native title; and
- (c) the native title claim group has continued to hold the native title in accordance with those traditional laws and customs.

Some of the activities in relation to the land or waters within the application area currently carried on by the native title claim group are:

1. travelling over the claimed lands and waters;
2. residing on the claimed land;
3. burial of Quandamooka people in Quandamooka country;
4. camping on the claimed lands;
5. hunting and fishing on the claimed lands and waters;
6. gathering varieties of plant food, grubs and native honey;
7. gathering plants for medicinal and ceremonial purposes;
8. gathering timbers and plants for artefacts;
9. collecting ochre;
10. seasonal controlled burning;
11. rituals and ceremonies; and
12. teaching younger members of the claim group about sites, areas of significance, associated knowledge and appropriate practice.

Non-exclusive rights and interests

Over the vast majority of Moreton Island the claim is for non-exclusive rights and in those areas the Quandamooka people claim the following:

- a. the right to travel over, to move about and to have access to those areas;
- b. the right to hunt and to fish on the land and waters of those areas;
- c. the right to gather and to use the natural resources of those areas such as food, medicinal plants, wild tobacco, timber, stone and resin;
- d. the right to take and to use the natural water on those areas;
- e. the right to live, to camp and for that purpose to erect shelters and other structures on those areas;
- f. the right to light fires on those areas for domestic purposes, but not for the clearance of vegetation;
- g. the right to conduct and to participate in the following activities on those areas:
 - i. cultural activities;

- ii. cultural practices relation to birth and death, including burial rites;
- iii. ceremonies;
- iv. meetings;
- v. teaching the physical and spiritual attributes of sites and places on those areas that are of significance under their traditional laws and customs;
- h. the right to maintain and to protect sites and places on those areas that are of significance under their traditional laws and customs;
- i. the right to share or exchange subsistence and other traditional resources obtained on or from those areas;
- j. the right to be accompanied on to those areas by persons who, though not native title holders, are:
 - i. people required by traditional law and custom for the performance of ceremonies or cultural activities on the areas;
 - ii. people who have rights in relation to the areas according to the traditional laws and customs acknowledged by the estate group members;
 - iii. people required by the estate group members to assist in, observe, or record traditional activities on the areas;
- k. the right to make decisions about the use and enjoyment of the areas by Aboriginal people who recognise themselves to be governed by the laws and customs acknowledged by the Quandamooka People; and
- l. the right to conduct activities necessary to give effect to the rights referred to in (a) to (k) hereof.

QYAC comments

QYAC CEO, Cameron Costello, said the lodgement of this second claim is another big step for the Quandamooka people and we are confident that the Federal Court and all stakeholders in the process, including the State Government and Brisbane City Council, will look favourably on this claim and work with us to progress it.

“Our objective is to work cooperatively with everyone to secure another consent determination. We have good relationships with the residents and community groups that live, own land or have leases on Moreton Island.

“Nothing will change for those people as a result of this claim. We support the presence of community groups and other responsible organisations on the island. Amongst other things they also help us care for our ‘Country’ and value it as we do.

“Finally, we are already the registered cultural heritage body for Mulgumpin under the Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and have had Quandamooka people employed as National Parks rangers on the island for many years,” Mr Costello said.

Volunteer Activities Aug to Dec 2014

funded by Friends of Park Grant from the

Queensland Government Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sporting and Racing.

The Friends of Parks grant enabled MIPC to significantly increase our volunteer efforts in 2014. A total of 1,031 volunteer hours of work was completed by 101 volunteers in 2014.

We were greatly encouraged when our volunteer numbers were swelled by Griffith University Students for the Environment (GUSE), Australian Doctors for the Environment, National Parks Association, Nudgee College students and the National Parks Association. The FOP grant enabled us to fund MICat fares and 4WD transport to support volunteers.

On 6th August 18 Nudgee College students planted 30 Casuarinas on the big gully at Harpers and collected and removed 160 Kg of rubbish from the isolated beach below the gully. They were being hosted on the island by Wild Mob who generously facilitated this volunteer work with MIPC. Wild Mob provided transport for the students and so all MIPC had to provide were the plants, tools and rubbish bags.

On 5-7 September 4 MIPC volunteers hosted 6 volunteers from the National Parks Association. As they paid for most of their transport to and on the island they worked reduced hours, but were keen to contribute more than their required number of hours.

Volunteers hours

	No persons	Weeding hours	Rubbish hours	Propagation hours	Total hours
6 th Aug	18	0	18	18	36
22-24 Aug	4	14		26	40
5-7 Sep	10	27.5	0.5	34	62
3-6 Oct	45	82		241	323
24-26 Oct	2	10	0	9	19
31 Oct 2No	23	49.5	25.5	118.5	193.5
23-25 Nov	4	12		16	28
Watering#				39	39
TOTALS	85	167.5	25.5	475.5	668.5

Watering 10,15,18,25, 29 Oct 5,6,8,12,15,23,24 Nov

For the long weekend, Oct 3 to 6, we hosted 45 volunteers. Experienced MIPC regulars were coerced into going over on the 5 am MICat on Friday to prepare for large numbers of volunteers from GUSE and Australian Doctors for the Environment. The advance party set

up a watering system so plants could be watered as they were planted. As numbers were large MIPC members prepared the evening meal for all.

Such large numbers are hard work for the regulars to supervise and enthuse and therefore we plan to keep numbers lower this season. All groups expressed interest in volunteering next year.

Amongst all this busyness a booking by two volunteers from the Sunshine Coast for a non-existent week-end was missed. Fortunately the BIA art camp was on that week-end and as there was room in vehicles, they were able to get to Blue Lagoon. Sue was able to share her experience of a drawing course she was doing with those on the art camp. The volunteers were also able to help with critical task keeping water up our plantings in the Big Gully. and potted up Pandanus seedlings..

Mossman River Grass weeding

Our strategy was to weed every camp site North of Middle Track (over 100 sites) and for badly infested sites to return to mop up ones missed. This was achieved. Parks continue to fund mowing of the camp sites which complements the hand weeding. The mower collects seeds from the ground and the seed heads so significantly reduces seed stock. The mowing also encourages couch grass to thicken which reduces MRG colonization.

This spring camper numbers at Ocean Beach camp sites seemed to have increased significantly. This increase may in part be due to the much reduced amount of MRG in camp-sites. The increased camping activity has resulted in expanded bare areas in the camp-sites providing suitable habitat for MRG colonization. Bare areas are being created by vehicles driving onto camp sites. Also campers often place their camp fire on grassed areas rather than reusing previous fire-places. Bribie Island beach camp sites have bollards that restrict ingress by vehicles into camp sites and open camp fires are not permitted. MIPC believes adoption of these measures would significantly reduce habitat suitable for MRG germination.

Since 2012 we have kept records of volunteer hours spent weeding each campsite. eg. In April this year it took 47 volunteer hours to clear campsite EB 7. Then a much reduced 10.5 hours was required to clear re-growth in spring and also some patches around the perimeter of the site that were missed in April.

Planting and propagation.

We continued planting out bare areas at the Cape with plants which had all been propagated from island stock. Overgrazing by hundreds of goats prior to their removal in the late 1990's has resulted in severe erosion and some of these areas remain bare. Massive soil loss and destruction of middens continues long after the goats removal.

In Aug and Sept we continued planting sites below the graves. To water we used 120 metres of hose connected to a tank at the ranger's residence at the Cape. We also planted out a gully adjacent to the ocean beach where we were able to carry water from our vehicle.



*Planting out below the graves at the Cape
6th April 2014*

The Friends of Parks grant enabled us to tackle a very challenging site, “the Big Gully”. Here water had to be brought in by vehicle and then pumped 200 metres uphill. A forecast of rain in August prompted a trial planting of 30 trees by the Nudgee College students. Most of the handful of trees that did not survive had been washed out. We then waited for another suitable forecast. Finally in October we gave up waiting for rain and set up for hand watering. The flexibility of the FOP grant enabled us to easily make the unplanned purchase 200 metres of 25 mm quality poly. Moreton Experience provided the pump, battery and solar panel.

Plantings

	Location	Casuarina	Pandanus	Other	Total
6 Aug	Big Gully	30		8	38
22-24 Aug	Below graves (B)	67		20	87
5-7 Sept	Harpers Cape Cliff	79	5		84
4-5 Oct	Big Gully	280	9	2	291
31 Oct-1 Nov	Big Gully	177	19	64	260
TOTAL		633	33	94	760

On the Oct long week-end we set up the irrigation system for the Big Gully. As we had to restrict numbers on this week-end, another group from GUSE came on the 31st of Oct to continue the plantings. Plantings were limited to 550 plants as it was not possible to hand water any more plants. (to water the 550 plants took over 3 hours and required about 500 litre of water to be brought in by vehicle and then pumped). When last observed in mid December most of the plants were doing well. Since then rains have been regular.



Planting at the “Big Gully” 5th Oct 2014.

Rubbish

This season the beaches were building and so the amount of beach rubbish was down. Nudgee College did however manage to collect 160 kg of rubbish from the very isolated cove at the base of the “Big Gully”.

A wildfire around the North Point light exposed rubbish that had been tossed into the bush over many years. Volunteers scoured the burnt area on 1st Nov collecting all visible rubbish at this highly visited location.

The majority of the funds for the volunteer projects were provided by the Friends of Parks grant which finished on 31st December. MICat supported volunteers by providing discounted fares. Moreton Experience provided camping accommodation at Blue Lagoon at no cost and 4WD support at discounted prices.

Whats on ... !!

- Mar 6 – 8** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon
Depart Fri 1pm Limited numbers
- Mar 13-15** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon
(to be confirmed)
- Mar 20-22** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon
- Easter Apr 3-6** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon
Depart Fri 2.30 am & 10am
Return Mon 2pm or 6pm & 10.30 pm
- Apr 24-26** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon
- May 1-3** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon (to be confirmed)
- May 15-16** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Volunteer trips

Bookings Alan 0428783781-text only please *or*
email mipc@moretonisland.org.au *or*
33211463 (MIPC's phone answering service)

****PLEASE book at least 1 week in advance****

Depart 8.30 am 14 Howard Smith Drive, Port of Bris.
arrive by 8am for orderly loading of luggage in vehicle.

Sat 8.30 departure – min 3 required

NB. MICAT charges \$12 per day for parking.
Car pooling is arranged when possible.

Return departure from The Wrecks 4.30pm Sunday.

BYO sleeping bag, food, plates, cutlery and esky. A
camp kitchen and tents with stretchers are provided.

Volunteers work at Blue Lagoon

This season work will include; planting out at the
Cape, especially the Big Gully; propagation at the
North Point nursery; weeding Mossman River Grass
and collecting rubbish. Something for everyone! This
season's work will be funded by MIPC. Too busy to
volunteer? - then a tax deductible donation to support

volunteers is great way to contribute.

Costs

Volunteers for 3 days free do 9 hrs work.

Volunteers for 2 days do 6 hrs work, pay \$30.

Volunteers pay \$15 for every other hour not worked.

Recreational Weekends at Blue Lag

Prefer not to volunteer? You are welcome to come on
volunteer weekends. A trip to the Cape is included.

Cost \$160 payable to MIPC.



Planting at The "Big Gully" 5th Oct 2014

Membership form

Name

Address.....

..... Post code

Email

Phone..... Mob

*I consent to my photo, taken during MIPC activities, and
my name being published in the public domain
(cross out if you do not wish photo of you to be
published)*

Signed _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

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 # 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.

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