



Newsletter  
**Moreton Island Protection  
 Committee Inc.**

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## Clean up Australia Sunday Day 4<sup>th</sup> March 2007

**MIPC with assistance from Tangalooma and National Parks and Wildlife Service** is organizing a cleanup Australia Day activity again this year on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

Tangalooma Resort has generously offered to provide free transport between Brisbane and Moreton Island and a bus to take us to and from the work site. The cleanup site/s will be decided after consultation with QPWS rangers. There will be time for R & R and socialising as well as work.

**Departure** 8am sharp, from Holt Street Terminal Pinkenba.. **Please arrive at 7.30am for ticketing.**

**Return** from the island will be at 7 or 7.30 immediately after the Dolphin Feeding.

Participants will need to bring everything needed for the day including water, food, gloves, shoes or boots, clothing for sun protection, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, togs and towel.

Numbers are limited so it's best to book early: Phone MIPC on 3321 1463 and leave me a message with your name, phone number etc. or email [mipc.cleanup2007@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mipc.cleanup2007@yahoo.com.au) *Trish Cavanagh*

## Governments releases Marine Aquaculture green paper.

The Department of State Development released a Marine Aquaculture Policy green paper on 11<sup>th</sup> January. This paper outlines processes that will result in the development of Regional Marine Aquaculture Plans. Once these are in place the green paper states;

**“It is the policy position of the Queensland Government and the relevant regulatory agencies that where a suitable investor submits a proposal for a marine aquaculture development that is in accordance with a Regional Aquaculture Plan, there would be no reason to refuse the application.”**

*Page 10 Marine Aquaculture Policy green paper.*

Thus public outcry resulting from a specific marine aquaculture proposal will not impact on the Government's approval process. **If an aquaculture proposal is in accordance with the Regional**

**Aquaculture plan then the government guarantees to approve the application.**

In a press release (18<sup>th</sup> January), Mr. Mickel, Minister for State Development, Employment and Industrial Relations, moved to counter community concern that the processes in the Marine Aquaculture green paper would enable aquaculture proposals previously rejected to be approved.

“The Government recognizes that there was strong community opposition to the sea cage proposal in Moreton Bay. The green paper does not identify specific development sites or types of aquaculture for Queensland. Instead it is about setting in place a management and policy framework which will help us to grow a vibrant, diverse and ecologically sustainable marine aquaculture industry.”  
 said The Hon Minister.

**Continued page 3**

**During Easter please take care of our Pied Oyster Catchers when driving on the beaches!**

## Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc.

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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.

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Editors Alan Gennings, Pam Schindler,

Linda Back Printed 19 February 2007

## Management Plan soon?

Kate Jones, Member for Ashgrove, in a letter to Phillip Squire and Linda Back dated 17 January stated

*"I have received today a substantive reply to these enquiries and am happy to inform you that the minister indicates that the Moreton Island Management Plan has been approved by Cabinet and is currently awaiting endorsement from Queensland Recreational Management Authority. Final Government approval for the plan through the assent of the Governor in Council is expected next month, with the plan available to the public in the early months of 2007."*

## Cape Information Centre

After the successful initiation in 2006 of the Volunteer Program in which MIPC members manned the Information Centre at Cape Moreton on a total of 10 weekends last year commencing in May, planning is now underway to continue the project in 2007 and beyond. Twenty four of our members are registered as QPWS volunteers, nineteen of whom were actively involved in the activities last year.

Following consultation with Greg Carter (Senior Ranger Moreton Bay), Lisa Ford (Conservation Officer) and Chris Hanlon (Head Ranger on Moreton Island), dates have now been set for one weekend per month starting in March, with the option of extra dates if there are sufficient numbers of people interested, and transport and accommodation available.

As well as providing a public contact point for visitors to the Island, our members are also helping in weed management and control, and with the set up of a plant nursery at North Point with the aim of raising endemic plants from seeds and cuttings collected from the island.

For further information if you are interested in being involved, visit our website

[www.home.acenet.net.au/mipc](http://www.home.acenet.net.au/mipc) email [mipcvolunteers@acenet.net.au](mailto:mipcvolunteers@acenet.net.au) or

phone MIPC Linda Back

## Moreton Island fishermen

## lure sharks from beach.

By Kathy Sunderstrom in the **Sunshine Coast Daily Saturday, January 27 2007, Page 16.**

Only meters from where you about to have a cool swim at a popular swimming beach a fisherman could be throwing bloody fish into the sea as he attempts to lure the big catch – a shark.

This practice of baiting and killing sharks close to shore is perfectly legal even though some experts believe it could promote shark attacks.

Coolum Beaches Paula Savage and Fred Stokes found this out during a camping holiday at Moreton Island last week-end.

They were horrified to discover half a shark's body in the beach metres in front of their Moreton Island campsite where their young children had been swimming this weekend.

Their horror turned to disgust and anger when the fisherman came and asked for the shark's body back as they "needed it to catch more sharks".

"They said they had caught about 16 sharks the night before and wanted the body to catch more,"

Ms Savage said. "They were doing it for recreation, which is disgusting as it's cruel and we were all swimming in the water which would make it dangerous," Ms Savage said.

Mr. Stokes – himself an accomplished fisherman – said it appeared they were fishing for sharks from the beach.

"It looked like they were burleying for them and then when they took the bait they would go out in the zodiac and reel the fish in," he said.

Only last year Nambour resident Sarah Jane Whiley was killed by three bull sharks on January 7 at Amity Point, North Stradbroke Island.

## Marine Aquaculture green paper

Regional aquaculture plans will identify sites throughout Queensland which government considers appropriate for aquaculture. Debating the adverse environmental and social consequences for the plethora of sites selected by government throughout Queensland will be an impossible task for Queensland voluntary conservationists.

The Honorable Minister Mickel, although acknowledging the community opposition to sea cages in Moreton Bay, did not offer any guarantees that other forms of aquaculture would not take place in Moreton Bay. The minister stated on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan, "the Great Sandy Marine Park zoning plan specifically prohibits sea cage fish farm aquaculture from all zones of the Great Sandy Marine Park."

Unfortunately that's only part of the story.

**The Great Sandy Marine Park plan actually says;** "Section 10 A person may ....enter ....in the general use zone....."

(c) to conduct an aquaculture operation (other than an aquaculture operation that involves the addition of feed),"

**Shell fish in cages/ bags etc do not need feeding.** Thus non-feeding aquaculture is allowed in the general use zone which covers most of the Great Sandy Marine Park .

**Implications for Moreton Bay.** We can hope for at least the banning of feeding aquaculture as in The Great Sandy Marine Park will be adopted when the Government updates the Moreton Bay Marine Park zones. Unless there is significant public pressure, most of what is now general use in Moreton Bay will remain so, and thus will be available for non-feeding aquaculture. The green paper defines three types of marine aquaculture, two being non feeding; Rack and line culture, and sea ranching.

### ORDER FORM

#### Shifting Sands *Memories of Moreton Island*

Cost \$15 plus \$2.50 postage *Please send to*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Continued from Page 1.

Rack and Line culture is used to grow shellfish attached to strings or baskets which are suspended from racks or long lines (featured in the graphic below). A commercially viable pearl farm requires 3 square kilometers according to the green paper. Line aquaculture will shade the sea bed, increase sediment fall and also threaten cetaceans by entanglement.

*Alan Gennings*

**The closing date for comment 22 February 2007.**



Marine aquaculture is just one of the many commercial and recreational uses in our waterways. (A portion of a graphic on the Dept. of State Development website.)

**Note** the whale and dolphin likely to become entangled in the line culture, and speed boat heading for the dolphin. An artist's impression or an insight into the naive management of coastal planned for our waterways by the Dept. of State Development?

### Pied Oyster Catcher tally

A Pied Oyster Catcher count was conducted after the Christmas holiday period. Information centre volunteers surveyed the Ocean beach before staffing the Cape Information Centre. Rangers reported increased numbers of Pied Oyster Catchers on the bayside beaches.

Date	Pied Oyster Catchers	No of cars
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2005	38	14
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2005	46	16
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2006	37	47
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 2006	44	23
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2007	32	1*

\* Low number of cars due to count starting at 6.55am.

## What's on .....!!! Ph 3321 1463

**March 4** Clean up Australia Day – Moreton~ FREE!  
**March 16-18** Volunteers at Cape Information Centre  
**March 16-18** MIPC camp at Blue Lagoon  
**March 23 – 25** W P S Camp at Blue Lagoon  
**March 30 to 1 April** N P A at Elanda Point  
**April 13-15** Volunteers at Cape Information Centre  
**May 11-13** Volunteers at Cape Information Centre  
**June 8-10** Volunteers at Cape Information Centre

### **Blue Lagoon 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March ~ MIPC**

Camp kitchen and marquee tents with stretchers provided. BYO food. Volunteering optional.  
**Departs** 6.30 pm Friday. **Returns** Sun 6 pm  
MICat terminal Howard Smith Dr, LYTTON  
**Cost \$85**  
**Optional tours** Sandhills \$10, Cape Moreton \$5  
**Bookings Ph 33211463**

### **Blue Lagoon 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March ~WPSQ**

Wildlife Preservation Society, Queensland, weekend at Blue Lagoon. Camp kitchen and marquee tents with stretchers provided. BYO food. BBQ is included Saturday evening. Includes tour to Cape Moreton, and Little Sandhills, (Sand tobogganing)  
**Departs** 6.30 pm Friday. **Returns** Sun 6 pm  
MICat terminal Howard Smith Dr, LYTTON  
**Cost \$125** **Bookings 0428 783781**

### **Five inch plastic plant pots needed.**

Five inch diameter pots are needed to grow out seedlings from Moreton destined for the North Point camp ground. Merv will sterilize them before they are used. Phone MIPC to arrange for collection or delivery of your spare plant pots.

## **National Parks Day 30<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April**

The National Parks Association annual affiliated groups meeting will be held at Elanda Point on the sandy shore of Lake Cootharaba. Host this year is the Fraser Island Defenders Organization.

**Elanda Point campground** has tons of shade under Melaleucas. Campsites include river edge, lake's edge, sandy, dense bush, open heath and short grass.

Non campers may choose 4 bed cabins.

**Cost** Cabins \$100 per person; Camping \$80

(includes all catering commencing with lunch on Friday)

**Friday afternoon** – short walk to Mill Point or longer walk to Sir Thomas Hiley Information Centre

**Saturday Long walk** including lunch during the walk. 16 km walk to Harry's Hut via Kin Kin Creek, Fig Tree Lake. Return by vehicle. Half party will do walk in reverse, thus sharing vehicles.

**Saturday Softer option** canoeing, sailing, or driving to Boreen point and joining a boat trip to Harry's Hut, or visiting tree farm in the Kin Kin area.

**After dinner** slide show and spotlighting.

**Sunday** – meetings!

FIDO is hosting this week-end will provide a valuable opportunity for MIPC members to compare notes with our fellow conservationists who represent Fraser Island. Ring MIPC and we will send a information/registration form or download from [www.home.acenet.net.au/mipc/npa](http://www.home.acenet.net.au/mipc/npa)

**MIPC phone number** cannot be answered in person, but takes messages which MIPC members check on a voluntary basis. In your message please leave your request and then the appropriate member of the Committee can respond.