



Newsletter  
**Moreton Island Protection  
Committee Inc.**

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SURFACE  
MAIL

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AUSTRALIA

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## **Cleanup Australia Day on Moreton Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008**

**MIPC** will be having a cleanup Australia Day activity again this year on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. There will be time for a picnic and a swim as well as work. Once again, Tangalooma Resort has generously offered to provide members and friends free transport between Brisbane and Moreton Island and a bus to take us to and from the actual site. The recent beach erosion has left much rubbish on the Ocean beach, which we are planning to tackle.

**Departs** Holt Street Terminal Pinkenba.

**Departure and return times** will be notified at a later date.

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

**Numbers are limited so it's best to book early:**

Phone 3321 1463 and leave me a message with your name, phone number and email address, or email me directly [mipc.cleanup@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mipc.cleanup@yahoo.com.au)

See you on the day *Trish Cavanagh*

## **How would you like to see Moreton Bay zoned 15% Green Zone is not enough! Submissions close 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**As the zoning plan will apply for 10 years, this is your last opportunity for input into how the bBay should be cared for 10 years!!!!**

**Please do as many of the below that you can:**

**Complete a formal submission on the web.**

<http://www.savemoretonbay.org.au/> provides a guide on how to make a submission. It takes 20 to 30 minutes as comments must be related to each specific zones and so is quite detailed. It is useful to look over the sample form provided on the above site before launching into the real thing. Links on this site provide specific details required to complete a submission. Cut and pasting into the submission form on line is apparently possible.

or

**Write a letter to the editor**

<http://www.questnews.com.au/city.html>  
<http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/editorial/letter/>

or

**Voice your concern on radio** please call 4BC on 131 332 or email them on [programs@4bc.com.au](mailto:programs@4bc.com.au) There has been a lot of negative media about the Marine Park Zoning plan on 4BC so it is vital to get some vocal support for the rezoning process.

or

**Write a letter to the Minister**

The Minister will be looking for community support to implement zoning recommended by science.

Hon Andrew McNamara, MP  
Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation

PO Box 15155,

City East QLD 4002

E-mail: [sustainability@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

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## Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc.

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### Executive Members

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Dennis Maher 3369 1681

Leonie Hegvold

Schona McKeown 3389 0133

### 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.

Printed by Rex Leo ph. 3878 5248

Editor Alan Genninges

Printed 14th February 2008

## Bay Zoning Plan

### Cont from Page 1.

MIPC members have reported scaremongering in the community claiming fishing is to be banned in Moreton Bay. MIPC member Gordon Bennet reported that at his local club a patron stated "why buy a boat as their will be nowhere to fish." It is disappointing that so many recreational fishers see the zoning plan as a threat to their rights to fish. Green zones provide sanctuary where larger fish can survive and reproduce and thus increase fish stocks available to be fished from the rest of the Bay.

It is important that whenever possible such misinformation is countered by informing that the proposed zoning will leave 85% of all habitat types in the Bay to remain available to be fished.

We have all seen the documentaries on TV where no take areas are being used throughout the world as the primary management tool to maintain fish stocks under heavy fishing pressure. The scaremongering seems to be related to an inability of some fishers to forgo their favorite fishing spot in the interest of maintaining viable fish stocks in the Bay.

In its favour the zoning plan locates green zones away from population centers so that fishers who fish locally with minimal equipment are not disadvantaged compared to those with the resources to fish remote areas.

For example the proposed no take green zone on the northern end of the surf beach on Moreton is the surf beach on Moreton most remote from beach camping and from townships. An added benefit of this zone on Moreton may be a reduced vehicle traffic as fishers will no longer travel to the most remote section of the surf beach to fish. Papis will also have a sanctuary where they can reach a bigger size thereby greatly enhancing their reproductive potential. The current fishery limit of 50 papis per person and no size limit does not provide protection from unsustainable collecting. The extra papis and hopefully a little less traffic will make for very desirable real estate for Pied Oyster Catchers that nest

on Moreton's surf beaches.

## Green Enforcement

## Zone

Additional staff will be required for enforcement to ensure that people who do the right thing are not disadvantaged by those who take advantage of the extra fish in the no take zones.

### The draft plan divides the Marine Park into four zones.

- **Marine national park zone (MNP);** a no take zone where access by all craft is allowed.
- **Conservation park zone (CPZ)** Trawling and dredging is not allowed, commercial netting is restricted to bait netting, commercial crabbing is restricted to 4 pots per person as is recreational crabbing, commercial and recreational fishing is restricted to one line/hook per person. Production from net fisheries is expected to decrease by 16.8%, with all other commercial fisheries to be reduced by less than 5%. The government is proposing a buy back scheme to provide compensation to industry and to reduce fishing effort.
- **Habitat protection zone (HPZ)** trawling is not allowed. Impact on production will be a reduction of 4.1% from trawl fishery, and 19.2% from the beam trawl fishery.
- **General use zones (GUZ)** A major change to this zone is "Aquaculture involving the addition of feed will be prohibited. This has been the position of the Queensland Government since 2004, in recognition of programs such as the Healthy Waterways SEQ Partnership to reduce nutrient inputs into the marine park"  
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**Note** The estimates of commercial reductions listed above are sourced from the Moreton Bay Marine Park Draft Zoning Plan. Undoubtedly industries own estimates will be released to the media over the next few months.

# Moreton Bay Marine Park: your chance to help preserve its unique beauty.

*Craig Bohm, Australian Marine Conservation Society*

Moreton Bay Marine Park is a beautiful tapestry of islands, beaches, corals, rocky reefs and seagrass beds. The Park stretches 125 km from Caloundra in the north to the Gold Coast in the south, and includes both sheltered waters and open ocean beaches and reefs.

Home to over 740 recorded fish species, all 6 species of turtles recorded in Australian waters, whales, dolphins and dugongs, Moreton Bay also provides habitat for over 3,500 resident and over 40,000 migratory shorebirds during the summer months.

Amazingly, the Park is the only place in the world where significant populations of dugongs and turtles can still be found close to a major metropolitan city, but this can not be taken for granted.

Every year 200 turtles are found dead in Moreton Bay Marine Park. These threatened and endangered animals migrate thousands of kilometres across the world's oceans only to be killed in Moreton Bay by boat strike, fishing nets and plastic bags. Unfortunately, these are not the only animals under threat in the Park.

In the last 30 years, dugong numbers have plummeted by more than 90% along our urban coast. In Moreton Bay 15 dugongs wash up dead each year. Once measured in herds several kilometers wide, we now count dugongs one-by-one. Accidental boat strike, pollution, marine debris and fishing gear entanglements are killing these vulnerable mammals faster than they can reproduce.

A loss of seagrass habitats, the dugong's main source of food, is also threatening the survival of these charismatic, gentle mammals. Since 1987, over 20% of Moreton Bay's seagrass beds have been lost. This affects the turtle and shorebird feeding areas as well.

However, all is not lost. Moreton Bay Marine Park can still remain a wonderful aquatic paradise if we act now. ***Currently, only 0.5% of Moreton Bay Marine Park is highly protected in a no-take Marine National Park Zone, also known as Green Zones or Protection Zones.***

The Queensland Government is undertaking a 10 year review of Moreton Bay Marine Park this year. This process offers us an exciting opportunity to insure that the health and productivity of Moreton Bay Marine Park is restored and its marine species are protected for future generations to enjoy.

The world's marine scientists are increasingly recommending that a minimum of 30% of each marine habitat type in our oceans needs to be secured in highly protected areas (or green zones).

The draft rezoning plan- which can be viewed at the

EPA website – [www.epa.qld.gov.au](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au) proposes 15% green zones- a vast improvement but only half way there.

Crucially, some of the most important areas for wildlife in the Bay have *not* been granted full and adequate protection- the sea grass beds of the **Eastern Banks** between Stradbroke and Moreton Islands where 90% of dugong sightings in the Bay occur; the extensive reef system of **Flinders Reef** and **Peel Island**; and the **Manta Ray Bommies** where hundreds of manta rays aggregate to clean and feed.

Please support this campaign – visit [www.savemoretonbay.org.au](http://www.savemoretonbay.org.au) to make an online submission calling for 30% green zones for all habitat types.

If you want to offer further support to the campaign please speak to Kirsten Neilson at the Australian Marine Conservation Society on 1800 066 299.

Reference – All species data used in this article is sourced directly from the QLD EPA

If we can work together and call for 30% full protection in the critical habitat areas, then we stand a real chance of securing a better future for Moreton Bay Marine Park.

Please support this campaign – visit [www.savemoretonbay.org.au](http://www.savemoretonbay.org.au) to make an online submission supporting our ask for 30% green zones of all habitat types.

If you want to offer further support to the campaign please speak to Kirsten Neilson at the Australian Marine Conservation Society on 1800 066 299

## FACT BOX

### What are Marine Parks?

A multiple use Marine Park is an area that allows people to do most things within the park including extractive activities such as mining, fishing and collecting.

### What are Marine National Parks?

Marine National Parks (also known as green zones, protection zones or marine reserves) are places where all marine wildlife and their habitats are highly protected from extractive activities (e.g. oil and gas exploration, fishing). Marine National Parks have the same protection given to plants and animals in National Parks on land.

### Does the public have access to Marine National Parks?

Yes - The general public has access to Marine National Parks - to swim, snorkel, scuba dive, sail, carry out research or any other activity as long as it does not involve the removal of wildlife.

Please provide the following details. All \*\* fields must be completed for your submission to count.

\*\*Given name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Family name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \*\*P/code: \_ \_

\*\*Daytime phone number\*: \_\_\_\_\_

(Home or mobile)

- This will not be used unless there is a need to validate an issue raised in your submission

<p><b>**Which interest group do you identify with?</b> Please choose one only. (Circle or cross one only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Bait and tackle shops</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Boating</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Commercial fishing industry</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Conservation</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Education / research / filming</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Government – federal / state / local</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Media</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Recreation</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Recreational fishing</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Resident of bay / islands</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Tourism industry</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Traditional Owners</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Visitor / general public</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<p><b>**Which age group are you in?</b> (Circle or cross one only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> 0-17 years</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 18-24 years</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 25-34 years</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 35-44 years</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 45-54 years</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 55-64 years</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Over 65 years</li> </ul>
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I, the undersigned, have viewed the Moreton Bay Marine Park draft zoning plan.

I support the inclusion of the proposed 33 Marine National Park Zones otherwise known as Green Zones, but want to see that 30 - 50% of habitats are protected to meet scientific recommendations from around the world.

Moreton Bay Marine Park is faced with an overwhelming amount of pressure - rapidly increasing population, huge fishing and boating pressures, pollution, urbanisation and ever threatening climate change. It is critical that at least 30% of all habitats are included in Marine National Park Zones to create resilience to these pressures and ensure the health and productivity of the Bay is maintained. The area extensions for Marine National Park Zones I have suggested to you will help ensure that this is met and that scientific recommendations are upheld.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

**Send to** MBMP Draft Zoning Plan, Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 15155, CITY EAST QLD 4002

**The top half of the page includes information required for your submission to be acceptable to EPA.**

The bottom half is a form letter which could be submitted as is or forwarded as a letter to The Minister.

A more detailed submission addressing shortcomings of the zoning of specific areas can be made using material <http://www.savemoretonbay.org.au> or just enter savemoretonbay in a search engine.

## Cape Information Center staffing.

Linda Back, Philip Squire, Hazel Parkins and Leonie Hegvold enjoyed variable weather for the 4 days following huge winds and tides that caused massive erosion and dumped worrying amounts of litter along the beach and particularly at the junction of the beach and the Cape road.

Achievements for the long, long weekend included:-

- ◆ 30.5 hours staffing the Information Office with at least one person in attendance. Visitors totaled 283 adults and 49 children with the largest number of visitors on the Sunday. Extremely high tides probably affected access to the Cape.
- ◆ Cleaning of the Information Centre, the office area and the flat.
- ◆ Folding and creating 2 boxes of "Important Information – Moreton Island" kits.
- ◆ After running out of 1 piece of fill for the kit, continuing to fold the remaining 1,100 cardboard covers/shells.
- ◆ Collecting 4 bags of cobbles pegs and Mossman River grass
- ◆ Collecting 3 ½ bags of prickly pear regrowth from the Rangers' yard and path from the car park to the Information Centre
- ◆ Collecting 17 bags of litter: 15 from the beach/road junction and 2 from Bolder Bay and North Point

Day celebrations were very evident, with a surprising number of young people decorating their vehicles with Australian flags and their upper bodies with flag tattoos.

*Leonie Hegvold*

## The Benefits of Marine Reserves:

*from "Protecting Moreton Bay Marine Park"*  
*Supplied by Australia Marine Conservation*  
In a global review of marine reserves<sup>3</sup>, PISCO\*\*\* found that on average:

- biomass (or mass) of plants and animals increased by an average of 446%
- density (or number) of plants or animals increased by an average of 166%,
- body size of animals increased by an average of 28%
- Species diversity (or number of species) increased by an average of 21%

\*\*\* Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans. 2007. The Science of Marine Reserves (2nd Edition, International Version). [www.piscoweb.org](http://www.piscoweb.org)

## Volunteer Camp at North Point

The initial camp for the North Point Regeneration Project, for which funding has been received from the Australian Government Envirofund, will be held on the weekend 22 – 24 February. A group of thirteen or so volunteers will be camping at the North Point campground for two nights, undertaking weed identification and mapping of the project site, as well as some opportunistic weed removal. QPWS Natural Resource ranger, Andy Quirk, will guide the group as well as other rangers on duty during the weekend. A barbecue lunch will be provided on Saturday (23 February) at the campsite for volunteer workers, QPWS staff and any other interested people who, despite the remote location, may be able to attend.

My sincere thanks to Chris Hanlon, Ranger-in-Charge on Moreton, for his help and co-operation in the planning for this weekend, and to Darren Burns, Chairman of the Quandamooka Land Council, for his support of our project on behalf of the indigenous groups from Moreton Bay. We look forward to a continued, mutually beneficial relationship.

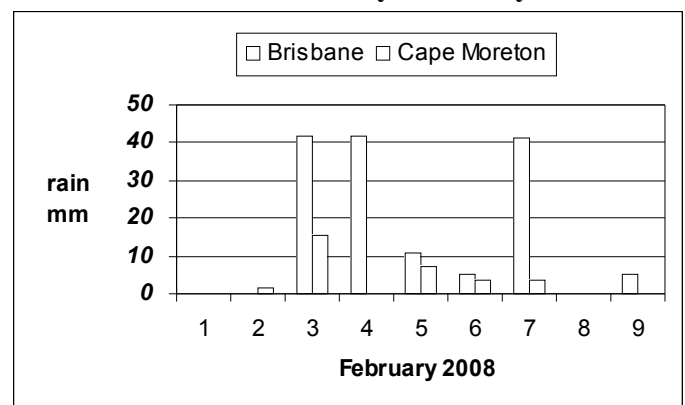
The date of the next planned working camp at North Point is the week 12 – 18 May, 2008, which is 'National Volunteer Week'. Details will be posted on the MIPC website.

MIPC also gratefully acknowledges the support received from MICat ferries for our conservation activities, and particularly for the North Point Regeneration project by way of offering discounted fares for volunteers. *Linda Back*

## Surf beach eroded

The windy weather at the beginning of 2008, has resulted in significant erosion of the surf beach. This has resulted in much rubbish being exposed on the beach. Coffee rocks north of The Little Sandhills even after the bad weather have sometimes been impassible even at low tide.

### A comparison of rainfall for Cape Moreton and Brisbane in early February.



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

**Feb 22-24** Weed mapping North Point

**Mar 2** Sunday Australia day cleanup – bookings required.

**Mar 28-30** NPA affiliated groups meeting at Tamborine Convention Centre

**Apr 11-13** Wildlife Pres Soc camp at Blue Lag.

**May 12-18** North Point project

### **Blue Lagoon 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April ~WPSQ**

Wildlife Preservation Society Queensland, weekend at Blue Lagoon. Camp kitchen and marquee tents with stretchers provided. BYO food except for the BBQ provided Saturday evening. Includes tour to Cape Moreton, and Little Sandhills, (Sand tobogganing)

**Departs** 8.30 am Friday, 6.30 pm Friday.

**Returns** Sun 6 pm

MICat terminal Howard Smith Drive, LYTTON

**Members Cost \$125                      Bookings 0428 783781**

**More information at:** [www.moretonexperience.com](http://www.moretonexperience.com)

### **Five inch plant pots still wanted!**

Five inch pots are needed to grow out seedlings from Moreton destined for the North Point camp ground.

**Please only pots with a 5"/140 mm diameter across the top of the pot can be used.** Merv will sterilize them before they are used.

Phone MIPC to arrange collection/ delivery.

### **Tax deductible donations**

All is now in place for receipt of tax deductible donations. A receipt will be sent after receipt of your donation.

## **NPA affiliated group's weekend**

**28-30<sup>th</sup> March**

The National Parks day has special significance as we will be celebrating the gazettal of the first National Park in Queensland 100 years ago, the Witches Falls National Park, on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1908. The Tamborine Mountain Natural History Association and the Tamborine Bush Volunteers will be hosting the weekend. Friday and Saturday include guided rainforest walks and Stage show. The official opening is at 9.30am Friday. Sunday is taken up with the meeting of NPA affiliates with QPWS representatives attending.

The event will be held at The Beacon, Beacon Rd, Tamborine. Accommodation has something for everyone ~ Camping and self catered (\$8 per night), camping with catered meals, Dormitory/cabin with catered meals \$13.50 per night plus meals, Chalet \$282 sleeps up to 6 self or catered, or Sunday only \$4 for morning tea. Catered meals are all \$10 per meal. QPWS is hosting Saturday night's meal. The local groups hosting the week-end will use their local expertise to "show" their park to the visiting groups.

The weekend also provides an opportunity to compare notes with members of others groups in their endeavors to care for their special natural area.

**Ring MIPC and we will send you a nomination form or download from link on the front page of MIPC's website**

**Closing date for nomination 12<sup>th</sup> March**