



Newsletter  
**Moreton Island Protection  
Committee Inc.**

PO Box 2182  
Ashgrove West QLD 4060  
Phone 07 3321 1463

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July to September 2006

## AGM at Fort Lytton Exhibition Wednesday 16th August 12 noon

We have accepted an offer to conduct meetings at the seminar room at Fort Lytton. All volunteers attending the training session for the Cape Information Centre found Fort Lytton a comfortable and interesting venue.

We are hoping this change of venue will enable more members to attend.

- 11 am Morning tea - chance for a catch up
- 12 noon Meeting commences

After the meeting a pot luck lunch, then a tour of the Fort. Cost \$4.50 Concession \$2.50 Pensioners and MIPC members. It is anticipated that executive members will hold a meeting after lunch or after the tour. Please bring a plate for either morning tea or lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

The seminar room comes with attached kitchen.

### Agenda

- Treasurers report
- Presidents report
- Report on weeds Janet Dovers
- Report on Volunteer Programme for Cape Moreton Information Centre

**Guest speaker** Miles Yeates District Manager, Moreton Bay District. Talk will give an over view of what Parks have achieved over the last 12 months and their plans for next 12 months eg. Pig control programme.

**Directions** Follow along to end of Fort Lytton Road or head for MICat and turnoff at Fort Lytton sign ~ easy!

Plenty of free parking. Entry for meeting only is free.

## Latest response by Minister to quads

“You raised a number of concerns in your previous letter dated 1 May 2006 and in a recent newsletter regarding quad management and **suspected** breaches of legislation witnessed on a visit to Moreton Island. At present, residents and landholders can apply for an exemption to use quads and trikes on the island’s roads and beaches. There are a number of permit conditions that apply and penalties are in place if such conditions are breached. Should you observe any behaviour you believe is inappropriate, such as off track use on the Island’s fragile sand dunes, I would encourage you to

advise rangers stationed on the Island, who will promptly follow up such incidents. Any concerns over unlicensed drivers should be directed to the Queensland Police Service.

The Queensland Government makes every effort to ensure that Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers have adequate resources, training and authority to carry out their duties as required by the relevant legislation and management directions of the Agency. Community support is also critical in helping

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**Please take extra care during September school holidays and look out for Pied Oyster Catcher chicks that hatch during September and October !!!**

## 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.

Printed by Rex Leo ph. 3878 5248

Editor Alan Gennings, Linda Back, Patricia Cavanagh Printed 5<sup>th</sup>

August 2006

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the QPWS achieve its goals and, in this regard, the ongoing support of the Moreton Island Protection Committee is greatly valued.

The Minister thanks you for bringing this matter to her attention and hopes this information is of assistance."

*Response from Ross MacLeod on behalf of Minister for Environment, Hon Desley Boyle*

## Management Plan stuck on Ministers desk.

There have been reports that the Management Plan has been circulated to other departments and it is now back with the Ministers office.

Exhaustive enquiries in mid July resulted in an estimated release in 2 months (mid September).

Recent correspondence from the Ministers office suggest that submissions to the Ministers office may be resulting in changes to the plan since it was submitted to the Ministers office by EPA.

Members are once again encouraged to make submissions regarding any management issues they believe to be important.

*Letters should be addressed to*

Hon Desley Boyle

Minister for Environment,

Local Government,

Planning and Women

PO Box 15031,

City East QLD 4002

## Editor's note

I would like to acknowledge the contribution being made by the various authors who have contributed to the last few newsletters. The increased contributions by others has greatly eased the task of compiling/writing the newsletter.

The greatest benefit is the diversity of opinion that can be presented.

It is hoped that the letter by Uncle Bob will inspire others committed to looking after Moreton to write to the Minister to ensure there are no last minute changes which are contrary to Caring for Moreton.

## Permit costs passed on.

A letter sent to Moreton residents by Minister for Environment states "It is appropriate that businesses that make a commercial gain from a Recreation Area contribute to its management".

It is naive to believe that these businesses can or would make this contribution without passing it on to park visitors. The letter also states "QPWS negotiated a reduced annual fee from barge operators on the basis that any fare increase flowing on from the new barge agreements would not be passed onto residents." Because a negotiated fixed annual fee is being paid by the barge operators, it is their choice to determine the amount they ask each passengers to pay towards their fixed annual fee. (This annual fee is not linked to number of passengers carried.)

The initial tender documents set a minimum annual fee for applicants of 5% of turnover. Yet both The Combie Trader and MICat are charging \$4 or 10% for the landing fee.

The initiative by government to isolate residents from fee increases attributable to the landing fee is an acknowledgement that government expects this fee to be passed onto Park visitors.

**It is unfortunate that government in an attempt to hide increased visitor fees has negotiated a fixed annual fee instead of a per person/ per vehicle fee which would make the actual cost of the new landing fee much more transparent and subject to direct public scrutiny.**

*Note To simplify discussion, the landing fee for vehicles and the situation for visitors to Tangalooma have been excluded (Tangalooma ferries, as they do not land on the Recreation area, do not need a Recreation Area permit to land on Moreton Island).*

Alan

Gennings

Hon.Desley Boyle  
Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women  
PO Box 15031, City East QLD 4002

Dr Robert Vincent Anderson OAM.  
Uncle Bob, Ngugi Elder

Sunday, July 09, 2006

**Re: Management Plan For Moreton Island / Mulgumpin Future management  
of quads and trikes**

Dear Ms Boyle

I would like to make some comments in relation to the draft management plan for Moreton Island / Mulgumpin - Future management of quads and trikes:

I refer to the use of quads and trikes in areas of significance to myself as a Ngugi Elder and to other Ngugi Elders. Such use of quads and trikes in areas of spiritual and sacred significance is to me the equivalent of people going up and down the aisles of a cathedral on roller blades.

The areas I refer to are two big exposed sand hills named *Gheebelum* and *Coonungi*, situated on the southern part of the island. These sand hills are part of the vision of my Country and my cultural heritage. They form part of a story, as handed down to me from my Uncle Paul Tripcony who was born on the Myora Aboriginal mission in 1901. He became active in the trade union movement and was elected Queensland Vice President of the Federated Liquor Union during 1936 and 1937. The story is one narrating the creation of life entitled, *The Legend of the Lightning's Playground*. (See attached).

Ngugi people continue to maintain practices that protect, preserve and nurture our land and cultural heritage and to pass on the stories. Therefore, I encourage you to adopt the recommendation in the draft management plan which states:

*Discontinue the provision of vehicle service permits to quads, trikes and trail bikes to prohibit their use within the National Park, Conservation Park and Recreation Area "*

I also recommend that areas of significance to traditional owners be protected. Other sites include the Bora initiation ground and campsite on the east coast of the island adjacent to Eagers Creek *and C'runumba, Place of Wild Honey, Cape Moreton.*

When all these measures are in place, we create a wonderful legacy for people of all cultures who visit the island, people who share a common love for the Land. The Land will always embrace people of good will and spirit.

Warm regards,

Uncle Bob Anderson, Ngugi Elder.

## The Legend of the lightning's Playground

By Dr Robert Anderson (Uncle Bob, Ngugi Elder) as handed down by his Uncle Paul Tripcony who was born on the Myora Aboriginal mission in 1901

Situated on Mulgumpin, Moreton Island, are two sand hills. To the Aboriginal tribe who call themselves Ngugi, the big sand hill was known as Gheebelum and the little sand hill was named Coonungi. When both sand hills were mentioned together the two names signified the legend known as "The Lightning's Playground."

The origin of this legend was the profound veneration accorded to their ancestral land and the gift of poetic fancy that inspired the Aboriginal race, in appreciation of the beauty of their Dreamtime legends.

Australia has experienced, during the course of her history, many bitter drought seasons which are associated with dry electric storms and devastating heat waves. During this period, heavy banks of cloud are formed, reverberating peels of thunder are heard as though to render the firmament asunder. Nature is mobilising her resources in accordance with her laws so that she may bestow her bounties and impose her disciplines and from the powerful vortex of this elemental force of nature, are discharged and hurled the destructive and shattering detonation of this concentrated fury, a combination of creative and destroying faculties of life, death and regeneration.

In preparation for the transformation about to be disclosed and presented to our experience, sea laden breezes, wafted from the Pacific and Moreton Bay, deposit their rich burden of moisture on Coonungi and Gheebelum and having received the gift of morning dew they attain their highest aspirations. Copious seasonal rains promised an assured supply of life giving water and underground subterranean springs welling to the surface showed to his glance the pathway to the Lightning's playground.

When the storm clouds converge around the Brisbane district and extend the area of their activity to Moreton Bay, from the centre of the tempest, there is precipitated a volley of fireball projectiles associated

with a detonating report and with cosmic energy directs its course to the crest of Gheebelum, impelled on its course from the point of discharge and the velocity attained by the mass of creative substance embodied in the propulsion and dissemination of the powerful forces contained in liberated light.

This revelation of the potency of the translucent luminary presented by nature's gifts, evokes the re-enactment of the eternal Dreamtime when children were conceived by the Father in his mind during a lightning sacramental fire flash, whence they were enclosed in the Mother's body to complete the life cycle. The shining mirror like surface of Gheebelum attracts the affections and attentions of the evolving majestic celestial incandescent creator of light and life and in her loveliness she presents her bosom in sublime passion to his embrace.

This conflagration of hallowed fire ricochet from Gheebelum to Coonungi to minister to by the order of destiny, the restrained passion of her of whose utter glowing but etherealised form was translated to corporeal existence in the reposing body of Coonungi, perfumed.

The effect of the heat of the contact with lightning on the glistening silvery damp sand, is such that a liquefying takes place and an instant welding of sand and water from the flame of a lightning strike, results in producing lace like patterns resembling branched coral and fern leaf and similar imitations of natural objects and tracery forms and flowerlike or floral and such, as any handy craftsman would compose for his repertoire treasure store house at command.

It was this movement of thunder, lightning, fire, sand and water which caused the Ngugi people to observe, to discuss and invent the legend of the Lightning's Playground of Gheebelum and Coonungi on the island of Mulgumpin.

*Uncle Bob*

## Weeding Strategy

For over a hundred years, non indigenous plants have found their way to Moreton Island. Some were brought deliberately for gardens or as potential crops, while others hitched a ride, and once there have spread, carried on the wind, vehicles, clothing, pigs fur, in ants' mandibles and birds stomachs and all the ingenious ways plants have evolved to ensure the future of their species.

A Draft Pest Plant Management Strategy will soon be released by NPWS. It identifies the main pest plant species on the island, most of their locations and the recommended means of eradicating, or at least, managing them.

It divides the pest plants into those that are threat to the conservation values of the island because of their potential to invade and replace indigenous plant communities, such as balloon vine, asparagus fern, broadleaf pepper trees and signal grass, and those that are a threat to the recreational values, such as Mossman River Grass.

Frustrated with the necessarily sporadic efforts of weeding on MIPC weekends, Janet Dovers, on behalf of MIPC, has approached NPWS and gained their initial support to work in partnership in taking a more strategic and long term approach to weeding and pest plant management. Janet has volunteered to co-ordinate a MIPC project and prepare a project plan for NPWS and which will include –

- further identification and mapping of pest plants
- a pilot program to enlist regular campers in weeding campsites - “adopt a site”
- volunteer programs to weed targeted areas
- engaging residents in the island villages to develop local pest plant control measures
- researching and experimenting with different weed eradication and control methods
- researching and experimenting with different regeneration and replacement planting in weeded areas
- contributing to the development of educational material to raise awareness of pest plants and pest plant control
- assisting in the evaluation of the pest plant management strategy and the development of further strategies

MIPC members will be able to become involved in –

- taking part in weeding activities
- helping map and monitor pest plant infestations
- replanting and reseeding weeded areas
- helping to educate campers and visitors
- liaising with the villages on the island to encourage them to control local infestations.

*Janet Dovers*

For more information contact Janet on 3393 4304.

## Cape Volunteer Weekend Report

The first weekend of our official duties as fully trained volunteers at the Cape Information Centre started with ominous sprinklings and splatterings of rain as Darryl, Leon, Jim and Janet drove over to meet Merv on the weekend of 21-23 July. The wind howled and buffeted the cottage all night, making for disturbed sleep and an appreciation of what life had been like in the early and more isolated times of light house keeping

Merv had gone over earlier on Friday to work with the rangers to establish the nursery at North Point, but had had problems with the welding equipment. So he lost no time in setting off, with Darryl and Leon, to collect cuttings on Saturday morning and returned with over a hundred blueberry ash cuttings successfully potted. Janet and Jim staffed the information centre, answering questions about tides and routes from the sporadic visitors and Janet worked on writing the weed project plan.

On Saturday afternoon, Janet and Jim drove to Taylor Bite, an area Lisa had identified, to look for pine and other weeds and gauge the feasibility of a weeding day there. They found groups of young pines flourishing and some very healthy looking and fearless pigs. They also checked North Point for the asparagus fern, umbrella tree, Mossman River Grass and periwinkle weeded on the last weekend, removed some plants and planned to return on Sunday to poison the umbrella trees and weed the last Mossman River Grass sites.

*Janet Dovers*

### Nomination Form for MIPC Executive

I, .....hereby propose

..... to serve as  
President, Vice President, Secretary Treasurer,  
Member of the Committee of Management (circle)

Signed .....

Seconded by .....Signed.....

I hereby consent to my nomination .....

*All proposed must be current financial members.*

Proxies must be submitted in writing.

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

**Daily ~ Taking to the Streets 1965-85** Museum of Brisbane, City Hall 10am to 5pm

**Aug 16 AGM at Fort Lytton**

**Sept 1 to 3 MIPC, Blue Lagoon Camp**

**Oct 27 to 29 WPSQ, Blue Lagoon Camp**

### **Blue Lagoon 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept ~ MIPC**

Camp kitchen and marquee tents with stretchers provided. BYO food. Volunteering optional.

**Departs** 6.30 pm Friday.

**Return** Sunday 4.30 pm depart Moreton

**Cost \$85** Includes; Micat fare \$44, \$10 for use of Moreton Experience camp, \$14.50 for Parks fees and transport to Blue Lagoon.

**Optional tours** Sandhills \$10, Cape Moreton \$5

**From** Howard Smith Drive Lytton

**Bookings Ph 33211463**

### **Blue Lagoon 27<sup>th</sup> to 28 Oct ~WPSQ**

Wildlife Preservation Society, Queensland, weekend at Blue Lagoon. Camp kitchen and marquee tents with stretchers provided. BYO food. BBQ provided Saturday evening. Includes tour to Cape Moreton, eastern shore of Mirrapool lagoon and Little Sandhills

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

**Return** Sunday 4.30 pm depart Moreton

**Cost \$125** Includes; MICat fare \$44, \$14.50 for Parks fees and transport to Blue Lagoon.

**From** Howard Smith Drive Lytton

**Bookings 0428 783780**

### **Report on July 7-9 Whale watch**

The Intrepid group were rewarded with a warm winter. They enjoyed the spacious North Point Camp site (Tallallbella) with grassy campsites, modern toilets and handy shower. Shona Helen, Denis, Petra and her three guests from Japan. Woolly evenings, but warm days. The whales co-operated breaching off North Point, and swimming close to Cape Moreton. First time for most was an adventurous trek at low tide between North Point and Cape Moreton. ~Quite a varying contrast between irregular rocks and golden beaches between~

The warm waves tempted all to have a swim. Ospreys still soaring above. Social enjoyment on the beach in the evening around a fire from Petra's mainland wood. Dolphins were a plenty straight below Cape Moreton Lighthouse. An extra bonus was the observation of a carpet snake on the edge of the camp ground – all coiled up around a flying fox. There for 3 hours before it had swallowed it and unwound itself and slithered away (about 6 foot long). No pelicans on the beach. Shona and Helen reported very few birds around the wet lands behind Heath Island. The camp ground almost exclusive to MIPC crew. However many visitors came to use facilities and collect water. Vehicles are still driving the full length of the beach to reach North Point. Overall it was a weekend of fulfilment.

*Denis Maher*

### **Deposits required for all trips**

A \$30 deposit is required within 3 days of booking. This is to cover your share of chartered transport in case you cancel after transport has been booked. Please book by the Friday before the trip so we can determine if numbers coming are viable.

**Non members are asked to pay \$10 surcharge to contribute to MIPC's organizational costs.**