



Newsletter
**Moreton Island Protection
Committee Inc.**

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MAIL

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PAID
AUSTRALIA

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July to September 2007

Annual General Meeting 10 am Saturday 18th August Fort Lytton National Park

Park entrance at the end of Lytton Rd, LYTTON
in committee format.

Agenda: 10 am meeting to commence

- Presidents report
- Treasurers report
- Volunteer programme reports, Cape Information Centre, Weeds, Nursery and Sea grass monitoring.
- Election of office bearers
- General business

Break for morning tea.

11 am Guest speaker: Greg Carter ; Senior Ranger Qld Parks and Wildlife Service, Moreton Bay District
Greg has been invited to brief us on plans for Moreton Island National Park. Members may take this opportunity to seek clarification on the management plan.

Post meeting programme

11.30 pm Cape Volunteer briefing.

Greg Carter will give a short talk to Cape Volunteers outlining their responsibilities and answer questions.

12noon Lunch will provide an opportunity for members who wish to become more involved to meet with the organizer and other volunteers.

1pm Cape Volunteer meeting. Linda Back
This is the only opportunity volunteers have to meet

Call for attendance.

The AGM is a legal requirement for the Committee to maintain its incorporated status. Members are asked to make a contribution, by coming along to support the hard working executive members, catch up with other members and most importantly help us reach our quorum.

Cape Volunteers are asked to attend so they can meet and have a refresh on their responsibilities to National Parks.

The AGM is also an excellent opportunity for members to update their membership fees.

Please bring a plate of food to share for lunch.

Morning tea will be provided

Plates and cutlery for lunch will be provided.

Interested in becoming a Cape Moreton Information Centre Volunteer?

Those interested in becoming a Cape volunteer are asked to attend the AGM. **If interesting in becoming a Cape volunteer, please phone MIPC on 3321 1463 by Wednesday 15th August** and leave a message with your name and confirming your intention to attend the AGM.

Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc.

PO Box 2182 Ashgrove West 4060

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Executive Members

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Assist secretary Nanette Kempel

Treasurer Pam Schindler

Executive Committee

Linda Back 3366 1292

Susan Bedford

Gordon Bennet 3399 6351

Patricia Cavanagh

Janet Dovers

Simon Fell-Smith

Dennis Maher 3369 1681

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

Editors Alan Gennings, Linda Back,

Patricia Cavanagh

Printed 2nd August 2007

New Association Legislation

Following consultation in February 2005, the State Government has amended The Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

This Act sets the minimum legal requirements for the 20,000 registered associations (including MIPC) in Queensland.

Prior to this change auditing was costing us over \$500. (MIPC currently has special approval for our auditor who audits voluntarily). The option now exists for an association with less than \$20,000 in assets and less than \$20,000 in turnover to have either the president or treasurer sign the following;

“The Association keeps financial records in a way which properly records the association’s income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities”

However higher level auditing is usually required by granting bodies and if our current grant proposal is successful we would require higher level auditing.

The other significant relaxation is the removal of the requirement for an association to have Public Liability Insurance. Our public liability insurance is current until next year, but costs \$930. This is a complex issue but at least now we have a choice. Once again grants are often conditional on public liability insurance being held.

Another significant change is the release of Model Rules which override our present rules where our rules are not consistent with the Act.

An example is the requirement in the model rules that before an executive member is elected they are made aware of the association’s public liability status.

Thus we now operate under 2 sets of rules. Our present rules apply where they do not contradict the Model Rules minimum requirements.

We will have to update our rules,

seeking approval from members for the new rules at the next AGM.

The Government is to be congratulated for simplifying the requirements, and thus the costs for small associations who wish to operate under a formal structure.

Alan

Donations to MIPC now tax deductible.

MIPC has been granted tax deductible status. This means donations to MIPC can be tax deductible. The process to fulfill the requirements for tax deductible status was commenced in the first half of 2003.

Tax deductible donations however are quarantined in a separate account to MIPC’s normal operating account. This account, The MIPC Public Fund, is controlled by a management committee of three MIPC trustees to ensure the funds are only used to support the environmental objectives/purposes of MIPC.

Linda Back

Membership renewal.

Annual membership remains at the \$10. It is important for MIPC’s lobbying activities that we maintain a significant numbers of members. When renewing your membership please consider renewing for more than 1 year. This makes processing what is a nominal membership much more efficient. Membership renewal starts from the time we process your membership.

By keeping our membership fees low we enable those who would like to contribute more to make their additional contribution tax deductible. Please specify clearly how much of your payment should be used for advance membership and how much to allocate to the tax deductible donation status.

Please note that memberships are not tax deductible.

MIPC makes an Application for Envirofund Grant.

MIPC has submitted an application for a grant of \$20,000 from the Australian Government Envirofund, available through The Natural Heritage Trust, for a project to rehabilitate an area on Moreton Island at North Point, degraded as a result of the old 'Squatters Camp'.

Sean Galvin (Community Partnership Manager – Bay and Islands, SEQ Catchments), encouraged us to apply for a special purpose Coastal and Marine Round of funding in which 4 million dollars has been made available for *“actions that can assist individuals and communities in the management and improvement of foreshores, beaches, marine areas and estuaries and contribute to the protection of our coastal catchments, ecosystems and the marine environment.”*

We found out details of the application requirements less than three weeks before the closing date for submissions of 20 July, 2007, so it was a rather hurried team effort to come up with a project proposal, wade through the 28 page 'Guide and Application Form', and gather the necessary supporting documents - but we made it! Thanks to everyone involved for their help, especially Trish, Pam, and Janet.

The proposed project is to initially identify and map the pest plants in a specific site area including North Point Campground and surrounding bush, which contains some very nasty weeds, and then have a concentrated attack on them using teams of volunteers on regular weekend camps over an 18 month period (January 08 – June 09). We aim to get twenty to thirty volunteers along to the camps, their barge fares, camping fees and transport to North Point paid for by the grant, plus provision of a shared marquee with cooking facilities, and basic food supplies. In return, volunteers would be expected to work for six hours during the weekend removing weeds either physically, or with herbicide treatments (whichever is the approved method), and also planting seedlings in the cleared areas.

Although there are many other areas of concern within the Park, this project was chosen because it targets a contained degraded area located in a remote region adjacent to pristine vegetation communities (eg Lake Jabiru Special Protection Zone), which are potentially threatened by weed invasion. Qld Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) does not have the resources or funds for the required labour force to make a significant impact on weed infestations such as at North Point. MIPC volunteers have successfully undertaken other similar projects in the past in partnership with QPWS rangers, eg revegetation of

The Wrecks Campground in 1984, removal and monitoring of Groundsel at Heath Island in the early nineties, planting Spinifex runners at the Cape etc. Nowadays, the minimum cost for individual volunteers to participate in such activities on Moreton (barge fares, vehicle transport, camping fees, food etc) amounts to at least \$80 per weekend, which is prohibitive for many otherwise willing workers.

Also, this proposed project makes use of the newly established native plant nursery at North Point which MIPC member, Merv Tyler, has been working on over the last 12 months with help from Parks rangers, (special thanks to ranger Justin Herdman who has been particularly supportive) and other MIPC volunteers. This involved relocating the nursery shed and shade house from Ben-Ewa, the construction of eight of the planned twelve 'grow out' tables which can accommodate 100 seedlings each, and the set up of an automatic watering system, and undercover work bench. All seeds and cuttings used for revegetating the project site will be sourced from Moreton Island plants and raised in this on-site nursery.

Greg Carter, QPWS Senior Ranger, Moreton Bay Islands, gave his strong support for our proposal through a letter which accompanied the application. In this he gives permission for the activities to be carried out in the National Park, promises in-kind assistance from QPWS with logistical matters and equipment, and also acknowledges the contribution MIPC has made in the past. Written support of the project was also received from Rosalind Shaw of MICat offering discount transport costs for volunteers, Alan Gennings of Moreton Experience offering free transport on the island for volunteers and, the Cowan Cowan Residents Association. We have informed the local indigenous communities through the Quandamooka Lands Council, and stated that the project would not proceed without their full approval and support.

It takes a couple of months for the applications to be processed, so we will have to wait to know whether we have Federal Government support for our volunteer activities. If you want to know more, a copy of the application is on our website at www.home.acenet.net.au/mipc. The Envirofund website is www.nht.gov.au/envirofund.

Linda Back

Tangalooma Resort also made a written offer of discounted ferry and bus costs. This was received too late to be incorporated into the submission.

Patricia Cavanagh

MEDIA WATCH

Dennis Maher and Alan Genninges

“CityCat boost for bay islands”

Sunday Mail 22 July 2007

“A NEW Moreton Bay terminal linked to the CityCat system is being planned as a major boost to Brisbane’s tourism infrastructure.

The Sunday Mail has learnt that Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort on Moreton Island is seeking to redevelop its Pinkenba ferry facility at the mouth of the Brisbane River into a new water transit terminal.

.....

Tangalooma director David James said the company was committed to a start on the redevelopment of the terminal at Pinkenba to include a new deep water marina within three months.

The future of the rest of the development depends on the company being able to secure a portion of land it needs adjacent Royal Queensland Golf course, which is owned by the State Government.....

A document, including a map for potential investors in the plan, has been prepared by council-funded body and includes developments at other key points on the Bay.

The map titled Moreton Bay Tourist Infrastructure, shows plans for new accommodation on Moreton Island, North Stradbroke Island, Peel Island and Russell Island.”.....

According to the article, the aim of this development is to facilitate increased visitation of international visitors to Tangalooma and other Bay Islands.

Inquiries by Dennis to Invest Brisbane revealed that the map “Moreton Island Tourist Infrastructure” referred to in the article is not yet publicly available as the plan is still being developed.

“Keep the campfires burning”

Courier Mail 27th July 2007

“Even allowing for bush fire dangers and a policy of phasing out campfires in national parks, it’s still possible to find a place where a young family can enjoy a campfire.

These Parks allow open campfires except when fire prohibitions apply;

Moreton Island National Park except in North Point campground, ...”

It is unclear why campfires are allowed on Moreton Island but not on Fraser or Coolooloa National Parks!

“Have your say”

Courier Mail 28th July 2007

“The community of North Stradbroke Island is sick and tired of the cynical “community consultation” that Queensland Government agencies pursue just so they can tick boxes.

Throughout the hardest drought on record, it (Stradbroke Island) has been supplying most of the growing Redland Shire’s needs. Now the State Government wants to muscle in on the island’s ground water, believing the council can provide an extra 22 megalitres a day”

“Many indigenous locals spoke of their deep connection to the island. The water is the islands blood, and aboriginal owners see its extraction as illegal under the Native Title Act. There is an active claim on the island.”

Although there have been plenty of suggestions that Moreton’s underground water should be pressed into supplying water to S.E. Qld our queries to relevant Ministers have allayed our fears. All official replies have stated that there are no current plans. The reason for not mining Moreton’s water is unclear. The status of Moreton as a National Park apparently provides no impediment to extracting ground water.

“Green Tips”

Courier Mail 27th July 2007

“1kg of farmed fish can take up to 12kg of fish meal to produce”

Seems a little high, perhaps should read 1kg farmed fish can take up to 12 kg of wild caught fish to produce.



Eel grass monitoring volunteers disembark from the “Spoonbill”.

Trip to St Helena Island for MIPC Information Centre Volunteers

On Sunday 15 July, a perfect calm, clear, winter's day, a group of seventeen of our members gathered at the Manly Jetty and boarded one of the Qld Parks and Wildlife Service vessels, the 'Spoonbill', to enjoy a day trip to St Helena Island. This was organised by Greg Carter (Senior Ranger, Moreton Bay Islands) as a thank-you to those who have given their time over the past year or so as volunteers for QPWS, manning the Information Centre at Cape Moreton.

Greg was a terrific host, giving us a guided tour of the Island, with lots of information on the logistics and plans for maintenance and future restorations of the crumbling original buildings of the old prison settlement. The museum, located in one of the restored buildings, provided a good insight into what life was like for the prisoners and warders. We were treated to an excellent barbeque lunch, (expertly cooked by the multi-talented Greg) before making our way back to the boat and heading back to the mainland.

Many of the group, including me, had never visited St Helena before and so we very much enjoyed the opportunity to do so in such a convivial manner. I am delighted that our volunteer work is so much appreciated by the QPWS. We all enjoy our weekends at the Cape Information Centre, so it's truly a win-win situation.

If you are interested in being involved in the volunteer program with QPWS, please come along to our AGM on Saturday 18 August, (10.00am at Fort Lytton) as Greg Carter will be giving an induction presentation and you could join up on the spot. We've got lots of projects on the go, and need more willing volunteers. See you there.

Linda Back Volunteer Co-ordinator



Greg explains the history of the restoration of the stores building on St Helena Island.

Sea grass volunteer report.

On Saturday 27th July the 13 MIPC members traveled on the "Spoonbill", to the sea grass monitoring site off Moreton Island. The trip enabled the project coordinator, Paul Finn and project officer Keira Price to ensure that the Moreton Island volunteers were using the same methodology as volunteers monitoring other sites around the bay. The trip also provided an opportunity to introduce prospective MIPC sea grass volunteers to the monitoring methodology.

Monitoring is undertaken 3 times a year, and there are sites elsewhere in the Bay which go unmonitored due to lack of volunteers.



Laying out the transects.

We arrived a little early for the low tide so we were able to wander around discovering the inter-tidal animals. The regular volunteers especially enjoyed this opportunity as usually they have no time to just explore.

Discoveries included a dead male and female cat shark, within a few meters of each other. Epiphytic anemones were found on sea grass in the transect sites. Also of interest was a large number of starfish with necrotized arms and bodies. Some with large areas of necrotized tissues were still alive. Paul has reported this observation and plans are underway to sample some of the affected starfish in an attempt to determine the cause.

I would like to thank the volunteers who persevered over the years, sampling in all weathers, thus making our excursion in perfect weather possible.

Alan Gennings

What's on!!! Ph 3321 1463

Aug Sat 18th 10am AGM at Fort Lytton

Sept 7-9 Volunteers staff Cape Moreton Info Ctre #

Oct 5-7 Volunteers staff Cape Moreton Info Ctre #

Oct 5-7 Wildlife Pres Soc camp at Blue Lag.

Oct 7-10 MIPC Sun to Wed at Blue Lag.

Nov 9-11 Volunteers staff Cape Moreton Info Ctre #

Nov 16-18 MIPC camp at Blue Lagoon

Dec 7-9 Volunteers staff Cape Moreton Info Ctre #

Subject to availability of volunteers, accommodation and transport.

MIPC AGM 10am Sat 18th August

See front page for details

Blue Lagoon 5th to 7th October ~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

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.

Blue Lagoon Oct 7 - 10

Escape the weekend rush or stay on from the Wildlife Preservation Society weekend.

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

Dpt 2.30pm Sunday **Rtn** Mon 5pm, Wed 5pm

MICat terminal Howard Smith Drive, LYTTON

Optional tours Sandhill \$10, Cape Moreton \$5

Members Cost \$110 Bookings Ph 0428 783 781

If staying on from the previous weekend, Cost will be an additional \$10 per day.

More information at: www.moretonexperience.com

Blue Lagoon Nov 16 to 18 ~ MIPC

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

Departs 6.30pm Friday **Returns** Sun 6pm

(8.30 am depart, 1pm transfer to Blue Lag).

MICat terminal Howard Smith Drive, LYTTON

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

Members Cost \$100 Bookings Ph 3321 1463

Deposits are required.

Non-refundable deposits are required to pay for chartered transport in the case of cancellations. So that reasonable notice of a trip cancellation to participants and operators can be given, deposits must be received by the Monday before trip departure. Simplify payment by forwarding full payment with your deposit.

Members Trip Price

Trip prices quoted are for members of MIPC or Wildlife Preservation Society.

Others pay \$5 to \$10 extra.