



Newsletter

Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc.

PO Box 2182
Ashgrove West QLD 4060

Phone 07 3321 1463

mipc@moretonisland.org.au



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Expressions of Interest called for Ecotourism facilities/ resorts in National Parks

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for development of ecotourism facilities in national parks close on 27th September 2013. Ecotourism facilities include built accommodation or a resort by a less transparent name.

To encourage investment the government is prepared to grant (ie give away leases) **for 30 years with an ability to renew for another 30**. Many of these potential sites within national parks, currently owned by the government on our behalf cannot be valued because of their scenic, cultural, and environmental values for which they became national parks.

Most ecotourism facilities will be authorised through leases which provide a long-term interest in the land and provide investment security. Leases may be granted for a term of up to 30 years with the ability to renew for a further 30 years.

Source Page 9 Expression of Interest Ecotourism Facilities on National Parks Implementation Framework

Department of National parks, Recreation, sporting and Racing web site states;

This amendment ensures all approved ecotourism facilities are in the public interest, environmentally sustainable and, to the greatest possible extent, preserve the land's natural condition and protect its cultural resources and natural values.

As the Minister is the person who is charged with deciding if these conditions are met, only the naive will be reassured by it.

Prior to the current governments changes to the Act the condition "to the greatest possible extent, preserve the land's natural condition" was the primary consideration but now this condition is secondary to a decision to place an ecotourism facility (resort).

"In determining the net public benefit of a proposed ecotourism facility, the relative balance between public and private interest, and between competing public interests, will be considered. This assessment may include public consultation to canvass views about the proposal." Page 4 Expression of Interest Ecotourism Facilities on National Parks Implementation Framework

There is no requirement for the Minister to determine public interest by consultation with the public or stakeholders.

Due to commercial in confidence rules the public will not be informed about any financial details in the EOI nor can the public request information about the cost or the requirements of any leases granted.

MIPC opposes the leasing of any of portion the Moreton Island National Park for the development of a private resort (eco tourism facility).

AGM

**10 am Exhibition Wednesday ~ 14th August
237 Milton Rd, Royal Geographical Society Rooms,**

Located on the inbound side of Milton Rd, just before the brewery, expect to walk a block or two to park.

Bring a plate to share and catch up with friends after the meeting, or join the executive.

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Ashgrove West 4060
mipc@moretonisland.org.au
(07) 3321 1463
www.moretonisland.org.au

Executive Members

President: Alan Gennings
0428 783781

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Peta Frampton

Executive Committee:

Pam Schindler

Helen Sutherland

Marissa Grant

Leonie Hegvold

Dennis Maher

Nanette Kempel

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 Graphis Skills

Edited by Alan Gennings

(Alan is a commercial tour operator on Moreton Island)

Printed July 2013

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Newsletter Corrections and right of reply

Following the publication of the last newsletter (Jan 2013) a Tangalooma representative alerted MIPC to errors of fact contained in the newsletter.

The newsletter stated "Tangalooma is being given approval for quad tours along the beach south of the resort to Shark Spit, about 5.5 km and further south to Toulkerrie oyster lease, south of The Little Sandhills" **Tangalooma has only been given a permit to conduct quad tours to Shark Spit 5.5 km south of Tangalooma.**

The newsletter reported "a Tangalooma rubbish truck has been given a permit to drive through this vehicle free beach if road conditions on the Cowan bypass are difficult". The rubbish truck is owned by Tanga Ferries Pty Ltd and not Tangalooma and this company operates completely independently of Tangalooma Island Resort Holdings Pty Ltd. (Tanga Ferries Pty Ltd registered office is Tangalooma)

The Tangalooma representative also informed us that the report by the Cowan residents association that the rubbish truck had traversed the vehicle free beach at times other than low tide was incorrect and that GPS tracking of the vehicles movement is logged provides a record of when vehicle travels.

MIPC needs your help

The executive is always in need of extra help with the administration of running MIPC. Items you could help with from your own home include;

checking the phone messages – a Telstra mobile to receive text notifications of a messages is helpful.

updating membership data base – helpful to have Microsoft Office

Access but a free ware option will probably work

checking emails daily and responding or forwarding to the appropriate executive member

responding by phone or email to enquiries from new volunteers

Come along to the AGM and let us know how you'd like to help. The current executive will need help if we are to effectively lobby regarding the anticipated EOI for new resort developments on Moreton National Park.

Phone answer service.

MIPC (07) 33211463

Once you leave a message on our message bank, telstra at no cost texts notification of the message to the member on phone duty.

Membership Due

Confirmation of payment of your membership can be found on the address label which states when your membership is due. Members can pay in advance for several years. If your due date seems incorrect then please let us know.

Donations to MIPC

MIPC welcomes tax deductible donations which can only be used for conservation activities e.g. funding transport for volunteers and public education programmes.

EFT Details

BSB 633 000 Bendigo Bank

Account number 141368456

Account name Moreton Island Protection Committee.

Reference 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 authorized by phone do not include any identification details so please forward details of your payment as per above.

Cape Planting grant finishes.

MIPC Volunteers completed 1,142 hours from July 2012 to June 2013. (Cape Planting project 520 hrs; Weeding 315 hrs; Beach Rubbish 301 hrs; Slide presentations 6 hrs).

Over 1500 plants were propagated and planted on The Cape. The last few volunteer weekends saw the establishment of 2,000 tube stock Casuarinas at North Point nursery. Merv Tyler continues to germinate Casuarina seeds so we will have plenty to plant on the bare areas at the Cape.



Potting newly germinated Casuarinas. 25th May Group included four new volunteers, Margo and from Thailand, Nattika, Nicha and Nutsuda

As we do not have a current grant, MIPC will use funds donated by members and money received by MIPC for administering the Oil spill recovery grants to continue the free volunteer week-ends.

We gratefully acknowledge the funding provided by the federally funded Caring for our country grants and SEQ Catchments for sourcing and administering the delivery of the grant. It is important that volunteers only have to donate their time.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Griffith Students ~ 619 kgs of rubbish

On 20 and 21st April 35 Griffith Uni students and their lecturers collected 619Kgs of rubbish in 150 hours. Much of the rubbish was small pieces of plastic. Logistics of organizing was a joint effort by Rangers, Wild Mob, MIPC volunteers and Moreton Experience. Griffith University funded all costs for their students.

Already 3 students have returned in their own time to assist rangers with weeding. Organisers found the

volunteers easy to work with and are hoping Griffith Uni will be able to make this a regular event on their Calendar.



Middle Track, Tangalooma bypass turnoff 10th June Similar clearing for fire breaks has been done along the Cowan bypass and the Tangalooma bypass.

Fishing in Green zones ruled out.

Since the LNP came to power, there have been calls to allow fishing in green zones. The Government has been considering a scientific review of the effectiveness of marine parks but such action has not appeared on any Government list of priority actions. Furthermore Mark Robinson MP, Member for Cleveland, sponsored a formal petition signed by 249 persons that was tabled in the Queensland Parliament calling for fishing in green zones.

In Minister Dickson's response, changes to permitted uses in green zones were ruled out. Quoting the Minister's words 'Given the extremely large area of marine waters in Queensland available for recreational fishing it is not considered that any change is required to existing State marine park zones at this time'. His speech also confirmed that adequate science and consultation underpinned the recent 2009 rezoning of Moreton Bay Marine Park, dispelling arguments to the contrary. *Source Wildlife Preservation Society Web Site www.wildlife.org.au/news/2013*

MIPC congratulates the Minister for this decision based on the Science that demonstrates the effectiveness of Green Zones.

Please sir could we have some more!

Green zones on Moreton

There are green zones on Moreton where fishing and bait collecting on the beach is not permitted. Please check maps before fishing as the fines are substantial and signs easily missed.

Whats on!!!!!! Ph33211463

Aug 14 AGM 10 am Exhibition Wednesday
at Royal Geographical Soc 237 Milton Rd Milton

Aug 17-18 Seagrass training 2 days at Manly

Aug 23 -25 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Aug 30- Sept 1 NPA fully catered & tours

Sept 27-29 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon (extend to 30th)

Oct 5-7 Long weekend Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Oct 18-20 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Oct 25-27 BIA art workshop by Stephen Newton

Nov 8-10 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

MIPC members are welcome on all of the listed trips

Sat 8.30 depart is available for all volunteer weekends – min 3 required for Sat departure.

NB \$12 per day parking for all trips. Car pooling is arranged where possible.

Bookings

0428783781(Alan) text only please

email mipc@moretonisland.org.au

33211463 please commence your message with your phone number.

Please book at least 1 week in advance.

Depart from 14 Howard Smith Drive, Port of Bris.
8.30am

Depart from The Wrecks 4.30pm Sunday.

BYO sleeping bag, food, plates, cutlery and esky. A camp kitchen and tents with stretchers are provided. Prefer not to share with others then BYO hike tent.

School holidays 20th Sept to 10th Oct

Moreton Experience Blue Lagoon is available for volunteers during the school holidays and also 14th to 24th Oct is also available. Contact Alan to check transport availability or BYO 4WD.

Long weekend 5 to 7th Oct

This is the only opportunity for workers to participate in a 3 day week-end. Return 5pm Monday

Seagrass Watch training

Two days of training will be provided free. Only requirement is participants are required to have already participated with 1 sea grass monitoring event. This Sat and Sun workshop will be held at Manly office of QPWS. Register and details on the website www.seagrasswatch.org

Recreational Weekends at Blue Lag

Prefer not to or are unable to volunteer? You are welcome to come on any of the volunteer weekends. An excursion to the Cape is included.
Cost \$160 payable to MIPC.

Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

We do not have grants to help with volunteer costs so please make bookings at least a week in advance so we can optimize The Wrecks to Blue Lagoon transfers. Parking now costs \$12 per day so where possible we will try to arrange car pooling. Volunteer are asked to pay their own parking.

This season work will include; planting out at the Cape, weeding Mossman River grass, and collecting rubbish.

Trips for volunteers prepared to do 9 hours work will be free. For those opting for the 2 day option, there is a \$30 charge, but only 6 hours work is required. Only a couple of hours work a day is required for those staying extra days. Volunteers are required to pay MIPC \$15 for every hour not worked. Children are welcome but parents are asked to pay cover their costs when they are too young to work.

Membership form

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 No 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.

Ph: 3321 1463

mipc@moretonisland.org.au

PO Box 2182 Ashgrove West 4060

Name

Address.....

..... Post code

Email

Phone..... Mob

I consent my photo, taken during MIPC activities, and my name being published in the public domain

Signed _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Newsletters printed on recycled paper are mailed to members. If you prefer not to receive a newsletter in the mail please circle ~ DO NOT SEND NEWSLETTERS.