



MIPC e-bulletin

November, 2011

Email: mipc@moretonisland.org.au

Trip Report

Volunteer Weeding Weekend at North Point Campground

Friday 28 October–Sunday 30 October

Five MIPC members - myself, Linda, Steve, Pam and Nigel camped in the North Point camping ground close to the Goanna facilities. Linda and I travelled in our own vehicle and Alan Gennings provided transport from the barge for the others.

An initial weed inspection of the site showed a very encouraging decrease in the amount of Mossman River grass (MRG). This is due to the work of volunteers over 6 years and, more recently, the regular mowing by John Snip who is catching the clippings, thereby decreasing the spread of the seeds. MRG is a major problem around many of the campsites on the island, but the efforts at North Point have shown it can be contained given sufficient attention. Pam and Nigel spent a lot of time on this weed, laboriously digging it out by hand.

The other major weed is lantana and there were quite a lot of seedlings and larger plants; probably regrowth of incompletely killed bushes from previous visits, but it is well under control.

Cobblers' pegs, fleabane, Vinca (pink periwinkle) and other less invasive weeds were also tackled.

We encountered a number of clumps of Asparagus fern, which we sprayed with 50/50 glyphosate, this being the most effective, though labour intensive, method of control. In my view, having seen the devastation Asparagus fern has caused at Point Lookout on Stradbroke Island, it is a potentially dangerous weed, and vigilance is essential to make sure it doesn't get any real foothold at North Point.

On Sunday, Linda spent a couple of hours spraying dandelion and other broad-leaved weeds in the grass around the perimeters of the camping ground and re-vegetation beds.

Our thanks go to Moreton Island Ranger-in-Charge, Chris Hanlon, for facilitating the waiving of camping fees and our vehicle access fee.

Philip Squire

Coming Events

Nov 11-13 Weekend weeding at Blue Lagoon (ring Alan on 0428 783781).

This will be the last weeding weekend for the year. There will be more scheduled next year from March.



Waiting at the Wrecks for the tide to drop.

Nature Notes - October 28-30

EARLY summer is a beautiful time of year to be camping at Moreton with cool nights, warm days and the sea refreshing.

In flower now are the brush box, *Lophostemon confertus*, and profusions of the dainty bell flowers of the Blueberry Ash, *Elaeocarpis reticulatus*. I also came across a slender hyacinth orchid, *Dipodium variegatum*, in the bush beside the Boulder Bay track.

A notable bird sighting over the weekend was a pair of Sooty Oystercatchers flying past Boulder Beach from the direction of Honeymoon Bay. Over the years



Dipodium variegatum



Sooty Oystercatchers (Feb 2009)

I have regularly observed a pair in this area, which is encouraging, as they are less common than the Pied Oystercatcher, very shy, and prefer the rocky areas around the base of Cape Moreton to North Point.

As we were travelling back down the eastern beach to catch the Sunday afternoon barge we glimpsed a Pied Oystercatcher chick under the watchful eye of its parents high in the fore dunes. It was a reminder of their vulnerability at this time of year, as the adult birds become more aggressive towards intruders, including cars, when they are protecting their young, making them susceptible to being struck by vehicles travelling carelessly at speed. The chicks are all but invisible in the dunes, which makes it more imperative for cars not to drive at all in this area. My opinion is that these sensitive areas should be off limits to vehicular traffic during the breeding season, but these restrictions are unpopular and very hard to enforce. Why do we have National Parks, if not to give priority to protecting native birds and animals over the convenience of humans.

Linda Back

Cape Moreton Information Centre

WORK has started on the refurbishment of the Information Centre, for which QPWS has been allocated \$140,000. The old displays are being removed, along with some asbestos linings in the walls and ceilings. MIPC has been invited to submit information on its history and current activities to be included in the new setup. ■



Detritus from the Information Centre