



MIPC e-bulletin September, 2011

Email: mipc@moretonisland.org.au

This is intended to be the first of regular updates of what MIPC volunteers have been doing on the island and future events. Also, relevant articles might be sourced from other publications. *Members are welcome to contribute, so if you have any interesting items, please send it to the email address above.*

Coming Events

Volunteer Weeding Weekend at North Point Campground

Friday 28 October–Sunday 30 October

This weekend is part of MIPC's ongoing *Campground Weeding and Rubbish Removal Project* on which we have budgeted to spend \$21,000 over the next 3 years. It is offered to MIPC members and their children who are 12 and over - all participants will be expected to do minimum of 6 hours volunteer work over the three days.

MIPC will cover MICat barge passenger fares to the Island for volunteers, leaving on the Friday 8.30am barge, returning 4.30pm Sunday. Also, transport to and from the campground will be provided free of charge. There are a maximum of 10 places available, and participants will be camping at North Point campground for 2 nights. *Goanna Adventures* has made its campsite and facilities available to our members free of charge for the weekend. It is a beautiful flat grassy camping area, with a covered area of bench tables and seating, washing up sinks, food preparation benches and gas barbeque facilities. MIPC will provide gas and some basic cooking pots.

Participants need to bring their own tent, food and utensils, and pay for their parking at the MICat barge departure depot at Lytton. A full list of what is provided and what to bring will be sent to those who register for the weekend.

The work will be primarily hand pulling weeds in the campground and surrounding bush, and some rubbish removal. A work plan will be drawn up for the weekend and volunteers given training and instruction as to their duties.

This is a great opportunity for members who want to become involved in volunteer activities to learn more about the weeds, and the native flora of the island.

To find out more, or register for the trip, contact me,



Goanna Adventures facilities

Linda Back, at mipcvolunteers@moretonisland.au or leave a message on the MIPC phone (07) 3321 1463.

AGM

OUR AGM was held on Sunday 3 September, 2011 at the Royal Geographical Society rooms on Milton Road with 15 members attending. President, Alan Gennings gave some general remarks on the activities of MIPC over the last year, followed by reports from other members on specific projects. Christine Sanders gave a presentation on the feral pig survey that she and two other volunteers have been undertaking as part of a QPWS project since April 2010. They have been monitoring 22 sites on Moreton Island for pig tracks initially on a monthly basis and then bi-monthly in May, July, September and November this year, resulting in 392 volunteer hours being given over the whole project period which finishes at the end of 2011. She noted that whilst the data indicates a drop in the pig population over the duration of the baiting program, they observed an increase in the number of cat tracks.

Linda Back talked about the volunteer weeding activities undertaken by MIPC members in March this year at North Point campground, and in April at Blue Lagoon. Leonie Hegvold reported on the ongoing program of MIPC volunteers staffing the Cape Moreton Information Centre in busy holiday times. A draft concept plan of the planned upgrade of the Information Centre display has been received from QPWS and

MIPC requested acknowledgement of its place in the conservation history of Moreton Island be included in the new display. Work on the upgrade is expected to commence in October. Alan also reported on behalf of Merv Tyler that the North Point nursery is going well and plantings have occurred in the sandblow below the burial site on the Lighthouse track and along the road at Harpers. Nanette Kempel talked about MIPC volunteers involvement in Seagrass Watch.

The Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2011, with an Auditor's verification statement, were presented and approved by the meeting. Total members' funds of the organization is \$34,632.

2011/ 2012 Executive Committee

Alan Gennings – President,
Christine Sanders – Secretary,
Linda Back – Treasurer.

Committee members: **Marissa Grant, Leonie Hegvold, Nanette Kempel, Denis Maher, Pam Schindler and Helen Sutherland.**

Trip Reports

Weeding South Eastern beach area - Wednesday 7- Saturday 10 September.

Linda Back and I had a camping/weeding trip to Moreton for these 4 days. We took our own vehicle, and are grateful to Ranger-in-Charge, Chris Hanlon, for granting exemption from vehicle and camping fees for us as volunteer workers. Chris Dawe (2IC) recommended the Rous Battery (RB1) as a great site so we went there and weren't disappointed. However, as in most camping sites, the weeds are well established, there being some large clumps of prickly pear and the almost ubiquitous lantana, so these were our main targets. We cleared all the prickly pear and made a start on the lantana using the usual methods of digging out where possible and the cut/drill and glysohate on the bigger plants.

A trip down to the Little Sandhills showed the parking area to be in quite good condition but we cleared a small area of Mossman River grass which was about to seed and some lantana, fleabane etc.

In RB2, which was almost completely free of weeds, we found a plant unknown to us, so we sent it to the Qld Herbarium for identification. It was *Oenothera indecora* subsp. *bonariensis*, small flowered evening primrose, an introduced species and, as far as we know, a new weed on Moreton.

Philip Squire

Pig Survey - September 9-11

THE survey was conducted by Christine Sanders, Michael Rooke and Trish Cavanagh using a total of 33 volunteer hours.

The survey sites recorded pig tracks on Middle Road



The pig hunters looking for tracks

South and at the Mt Tempest Road feeding station. The area at the Mt Tempest feeding station was significantly disturbed.

Campers reported cat sightings on the beach at Tailor Bight and the team observed cat tracks in a number of places outside the survey sites areas and close to the Cape. We were able to survey the Mirrapool site (Site 22) on this occasion (usually tides and beach conditions do not permit access to the site).

Christine Sanders

MIPC weeding weekend, Blue Lagoon, 16-19 September

TEN volunteers (6 people Fri-Sun, 4 people Sat-Mon) had a wonderful weekend on Sept 16-19, weeding and enjoying being on the island. We dug out many bagfuls of Mossman River Grass, concentrating on the campsites south of Blue Lagoon, especially BLS 9-13. Our hosts were Michael (Fri-Sun) and Mark and Christine (Sun-Mon), all knowledgeable lovers of the island.



Spinifex

The Wedding Bush was in flower, as were many other heathland plants. The spinifex on the dunes was in flower and full of bees. There were birds everywhere including lots of rainbow bee-eaters; a curlew was nesting near the track to the beach. The new

ponds left by last year's big rains were full of calling frogs at night. Walking past the pond near Alan's tent, we surprised a tree snake, which leapt up into the branches. In the mornings, the sky and water were pink with smoke haze from mainland bushfires; this nearly blotted out Cape Moreton, but made it easy to see the black fins of dolphins, herding fish close to shore.

It was the first summer weather of the year, so we did lots of swimming too!

Pam Schindler