

Newsletter
**Moreton Island Protection
Committee Inc.**

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Tourist Operation Proposed for Cape Moreton

“Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service spokesman said the department had also received an application for a Cape Moreton Tourist operation.” P31 Courier Mail 23 March 2013. Changes to the Nature Conservation Act will enable the government to grant a 30 year lease, with a 30 year extension for Cape Moreton.

Government Ignores Moreton’s Management Plan

The government is ignoring the 2007 Moreton Island National Park Management Plan in making recent changes to use of vehicles on beaches.

Vehicle-free beaches at camp grounds removed.

‘..beach walking is popular. At present, there are limited opportunities for beach walking without disturbance from vehicles’ p27 Moreton Island Management Plan 2007. The management plan declared vehicle-free beaches in front of two campgrounds, North Point and Combyuro Point. Surveys of visitors established that there was strong support for these closures (see MIPC newsletter Vol 35 No2). Within weeks of being elected in 2012 these beaches were reopened to vehicles by Ministerial decree without consultation with those who supported the closure remaining.

Vehicle-free beach at Cowan under threat.

This beach was closed 24 years ago following concern for residents’ safety, and is now the only vehicle-free beach on Moreton! An article by the Courier Mail on March 16th, reports the *‘Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Acting Regional Executive Director, Neil Cambourn, said reopening the beach road was “currently under consideration”*. In the last 24 years traffic has markedly increased on the island. The cessation of the barge service to Bulwer has also significantly increased traffic between Bulwer and The Wrecks as Bulwer residents access the ferry at The Wrecks. The vehicle free status of this beach has

already been significantly eroded (a)Tangalooma rubbish truck have been given a permit to drive through this vehicle free beach if road conditions on the Cowan bypass are difficult. Trucks are restricted to only travelling below half tide but residents report this condition has not been adhered to. (b)Cowan residents report that increasing numbers of vehicles have been driving through the vehicle free beach. eg. Sunday 17th March, 3 vehicles travelled through the area at an estimated speed of 60 + km an hour on Sunday 17 March. The fine for driving on a vehicle free beach is \$350.

Tangalooma to start quad tours on beaches.

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. Brian Osborne is quoted in the Courier Mail *“We wouldn’t mind doing a little tour so people can take photos”* he said. *“We’ve got to do more with our parks. They occupy the best parts of our country.”* This section of beach has the least traffic and is especially enjoyed by campers as a low traffic beach. The roar created by a group of quads has to be experienced to fully appreciate how intrusive this activity will be.

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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.

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Management Plan

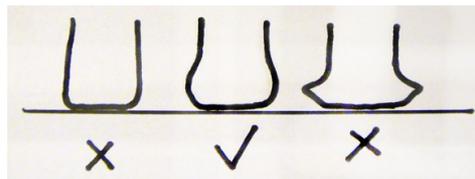
Ignored Cont. from p1

Once again this action by government is contrary to the Management Plan which states "*..continue to grant permission for use of quads, trikes and trail bikes to island landholders and resident only.*" (p27)

Why do the activities of a handful of tourists take precedence over other park visitors' enjoyment of an otherwise tranquil and pristine beach?

It is important that we all write to or email politicians. By joining MIPC you can remain informed and join us in campaigning to Care for Moreton.

Driving on Soft Sand



Optimum tyre pressure depends on your load. Lower the tyre pressure on the deck of the ferry until the sidewall has a nicely rounded bulge. If the bulge takes on a wedge shape you've gone too far. To achieve the same bulge for all tyre pressure, the front tyres are usually less than the rear.

Tyre pressure increases when driving on hot inland tracks so you may have to let more air out if you become bogged.

If bogged use your gauge to reduce pressure by the same amount in each tyre.

WARNING!!!! Having a nice bulge usually means the tyre pressure is below manufacturers specifications and so it is important travel slowly at all times and do not turn sharply at speed as this can result in tyres coming off rims.

Island News

The Summer 2012-2013 issue of Moreton Island National Park Island News has been published by National Parks and a copy is posted on the MIPC websites News Page.

Cape Info Centre Opens

The Cape information Centre re-opened at the end of last year. The display features the flora, fauna and history of Moreton Island. Also presented is information on how most of Moreton Island came to be a National Park. The display also highlights the contribution made by MIPC and other volunteers.

We thank NP&WS staff for efforts to put together a display which provides insight into not only the nature of Moreton, but also the community involvement in caring for Moreton.

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.

Note: If you did not receive an email in March from MIPC about the seagrass traing day then you are not on our email list. Please email us so we can add you to the list.

Donations to MIPC

MIPC welcomes donations. Tax deductible donations 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 notify us by email or phone of your payment.

Clean Up Australia Weekend

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd March

Despite rather inclement weather a keen group of volunteers landed on the island ready to collect rubbish from the beaches. Lead by Trish, we were Jacki, Paula, Beth, Judith and Lisa. As the tides had been extremely high and beach driving access was limited to either side of the low tide, with gloves and bags we started our pick-up on the eastern beach at Middle Track. Recent ex-cyclonic weather patterns had dramatically increased the amounts of plastic and other rubbish on the beaches so we quickly filled several rubbish bags before heading north, negotiating challenging rocky outcrops and sea water running up to the dunes. Lunch was a welcome event! We were later joined by Alan, Julie, Keith and Kai, Svetlana and Justen and over the course of the weekend collectively bagged 321kg of beach rubbish. Samples of rubbish were sorted for a national register of ocean debris.



Collecting rubbish in the rain

Among the more interesting 'finds' were 2 bottles with messages in them! One was thrown off the Pacific Sky ocean-liner in Feb 2003 by Peggy from South Aust who wrote her phone number and that she was having a wonderful time!



Messages in a bottle found during the cleanup.

Over the course of the cleanup weekend we also

managed to fit in 2 trips to the North Point nursery to weed and the planting-out of 230 plants at the Cape! The wet weather was perfect for planting!

Lisa Dowall



Casuarinas, Pandanus, Pig-face and Banksia were planted

This volunteer weekend was supported by grants from SEQ Catchments and Healthy Waterways.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Extreme Weather Erodes Beaches

Access to the southern end of Moreton's ocean beach is not possible even at low tide due to coffee rocks to the south of Middle track.



Rangers working at dusk to open access to campsites. Rangers will be busy before Easter repairing access from the beach to as many campsites as is practical.

MIPC to help Wild Mob Volunteers

Parks, with assistance from MIPC volunteers, are hosting up to 100 Wild Mob volunteers on April 20-21. MIPC volunteers will assist with leading work groups and with food preparation. MIPC volunteers have an option of coming on Friday or Saturday.

Whats on!!!!!! Ph33211463

- Mar 30** slide show at Blue Lagoon
Apr 7 Seagrass training session at Wynnum
Apr 19–21 Wild Mob/Volunteers at Blue Lagoon ##
Apr 26–28 Redland Bay Walkers at Blue Lag**
May 4-5 Moreton Experience Art Retreat ## ^^
May 10–12 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon ##
May 24–26 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon ##

Sat 8.30 depart Brisbane available

**MIPC members welcome / cost \$240

^^ \$160 Self-catered 2 day Art Retreat at Blue Lagoon

NB \$10 per day parking for all trips. Volunteers can submit their parking receipt to be reimbursed.

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 Friday

Return from The Wrecks departing 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.

Easter slide presentation

On Easter Saturday at 7pm MIPC will present a slide show featuring the nature of Moreton Island. It will be held in the Moreton Experience camp located in the CTO area to the south of the main Blue Lagoon campground entrance. All are welcome.

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 will be provided.
Cost \$160 payable to MIPC.

Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

This season work will include; planting out at the Cape, weeding Mossman River grass, and collecting rubbish. The planting of 1500 plants at the Cape has to be completed by 31st May.

Trips for volunteers prepared to do 9 hours work will be free. For those opting for the Saturday depart, 8 hours work is required. Volunteers are required to pay MIPC \$18 for every hour not worked. Children on volunteer week-ends are welcome. Parents are asked to pay MIPC \$9 per hour not worked to cover their costs.

Sea grass training day

The sea grass team invites new volunteers to train to become sea grass monitors. A training session will be held by SEA Grass Watch Co-ordinator, Debra Henry at 11.30am on 7th April at Wynnum. The training session will be before lunch, and the actual survey will be conducted after lunch. A foreshore lunch is provided so please advise Debra Henry, debra@oceanwatch.org.au or phone 0488 087 772 3286 6194 of your intention to attend. A great opportunity to refresh your technique and meet other Sea Grass volunteers. The site is opposite Pine Street Wynnum, opposite the Beachcombers Café. MIPC volunteers survey sea grass adjacent to the Big Sandhills 3 times a year. Tangalooma provides ferry fares and 4WD transport to the site. MIPC volunteers have been surveying the Wynnum site for many years which is where the training will take place.

Membership form

Annual fee \$10 Household \$15 Pens./Conc. \$5

Name

\$..... for years membership.

Address.....

\$..... as a tax deductible donation;

..... 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.

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

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