



Newsletter  
**Moreton Island Protection  
 Committee Inc.**

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# NATIVE TITLE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED



*Moreton Island Native Title Applicant and Ngugi Elder, Uncle Bob Anderson OAM, being congratulated by Quandamooka traditional dancer Joshua Walker on the decision of the Court (Photo: Dan Peled – AAP image, 27 November 2019)*

The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC), representing the Nunukul and Goenpul People of Minjerrabah (North Stradbroke Island), together with the Ngugi People of Mulgumpin (Moreton Island), were formally recognized as traditional land owners of the Island on 27 November 2019 in the Federal Court in Brisbane.

It was a bitter-sweet moment for lead applicant and Ngugi Elder, Uncle Bob Anderson OAM, as he reflected on history since colonization after his people’s occupation of their country for over 20,000 years.

Native Title, and with it recognition of the Quandamooka People’s rights, has been granted over the majority of the Island but has no impact on freehold land or Tangalooma Resort leasehold land. QYAC CEO Cameron Costello said the decision provides certainty over the Island after a lengthy legal process since 1995. In 2011 a similar agreement was reached for North Stradbroke Island.

Mr Costello maintained that a return to traditional fire management will prevent out-of-control fires which recently threatened townships and burnt out a large part of the Island.

## Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc.

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### Executive members

**President:** Alan Gennings  
0428 783781

**Secretary:** Pam Schindler

**Treasurer:** Peta Frampton

**Executive Committee:**

Helen Sutherland *minutes secretary*

Leonie Hegvold

Greg Curtis

Tom Vaughan

Diana Dawson

Joanne Easton

### 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 on Envirocare 80 gsm made from 100% recycled fibre waste.*

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*Editors: Alan Gennings, Greg Curtis, Joanne Easton*

## Native Title officially recognized (cont.)

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and the Quandamooka People will jointly manage the national park. There will be additional Quandamooka rangers and new opportunities for eco-tourism. A ranger base may be established in Koorringal due to its easy access to Stradbroke Island. World Heritage classification will be sought and the natural beauty of the Island preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Representatives of the residents' associations of Bulwer, Cowan and Koorringal, together with Moreton Island Protection Committee (MIPC) met with QYAC at their Wynnum office on Friday, 15 November, prior to the Court announcement. Outcomes were positive, with quarterly meetings proposed to assist in ongoing relationships. QYAC representatives and Senior Rangers Daniel Crouch and Darren Burns will be involved in the management of the Island. QYAC offered MIPC a visit to Minjerribah (Stradbroke) to witness results of traditional fire management practice. We look forward to this, and to a one-on-one meeting.

## New newsletter editors

At the AGM, Greg Curtis and Joanne Easton offered to edit the newsletters. We anticipate that newsletters will now be produced in a more timely manner. I thank all for the appreciation that has often been expressed for the quality of the newsletters I have compiled over the years. I take this opportunity to thank the many friends who have made significant contributions to the newsletters by assisting with editing.  
*Alan*

## Email list

The MIPC email list uses Google Groups. The list includes MIPC members, lapsed members, volunteers and anyone who would like to be informed about MIPC activities and Moreton Island news.

## Membership fees

Annual membership is now \$20. Concession membership is \$10.

Newsletters are mailed to members, with the currency of your membership noted on the address label.

Newsletters will not be sent to members who are more than 12 months in arrears with membership fees at time of printing.

If you do not wish to renew membership, we will keep you on our email list. Please email MIPC if you would like to be added to our email list.

## Tax-deductible donations

MIPC maintains its status as a tax-deductible organisation. Donations are used solely for conservation activities. Membership is not tax deductible. If your unable to attend volunteer events, make a-tax deductible donation to support our volunteers.

When making a tax-deductible donation please email mipc with your name and address for your receipt to be mailed.

## EFT Details

BSB: 633 000 (Bendigo Bank)

Account no: 141368456

Account name: Moreton Island Protection Committee

Reference: Note the purpose of the payment, especially if combining membership and a tax-deductible donation.

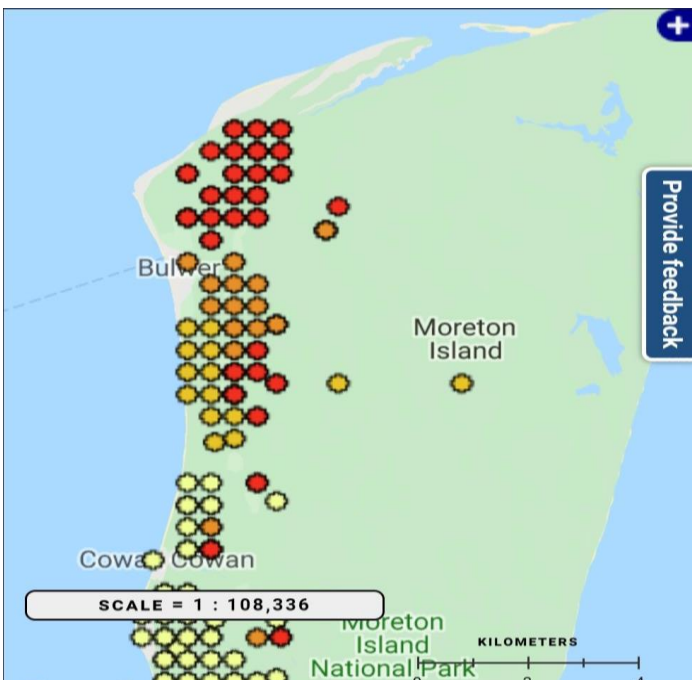
# MORETON ISLAND BURNS

## Cowan and Bulwer escape destruction



QPWS rangers' worst fears were realized when a dry lightning strike started destructive fires near Cowan on Saturday afternoon, 16 November. The inferno took hold in tinder-dry conditions at a time when a total fire ban was in place – a situation that is becoming the norm rather than the exception.

Police evacuated Cowan Cowan on Saturday evening. The fire spread rapidly, fanned by a fresh, short-lived south-east change, and burnt around Cowan towards Bulwer. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services



*Catastrophic! Bulwer evacuated - under siege at the height of the fire, Monday morning, 18 November. Firewatch Satellite observations from 0 to 72 hours.*

(QFES) warned that the fire could have a significant impact on the community. Campers were also evacuated.

The result could have been much worse, and the townships escaped a bullet. It continued to burn on a number of fronts throughout the national park, with the glow and wind gusts that flared the fire clearly visible at night from Caloundra up to a week later. It looked like the whole island was on fire.

By Sunday evening QFES announced conditions would get worse ahead of another south-east change. Police evacuated Bulwer. In thick smoke, with limited visibility and poor air quality, fire crews worked to strengthen containment lines around the township. Spot fires sprang up in every direction ahead of the fire front. By evening the fire was burning close to the southern and eastern boundaries of Bulwer.

At the height of the fire on Monday morning, water-bombing helicopters and planes proved invaluable in saving Bulwer. Spot fires were occurring within the town. An easterly wind change pushed the fire through to Comboyuro Campground and within metres of the northern part of Bulwer. By Monday evening the worst of the fire event had passed. People described it as “Armageddon” and “apocalyptic”.

The fire burnt from bayside to the ocean side, to the North of Middle Track, to the south of the Bulwer Blue Lagoon road, plus the surrounds of Bulwer and Combyuro Campground.

In times like these we owe our thanks to Rural Fire Brigade Volunteers, QFES, QPWS, QYAC, Queensland Police, Tangalooma Resort staff, Castaways for feeding the troops, State Emergency Service and all involved in protecting life and property. For their services we are grateful.



# “OVER HALF OF QUEENSLAND PANDANUS DEAD”

abc TV, 23 September 2019



Image courtesy of Point Lookout Boardriders

Coastal Pandanus – one of Queensland’s iconic plants – continues to be under threat of dieback from leaphopping insects, *Jamella australiae*, which are suspected to have spread from nursery plants sourced from North Queensland.

land.

Extensive detail on this issue appeared in MIPC Newsletter Vol. 39 No. 1, Jan–Jun 2017 ([www.moretonIsland.org.au](http://www.moretonIsland.org.au)).

In south-east Queensland, losses are over 50%, and it is estimated that over 80% of Pandanus trees have died in the Agnes Water/1770 region. Calls have been made for the Queensland Government to step in. Pandanus and its uses have historical and cultural significance for indigenous communities and were admired by Captain Cook and botanist Sir Joseph Banks in 1770. Death of Pandanus results in increased beach erosion and exposes trees and vegetation protected by Pandanus to the elements.

With such rapid decline in the Pandanus population, closer monitoring needs to be undertaken. MIPC will continue their replanting program, with Pandanus seeds sourced by QPWS and MIPC on the Island and sprouted and grown in their North Point nursery.

## CANE TOAD FOUND AT THE WRECKS

Resident cane-toad-detection dog Reggie and handler Trevor Hassard found a toad at the northern shower at The Wrecks on 12 November. In the preceding days wood chips had been delivered to the beach via the deck of a Parks-chartered barge. The MICat also lands here, so it is not possible to establish the toad’s most likely means of entry to the Island. A big thankyou to Trevor, who continues to work regularly with Reggie.

Two toads were also found by campers at The Wrecks shower in the summer of 2009/10.

## MIPC VOLUNTEERING IN 2019

### Weeding

In 2019 weeding continued, particularly for Mossman River Grass (MRG), in ocean beach campsites north of Middle Road. After many years of repeat weeding, it appears MRG has been significantly reduced, and in some areas there is no evidence of MRG at all.

We targeted North Point this year: the access track from the beach to the campground; North Point campground; the MIPC nursery site; and the beach side of the walking track to North Point/Honeymoon Bay. Asparagus Fern, Lantana, Passionfruit Vine, Prickly Pear, Cassia, Nightshade and Cobbler’s Peg were the main invasive weeds removed. Follow-up weeding and rubbish collection will continue.

Around Bulwer, Cowan Airstrip and the Cape, Griffith University Environmental Science students, under Dr. Peter Davey, maintained their contribution in 2019.

### Cape Information Centre

Hazel Parkin and two assistants staffed the information centre from Fri 12 to Sunday 14 July. Visitors – especially Tangalooma groups – appreciated finding the information centre was staffed. Most of the questions were about the specimens in bottles – yes, old-fashioned displays of specimens still fascinate, despite their absence from many museums.

Information Centre visitors, July 2019 (estimated):

Date	No. visitors	Times
Fri 12 July	50	11.00 am – 3.00 pm
Sat 13 July	60	9.00 am – 1.25 pm
Sun 14 July	36	9.00 am – 3.00 pm

## Revegetation

Eroded and damaged areas of the Cape caused by fire and human interference, as well as goats prior to their removal in the late 1990s, are being transformed due to MIPC revegetation efforts. Replanting of mostly Casuarinas, Banksias, Pandanus, Tuckeroo and Pig Face from Island stock are stopping further erosion and helping return the Cape to its past glory. It has reached the stage where planted vegetation is self-seeding and regrowing.

The revegetated locations include:

- Harpers/Cape Cliff
- Big Gully
- Lighthouse carpark
- below the lighthouse graves
- “Casuarina Grove”
- North Pt/Honeymoon Bay Track
- North Point campground.



*Big Gully, 2014 – Volunteers from Doctors for the Environment and MIPC have significantly revegetated this area in five years.*

## Plantings at Cape carpark

	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Banksia integrifolia	Ground cover	Total
2016	120	40			160

## Total plantings at The Big Gully plus

2019 nil	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Other	Totals
2018	54		58	112
2017	66			66
2016	29	100	148	277
2015	230	134	192	556
2014	487	28	74	589
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>1600</b>

## Plantings at Casuarina Grove

2019	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Gound cover	Total
29 Mar	41				41
2018	124				124
2017	37				37
2016	105	14	55		174
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>55</b>		<b>376</b>

## Plantings at North Point

2019	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Banksia integrifolia	Tuckeroo	Totals
1 Mar	57	10		8	75
29 Mar		40			40
1 2 May				25	25
2018	329	39	1	4	373
2017	167		25	10	202
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>715</b>

## Park volunteers hours July to December 2019

2019	No. persons	Weeding	Rubbish	Propaga-tion	Total hours
23 – 25 Aug	15	93	14	31	138
6 – 8 Sept	15	125	1	11	137
22 – 22 Sept	19	112	3	45	160
17 – 20 Oct	23	143	28	26	197
6 – 8 Dec	7	33	4	3	40
Jul to Dec	79	506	50	116	672
Jan to Jun 19	45	171	86	207	464
<b>2019 totals</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>1136</b>
<i>2018 totals</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>405</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>426</i>	<i>909</i>
<i>2017 totals</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>750</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>788</i>	<i>1304</i>
<i>2016 totals</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>429</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>491</i>	<i>1041</i>
<i>2015 totals</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>507</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>646</i>	<i>1153</i>
<i>2014 totals</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>277</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>635</i>	<i>1041</i>

# Whats on ... !!!!!

17–22 Dec 2019: Cane toad detection dog working

## Volunteer weekends Jan–June 2020

28 Feb–1 Mar: “Clean up Australia Day” event

27–29 Mar: Blue Lagoon

8–10 May: Blue Lagoon

**\*\*Please book at least 1 week in advance\*\***

### Volunteer activities

In 2020, work will include planting at the Cape, propagation at North Point Nursery, weeding of invasive weeds (incl. Asparagus Fern, Prickly Pear and Mossman River Grass), and rubbish collection.

### Volunteer contact and bookings

Alan 0428783781 (text only please) *or email:*

**alan@moretonexperience.com**

or call MIPC's answering service: 3321 1463.

### Departure and return

**Depart: Friday 8.30am** from the MICAT Terminal, 14 Howard Smith Drive, Port of Brisbane.

Please **arrive by 7.40am** for orderly loading of luggage.

**Saturday 8.30am:** On some weekends a Saturday departure can be offered. Please nominate at least two weeks in advance so we can confirm availability of a vehicle for your transfer to Blue Lagoon.

**Return: Sunday, leaving the Island at 3.30 pm (or 6.30 pm in peak season)**

### Parking

MICAT charges \$15 per day for parking. Limited on-street car parking is recommended – be early!

### You will need ...

sleeping bag, food, plates, mug, cutlery and esky. A camp kitchen and tents with stretchers are provided.

### Fees for volunteers

Volunteers attending for 3-day trips are required to pay \$60 as a contribution towards ferry fares and 4WD costs. Additional trips within 6 months are free. Minimum of 9 hours' work expected.

Volunteers for 2-day trips are required to pay a fee of \$80. Additional Saturday trips within 6 months cost \$40. Volunteers attending for only 2 days pay a higher fee because they can only complete 6 hours' work and require a 90-minute 4WD trip to collect them from the ferry.

### Recreational weekends at Blue Lagoon

Unable to volunteer, or prefer not to? You are nevertheless welcome to come on a volunteer weekend. A trip to the Cape is included. Cost of the weekend: \$180.

### Too busy to volunteer?

A tax-deductible donation to support volunteers is great way to contribute. See page 2.

## Membership form

Name .....	<b>Annual fee \$20    Pens./Conc. \$10</b>
Address.....	\$..... for ..... years membership.
..... Post code .....	\$..... as a tax-deductible donation.
Email .....	<b>Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.</b>
Phone..... Mob .....	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 <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> .
<i>I consent to my photo, taken during MIPC activities, and my name being published in the public domain (cross out if you do not wish photo of you to be published)</i>	<b>Please circle method of payment:</b>
Signed .....	EFT transfer    cheque    money order    cash
Date ____ / ____ / ____	<b>BSB 633 000 Bendigo Bank Acct # 141368456</b>
	<b>Acct Name</b> Moreton Island Protection Committee.
	Please enter your name in the EFT reference box.
	Please report EFT payments by email or mail.
	<b>Ph: 07 3321 1463</b> (answering service only)
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