



Newsletter
Moreton Island Protection
Committee Inc.

PO Box 2182
Ashgrove West QLD 4060

Phone 07 3321 1463

mipc@moretonisland.org.au

PRINT
POST

PP414772/00002

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Volume 38 No 2 Jul - Dec 2016

Cape Carpark plantings to reduce future fuel loads



Doctors for the Environment Australia volunteers removing wattles at the Cape car park. 15th Oct 2016

In 2015 a control burn was conducted to reduce the large quantities of dead acacia. The burn resulted in a loss of shade in the car park as well as revealing the car park in the spectacular views from the Cape. After consultation with Parks, Doctors for the Environment Australia volunteers removed the dominant acacia regrowth. They were replaced with 110 *Casuarina equisetolia*, 40 Pandanus and pigface. This species change will reduce fuel loads in the future. The plantings depended on hand watering till the end of the year. Only 60 mls of rain fell between 15th Oct and 31st

Dec. (Brisbane City received 144mls). A big thank-you to Tricia Bull who was able to take over the watering from early December.

The removal of the wattles will provide an opportunity for a diversity of natives and weeds to flourish. Followup weeding is a priority.

It is anticipated that the planted community will not need control burns to reduce fire risk, thus establishing permanent shade and screening of the car park.

See page 3 – Cape carpark - an alternative view

Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc.

PO Box 2182
Ashgrove West 4060
mipc@moretonisland.org.au
(07) 3321 1463
www.moretonisland.org.au

Executive Members

President: Alan Gennings
0428 783781
Secretary: Pam Schindler
Treasurer: Peta Frampton
Executive Committee:
Helen Sutherland *minutes secretary*
Annette Allen
Leonie Hegvold
Greg Curtis
Janet Dovers

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.

Edited by Alan Gennings

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

Printed by Graphic Skills Pty Ltd

Printed July 2018

Editor Alan Gennings

Sustainable Visitor Visitor Capacity Study

A Sustainable Visitor Capacity Study (SVC) was completed by Parks in July 2016 as part of the implementation of the Queensland Eco and Sustainable Tourism (QUEST) on Moreton Island.

The SVC detailed the sustainable capacity for visitor sites eg. Blue Lagoon, Cape Moreton, North Point The Desert.

Sustainable capacities were determined without any reference to biological criteria. The document was compiled without consultation with any stakeholders, Commercial Tour Operators (CTO), resident or conservation groups. The reason given for not consulting was that stakeholders would be biased. The SVC study was only made available to CTO's after several months of lobbying. The SVC is still not publicly available, so MIPC cannot make it publicly available.

QuEST seeks to reduce CTO's permitted annual capacity to the their actual annual capacity plus 10% for growth. Sites identified as having current visitation below sustainable capacity would be made available to new CTO's.

eg. The SVC recommended 24,000 CTO visitors p.a. to Blue Lagoon, about 4 times the estimated current CTO visitor numbers, of 6,600.

Blue Lagoon is an enclosed fresh water body whose biology is fragile; is home to the Oxlean Pygmy perch listed by Qld as vulnerable and Federally as endangered.

Current numbers of CTO patrons at The Wrecks are above the SVC recommendations, so any increases in guided tourists to Moreton will have to be driven to areas remote from the ferry landing. It is environmentally unsound to make CTO's to drive tourists to remote areas rather than just walking off the Ferry where they can snorkel.

The SVC highlighted Yellow Patch as having significant potential for CTO bird watching tours. The impact of Parks directing increased CTO activity to these remote areas on the environment was not considered.

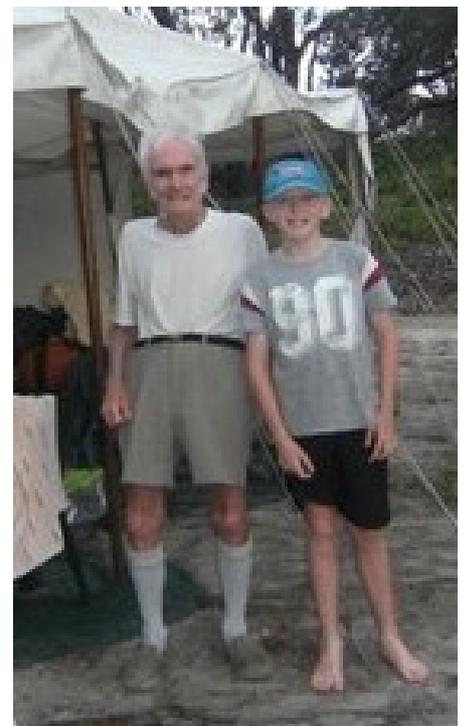
The new permits also place onerous conditions on overnight camps. Complying with these conditions will make school camps un-affordable. Approximately 90% of overnight CTO stays are by schools.

Initially the department refused to consult with CTO's as a group but intervention by the member for Murrumba Chris Whiting resulted in a CTO meeting with the department in December. MIPC has written to the Minister alerting him to our concerns.

Alan Gennings

Disclosure

Alan is a Commercial Tourist Operator on Moreton Island. MIPC volunteers utilize Alans CTO camp.



*Oldest and Youngest Volunteers
Dennis Maher 85 years and Hunter
Gifford 11 years at Blue Lagoon.*

Meeting with RIC

On the 6th March 5 2016 members met with Ranger in Charge Moreton Island at the information Centre at the Cape.

Topics discussed included

- Lack of signage at the entrances to Blue Lagoon advising not to use soaps and detergents in lakes
- Visitors continue to fish in the Green Zone between spitfire Creek and the Cape. Signage marking the zone is unreadable when driving the Ocean beach
- Concern was expressed at lack of resources available for weed control – especially Praxelis clemematidea, Singapore daisy and Prickly pear
- Concern was expressed at the resurgence of feral pigs.
- Moreton Updates, a regular newsletter prepared by rangers which reported on Parks works and wildlife observations has been discontinued. We expressed concern at this loss of an important information source for residents, visitors and lobby groups.
- Members have reported seeing domestic dogs at various places within the Park several times.
- Concern was expressed at the burning of the Casuarina equistifolia zone during the control burn at the Cape.
- We reported that many campsites are suffering severe degradation due to multiple fire pits and unnecessary vehicle traffic.
- RIC indicated continued support with transport for volunteers to staff the Cape Information Centre.

Terry made it clear that he always happy to consider any concerns we have.

Cape Carpark work - an alternative view

We would like to express our concerns about the 'revegetation work' which has been recently carried out in the area adjacent to the Cape Moreton car park, whereby a flourishing stand of over 100 naturally regenerated native Coastal Wattles (Acacia Sophorae) has been pulled out and replaced with Casuarina seedlings. We had spent many hours in the area over subsequent trips removing emerging weeds, mainly Vinca and Stinking Passion Vine. We were very pleased at the rate of regeneration of native plant species (Midgen, Brushbox and especially the Wattles) which were helping to create cover and stifle weeds. It was very disappointing to see the area again disturbed, native plants destroyed and weed specimens left.

Extract of email from Parks volunteers, Linda Back, Philip Squire, Colleen Farrell & Stephen O'Halloran,

Plantings at The Big Gully 2016

2016	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Gound cover	Total
29 Apr- 2 M	24	10			34
6 May	5	72	5	1	83
19 Aug-		18		52	70
10 Sep				90	90
Total 2016	29	100	5	143	277

Total Plantings at The Big Gully

2016	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Other	Total
Total 2016	29	100	148	277
Total 2015		230	134	556
Total 2014		487	28	589
Total to date	746	262	414	1422

Plantings at Casuarina Grove

2016	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Gound cover	Total
29 Apr	80	14	15		109
10 Sept	5		10		15
15 Oct	20		30		50
Total	105	14	55		174

Plantings at Cape carpark

2016	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Gound cover	Total
10 Sept	10				10
15 Oct	110	40			150
Total	120	40			160

A big thanks to Doctors for the Environment volunteers who paid their own MICat fares. Thanks to MICat for making discounted fares available.

Volunteers Hours 2016 .

	No persons	Weeding hours	Rubbish hours	Propagation hours	Total hours
8- 11 Sep	9	49		55	104
15-16 Oct	22	105		33	138
11-13 Nov	8	16		42	58
18-20 Nov	8	7		36	43
21Nov-13Dec	2	23		19	42
1-4 Dec Bul	5	45			45
Jul - Dec 16	52	245		185	430
Jan - Jun 16	78	184	121	306	611
2016 totals	130	429	121	491	1041
2015 totals	118	507	0	646	1153
2014 totals	101	277	28	635	1041

Whats on ... !!

Mar 10-12 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Mar 17-19 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon
#NB# late return from Moreton 6pm.

Mar 17-19 Volunteers at Bulwer – Focus on Asparagus fern weeding. BYO camping at Combyuro or a charge for hut accommodation. Bulwer volunteers self fund MICat fare at \$42

Mar 31-2 Apr Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Apr 21-23 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon.

May 5-6 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

May 19-21 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Volunteers report July to Dec 2016

Eighty eight volunteer hours of Mossman River Grass weeding of the campsites along the Ocean beach north of Eagers creek was completed. Control is being achieved with much less effort than the over 250 hours required for the last 6 months of 2014. This is fortunate as the average age of the weeders continues to increase. We are very close to achieving our goal of weeding all plants from all sites before they seed. Experienced MRG weeders are invaluable as they have a better eye for spotting isolated pre-seeding plants.

The exotic so called native passion fruit has also been given some attention with some trial areas weeded between the Moreton Experience campsite and

Work continued along the track to the Cape beaches, and is referred to as Casuarina grove. Following the “control burn” by parks all the mature Casuarinas have died with little prospect of germination of a new generation Casuarinas due to the thick grass cover. 250 metres of pipe was laid to enable watering from the vehicle access point to the plantings.

Seagrass report 2016

MIPC has completed 15 years of continuous Seagrass Surveys at our site near the Big Sandhills on the western shore of Moreton Island. Our participation continues to be made possible by the sponsorship of Tangalooma Resort who provide transport to and on the Island.

Three surveys were conducted as scheduled over the year using the new techniques which included GPS location and photographs of 33 sections along the three transects and written reports on the conditions of each of these locations, including seagrass coverage, species and condition and occurrence of other flora and fauna. It was noted that the algal and epiphyte cover on the seagrass has increased and is showing less seasonal variation, probably attributable to the reported increased water temperatures. The sandflats are still a rich and varied habitat with each survey bringing new creatures and phenomena to delight and intrigue volunteers.

Janet Dovers

Cane toad control

Professor Capon from the University of Queensland Institute for Molecular BioSciences has discovered a pheromone produced by adult cane toads is effective as a bait for tadpole traps. Tadpoles seek out younger tadpole clutches to eat by using a pheromone produced by tadpoles to locate other clutches of cane toad tadpoles. Work commenced in 2006 with 2 years funding for a scoping study looking at Cane Toad Chemical ecology. This pheromone is also produced by adults and is located in the poison glands which can be harvested from adults and also used to bait tadpole traps. The Brisbane City has an active project of trapping tadpoles in Brisbane. *Source:*
<http://www.uq.edu.au/research/impact/stories/an-ugly-menace/>

Membership form

<p>Name</p> <p>Address.....</p> <p>..... Post code</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Phone..... Mob</p> <p><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></p> <p>Signed _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____</p>	<p>Annual fee \$10 Household \$15 Pens./Conc. \$5</p> <p>\$..... for years membership.</p> <p>\$..... as a tax deductible donation;</p> <p>Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.</p> <p>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></p> <p>Pay by cheque, money order or EFT transfer:</p> <p>BSB 633 000 Bendigo Bank Acct # 141368456</p> <p>Acct Name Moreton Island Protection Committee.</p> <p>PLEASE enter your name in the EFT reference box.</p> <p>PLEASE report EFT payment by mail, email or phone.</p> <p>Ph: 3321 1463</p> <p>mipc@moretonisland.org.au</p> <p>PO Box 2182 Ashgrove West 4060</p>
---	--