



Newsletter
Moreton Island Protection
Committee Inc.

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Controlled burn destroys Casuarina grove



Casuarina equisetifolia at the Cape killed by the controlled burn in 2015. Photo 19th Sept 2017

As a result of the controlled burn in 2015 *Casuarina equisetifolia* (horse tailed she oaks) were killed.

Parks fire management prescribes *Casuarina equisetifolia* plant community are not to be burnt. The reason for not burning *C. equisetifolia* communities is demonstrated here where the *Casuarina* community shows no sign of recovering.

Following the fire grasses quickly established preventing re-establishment of the *C. equisetifolia*

community. The drier than average annual rainfall prevented successful germination of seeds.

Evidence of another control burn destroying *C. equisetifolia* community is seen on the Ocean entrance to Middle track. Here some of the biggest *C. equisetifolia* on the Island were killed by a control burn. MIPC is planting at Casuarina grove to assist the re-establishment of the *C. equisetifolia* community.

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Treasurer: Peta Frampton

Executive Committee:

Helen Sutherland *minutes secretary*

Annette Allen

Leonie Hegveld

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, Peta Frampton

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Editor Alan Gennings

Sea grass Survey

presented to AGM, 4th Nov 2017

Three surveys were conducted as scheduled but unfortunately tide and time and cyclones were against us this year – the Moreton site is always tricky in that it is often hard to get a lowish low tide in the middle of the day in the seagrass survey periods and on a weekend when more volunteers may be available. King tides predicting a high low tide and heavy seas pushed up by a cyclone had our site covered and unreachable in March but we were able to do some sample transits observations closer to shore that showed fairly healthy looking seagrass and no evidence of the *lyngbya* we had seen at the last survey. In August freak westerly gales pushed up a surf on the site on the day we went (having been perfect for the previous week) and so again we could only do observations and photos of what would could reach. Again the seagrass looked fairly healthy. After so many years of surveys it was disappointing to have this happen and too difficult to find volunteers to come again on a suitable date despite Tangalooma Resort's generous offer to support a second attempt.

The western side has had a massive sand build up this year which may affect the site and the water levels although like all coastal environments this could change quickly. More dead turtles have been observed in the last 12 months with one clearly drowned from entanglement with crab pot rope. We need more volunteers and especially to know who might be available for a mid week if the tides are best then and when it is easier for Tangalooma to provide staff to drive us to the site.

Janet Dovers

Bulwer Weed Busting

In December 2016, a weedbuster weekend was held from Thursday the 1st to Monday the 4th, involving five volunteers from Griffith University. The area treated was the public land lots surrounding the Castaways Resort. A total of 81 bags of juvenile and adult specimens of Asparagus Fern were removed, plus 1 bag of juvenile and adult specimens of Prickly Pear, plus 1 bag of adult specimens of Blackberry Nightshade were removed.

In March 2017, a 2nd weedbuster weekend was held from Friday the 17th to Sunday the 19th, with Greg Curtis and Peter Davey expertly guiding 62 volunteers, 42 from Griffith University, and 20 from University of Queensland. The area treated was the public land lots in front of the 'glamping' huts. A total of 453 Cleanup Australia bags of juvenile and adult specimens of Asparagus Fern, 12 bags of adult specimens of Mossman River Grass, 1 bag of juvenile and adult specimens of Prickly Pear, and 1 bag of juvenile and adult specimens of Blackberry Nightshade were removed. A total of 22 vehicle trips from the treatment site to the Green Dump were made, at a total distance of 30.16 kilometres travelled.

The survey of the foreshore weeds counted 555 specimens of Asparagus Fern, 102 juvenile and 453 adult. There were also 78 specimens of Prickly Pear counted along the foreshore, 22 juvenile and 56 adult. The survey of the Cowan Airstrip counted 89 juvenile specimens of Prickly Pear within 2 transects (each one was 60m x 10m). The team then removed all the Prickly Pear within the 2 transects, collecting a total of 3 bags.

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Bulwer Weed Busting cont from page 2

The team then removed 27 bags of Asparagus Fern and Mossman River Grass, 25 bags of Prickly Pear, and 1 bag of Mother of Millions from the crown reserve surrounding the Castaways Resort Complex. The team also removed 2 bags of general rubbish plus approximately 1 tonne of building waste from this area. 25 bags of weeds were also removed from private property, including Blackberry Nightshade, Cobbler's Pegs, and Singapore Daisy. This trip removed a total of 17 bags of litter, 1 tonne of hard waste, and 81 bags of weeds.

In July 2017, a 4th weedbuster weekend was held from Friday the 14th to Sunday the 16th, with 5 volunteers from Griffith University, once again organized by Greg Curtis and Peter Davey. The team removed 12 bags of Asparagus Fern from the crown reserve surrounding the Castaways Resort Complex. This also included a survey count of the regrowth after 6 months in the sites previously treated. The survey counted regrowth of 810 specimens of Asparagus Fern, 724 juvenile and 86 adult. 110 specimens of Blackberry Nightshade regrowth were counted, 70 juvenile and 40 adult. 10 juvenile regrowth specimens of Mother of Millions, plus 5 regrowth specimens of Prickly Pear were also counted.

Paul Brien,

Post Graduate Student Griffith University

MIPC Thanks Griffith University, Alan Gennings and Greg Curtis for providing transport for volunteers.



Griffith University students being instructed how to identify the weeds to be targeted. 19th Sept 2017

Total Plantings at The Big Gully plus

2017	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Other	Total
20-22 Oct	66			33
Total 2016	29	100	148	277
Total 2015	230	134	192	556
Total 2014	487	28	74	589
Total to date	812	262	414	1488

Plantings at Casuarina Grove

2017	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Gound cover	Total
19-21 May	15				15
17-19 Sep	10				10
20-22 Oct	12				12
2016	105	14	55		174
Total to date	137	14	55		211

Pantings at Cape carpark

2017(nil)	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Gound cover	Total
2016	120	40			

Plantings at North Point

2017	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Tuckero o	Total
Jan - Jun	113		25	5	143
17 Sept	33			5	38
21 Sept	21				21
Total	167		25	10	202

Volunteers Hours Jul to Dec 2017

	No persons	Weeding hours	Rubbish hours	Propagation hours	Total hours
14-16 Jul Bul	7	54			54
1-3 Sep	8	16	6	54	76
15-17 Sep	26	49		168	217
20-22 Oct	13	62		79	141
Jul-Dec 2017	54	181	6	301	488
Jan-Jun 2017	95	569	95	153	816
2014 totals	101	277	28	635	1041
2015 totals	118	507	0	646	1153
2016 totals	130	429	121	491	1041
2017 totals	149	750	101	788	1304

Whats on ... !!!!

Feb 23 - 25 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon,

Mar 9 - 11 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon.

Mar 23 - 25 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Apr 20 - 22 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

May 11 - 13 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Volunteer nominations

****PLEASE BOOK AT LEAST 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE****

Alan 0428783781 (text only please) *or*

email alan@moretonexperience.com *or*

call MIPC's answering service on 33211463

NB for the two day option – min of 3 volunteers

DEPART from 14 Howard Smith Drive, Port of Bris.

Friday 8.30 am Arrive by 8am for orderly loading of luggage.

For the Feb and Mar trips your luggage will travel on the deck of the MICat.

For the April and May trips your luggage will be loaded into a vehicle at the back of the Caltex in Howard Smith Drive.

Sat 8.30 am – min 3 required. Your luggage will travel on the deck of the MICat

At the MIPC ticket office do not pay for your MICat fare as your fare is to be paid by account.

Parking MICAT charges \$15 per day for parking.

Car parking on the street is recommended. Do NOT park where there are yellow lines.

If parking on the street, it is OK to drive in to drop your luggage and then park on the street. Street park past the MICat terminal as for all return trips your luggage can travel in a vehicle and the vehicle will turn right into Howard Smith Drive to unload.

RETURN departure from The Wrecks 4.30pm Sunday.

BYO sleeping bag, food, plates, mug, cutlery and esky. Camp kitchen and tents with stretchers provided.

Volunteer work at Blue Lagoon

This season work will include planting out at the Cape, propagation at the North Point nursery; weeding Prickly Pear & Mossman River Grass and rubbish.

This season's work will be funded by by volunteers and MIPC.

Too busy to volunteer? - a tax deductible donation to support volunteers is great way to contribute.

Volunteer Costs \$50 annual contribution

Volunteers are required to pay \$50 as a contribution towards ferry fares for the year. The one off contribution is required when nominating for the first trip. Volunteers will then be able to volunteer for the following 12 month at no extra cost.

Volunteers attending for 3 days will work 9 hours.

Volunteers attending for 2 days are required to pay an additional \$45 each week-end to cover the cost of the transfer from the MICat to Blue Lagoon. It is only possible to provide transport to 6 hours of work over the two days.

Volunteers can choose to work less hours but are required to pay an extra \$15 for every hour not worked.

Recreational Weekends at Blue Lag

Prefer not to volunteer? You are welcome to come on a volunteer weekend. A trip to the Cape is included. Cost \$180 - payable to MIPC.

Membership form

Name

Address.....

..... Post code

Email

Phone..... Mob

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)

Signed _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

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

\$..... for years membership.

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

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*

Circle method of payment;

EFT transfer cheque money order cash

BSB 633 000 Bendigo Bank Acct # 141368456

Acct Name Moreton Island Protection Committee.

Please enter your name in the EFT reference box.

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