



Newsletter
**Moreton Island Protection
 Committee Inc.**

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Joint Management at the Cape

To mitigate against the high fire risk of the wattle dominated communities to buildings at the Cape, QYAC rangers developed and submitted plans to mechanically remove wattles from the perimeter of the Cape precinct. This plan is a first step in preventing the continuation of the dominance of high

fire risk wattle communities close to buildings. Reducing fuel load with hot burns encourages reestablishment of plant communities with high fuel loads. Limited mechanical fire risk mitigation was undertaken prior to the 2015 control burn. See photo in Newsletter Volume 37 No 1 Jan – Dec 2015 Page 4.



High fire risk wattle cleared as a fire break . Photo 9th Nov 2020

Following the control burn to protect buildings in 2015 at the Cape, the wattles which had dominated around the car park quickly reestablished. (wattle seeds are triggered to germinate by fire).

In October 2016, Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) volunteers removed a small area of the wattle regrowth and replaced with plantings of species with a lower fire risk. Aim was to avoid hot control burns resulting when wattles dominate.



October 2016, Volunteers removed wattles, and replanted. Photo Nov 2020

QYAC rangers in late 2020, mechanically cleared the wattles. (top photo), starting the process of preventing the re-establishment of wattles.

MIPC volunteers have continued to suppress weeds in the the small area DEA & MIPC volunteers planted. (bottom photo.) Volunteers were heartened their plantings were retained, and continue to screen the car park from Cape views..

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Helen Sutherland *minutes secretary*

Leonie Hegvold

Tom Vaughan

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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Volunteers 2020

During the first half of the year the lock down prevented our usual volunteer weekends. The MICat operated just once a week so any visit required a weeks stay. The need to visit to maintain the camp enabled access to keep up the Mossman River Grass weeding and maintain the nursery.

In the second half of the year the volunteer program was able to resume with much enthusiasm. Lack of rain restricted planting from the nursery.

Additional effort has been applied to exotic passion fruit. Vines are over whelming trees in the secondary dune zone. Crows eat the fruits and when scavenging from campsites seeds are deposited around campsites. The sheer quantity of seeds will likely result in the exotic passion fruit establishing inland as crows cross the Island.

Brisbane City Council continues to support with funding MIPC volunteers assisting with decreasing the risk of toads establishing on Moreton. Eg collecting toads from MICat terminal on the mainland



Twenty one toads collected from MICat terminal on the mainland on 21st Jan 2020

Toad findings increase

The finding of cane toads brought on to "Cane toad Free" Mulgumpin are becoming more frequent. See page 3 for Koorinal toad find on the 12th December. On 17th May 2020 a toad was found in the vicinity of landscaping materials at Bulwer.

Landholders and contractors need to thoroughly check construction and landscaping materials when brought to the Island. Toad traps need to be deployed at building and landscaping sites. Residents can help by regularly searching at night around townships.

MIPC Email list

The MIPC email list uses Google Groups. Inclusion on this list is available to all at no cost. Email MIPC to add or update your email address.

Membership fees

Annual membership is now \$20. Concession membership is \$10. Newsletters are mailed to members, with the expiry 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.

EFT Details

BSB: 633 000 (Bendigo Bank)
Account no: 141368456
Account name: Moreton Island Protection Committee
Reference: Please note the purpose of the payment.

Donations to MIPC

MIPC welcomes tax deductible donations which can only be used for conservation activities e.g. funding transport for volunteers and public education programmes

NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION (INDIGENOUS JOINT MANAGEMENT – MORETON ISLAND) AMENDMENT BILL 2020

At the time of writing, submissions had been called for this Bill. Native Title was granted to Quandamooka Yoolooburree Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) for Moreton Island (Mulgumpin) in November, 2019. The Bill is part of negotiations with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), the State Government and QYAC for joint management of the Island.

State Land on Mulgumpin has been transferred to QYAC under Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs). An Indigenous Management Plan (IMA) has been prepared but is confidential. The Bill will grant freehold land to QYAC. With plans for Joint Management not being made public, there are concerns on future intent and restricted access of some areas. Moreton Island Protection Committee (MIPC) has made submission to the Amendment Bill summarised as follows:-

- Mulgumpin is a priceless natural environment and protected National Park. New QPWS/QYAC Joint Management arrangements should ensure that nature conservation remains the “cardinal principle” of management of the Island.
- ILUAs and the IMA are confidential between QPWS and QYAC. They are unavailable to the public, and are hidden even from the Parliamentary committee advising the Government on legislation of the Bill. This secrecy is inappropriate to the management of National Parks.
- Without knowing the purpose of the ILUAs and the content of the IMA, adequate comment and submissions to the Bill cannot be made.
- This legislation enables the granting of freehold land to QYAC for their use. MIPC maintains that no land should be removed from the National Park, nor commercial leases granted inside the Park.
- MIPC has concern of restrictions of public access, particularly of Cape Moreton.

MIPC looks forward to continuing our long contribution through volunteer work to ensure the future conservation of Mulgumpin; to work well with QYAC, and provide input through experience into future planning and decision making.

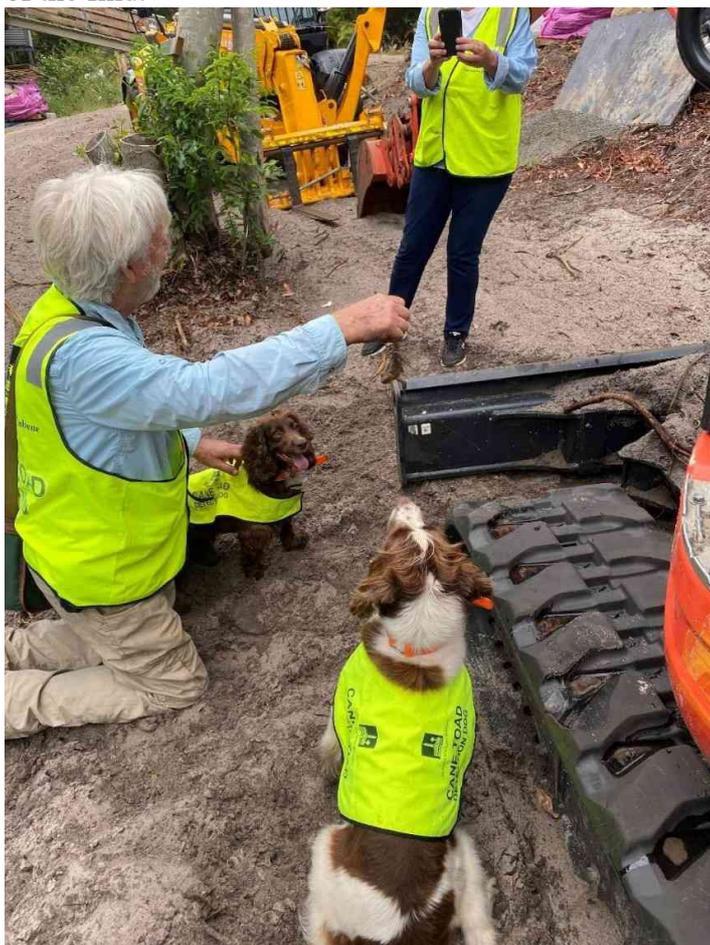
A report advising on legislation of the Bill to the State Government by the State Department of Regional Industries Committee (SDRIC) is due on 12th February, 2021.

Greg Curtis

Cane Toad found in Koorungal

As part of the *Keep Moreton Island Cane Toad Free Campaign* funded by the Brisbane City Council Steve Austin and his detector dogs undertook a 2-3 hours search of Koorungal on the 12th December 2020.

Unfortunately, one adult cane toad was found at a new building site at the southern end of the township. It is presumed that this toad was transported to the island via building/landscaping materials. The work site had a considerable stockpile of imported plants and loose mulch, hired machinery and palletised construction materials that were barge freighted to the island. The builders and house owners were immediately notified of the find.



On December 14th and 15th Georgina Neave (Koorungal landholder and Ecologist) conducted two nights of spotlighting and call playback around the town with added effort focused near the toad detection. Recent high rainfalls caused by the east coast low provided ideal spotlighting conditions for toad detecting as other frog activity was high. Luckily no additional toads were found.

Three Brisbane City Council toads traps were deployed by citizen volunteers. The builder, a local Koorungal resident was willing to operate the traps with help from Jeff Land.

The head builder of another house with planned landscaping was informed of the risk of toad introductions via building and landscaping materials.

Georgina

Whats on ... !!!! 2021

Mar 7 Clean up Aust Day

Mar Sat 6 – 9 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon (max 6)

Mar 12 - 14 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Apr 16 - 18 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

May 14 -16 Doctors for the Environment Blue L.

MIPC welcome to assist with hosting.

May 21 - 23 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Bunnings support

We thank Bunnings Warehouse at Cannon Hill for supporting our volunteer works with a \$200 gift voucher in 2019. The voucher is being used to purchase tools and nursery supplies at our choice, enabling us to make best use of the funds granted. Thanks!!

Plantings at The Big Gully

2020	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Banksia integrifolia	Other	Totals
14 Aug			27		27
2018	54			58	112
2017	66				66
2016	29	100		148	277
2015	230	134		192	556
2014	487	28		74	589
Total to date	866	262		472	1627

Plantings at Casuarina Grove

2020	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Gound cover	Total
4 Aug	7		10		17
18-20 Sept			80	42	122
2019	41				41
2018	124				124
2017	37				37
2016	105	14	55		174
Total to date	314	14	145	42	515

Plantings at North Point

2020	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Banksia integrifolia	Tuckeroo	Totals
14-16 Aug	213		200	8	75
2019	57	50		33	140
2018	329	39	1	4	373
2017	167		25	10	202
Total to date	553	89	226	55	715

Plantings at Sandstone Gully below graves

2020	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Banksia integrifolia	Brush box	Tuckeroo	Totals
14 Aug	12	17	40	9	10	27

Park volunteers hours 2020

2020	No. persons	Weeding	Rubbish	Propaga-tion	Total hours
28Feb -1Mar	4		24	12	36
6-10 Mar	4	19		12	31
26-31 Mar	2	24		6	30
28Apr-4 May	2	69		8	77
2 – 9 June	3	54		16	70
2-6 Aug	4	31		10	41
14-16 Aug	17	5	14	153	172
4-6 Sept	11	64	7	16	87
18-20 Sept	24	119	3	58	180
6-9 Nov	3	18		6	24
25-28	1	24		6	30
Jan -Dec2020	75	427	48	203	778
<i>2019 totals</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>678</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>323</i>	<i>1136</i>
<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>



Jill, June, Allan and Wendy planting at North Point.
Photo 15th Aug 2020