



Newsletter  
**Moreton Island Protection  
Committee Inc.**

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Volume 38 No 1 Jan – Jun 2016

## **Iconic Moreton Lighthouse diminished by new tower.**



*The State Government Wireless Network up grade provides an integrated and secure radio communication networks for Queensland's public safety agencies. The network upgrade and maintenance is funded by Queensland Treasury, with Telstra winning the contract. There has been no mention of utilization of the tower for improving mobile phone networks. The tower also hosts a repeater for channel 21 owned and operated by the Coast Guard Redcliffe. The repeater provides coverage to the east and north of Moreton for boaties. The square building on the far left was used when the lighthouse was staffed as the weathers observation office. Concerns regarding the potential for cane toad introduction with building and landscaping materials are addressed by RIC Terry Christensen on page 5*

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## **Annual General Meeting**

at 2 pm Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Toowong Community Meeting Place, Josling St, Toowong.

Doors will open at 12.30 to set up. Bring a plate to share before the meeting. Tea and coffee provided  
(note there is no street number – east of Perrin park in BCC depot)

## Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc.

PO Box 2182  
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(07) 3321 1463  
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### Executive Members

**President:** Alan Genninges  
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 Genninges, Peta Frampton

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## Beware

In 2013 over 20 Aluminium Phosphide containers were found on Qld beaches. The aluminum containers are about 30cm high and 15cm wide. These aluminium containers were unlabeled. Aluminium Phosphide on contact with water produces phosphine gas which is used to fumigate ship cargo often when at sea. Phosphine gas can be odourless and has resulted in deaths of crew on ships. If found contact an appropriate authority. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TRANSPORT.** The mobile nature of our beaches means containers buried in 2013 may be exposed in the future.



## Sea grass Survey

On the 30<sup>th</sup> July MIPC volunteers undertook the winter survey. Surveys have been completed 4 times a year for 15 years. Tangalooma supports volunteers by providing Ferry transport to the Island and 4WD transport to the survey site on the bay side of the Big Sandhills.

The western side of the island was hugely impacted by the combination of the strong southwesterly winds and king tides. Lots of trees have been undermined along the shore which has caused slippages in

many places right up the dune faces bringing down more vegetation.

There are also massive banks of detritus, much vegetative but huge amounts of plastic and man made debris, piled up and into and over the verges of vegetation. We saw 3 large dead turtles. The water was un-seasonally warm which probably accounted for the high levels of algae and epiphytes observed on the seagrass. However it was overall healthy and we were thrilled to see a tiny seahorse and lots of Vulgar Seastars and lollyfish. We saw a beautiful big frilled nudibranch which I can't find in Wild guide to Moreton Bay. Always something new to see - and we need a few more people in the pool for volunteering.

If interested in assisting please email mipc. Volunteers travel on a Tangalooma ferry, transferred to study site on the Bayside of The Sandhills and return to Brisbane on the same day.

*Janet Dovers*

## MIPC (07) 33211463

Only messages can be left at the MIPC's number. Please commence your message with your phone number.

## Donations to MIPC

MIPC welcomes tax deductible donations which are solely used for conservation activities.

## EFT Details

BSB 633 000 Bendigo Bank  
Account # 141368456  
Acct Name Moreton Island Protection Committee.

Enter your name in the reference box. Please notify us by email, phone or mail of your payment.



# MI5 Weed Control & Replacement Project, Cowan final report

The Weed Map of Cowan compiled in June 2015 shows the densities of weeds at the beginning of the project. At this time less than 50% of properties were mapped. Incredibly we have since gained 83% permission from residents and have therefore located and treated many more infestations than were originally mapped.

It had been said to be an impossible task but thanks to residents, caretakers etc. the results are encouraging. Hopefully, with assistance of BCC, the reduced densities of the 5 weed species will be controlled at these significantly lower levels and they will be able to move on to control other invasive species.

## Achievements

An Information Launch and 6 Weedbuster/Education Weekends were held in the township.

The North point nursery was repaired and extended, Over 1000 native plant species were propagated from Moreton Island Plants. These were grown and potted on before being planted in a number of areas around Cowan.

Over the 16 month period of the project 100% of all 5 species were treated at least twice. The approximate outcomes of these treatments are as follows:

- 90% of Singapore daisy removed.
- 100% of prickly pear removed
- 90% of Mother of millions removed
- 75% of Asparagus Fern has terminated.
- These figures do not include the 17% of residential blocks that could not be accessed as permission was not given.
- 90% of umbrella trees were treated a number of times and have since died in situ. The only remaining 10 umbrella trees left in the entire township area, are those that we did not get permission to treat. If these trees are left to grow, it is hoped that their flower stems will be removed each year so they cannot re-infest the neighbouring areas.

Other species that have been treated:

- 100% Camphor Laurel removed
- 90% Cats claw creeper removed

To maintain the low densities of these species, it is imperative that a coordinated effort is sustained for a number of years according to seed viability times. This would require QPWS to carry out follow up

treatment around the township at least out to the bypass road. BCC staff, volunteers, Cowan habitat group and residents will need to continue follow up within the township and foreshore.



*The Cowan foreshore before treatment. Asparagus aethiopicus (the dominant lush green plant)*



*After treatment with a selective herbicide. Note; natives species and grasses unaffected by the herbicide.*

Due to the high kill percentages during the project, in the future it is envisaged that these weed species will be more easily controlled with hand extraction, reducing the need to use chemicals. BCC Habitat Group have enthusiastically discussed having at least 2 weed buster weekends per year. These will be carried out in conjunction with the visits by the BCC weed control contractor for ongoing follow up control of these and other weed species in the township and foreshore areas.



Many of these weed species are still grown as garden ornamentals in and around Brisbane

This project has gone beyond just chemical control to active interaction and education throughout the community. It is now foreseeable with continued community participation, in addition to volunteer and contractor follow up, full eradication of some or all of these weed species is highly achievable. Community participation has involved residents eradicating weeds in and around their properties whilst ornamentals are no longer being introduced.



*Hand weeding Lantana, Singapore Daisy and green panic*



*After weeding native plants propagated from Island stock were planted.*

Follow up treatment will be imperative to manage the seed bank. Depending on seed viability, it is thought that within a few years of follow up treatment, existing seeds may no longer be viable and a number of these species could be removed.

This combined effort not only benefits the areas natural environment, this strategy will incur less long term economic costs than continuous containment strategies.

Encouragingly during the April 2016 contractor treatment, almost all weed individuals were juvenile, and thus not capable of reproducing.

Moreton Island Protection Committee would like to take this opportunity to express how rewarding this project has been. Considering this work had not previously been carried out due to perceived concerns from residents the amount of support and enthusiasm for what we were trying to achieve has been incredible. While carrying out weeding work over the entire township area over the last 14 months we were never confronted with any negative responses, only positive and supportive reassurance.

Moreton Island Protection Committee would sincerely like to thank the following individuals and organisations that have given support for the project. Including, in no particular order.

- Tangalooma resort and Trevor Hassard with a major contribution of transportation of volunteers and supplying wrapped sugar cane mulch.
- The residents that organised ongoing watering and care of the native plantings especially Trevor and Susan Hassard, the Sutherland family and the Roach family.
- Tony Dobbs and Lewis Peach from Landscape conservation for their weed treatment work including a number of in-kind days of work with vehicle and gear.
- Melinda Laidlaw and the Qld herbarium for detailed mapping of weeds and ongoing volunteer assistance.
- Michael Lowe from Environmental Services for volunteering weed, native plant and reveg expertise and labour.
- The Cowan Fire service who have let us use this facility. Paul Morris and Tony Chapman for organising and constant assistance and support for the project.
- The Cowan Residents Association for supporting the project.
- Terry Mcguire, Nathan and Georgia Betteridge and Shona Diclemente for supplying comfortable and hospitable accommodation.
- Brisbane City Council and BCC Habitat group for ongoing, continual support and coordinating and supplying volunteers and for their commitment to a number of future weed buster weekends.
- MiCat for supplying discounted transportation.
- Alan Gennings and Moreton Experience for assistance with volunteer transport and

catering.

- The Department of Environment and Heritage for making available the Everyone's Environment Grant and supporting us throughout the process.

Without volunteers, projects such as these would never happen. So thank you to the many volunteers who have selflessly supplied their time and hard labour to achieve such a positive outcome. Especially Moreton Island Protection Committee and their enthusiastic group of volunteers including Christine Sanders for her persistence with DEHP reporting and making the project happen.

*Justin Herdman, project co-ordinator.*

The Committee would like especially to thank Justin Herdman and Christine Sanders for their dedication over the last 18 months. Justin conceived the project, and drew together the expertise required to complete the project. Christine liaised with volunteer organisers and completed the sometimes demanding administrative requirements of the grant. Peta Frampton, our treasurer provided the financial administration for the project.

With all of these efforts and commitment to the project we have reduced 6 major invasive weed species seed sources on one of the most pristine habitats left in South Eastern Queensland – Moreton Island.

## **Tour Operator permits changing**

To date commercial tour operator permits cannot be sold directly. Some have changed hands over the years with permits being transferred to new owners by Parks not as a right but at Parks discretion. Currently permits are for a maximum of three years.

The new style permits, Commercial Activity Agreements will be valid for 15 years and will be able to be sold. These agreements will have the allocation of patron numbers set at an operators best year in the last 5 plus 10% for growth.

Parks had refused requests to meet operators as a group until Chris Whiting, member for Murrumba convened and chaired a meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> Aug between operators, Parks and Moreton Bay Region Industry and Tourism. Here it was revealed that capacity for individual "visitation hot spots" had been determined by Parks. The meeting asked for these capacities to be made available and for the protocols used in the capacity determination to be made available. Parks staff reported they were looking into making them available but could not table them at the meeting. These capacities were determined without consulting any Moreton stakeholders, eg. operators, resident groups, and conservation groups.

*Alan Gennings*

*(Alan has been a CTO on Moreton since 1983)*

## **Protocols to reduce toad introductions during the Cape tower construction.**

The large amounts of building materials and landscaping material raised concerns regarding the risk of cane toad introduction. In response to these concerns the Ranger in Charge wrote the following;

‘Firstly, be assured that QPWS is very much mindful of the problems associated with cane toads coming to the island and risks they present with respect to our own nature wildlife and environs.

Your concerns regarding cane toads were addressed by me personally with Telstra, Service Stream (Telstra's project manager), Comserv (the construction and project company for Telstra), Jimboomba Turf (the suppliers), the transporters, the layers, and the waterers etc. Assurances were sort not only for cane toads, but also for the more concerning Fire Ant risk present.

I was assured, in writing, that the supplier has never had a problem with cane toads in their turf. Additionally, in respect both to toads and fire ants and other organism, I was advised that under their DPI Fire Ant Management Plan, they spray their farm every 28 days with Chlorpyrifos 500EC. (*an insecticide used on food crops, with a withholding period of generally a couple of weeks. ed note*) This is done in accordance with their undertaking with Bio Security Qld. This application strategy is said to eradicate everything.

The supplier also advised that they provide product to the Northern Territory and Sydney in that in the past they have not ever had any problems with cane toads. They further advised that they also export turf to other parts of the world where their product is thoroughly checked by Bio Security Qld. I was further advised that this company has a reputation within the industry for quality which is another reason they were chosen for the project.

The assurances provided to me along the chain of supply, and our own inspections and monitoring satisfied me that the risk was minimal, if not, non-existent.

Furthermore, despite the above checks, monitoring and inspections, our staff living at the Cape will continue monitoring the turf for toads, weeds, and anything else that may not appear natural to the Island. Staff conducting mowing and landscaping activities there will also be on the alert for any foreigners with colonisation or infectious tendencies....

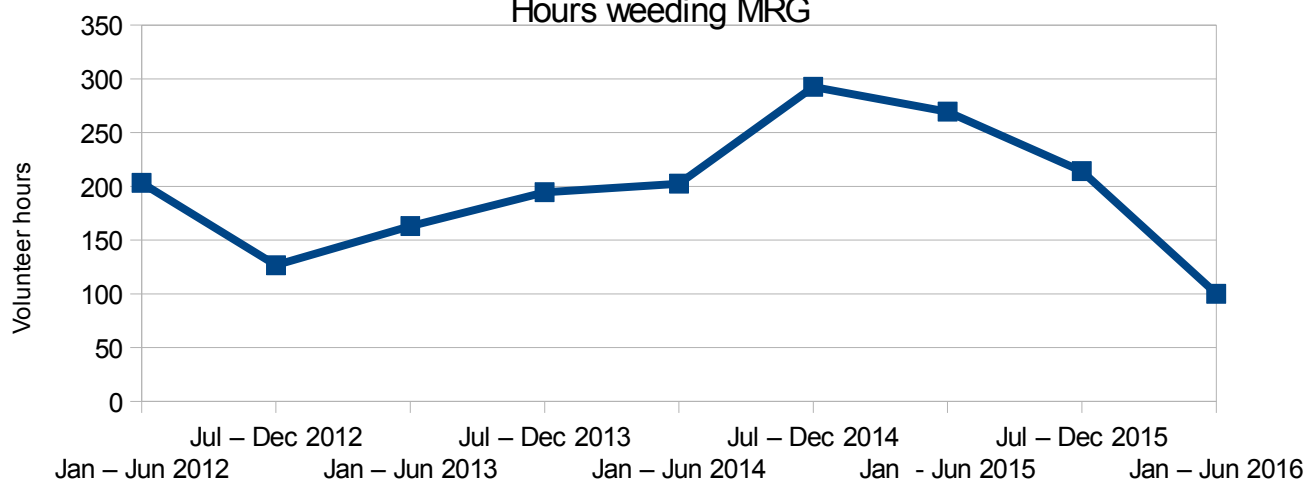
*RIC Terry Christensen*

## Mossman River Grass Project

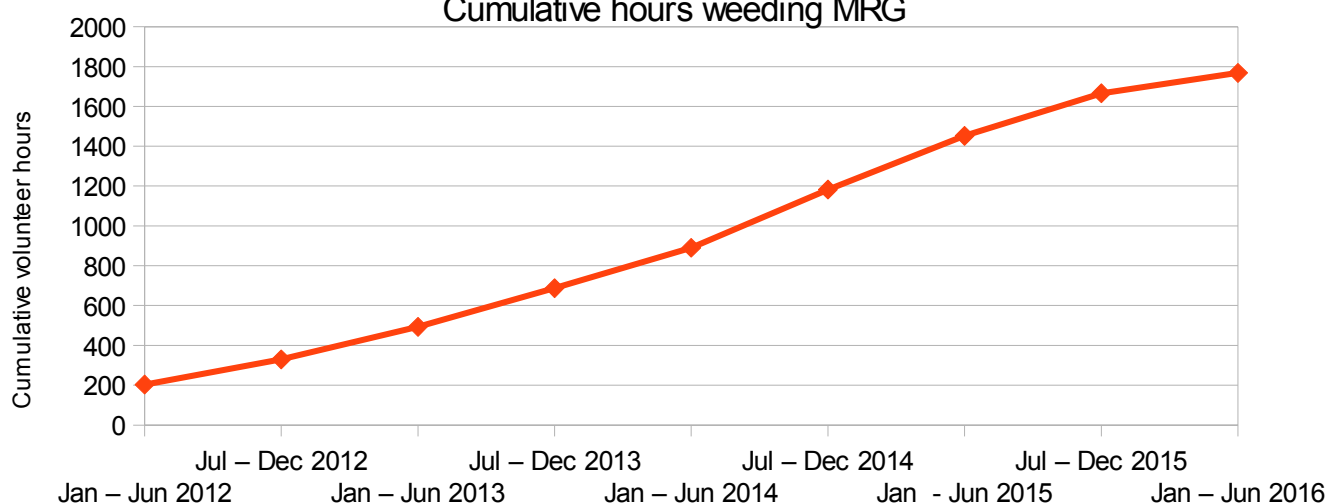
Thorough records of effort for each site were commenced in 2012. Roads and 144 camp sites from Middle Track to spitfire Creek were weeded. Our worst site EB7 took 30 hours to weed 2012. Due to the high rates of infestation we were unable to return to all sites before the next generation seeded. Only in the last year or so have we managed to return to each site before seeds matured. Until recently contractors had assisted in reducing seed dispersal by using a mower with efficient catchers which collected a very high portion of seeds even picking up seeds from the ground. In previous years whipper snippers had been used by Parks which spread seed. Roundup sprayed by Parks after seed production was ineffective as it resulted in creating bare ground for seeds to re-colonize. On 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August this year 3 weeders took just 15 volunteer hours to complete weeding of all 144 sites and roads north of Middle Track. *This means those who have had enough of MRG weeding can return to volunteering.* A big thanks to all volunteers who have been dedicated MRG weeders.

*Data compiled by Craig McIver and Alan Gennings*

Hours weeding MRG



Cumulative hours weeding MRG



## Nursery at North Point

At the end of this season except for Midgym, all plants ready to be planted out have been planted out. This made way for recently propagated stock to be transferred into tube stock and grow out pots. A total of over 1,867 seedlings were transferred into tube and grow out pots.

- 821 Casuarina recently germinated were moved into tube and grow out pots
- 180 Pandanas into grow out pots

- 304 Tuckeroo recently germinated were moved into tubes and grow out pots.
- 162 Pig face were struck from cuttings

Over a thousand plants from the nursery were planted out around Cowan as part of the MI5 project. By planting established natives it is hoped that re invasion by weeds will at least be slowed. Plants are available to residents to encourage replacement of exotic garden plants with natives. We have propagated for the first time Midyim *Austromyrtus dulcis* from seeds (over 700) which are excellent garden plants with edible



fruits. Advanced Midyim, perfect as a low shrubby ground cover are now available free for residents to plant out in their gardens.

At the big gully we continued some planting but were hindered by a lack of timely rain.

Plantings of Casuarina, Banksia and Pandanus on the north of The Cape in an area dominated by weeds has started. The chainsawing of trees for a fire control line and the control burn has resulted in domination of the area by weeds, with exotic grass cover preventing any chance of establishment of tree seedlings. It is hoped that planting of trees will eventually shade out the rye grass and other weeds such as lantana and native passion fruit. (NB so called native passionfruit is not native)

### Plantings at The Big Gully

2016	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Banksia integrifolia	Ground cover	Total
29 Apr- 2 May	24	10			34
6 May	5	72	5	1	83
Total to date	29	82	5	1	117

### Total Plantings at The Big Gully

2016	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Other	Total
To date 2016	29	82	6	117
Total 2015	230	134	192	556
Total 2014	487	28	74	589
Total to date	746	244	272	1262

### Plantings at Casuarina Grove

2016	Casuarina equisetifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Banksia integrifolia	Ground cover	Total
29 Apr- 2 May	80	14	15		109

### Park Volunteers Hours Jan to June 2016

	No persons	Weeding hours	Rubbish hours	Propagation hours	Total hours
20-22 Jan	6	18		2	20
12-14 Feb	2	21		4	25
20-22 Mar	9	10	51	10	71
24-26 Apr	18	91		69	160
29Apr-2 May	22	18	10	169	187
6-7 May	20	23	60	48	131
21 May, 5 Jun	1	3		4	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>601</b>
2014 totals	101	277	28	635	1041
2015 totals	118	507	0	646	1153

Note MI5 Cowan volunteer hours have not been included here.

## Moreton Island Beach Cleanup Day

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2016, the Annual Moreton Island Beach Cleanup Day went ahead. As usual, the event was organised by Dave Darmody, the Director of the Australian Offroad Academy. The event was sponsored by Moreton Island Adventures, and Healthy Waterways, Queensland. Kim Rosenthal and the Moreton Island Adventures staff (MICat) did a fantastic job coordinating the event. Rick O'Brien, and Jamie Hazelden, from the Offroad Adventure Show attended. The Offroad Adventure Show airs on Channel Ten and Channel One. Season Three is coming in October 2016.

Dr Peter Davey from Griffith University lead a registered team of six. Greg Curtis, from MIPC provided local knowledge to point us in the direction of productive locations to work.

Before we started, we were briefed by Dave at Tangalooma about safety issues, what rubbish to pickup, and what to avoid. He advised everyone to be very wary if we encountered any silver metal cylinders washed up on the beach, and not to touch them, but to take photos and record the location for the Fire Brigade to safely remove – see page 2.

In total, over 500 kg of rubbish was taken back on the MiCat Ferry to a tip on the mainland. So congratulations and well done to all those who rolled up their sleeves and pitched in on the day. It was a beautiful sunny day for the event, but of course that meant that it was challengingly hot for the participants. I for one was looking forward to a swim afterwards. My first priority was of course to slip slop slap before we started.

Unfortunately, at Bulwer, we encountered a lot of litter that had been left on the beach. This included a lot of plastic and glass drink bottles, some of which were broken, and quite a safety hazard! A mitigating factor was that most of the litter was well imbedded in the sand, which indicates that it is not a recent occurrence. There were also lots of cigarette butts.

After the event, a free sausage sizzle BBQ reward for the volunteers, was a most welcome way to wrap up the day. Moreton Island Adventures Castaways definitely made us feel appreciated for our efforts. It was a great way to meet other environmentally minded folks, as we all gathered there. I encourage all readers who can manage to participate next time to keep an eye out for upcoming events, and put the date in their calendars, as it is a very rewarding experience to get involved in.

Paul Brien

## Whats on ... !!

**Aug 19-21** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon (Option for 18<sup>th</sup> Depart also)

**Sep 9-11** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon.

**Oct 14-16** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

**Oct 22 AGM** 2pm at Josling St, Toowong

**Nov 11-13** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

## Volunteer trips booking

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

Alan 0428783781 (text only please) *or*

email [mipc@moretonisland.org.au](mailto:mipc@moretonisland.org.au) *or*

call MIPC's answering service on 33211463

**DEPART** Friday 8.30 am 14 Howard Smith Drive, Port of Bris. Arrive by 8am for orderly loading of luggage in vehicle.

*or* Sat 8.30 departure – min 3 required.

NB MICAT charges \$15 per day for parking.

Car pooling is arranged when possible.

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

**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, especially the Big Gully; propagation at the North Point nursery; weeding Mossman River Grass and collecting rubbish. This season's work will be funded by MIPC. Too busy to volunteer? - a tax deductible donation to support volunteers is great way to contribute.

## Costs

Free for those who complete 9 hrs work over 3 days.

\$45 for those who complete 6 hours work over 2 days.

Volunteers pay \$15 for every other 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 \$160 - payable to MIPC.

## Members email list

A Google group has been set up to facilitate emailing of our membership and supporters. Privacy settings are such that only selected MIPC organisers will be able to send emails. Members will only be able to reply to the sender of the email. Listings of previously sent emails can be accessed at <https://groups.google.com/group/moreton>

Self registration is possible but beware that by default, it registers you automatically with your gmail address even if gmail is not your main email address. Also self registration often does not enable your surname to be listed alphabetically and so we have to rejoin you to achieve this. We are more than happy to add you to the list if you email [mipc@moretonisland.org.au](mailto:mipc@moretonisland.org.au).

We won't be adding your email address from our data base. Once added you will receive an email confirming your addition. Those interested in receiving a digital copy of our newsletter or keeping informed of volunteer events can also be included on this list. Members joining will be added to the list so they can immediately receive MIPC news.

## Sorry for the lateness of the newsletter!

## Membership form

Name .....	<b>Annual fee \$10 Household \$15 Pens./Conc. \$5</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>Circle method of payment;</b> EFT transfer cheque money order cash <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
Signed _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____	<b>Ph: 3321 1463</b> answering service only <b><a href="mailto:mipc@moretonisland.org.au">mipc@moretonisland.org.au</a></b> <b>PO Box 2182 Ashgrove West 4060</b>