



Newsletter
**Moreton Island Protection
Committee Inc.**

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Volume 39 No 1 Jan – June 2017

Pandanus dieback



Pandanus at North Point dead after plague of leaf hoppers, *Jamella australie* . Photo 23 Feb 2017. Cont. Page 3

Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc.

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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, Peta Frampton

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Editor Alan Gennings

Letter from Ngugi Elder

Dr Robert Vincent Anderson OAM

Monday, 16 March 2015

Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc

I thank you for your newsletter Volume 36 No 2, July – December 2014 and your detailed report of the Native Title claim lodged by Quandamooka Aboriginal Corporation, the registered Native Title Body under the National Native Title Act.

Your publication assists to allay any discomfort experienced by the residents of Mulgumpin (Moreton Island) arising from the claim.

My Great Grandmother, Wyneeaba was born on Mulgumpin and was buried in the Moongalba Cemetery in 1917.

The history of Ngugi People and their concern for the wellbeing and safety of strangers is well recorded. The story of assistance given to Parsons, Finnegan and Pamphlet who were washed up on Mulgumpin when they encountered bad weather. Another story is that of the Paddle Steamer, *the Sovereign*, when it departed from Pulan Pulan, Amity Point and floundered off Mulgumpin. Our Uncles' Uncles rushed into the surf to save the survivors. The Sovereign Monument at Pulan Pulan attests to this calamity and the name of the men who put their lives at risk are recorded on the monument

I note the diligence and caring for the island to eradicate weeds through the days and hours spent. Also your fundraising initiative through the *Friends of the Parks* Grant that enabled 1,031 volunteer hours of work to be completed by 101 volunteers in 2014, is an

outstanding achievement.

As a Ngugi Family Representative and Elder, I say, many thanks,

Dr Robert Vincent Anderson OAM
Uncle Bob
Ngugi Elder



*Feral pigs take an afternoon stroll on the ocean beach
Photo 21st April 2017.*

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.

Pandanus Dieback

During summer the Pandanus at North Point suffered severe die back with many dying. Leaf hoppers, *Jamella australie* found on Pandanus at Bulwer were brought to the attention of the RIC Terry Christensen in March by Greg Curtis. Infestations were then confirmed as the most likely cause of the death of significant numbers of Pandanus at North Point.

The leaf hopper is host to two species of egg parasitoid wasps *Aphanomerus pusillus* and *Ooencytus sp.* *A pusillus* has been the most successful in controlling outbreaks of the leaf hopper on the mainland. It is hoped these parasitic wasp will eventually control the population explosion of leaf hoppers.

Mossman River Grass control

Our target area of roads and campsites from Middle Track to Eagers Creek were all checked at least 4 times from January to June, requiring a total of 99 volunteer hours. Priority is being given to check all sites before germinating plants can set seed.

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. Previous chainsawing of trees for a fire control line and an intense control burn has resulted in domination of the area by grass cover preventing any chance of establishment of tree seedlings. Trees will eventually shade out weeds such as lantana and exotic passion fruit.

Plantings at The Big Gully

	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Other	Total
Total 2016	29	100	148	277
Total 2015	230	134	192	556
Total 2014	487	28	74	589
Total to date	746	262	414	1422

Plantings at Casuarina Grove

2017	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Gound cover	Total
19-21 May	15				15
2016	105	14	55		174
Total to date	115	14	55		189

Plantings at Cape carpark

	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Gound cover	Total
2016	120	40			160

Plantings at North Point

2017	Casuarina equistifolia	Pandanus tectorius	Bsnksia integrifolia	Tuckero o	Total
22-23 Apr	80		15	5	100
19-21 May	33		10	0	43
Total to date	113		25	5	143

Park Volunteers Hours Jan to June 2017

	No persons	Weeding hours	Rubbish hours	Propagatio n hours	Total hours
10-12 Mar	6	31	1		32
17-19 Mar	64	500	76		576
21-23 Apr	7	13	15	53	81
5-7 May	4	15		37	52
19-21 May	6	1	3	61	65
23May-1Jun	1	9		2	11
Tot	88	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

Note MI5 Cowan volunteer hours have not been included here.

Whats on ... !!

Aug 11 - 13 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon (restricted numbers)

Sep 1 - 3 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon.

Sept 15 -17 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

Sept 16-17 Two day volunteer week-end

Oct 20 - 22 Volunteers at Blue Lagoon (late return 6pm MICat)

Nov Sat 4th AGM 1pm at Josling St, Toowong

Volunteer trips booking

****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

Volunteer work at Blue Lagoon

This season work will include planting out at the Cape, 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.

Cane Toad found at Kooringal

The Brisbane City Council sponsored Cane Toad Detector (CTD) Dog operated from 20th to 25th May. Christine Sanders once again provided volunteer assistance for the programme producing a report which can be found on our website – link CTD Report May 2017. Steve Austin worked CTD dogs Tommy, Emma and Becky to search parts of Tangalooma Resort, Bulwer Township, Kooringal, Cowan Cowan, North Point campgrounds including nursery, Yellow Patch, Cape car park and Blue Lagoon campsites.

A cane toad carcass was located by Becky (CTD dog) on the road (Midgen St). A nearby resident advised that she may have brought the toad over in a trailer they had brought from a toad infested area in Brisbane a few weeks before. Another toad had been found by a Kooringal resident in June 2016 and was handed into the rangers.

Thanks to all who openly allowed searches on private property and to Tangaloma who provided accommodation for Christine.



Steve Austin with cane toad carcass found at Kooringal by Becky on 21st May 2017

Membership form

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;

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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 ____ / ____ / ____