



Newsletter  
**Moreton Island Protection  
 Committee Inc.**

PO Box 2182  
 Ashgrove West QLD 4060

Phone 07 3321 1463

mipc@moretonisland.org.au



Volume 43 No 1 Jan – Jun 2021

## New Management Plan to be drafted

The Nature Conservation Act 1992 requires a new management plan to be prepared as soon as practicable after the declaration of an Indigenous Joint Management Area.

The current management plan was developed by a collaborative process; stakeholders attending meetings arranged by Parks during the drafting of the Management Plan.

The letter from the ministers office (Page 3), states the

management plan is to be drafted by QYAC and Parks and then stakeholders will be invited to comment.

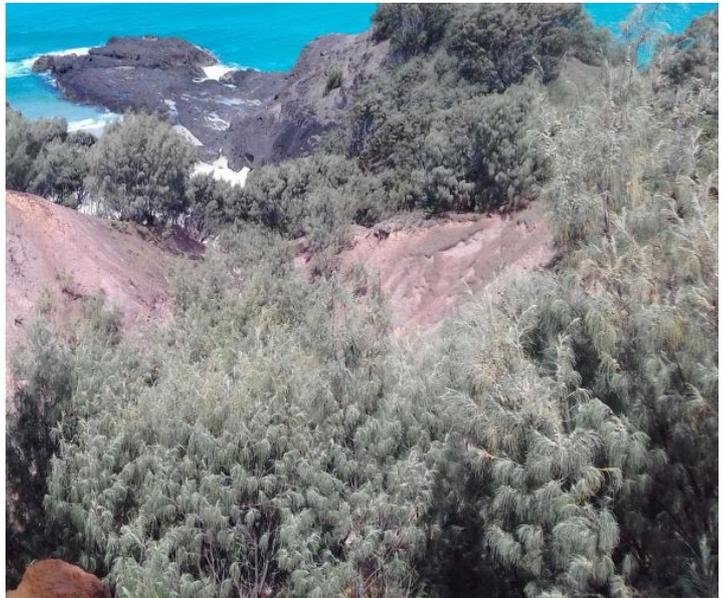
*MIPC recommends that QYAC and Parks collaborate with stakeholders during the drafting of the plan. Collaboration will provide a more efficient pathway to a community supported management plan rather than governments plan to consult after developing a draft plan (see page 3)*  
 .....cont. Page 2

## Landscape changing plantings by volunteers at the Cape

MIPC volunteers have planted over 3,400 trees on the Cape. Erosion due to overgrazing by the goats has resulted in significant middens being lost. The goats were removed in 1997, but still unnaturally bare areas remain.



*Planting at the "Big Gully" Photo 5th Oct 2014  
 Erosion due to Goats which were removed in 1997.*



*"Big Gully" Photo Greg Curtis May 2021*

The "Big Gully" has been planted with over 1,600 trees on challenging terrain.

Over 700 trees have been planted at North Point where mature trees were destroyed by a wild fire, and Pandanus were killed by leaf hoppers. (Page 4)

Bare areas below the graves at the Cape, where rocks were quarried for the lighthouse are also being planted. All plants are propagated by volunteers at the North Point nursery from island plant stock.

**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 Genninges  
0428 783781

**Secretary:** Greg Curtis

**Treasurer:** Peta Frampton

**Executive Committee:**

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.

*Printed by Graphic Skills Pty Ltd*

*Printed July 2021*

*Editor: Alan Genninges*

.....cont from Page 1

QYAC and Parks are both highlighting the tourism potential for the Island, with an emphasis on high end tourists, maximizing economic value and minimizing negative impacts. Assurance has been given that low end visitors will continue to be facilitated.

The current management plan places a two tiered cap on camping numbers. In the "off season" camping numbers are further restricted to provide an opportunity for campsites to recover and visitors to experience an enhanced nature based experience.

The current plan does not limit the number of vehicle permits. The number of visitors staying in urbanized accommodation has increased significantly resulting in increased beach traffic. All urban visitors require permits to access their accommodation, so capping vehicle permit numbers is currently impractical.

Developing roads as an alternative to beach driving comes with significant environmental problems. Vehicles introduce weeds and plant pathogens to currently undisturbed ecosystems. Currently exotic highly invasive clumping grasses are establishing along roads.

Traffic has reached a point where people and wildlife on the beaches are significantly impacted by vehicles legally able to travel at 60 kph. High use beaches have speed limits of 20 kph and 30 kph which are often ignored. All of the ocean beaches have 60 kph speed limits. Port Macquarie – Hastings Council issue beach permits with the condition;

*"Maximum speed limit 50km/h. Limit is 25km/h when within 100m of other vehicles or people."*

At MIPC's last executive meeting all were in favour of a 50 km max speed limit as a practical first step to protect wildlife and pedestrians.

## **Cane Toad Detecting dog visit cancelled.**

BCC funds a twice a year search of Mulgumpin by Steve Austin's cane toad detecting dogs. As he travels from NSW, Steve was not prepared to commit to this season as he was concerned he might be caught up in a lock down.

The BCC also conducts water sampling during the CTD searches. Samples taken are tested in a laboratory for presence of cane toad tadpoles DNA. Since the commencement of the searches MIPC volunteers have assisted.

The BCC council has funded costs for MIPC volunteer Greg Curtis to collect 50 odd water samples – required travelling 271 kms.

## **Toad washed ashore**

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021 a cane toad was found washed ashore at the sand dunes on the eastern side.

## **MIPC Email list**

Inclusion on our email list is free. Unsubscribe anytime.

## **Membership fees**

Annual membership \$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.

## Response from Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef

Printed below is the a response to concerns expressed to Government of the implication of the amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992. (see Volume 42 No 2, 2020 Page 3) Response by Nick Heath, Chief of Staff Office of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef Minister for Science and Youth Affairs dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

“The Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 3 December 2020 and referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee (the Committee) for examination and report. At the time of your email, the Committee had not yet provided its report on the Bill, which was subsequently tabled on 8 March 2021. The report contained three recommendations, including a recommendation that the Bill be passed. Two other recommendations relate to developing training and education on Native Title process for stakeholders and undertaking further consultative activities, including on the draft management plan for protected areas on Mulgumpin (Moreton Island).

The Government will consider the report’s recommendations with the Government’s response to the recommendations yet to be provided. I note that many of the issues you raise in your email were provided in a submission to the Committee. The Department of Environment and Science (the department) previously prepared responses to the issues raised in submissions and these are published on the Committee’s website at [www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/SDRIC/2020/NCIndJointMgmtMoretonIs/cor-21Jan2021.pdf](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/SDRIC/2020/NCIndJointMgmtMoretonIs/cor-21Jan2021.pdf).

The primary objective of the Bill is to provide a framework to allow joint management arrangements between the State and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) to be implemented on Mulgumpin. However, in response to some of the matters raised in your email, the Bill does not contain any amendments to:

- change the cardinal principle for the management of national parks
- remove any lands from protected areas or grant protected areas to QYAC for exclusive use
  - facilitate or limit the grant of commercial leases, which will continue to be assessed on a case-by-case basis under existing legislation
- restrict public access to Cape Moreton.

The 2019 Federal Court Native Title consent determination over Mulgumpin identifies some exclusive Native Title areas, which include rights to the possession, occupation, use and enjoyment of the areas to the exclusion of all others. None of these exclusive Native Title areas are part of the protected area estate on Mulgumpin and are therefore not related to the Bill. The Native Title determination identifies the protected areas on Mulgumpin as non-exclusive Native Title areas. It also identifies some non-exclusive Native Title areas outside the protected area estate that are not related to the Bill.

While the QYAC Strategic Plan 2017-2020 (the Strategic Plan) includes the various references identified in your email, including the “right to possess land to the exclusion of all others”, the plan pre-dates the Native Title determination for Mulgumpin. The Strategic Plan relates to other areas of Quandamooka land and sea country that were subject to previous Native Title determinations in 2011.

With respect to the confidentiality of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement and the Indigenous Management Agreement, this is standard practice for such agreements. However, elements of the agreed joint management arrangements will ultimately be reflected in a new management plan for the protected areas on Mulgumpin. The Nature Conservation Act 1992 (the NCA) requires a new management plan to be prepared as soon as practicable after the declaration of an Indigenous Joint Management Area, after the Bill is passed. The Bill does not propose restricted access areas. Any considerations to create a restricted access area would be subject to existing provisions and statutory processes that already exist within existing legislation.

The department will be working in partnership with QYAC on a new draft management plan and once it has been prepared, community consultation will occur in accordance with existing requirements under the NCA. The department will also incorporate additional consultation activities into the planning process to provide stakeholders with further opportunities to have input into the future management plan for the protected areas on Mulgumpin”

### **Comment;**

The current Act enables the declaration of Access Restrictions as currently applies to most of the Little Sandhills. This restriction prevents walking across the Little Sandhills from the bay side to the ocean beach. The restricted access, was introduced around October 2018 in response to prehistory (unconfirmed) skeletal material being found. The restriction was for 6 months to ensure the area was undisturbed whilst research could be conducted. The Access Restriction still applies.

Our understanding is the confidentiality status of the the Indigenous Land Use Agreement and the Indigenous Management Agreement can be made publicly available if both parties to the agreement agree to it being made public. It is unfortunate that such crucial agreements which underpin Mulgumpin's future management are to remain secret.

## Whats on ... !!!! 2021

**Aug 13-15** QUT Nature Society - standby MIPC voln

**Aug 20 – 22** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon.

**Sept 10 -13** Doctors for the Environment Blue L.

Fri and Sat depart options; Sun Mon return options

Places available for experienced MIPC volunteers.

**Oct 15-17** Volunteers at Blue Lagoon

*No Sat transfers are scheduled. Register your request for Sat pick up on the booking sheet.*

Cost to cover MICat fares, and 4WD transport.

\$100 for first time volunteers \$60 for returning voln.

### Volunteer nominations -New system.

The link to the booking sheet is provided in emails or by emailing [mipc@moretonisland.org.au](mailto:mipc@moretonisland.org.au) Changes to your booking can also be made. Volunteers can also arrange lifts if needed. (To enable booking on your mobile follow prompts to download a free Google app.) Unable to access the link, text booking details to Alan on 0428 783781.

## Volunteer Program funding

MIPC's volunteer program is supported by donations from members, volunteer payments, and free use of Moreton Experience's camp. MIPC will part fund 2 volunteer trips. (Aug 20 & Oct 15) Additional volunteer events will be advised by email and posted on the bookings sheet. These opportunities are not subsidized by MIPC.

## Briefing on Pandanus dieback

Volunteers received an impromptu briefing by Joel Fostin about Pandanus die back on 16<sup>th</sup> April at camp. The leaf hopper (*Jamaella australiae*) infestations that result in Pandanus die-back can be biologically controlled by a parasitic wasp (*Aphanomerus pusillus*). The wasp is very small – completes its life cycle within a single egg of the leaf hopper. Joel informed us that the key to maintaining populations of the wasp is to have continuous extensive populations of Pandanus. He believes numbers of Pandanus were much greater prior to European settlement.

Joel emphasised the importance of Pandanus in providing preferred habitat for a large diversity of bird and mammal species. Joel was very encouraging of our inclusion of significant numbers of Pandanus in our plantings at the Cape and elsewhere.

See MIPC website Reports page for detailed information provided by Joel.

Volunteers were appreciative of Joel making time to brief us and his commitment to tackling Pandanus die back. Joel has briefed QYAC rangers of the benefits of maintaining populations of the parasitic wasp.

## 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!!

## Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday, March 7 - suffered from the implications of COVID. Large numbers of Griffith University students assisting last year were unable to attend. However their leader, Dr. Peter Davey was at the ready, together with a handful of MIPC volunteers, to clean up rubbish from Bulwer Beach and foredunes.

Ten bags of rubbish were collected. Unfortunately concentrations of empty cans, bottles and snack packets were in abundance in bush around tables placed for gatherings near the beach, and in the creek mouths. Plastic and micro plastic continues washing up at the tide line. Cigarette butts, plastic bait bags, discarded fishing line, tackle and soft plastic lures were in numbers, particularly about the Bulwer Wrecks.

Saturday was spent clearing Prickly Pear overlooking Honeymoon Bay and North Point, where the amount of collected rubbish being thrown into bush next to parked vehicles at the Point amazed some visitors. The increase in visitor traffic since COVID has undoubtedly increased littering and beach rubbish. *Towards the middle of the day, over one hundred vehicles were counted from North Point to Yellow Patch. Please don't destroy what you came to enjoy.*

*Greg Curtis*

## Park volunteers hours Jan to June 2021

2021	No. persons	Weeding	Rubbish	Propaga-tion	Total hours
12-15 Jan	3	20	1	21	42
6-9 Mar	7	50	1	11	62
12-14 Mar	6	20	1	29	50
16-18 April	14	69	9	46	77
14-16 May	28	168	27	31	226
21-23 May	13	65	7	54	99
Totals 2021	71	392	46	192	556
2020 totals	75	427	48	203	778
2019 totals	124	678	136	323	1136
2018 totals	108	405	27	426	909
2017 totals	149	750	101	788	1304
2016 totals	130	429	121	491	1041