



**Magnetic Island
Community Development
Association**

June 2023 News

Hi <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the latest news from our dedicated volunteer Working Groups. It's jam packed with information, so pour yourself a cuppa, and sit down for a very interesting read!

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- Membership - Renew before EOFY!
- AGM
- Maggie On Tap Island Pub Talks
- Working towards our sustainable future
- Zero Waste inspiration
- Reef Assist restoring our creeks
- TRM helps Men's Shed go solar
- Calling all gardeners!
- GBR Foundation supporting Magnetic Island initiatives

- Mangrove monitoring
- QPWS Yunbenun Rangers in training
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- World Heritage Values update
- 16 years of rescuing wallabies
- What's on the horizon for the Port of Townsville?
- Making a difference, learn and have fun with our National Park Volunteers
- Muso's Update with the Sounds of Kearney Youth Talent Quest coming soon!

DIARY DATES:

- **Saturday 17th June:** Planning Group Meeting
- **Monday 19th June:** Water Group Meeting
- **Tuesday 20th June:** Zero Waste Magnetic Island Meeting
- **Tuesday 27th June:** Energy Group Meeting
- **Wednesday 28th June:** Maggie On Tap Island Pub Talks - Cryptic Critters
- **Saturday 1st July:** MICDA AGM
- **Sunday 2nd July:** Health Group Meeting
- **Saturday 8th July:** Muso's Night
- **Sunday 9th July:** NAIDOC Weaving Workshop
- **Wednesday 12th July:** Deadline for Letters of Support for Telecommunications
- **Saturday 15th July:** Community Tree Planting Day
- **July TBC:** Transport Group Meeting

Congratulations to all of our hard working teams, and happy reading!

Les Sampson - MICDA President

*P.S.: If you have anything that you need to discuss with MICDA, send an email to Les Sampson at micda.president@gmail.com or a letter to **MICDA President, PO Box 133 Magnetic Island QLD 4819.***

It's time to renew your MICDA membership - before EOFY!

If you're not sure when you last paid your membership, send an email to Sara at: micda.info@gmail.com and she'll check the records and let you know.

Alternatively go to micda.com.au/become-a-member, fill in your details and then pay online. **You can now pay by EFT, credit card or PayPal via the MICDA website** - It's only \$25 per year (\$15 concession).

ARE YOU A MARKET STALL HOLDER OR A VOLUNTEER?

If you're a stall holder at the Magnetic Island Markets or a volunteer, and you're not a

current member, you won't be covered by MICDA's insurance. So [send us an email](#) to find out if your membership is current, or [sign up today](#) so that you know that you're covered. It's the cheapest insurance policy you'll ever find!

HAVE YOUR SAY!



CALLING FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT To resolve internet/telecommunications issues on Magnetic Island

Deadline: 5pm Wednesday 12th July 2023

Overview: QNC and their partners, Channel Wireless, are seeking community support for their application for a Federal government grant to try and resolve the internet/telecommunications issues on Magnetic Island. Letters of Support are needed in the next few weeks by QNC, as the grant is due to be lodged by 12 July 2023.

Your Letters of Support should be sent directly to Dan Thomson at:

dan@channelwireless.com The more local community and business support they have, the more chance that they (or another provider) receives funding to fix the problems that our community has long suffered.

For more information and sample Letters of Support, please visit the ['MICDA Group' Facebook page.](#)

EVENTS & DIARY DATES



MAGGIE ON TAP - ISLAND PUB TALKS

Our Cryptic Critters - Wednesday 28th June

For this month's Maggie on Tap Island Pub Talk, look out for Kasper and Lawrence uncovering our Cryptic Critters at Nomads (formerly Base Backpackers) on Wednesday 28 June, starting at 6.30pm.

If you have not yet joined a Maggie On Tap Island Pub Talk, come along and hear from local scientists and professionals about fascinating Island topics on our precious ecosystems and marine life. We have a different venue each month, so check out our Facebook page for details at: [Our World Heritage Island](#)

Photo: ©Tim Hempstead



NOTICE OF 2023 MICDA AGM

- Saturday 1st July

Notice of the MICDA AGM and call for Nominations for the Election to the Committee.

MICDA cordially invites you to attend the MICDA Annual General Meeting, to be held:

Date: Saturday 1st July 2023

Venue: Amaroo On Mandalay

Time: 2pm (Doors are open from 1.45pm - please be prompt)

VOTING & NOMINATIONS

All of the following positions will be declared vacant on the MICDA Committee, and nominations are welcome:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership
- General Committee Members

NOMINATIONS

Download or view the [MICDA AGM Nomination and Proxy Form](#).

Please complete and sign the Nomination Form and return it by email to the Secretary:

libbyevansillidge@gmail.com by 5pm, Friday 30th June 2023.

PROXY VOTES/FORMS

For those unable to attend, please complete and sign the MICDA AGM Proxy Form and return it by email to the Secretary: libbyevansillidge@gmail.com no later than 5pm, on Friday 30th June 2023.

Signed forms can also be handed in **on the day by 1.45pm at the latest please.**



NAIDOC WEEK 2023

Weaving Workshop - Sunday 9th July

Following the success of last year's NAIDOC celebrations, Wulgurukaba will be hosting an event for locals to enjoy. This year's NAIDOC theme is 'For Our Elder's' and a local weaving workshop will be held on Sunday 9th July. Like the [What's On Magnetic Island Facebook page](#) to see latest information.



Community Tree Planting Day - Saturday 15th July 9am to 12pm Apex Camp

What's On Magnetic Island is a great way to know about coming events so that you don't miss out!

Simply visit and like our [What's On Magnetic Island Facebook page](#), to stay up to date with events, meetings, workshops and entertainment!

MICDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE



SUSTAINABILITY

We're working towards a sustainable future for Magnetic Island!

Around 90 volunteers in our 10 Working Groups are working on our community-led [Magnetic Island \(Yunbenun\) Community Sustainable Development Plan](#) to find solutions to decarbonisation, managing climate risks, improving climate resilience and sustainable development.

Since project coordinator Aniko Papp took up her role earlier this year, she has held around 46 meetings, made 23 presentations and attended 15 events. Groups have also met stakeholders including local and federal members of parliament, the Townsville City Council and other community groups.

Aniko is also focusing on our Working Groups liaising and working together. For example, electrifying public transport, reducing carbon emissions through solar energy, and Zero Waste working with businesses via Tourism Magnetic Island (TMI).

Planning Working Group

Over the next 16 months TCC will be reviewing their City Plan, including Magnetic Island. This Group wants to ensure that our World Heritage Values, and our unique needs and concerns are included in that reviewed plan.

Next meeting date: Saturday 17 June

Water Working Group

The Group is liaising with TCC to look at the sewerage treatment plant at Picnic Bay, and its capacity to remove properties off their septic systems in Picnic Bay, Nelly Bay and Arcadia. They are also discussing water drainage issues into our bays.

Next meeting date: Monday 19 June

Zero Waste Magnetic Island - See separate article

Next meeting date: Tuesday 20 June

Energy Group (TRM) - See separate article

Next meeting date: Tuesday 27 June

Health Working Group

Catherine Gadsden has done a marvelous job in invigorating the Health Working Group and establishing a compassionate community on Magnetic Island. Aniko worked with Catherine to hold a Neighbour Day, attended by 80 residents, most of which were newly arrived to the Island. The Health Working Group is affiliated with the CAN and are now working through a draft Health Plan, which will contribute to our Whole Island Plan.

Next meeting date: Sunday 2 July

Transport Working Group:

This group met on Wednesday 14th June, where David Phillips was invited to talk about renewable energy and investigating why Magnetic Island has some "special" problems, mainly the bus route/noise/safety issues, etc. For a report on this meeting, visit the '[MICDA Group' Facebook page](#), or contact Aniko.

Next meeting date: July TBA

Traditional Owner Working Group

Our Traditional Owner group which consists of three local Wulgurukaba people including Brian and Lyle Johnson, have attended and contributed to a number of workshops and meetings associated with our sustainable future projects.

NEW! - Marine Working Group & Terrestrial Working Group

We are looking to establish a Marine Working Group and a Terrestrial Working Group (which encompasses the former Ecosystem Monitoring Group). These groups will focus on data collection, monitoring, remediation, education and enhancement environmental/wildlife issues and projects. Anyone who would like to be part of these two new groups, please contact Aniko at misdpc.coord@gmail.com

Tourism/Business Group

Towards the end of 2022 Tourism Magnetic Island Inc. (TMI) was in the process of winding

up. After MICDA established a new tourism/business Working Group, it became clear that the focus should be to re-establish TMI. With a lot of behind the scenes support, TMI became operational again with a new and invigorated team, and with Deb Barber from Arcadia Village Hotel at the helm.

Come and join one (or more) of our groups!

There is an open invitation to all members of our community with any expertise or interest to become part of any of our Working Groups - all of whom would benefit with more input. Working Groups meet once a month and you don't need to be a MICDA member to join - but we do appreciate your support.

For more information contact Aniko Papp Coordinator - Magnetic Island Community Sustainable Development Plan on **0400 305 714**, email misdpc.coord@gmail.com

Photo: © [GlobalGoose](#)



ZERO WASTE

Inspiration to reduce waste at work and at home on Maggie

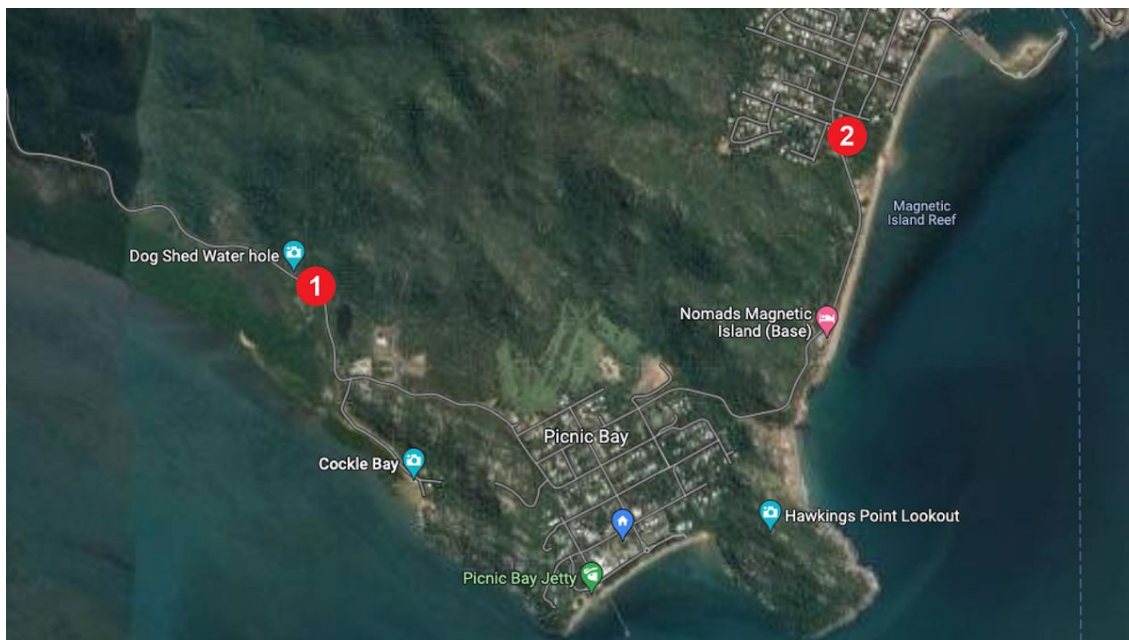
In this edition of their newsletter, Zero Waste are showcasing four workplaces on our Island who have hit the road running with inspiring solutions to either operate with no waste, or have reduced/recycled waste from their businesses. Other items in their newsletter (which is a fabulous read, but too long to list here) include:

- Zero Waste's 5-year dream becomes a reality
- Not just threads - we are now Waste Arts/Crafts
- Zero Waste Planning Workshop Report
- Updates on recycling soft plastics
- Beer Drinker's Challenge
- Plastic lid recycling
- Horseshoe Bay Markets
- Monthly Meetings

Read the full [Zero Waste Newsletter](#)

For more information contact Julie Woodlock at: zerowastemi@gmail.com

Or visit the [Zero Waste Magnetic Island Facebook page](#).



REEF ASSIST PROJECT

Reef Assist finds and plants hundreds of native plants to restore our creeks

Reef Assist has been concentrating on two main sites in the last few months. One is at the Cockle Creek/Dog Creek site, along both sides of the creek line. Removal of huge amounts of Lantana and Snake Weed have allowed 100 of natives to be found and fostered, as well as planting 200 or more natives from our team's nurseries.

Our other main site has been the Habitat Reserve at Nelly Bay where the weeds have been removed from around huge gums and other established trees. Along the creek line Guinea Grass has been chopped and dropped to maintain bank stability and mulch applied over the top. The creek lines are now being planted with natives also from our nurseries.

Both sites are benefitting from the addition of Humisoil made from weeds removed over 12 months ago and fertilised with liquid from the Bio-gen so the waste usually going to landfill cycle has been recycled into a fantastic addition and added to our soils.

The nursery at Horseshoe Bay has many trays of young seedlings starting to show their heads above the soil. Seeds collected on the Island have been grown, and will then be replanted into banks of creeks to stabilise and add to the native bush at each site.

For more information on the Reef Assist Project, please visit micda.com.au/reef-assist

Photo:



ENERGY - TOTALLY RENEWABLE MAGNETIC

Men's Shed goes solar - thanks to TRM!

Totally Renewable Magnetic (TRM) was successful in obtaining a grant for the Magnetic Island Men's Shed to install 9.96kW of solar panels and an 8kW inverter on their new premises in Hirst Street, Picnic Bay. This should allow Men's Shed to continue to obtain power without an electricity bill, and adds to the already 3.5MW of solar installed on Magnetic Island, (estimated to provide around 25% of the electricity on the Island).

Since launching in November 2022 TRM has also consulted with a number of Island residents and businesses to assist them to understand the benefits and process for obtaining quotes for solar panels. TRM does this for free and is not affiliated with any installers or suppliers. Members also attended the Easter Fair, resulting in more meetings with Island residents to explain the benefits of solar panels. TRM members continue to meet monthly.

For more information or to join TRM, contact Joe Niven at: joseph.niven@gmail.com or call Joe on 0414 285 214



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Calling all gardeners!

Our working group has been reduced to just two active members due to personal circumstances. Gay McCosker and Brian Everingham met last month to assess the way forward and look at the alternative site which Council has proposed in Horseshoe Bay. After much discussion we agreed that the site is not suitable for our proposed Community Garden plan and we are going back to Council to discuss how we can progress the original proposal for a site at Kelly Street, Nelly Bay. We meet with Council first week in June.

For more information or to become involved in the Community Garden Group, contact Gay McCosker at: gay.mccosker@gmail.com

Photo: © unsplash.com | David Clode



FUNDING & INITIATIVES

GBR Foundation supporting Magnetic Island initiatives

MICDA has been successful over the last three years in gaining funding from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation for its [Community Action Program \(CAP\)](#). The first round of CAP involved community consultation and the bringing together of strategies to improve the marine and terrestrial values of the Island to enhance the Reef.

The second round of funding supported the implementation of these strategies which included defining our World Heritage Values, working with the Traditional Owners on listing cultural aspects and capability building in order to engage more fully on Land and Sea Country actions, and Eco Systems Monitoring and Community Engagement with the likes of such efforts as the very popular Pub Talks, etc. The CAP funding is now coming to an end. However,...

The GBRF have developed a program with private enterprises called the *Reef Island Initiative* which has broader funding criteria that fits very closely with our *Whole of Island Plan*, and the 10 community Working Groups contributing to that Island Plan. (See our 'Sustainability' article above).

As a result of the momentum developing with the *Island Plan* and the Working Groups, (as well as the success of CAP), a new proposal has been developed and submitted to the GBRF which includes continuing with some of the CAP actions, as well as a range of new initiatives from across the Working Groups. Further discussions are in progress and we will keep you posted with any updates.

For more information contact Les Sampson, MICDA President at:

micda.president@gmail.com



OUR WORLD HERITAGE ISLAND

Mangrove Monitoring

The Maggie Mangroovers volunteers continue to marvel, having surveyed the mangroves in Geoffrey Bay and now laying their transects amongst the scratchy and muddy mangroves of Horseshoe Bay. Local Islander Helen is now trained with MangroveWatch, and is ready to inspire all of us about the magical mangroves. **If you would like to learn more about volunteering in our local mangroves**, email us at ecosystemsmi@outlook.com

QPWS Yunbenun Rangers

Yunbenun Rangers continue to look after this fabulous Island, and Our World Heritage Island is very proud to support them. Recently Rangers completed a drone mapping course with Dr Karen Joyce and have been out keeping track of Sea Country with new SCUBA skills. Two Wulgurukaba locals completed their Rescue and Indigenous Guide training, and one lady completed training through the Sea Women of Melanesia Program. A recent collaboration took the Yunbenun Rangers to the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) to learn about the new technologies such as ReefCloud - which can help us understand and manage the reef.

Get involved in local citizen science - land and sea activities

Under Alma is a new citizen science activity for Maggie locals. We have had delays with weather, but hopefully our frequent swimmers will be able to share their observations with all of us over the coming months. If you are a regular swimmer anywhere on the island and would like to learn more about our amazing marine life, join us in learning more about local reefs with the help of GBRMPA. Contact us for more information at ecosystemsmi@outlook.com.

Aren't we lucky to have so much expertise on Yunbenun? And that may include you! Over the winter we will be putting the call out for locals like you to help us and Dani Ceccarelli to develop a local fish guide with amazing photos. Andrew Baird will also help us create an up-to-date guide on local corals. With the help of the Yunbenun Ramgers, Sophie Gordon will also be mapping the Moltke ship wreck with her massive rig of cameras.

World Heritage Values Workshop

Thanks to Gethin Morgan and Peter Hensen (MINCA) for their remarkable job of presenting our World Heritage Values recently at the Arcadia Bowls Club. This research contributes enormously to the protection and conservation of the Island's precious ecosystems. We are also very excited about the upcoming launch of the Cranky Curlew film and information flyers.

Maggie on Tap Island Pub Talks - back by popular demand!

Our World Heritage Island continues to welcome local experts to share their insights at our monthly Maggie On Tap Island Pub Talks. Hosted by the awesome Tim Hempstead, Maggie on Tap offers our local community the chance to hear invaluable and entertaining local knowledge on various and fascinating Island topics.

If you missed autumn's Pub Talks, here is a recap. In March, local legend Peter Illidge enthralled the crowds with tales of our shipwrecks at the Picnic Bay Hotel. Followed in April by the lovely Ali Bee at Selina, who introduced us to many of the koalas she has known. This was followed by JCU's Jaelen Myers at the Maggie Island Brewery in May who inspired us with her passion for stingrays.

For this month's Maggie on Tap Island Pub Talk, look out for Kasper and Lawrence uncovering 'Our Cryptic Critters' at Nomads (formerly Base Backpackers) on Wednesday 28th June at 6.30pm.

For more information on all of these projects visit the [Our World Heritage Island Facebook page](#).

Photos: **Above** - The Maggie Mangroovers in action.

Below - MC Tim Hempstead introduces Peter Illidge at the March 'Our Shipwrecks' Pub Talks in Picnic Bay.



WALLABY REFUGE

16 years, 243 rescues and still going strong!

The Wallaby Refuge has now topped 243 raised and released joeys in the 16 years we have been rescuing. One most important question when we are called about an injured wallaby is the sex, and the possibility of a joey.

This last week a call came in from a member of the public stating she had found an injured wallaby and thought she may have seen a joey go into the bushland. Attending the scene and with a search, this little boy was found. We thank everyone for keeping alert and

looking around when they find an injured wallaby. This little joey certainly owes his life to the members of the public. We have named him 'Billy'.

For more information about the Wallaby Refuge or to donate your time or resources, please contact Darrie at: darrielisle@gmail.com



PORT OF TOWNSVILLE LIMITED (PoTL)

An update from our Community Liaison Group - what's on the horizon?

The Channel Upgrade project reached a milestone on 11 April 2023, with dredging now 50% complete. Works are currently focused on dredging to final depth within the Platypus Channel; there has been no dredging in the Sea Channel to date. The dredge material is going into a reclamation zone which is at the Port.

The PoTL state that water quality conditions in Cleveland Bay and the surrounding region for the quarter remained satisfactory. Quarterly coral monitoring was undertaken in March and biannual seagrass surveys commenced in May. Annual inshore dolphin monitoring started in June. They will also be upgrading to accommodate larger cruise and container vessels following completion of the Channel Upgrade project.

Throughout the 2022/23 Cruise Season, cruise ships with a total 7,281 passengers and 4,392 crew visited Townsville. Cruise passengers directly injected \$3.6 million into the local economy. Carnival Cruise Lines are adding Townsville to their itineraries from January 2025. Pacific Encounter is booked to visit in January 2025, and Pacific Explorer in June 2025. These will be the biggest cruise ships Townsville has ever seen. PoTL is campaigning to notify cruise lines and agents that Townsville will welcome larger vessels from Summer 2024. The next cruise season will begin on 23rd November 2023.

PoTL has joined Containers for Change, with Quayside Terminal now a collection point for Containers for Change QLD on cruise days. The money raised from the recycling of containers goes directly to Mission to Seafarers Townsville.

PoTL are also looking at renewable energy systems powering their infrastructure, (not the lease hold infrastructure at this point), by 2025.

For more information contact Aniko Papp Coordinator at: misdpc.coord@gmail.com



YUNBENUN-MAGNETIC ISLAND NATIONAL PARK VOLUNTEERS

Make a difference, learn and have fun!

YMINPV commenced their activities for the year on 18th March – beginning our 16th year! We have been active at Endeavour Creek, Horseshoe Bay Lagoon, Florence Bay, and the vine thicket in Nelly Bay.

The regular good rain throughout the last year has resulted in very vigorous weed growth at most sites. It has been a challenge to get on top of the weeds, but the encouraging factor is that the native vegetation has also had a good season. We can see the results of our work as the returning native vegetation begins to shade out the weeds. Horseshoe Bay Lagoon has now reached maturity with very little weed beyond the start of the path.

The group is keen for new participants, as some older members have *retired*. We meet fortnightly on a Saturday morning, next session being 24th June. Not only do participants make a contribution to restoring and maintaining the natural environment of the Island, it is also an opportunity to learn about the local flora and ecology. We work under the guidance of MINCA and with practical support from National Parks. At various sites we also support the work of the Wulgurukaba traditional owners.

If you'd like to join please contact Carolyn Dixon at dixonbailey@icloud.com or on

4774 1414.

Download the **FREE** [Magnetic Island Weeds Guide](#)

Photos: Above - Morning Tea break at Endeavour Creek. Below - Florence Bay after weeding.



MUSOS

Sounds of Kearney Youth Talent Quest coming soon!

Keep an ear out for the announcement of the date for the annual Sounds of Kearney Youth

Talent Quest on the [Magnetic Island Musos' Club on Facebook](#). The competition is open to school age humans who play an instrument and/or sing.

It's been business as usual for Musos. Our monthly gigs have been well attended and attracting new faces to the stage. Talented performers from all around the world (and from Maggie Island) have been entertaining audiences.

We are exploring new venues because at some point the Council will, they say, carry out works at the Rec Club building and we will be unable to use it.

Gigs are at the Horseshoe Bay Oval outdoor stage from 6.30-10pm, on the second Saturday of each month. If you'd like to play, speak to President fREEk on arrival, or phone beforehand on 0401 080 434.

Saturday 18th July will be our next Muso's Night. [Like Magnetic Island Musos' Club on Facebook](#) to keep up to date with our activities.



MEMBERSHIP

Are your friends receiving our Newsletter?

If we don't have their email, they may be missing out on receiving this newsletter. If you're chatting with them over a coffee, just ask them if they're up with the news. If they would like to be, they can simply register their details:

Online at micda.com.au/become-a-member

Email our Membership Officer at micda.info@gmail.com

Simply forward them this newsletter and they can use the above links.

Where can you find the latest news for MICDA?

Like our '[MICDA Group](#)' Facebook page to stay up to date with the latest MICDA news between our quarterly newsletters!

Can you help?

If you have some time extra time on your hands and you'd like to be part of MICDA in any way, please contact Les Sampson at micda.president@gmail.com

We acknowledge Wulgurukaba as the Traditional Owners of Yunbenun (Magnetic Island) and its waters.



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