



Magnetic Island
Community Development
Association



The Latest MICDA Working Groups News October 2022

Hi <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the latest news from our dedicated MICDA volunteer Working Groups.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

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- Wallaby Refuge
- National Park Volunteers
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DIARY DATES:

- **Tuesday 25th October:** Maggie On Tap Island Pub Talks - Our Native Plants
- **Saturday 12th November:** Muso's Night

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.***

EVENTS & DIARY DATES

Maggie on Tap
Island Pub Talks

Our native plants
And how the plants we grow can support our ecosystems

Photograph by Peter Hansen

Presented by Jeanette Kemp and Peter Hansen

Tuesday 25 October
Picnic Bay Hotel, Picnic Bay
SEALINK Starts at 6.30pm - It's Maggie on Tap!

OUR WORLD HERITAGE

MAGGIE ON TAP - ISLAND PUB TALKS

Our Native Plants - Tuesday 25th October

The team at Maggie on Tap are very excited to have two extremely knowledgeable locals join us at our next Pub Talk. 'Our Native Plants' will be presented by Jeanette Kemp and Peter Hansen next Tuesday 25 October (not the usual Thursday), starting at 6.30pm.

Join us for a wonderful evening at the Picnic Bay Hotel courtyard to learn about some of our fascinating local plants and how we can help support the health of our backyards and ecosystems. The bistro will be open for dinner from 5.30pm, so feel free to grab a drink and enjoy something to eat while you listen.

Keep up to date with the latest Island Pub Talks and Ecosystems Monitoring activities by

liking their Facebook page at: [EcosystemsMI](#)

MICDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE



ECOSYSTEMS MONITORING

Our World Heritage Island Community Action Program (CAP) Project has introduced new hands-on citizen science activities and fun events for our Island community.

1. Under Alma Reef Training

This month a group of regular Alma Bay swimmers and Apex Camp Activity Instructors will be working with marine biologists from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to increase reef knowledge and monitor underwater marine life in our bays. Training will include how to record sightings through the [Eye on the Reef](#) Monitoring App and reporting unusual activity. We highly recommend that everyone downloads this free app.

2. Mangrove Monitoring

As a result of the Monitoring on Magnetic workshop in May, a small group has been formed to help monitor our beautiful mangrove systems in Picnic, Geoffery and Horseshoe Bays. A group of passionate local volunteers enjoyed training with expert scientists from MangroveWatch to help protect our Island mangroves, and record valuable baseline data.

3. Maggie on Tap Island Pub Talks are a hit!

If you have not yet joined a Maggie On Tap Island Pub Talk, come along to a local Island venue near you. Hear from local scientists and experts about fascinating island topics on our precious ecosystems and marine life. So far we have enjoyed learning about our turtles, seagrass, fringing reefs, sea mammals, sharks and rays, our underwater sanctuaries, and this month the topic will be our native plants. Come

along for an educational and fun evening with Maggie On Tap!

For more information on any of these events, email Jo Marks at:

ecosystemsMI@outlook.com and/or follow our [Our World Heritage Island Facebook page](#).

Photo: Our September Island Pub Talk with Jo Petersen and Dani Ceccarelli on Our Underwater Sanctuaries, at Arcadia Village Hotel.



REEF ASSIST PROJECT

1.5 years+ of creek rehabilitation with weeds converted to Humisoil

The Reef Assist team have been working on our Island for well over a year and a half now, and have rehabilitated many creek lines and vulnerable areas where weeds have been removed and native plants fostered and replanted to help control erosion. The weeds have been converted into [Humisoil](#) and we now have a fantastic resource to put back onto our plantings to help the soil rehabilitation, and improve water holding capacity.

Humisoil created by Reef Assist

Three of our team recently were part of a Syntropic Conference and are now using this technique which incorporates regenerative agricultural techniques to rehabilitate further areas of our Island. Working near the Butterfly Walk in Horseshoe Bay, they have been removing *Mother of Thousands* (MOT) and *Mother in Laws Tongue* (MILT) and creating [Syntropic “Nests”](#). Humisoil is added to the “nest” with weeds that have been found on site and cleared, as well as mulch and small logs etc. After initial watering the site is left to begin its natural processes of breaking down the plant matter, then growing native plants from the seeds. The roots form an intricate web of communication between the plants.

Increased water holding capacity and soil microbes

These nests build up the water holding capacity of the soil and encourage native soil microbes to repopulate the soils. The team then “seed bomb” the nest with native seeds they have collected from plants on the Island to allow the natives to re-establish themselves. A mixture of grasses, small shrubs and taller trees are part of the mix so a natural layered canopy will develop over time and encourage our native fauna. This process assists with erosion control and soil retention, as well as nurturing the native plants.

New biogen to convert food waste to liquid fertiliser

This very enthusiastic team are working in many areas of our Island and will soon be involved in converting food waste into a useful natural liquid fertiliser with our [Biogen](#) – more information will be available in our next edition.

Thank you for all the support of the local community encouraging our efforts and donating pots to help us propagate natives from locally sourced seeds. **For more information on the Reef Assist Project**, please visit micda.com.au/reef-assist

Photos. Left: Humisoil pile created by Reef Assist.

Middle: Mother In Law Tongue at HSB before syntropic practices were used.

Right: Syntropic nest created at Horseshoe Bay near the Butterfly Walk.



WALLABY REFUGE

Please BE AWARE!

With the changing of the seasons we are seeing changes in the activities and an increase in the movements of all wildlife on the Island. The Wallaby Refuge continues the theme of asking people to please 'Be Aware'.

At 1.30am the other day this little joey was found on the road on the hill between Arcadia and Horseshoe Bay. He was located a short distance from his deceased mum. The rescuer spoke of just seeing the little head raise up. This Allied Rock Wallaby joey weighed only 98 grams on admission. He has been in care for 8 days, and now weighs 114 grams.

As specialists in the care of these little joeys and remembering that our planet is in an ecological danger, we believe the saving of each one, not only by us but most importantly by the rescuers, is a favour for our planet.

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



YUNBENUN-MAGNETIC ISLAND NATIONAL PARK VOLUNTEERS

Fields of weeds are a big challenge for our volunteers

This year, due to the regularity of rain, all the sites that we work at have shown very good growth of local plants and of weeds. We have been working very hard to get on top of these weed infestations, including an extra session to completely clear Florence Bay of periwinkle. We were helped by Arcadia Coastcare which was great. Other sites worked include Endeavour Creek, Nelly Bay Lagoon and West Point. Outbreaks of *mother-of-millions* weed have been particularly prolific!

There has been a smaller number of volunteers for the last couple of sessions as people take the opportunity to travel. We are looking forward to completing our 15th year in November.

We meet fortnightly, March to November, on alternate Saturday mornings. The goal is to restore and maintain areas of National Park as flourishing natural environments. The work of the group is overseen by the National Park Rangers, supported by Magnetic Island Nature Care Association, and guided by Cate Paton. Some areas, such as Endeavour Creek, are managed by National Parks together with the traditional owners.

We welcome new members who can be assured of an enjoyable morning weeding with the

group. 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](#)

Photo: Left: Mother of Millions weeding. Right: A picture of Endeavour Creek after weeding.



FITNESS

Swimming Pool Working Group

This Working Group was formed because after decades of community being able to access the Magnetic Island Community and School Swimming Pool this access was stopped due to the cessation of funding from the TCC. The purpose of the MICDA Swimming Pool Working Group is to coordinate community access of the pool through liaison with the school.

MICDA sought support and funding from the TCC for a recurring yearly budget allocation of funds to enable management of the Community's access to the pool through a specific proposal. The proposal is to open the pool for community use only for 2 hours a day for 7 days a week, and at times to be negotiated with other current commercial uses and school use. The Community has demonstrated an overwhelming support for their access to the pool and to get the funding from TCC with 1400 signatures on a petition that was submitted with the proposal. The petition was also organized by this working group.

MICDA presented the proposal and petition to Mayor Jenny Hill, Councillor Ann-Maree Greaney and at a Council meeting in July. MICDA is still awaiting a response from the TCC.

For more information or to be involved contact Lea Scherl at:
lea.scherl@bigpond.com For the full article please [visit our website.](#)



ZERO WASTE

What have we been up to, and where are we going?

We have achieved some great things in raising awareness of the need to be more mindful of our waste, but we also need your help (big or small) to keep making a difference.

Our achievements since inception include:

- Zero Waste Survey in 2019.
- Community Action Planning Workshop 2019.
- Production of an educational video '[Little Things Matter](#)' for preschool children.
- Creation of Zero Waste Magnetic Island information [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).
- [Newsletter](#) published both on our website and Facebook pages.
- Establishment of a Containers For Change weekly Island collection and 24/7 collection pod.
- Threads Workshops for textile creations and repair, and a [Threads Facebook page](#).
- [Water On Tap](#) project and map, highlighting the fact that Townsville tap water is safe to drink, there are many locations around Magnetic Island where you can fill up for free, and you don't have to buy single-use plastic bottles.
- 2021 Zero Waste Exhibition "Don't Waste Christmas", with great ideas for gifts and cards.
- Monthly information stall at the Horseshoe Bay Markets, and distribution of reusable mesh produce bags to replace plastic bags - made by our small band of volunteers.
- Effectively lobbying the Townsville City Council for the establishment of a [Bio-](#)

[ReGen](#) Unit on the Island for the processing of commercial food waste and plant material.

We've got a bunch of great ideas but without your help they are just ideas:

- Develop recycling instruction kits, and approaching holiday rental managers to include these kits in properties with the message to holiday makers - DON'T WASTE MAGNETIC ISLAND.
- Gather volunteers to help [Shed 3](#) to produce products with the plastic lids they have in storage.
- Market recycled plastic products to raise funds for Zero Waste MI and to assist Shed 3 in their efforts.
- Establish sustainable plastic lid collection and sorting on the Island.
- Offering household assessments and education to help people get closer to Zero Waste in their homes.
- Encourage Zero Wasters to make short videos of their efforts at home and publish them on the Zero Waste Facebook page.
- Encouraging gardening on the verge!
- The creation of an upcycled clothing show.

We love new ideas but what we need is ACTION!

Join Zero Waste today!

Currently we are running low on community energy - imagine what we could do with an army of active members with fresh ideas and the energy to put them into action. If you want to send an inquiry or are interested in joining our group, please contact **Julie** at: juliewoodlock51@gmail.com

Happy recycling from the Maggie Island Zero Waste Group!



EMPLOYMENT

New Coordinator for our Community Sustainable Development Plan

The Magnetic Island Community Development Association (MICDA) has been successful in securing a grant from the Qld Department of Environment and Science. The grant, under the Community Sustainability Action Grants Program, allows the engagement of a Coordinator for a community led project that encourages greater participation, and helps deliver, climate action in Queensland.

The Coordinator will work with Magnetic Island community-based groups that are focused on solutions to decarbonisation, managing climate risks, improving climate resilience and sustainable development in order to develop a community “Whole of Island” plan for Magnetic Island’s Future.

This job application was posted on 12 Magnetic Island Facebook pages to allow as many people as possible to apply for the position. Applications are now closed and interviews have commenced. We will keep you posted on who is the successful applicant. For more information on the 'Whole of Island' plan [visit our website](#).



TRANSPORT

Results from the Magnetic Island Bus Survey

One of the first projects the Transport Working Group undertook was to survey locals and visitors to Magnetic Island regarding the current Sunbus service. To view the August survey results, go to the [Transport Working Group](#) page on our website and view the PDF.

The group is considering issues in:

- Transport infrastructure
- Modes of transport
- Transport systems
- Planning approaches that address immediate, mid term and long term outcomes.

If this is something that interests you, get in touch with Rob Dorgelo at:

robert.dorgelo@gmail.com



ENERGY

Working towards a Totally Renewable Magnetic Island

The Energy Working Group has renamed itself Totally Renewable Magnetic (TRM) and has been working on its road map over the last few months. As a result of this work, TRM has agreed its aims are to increase solar generation on the island, invest in storage, seek funding to install microgrids to share the benefits, encourage electricity to be used more efficiently and manage demand.

In October we presented these aims to MIRRA and are in the process of seeking feedback from MIRRA and MINCA ahead of launching TRM to the wider community later this year.

Watch the ['MICDA Group' Facebook page](#) for more details.

For more information, or to be involved in this group, contact Joe Niven at:

joseph.niven@gmail.com



MUSOS

Winners of the Sounds of Kearney Youth Talent Quest

The annual Sounds of Kearney Youth Talent Quest was held in September. Supported by the Kearney family, in memory of Islander Ann, we had over twenty participants.

Congratulations to the winners!

First Prize Senior: Zahra Bligh

Second Prize Senior: Summer Stennett (Ayr)

Third Prize Senior: Hannah-Rose Pearson

First Prize Junior: Rowan Izzett

Second Prize Junior: Jeremy Smith

Third Prize Junior: Ruby Belczacki

Christine St John Award: Shared by Georgia B and Tia Schaefer

Helene Rankin Award: Harriet Hudson

Musos' in October was subject to a double-booking at the Men's Shed and we popped-up at Alma Bay instead. It was a small gathering but most of the music came from Island visitors and it was a small but good night: chilled Island vibes.

Saturday 12th November will be our next Muso's Night. [Like Magnetic Island Musos' Club on Facebook](#) to keep up to date with our activities.



MINT

MINT ventures into the blue

We'd like to congratulate the Magnetic Island Network for Turtles (MINT) team on becoming an independent, incorporated association. MICDA has been honoured to support these dedicated professionals and volunteers over the years, and we wish them bigger and better success over the years to come.

New MINT email addresses

mint@seaturtles.org.au for general purpose use (*Old email was miturtles2011@gmail.com*)

president@seaturtles.org.au (Tasha Rodwell)

accounts@seaturtles.org.au (Treasurer)

secretary@seaturtles.org.au

Stay in touch

Like the [MINT Facebook page](#) to stay in touch with their great work!



MARINE

Marine Update

Coral spawning

Coral spawning is occurring around the island in October, and a second spawn may occur in line with offshore reefs around 22 - 24 November, although you will need to be up late with spawning likely to commence after midnight. Trichodesmium algae (actually a cyanobacteria) blooms often also occur around this time of year and are commonly mistaken as coral spawn. Coral spawn is generally pink whilst Trichodesmium is typically brown until it washes ashore and breaks down, when it can undergo a colour change.

Turtle Nesting

It's almost that time of year when turtles will be nesting on most beaches around the island, and **we kindly remind people not to light fires or drive on the beaches.** Please also check where your dog may be digging when walking the beaches, so that they don't disturb a nest.

Photo: Courtesy of AIMS



MEMBERSHIP

Are your friends receiving our Newsletter?

We've been busy updating our database so that we can spread the news about our industrious working groups. The only thing is that some members pay directly to our bank account, so 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 aren't they can register their details:

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

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

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

Is your membership up to date?

It's easy. Go to the [membership page on our website](#), fill in your details and then pay online.

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

What's happening on Maggie?

Join the FREE weekly eReminder or visit the daily calendar at whatsonmagneticisland.com.au and have all of Maggie's events, live music, community meetings and more, in one place! Alternatively like our [What's On](#)

[Facebook page](#) for the weekly round up and latest listings.

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



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