



**Magnetic Island
Community Development
Association**

November 2023 News

Hi <<First Name>>>,

Welcome to the latest news from our dedicated volunteer Working Groups. Once again it's jam packed with information, so sit down and relax. You're in for a very interesting read.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- XLR-8ing food waste recycling, weeding and habitat regeneration
- Ask TRM about your solar and battery needs
- Ecosystems monitoring update and activities
- Let's meet up and play
- Months of hard work pay off – in more ways than one!
- New mobile Wildlife Clinic is available for all
- Moving Maggie towards a sustainable future - the story so far
- Help or hindrance to our World Heritage Values as Government overhauls environmental laws

- Muso's update and Sounds of Kearney Youth Talent Quest winners
- Thank you, we couldn't save them without you
- A year of great accomplishments!

DIARY DATES:

- **Thursday 16th November:** Transport Working Group Meeting
 - **Friday 17th November:** Under Alma Guided Snorkel
 - **Tuesday 21st November:** Zero Waste Meeting
 - **Thursday 23rd November:** Water Working Group Meeting
 - **Wednesday 29th November:** Maggie On Tap Island Pub Talks - Our Turtles
 - **Wednesday 29th November:** Marine Action Magnetic Island Group Meeting
 - **Thursday 30th November:** Planning Working Group Meeting
- Remember to check the [MICDA Group Facebook page](#) for any event changes.*

Happy reading and congratulations to all of our hard working teams!

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.***

EVENT DATES



Do you love everything Under Alma?

Want to learn more about our reefs?



Join in Under Alma!

A guided snorkel session with marine experts
Friday 17 November 8-11am

Are you a regular bay swimmer and enjoy watching marine life? Do you love underwater photography?

Join us for a free guided snorkel and learn how we can keep an eye on our reefs.

Help record wildlife sightings, coral health and fish species around our island bays.

Register to come along by emailing ecosystemsMI@outlook.com

Average and above swimming ability required



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



MAGNETIC ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION




Join In Under Alma - Free Guided Snorkel Session

Friday 17 November from 8am to 11am at Alma Bay

Join the FREE guided snorkel with marine experts to discover and learn more about the Alma Bay reef. It's free and full of fun facts. For more information see the full article below. To be involved, email Jo at ecosystemsmi@outlook.com

MAGGIE ON TAP
Island pub talks






Our turtles

Hear from the team at Magnetic Island Network for Turtles (MINT) about all things sea turtles

Presented by Jo Petersen and Paul Groves

Wednesday 29 November
Talk starts 6.30pm - Nomads, Nelly Bay

SEALINK This is a Magnetic Island Community Action Plan event

Maggie On Tap Island Pub Talks

Wednesday 29th November from 6.30pm at Nomads

Spot on time for the current turtle nesting season, **this is the last Pub Talk for 2023**, so grab a drink, a seat, something to eat, and enjoy hearing the latest about our turtles with Jo Petersen QPWS and Paul Groves GBRMPA.

MICDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE



REEF ASSIST PROJECT

XLR-8ing food waste recycling, weeding and habitat regeneration

Reef Assist teams have been working all over Magnetic Island removing weeds and

fostering natives by staking and mulching to help them grow. With the Biogen now making more than enough XLR-8 from food waste on the Island, we are able to apply this to all of our sites to stimulate the naturally occurring micro-organisms in the soil and create a better growing environment with healthier soils.

Cockle Creek Waterfall/Dog Shed

For the last 8 months one team has removed huge amounts of lantana, snakeweed, guinea grass, vines and many other non-native plants. By carefully balancing the removal of weeds with erosion control, the site has been transformed into a native wonderland. Once weeds are removed the team stakes and cages the vulnerable natives so they can thrive in their newly cleared sites. These are being watered regularly so they can survive until the wet season.

Weeds from the site have been used to help with erosion control on site. Weeds are also taken to our weed pile in preparation for our next Humisoil pile to be created. It's definitely worth a trip to see – but watch out, the mozzies are out in force!

Picnic Bay Magnetic Museum (Creek line behind the block)

Another team has recently begun staking out the site and removing a huge amount of rubbish left over many years. Watch this space for photos and more updates.

Nelly Bay Habitat Reserve

The Habitat Reserve had been cleared along the creek line with great care to ensure the banks remain stable. While some of the guinea grass has been cleared, some has been left in place to hold the soil on the banks. One planting has occurred on the Sooning Street end of the reserve, which you may notice as you walk past. There will be more plantings done here in the near future.

Scrub Fowl Creek

In early September work began on the Scrub Fowl Creek, running between Yates Street and Serene Place. Lantana, snake vine, arrowhead vine, castor oil, guinea grass, cassia and other invasive weeds have been removed and over 200 native plants have been liberated.

Minor erosion controls have been put in place, and using the open sloped areas of guinea grass has been the priority. 15 sites have been prepared. Coir logs provided by the council and material (e.g.: bundling palm fronds into planting swales) have been used to create planting beds to further help with erosion. The site has also benefited from adding Humisoil, XLR-8, and by being heavily mulched, so we are now ready to plant the natives that have been grown in our Horseshoe Bay Nursery.

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



ENERGY - TOTALLY RENEWABLE MAGNETIC (TRM)

Ask TRM about your solar and battery needs

Totally Renewable Magnetic continues to meet monthly, and is advising more residents on the installation of solar panels. Solar panels are now estimated to produce ~20% of Magnetic Island's electricity. The group also assisted a small number of residents on the installation of batteries.

TRM held its annual resident information session in September covering:

- the recent increase in power prices;
- how to use energy more efficiently; and
- the incentives and rebates that exist to mitigate the price increases.

In early October TRM presented to U3A on electricity, how it is generated in Australia, and why it is important for decarbonisation.

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



ECOSYSTEMS MONITORING

Maggie Mangroovers marvel

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

'Under Alma' guided snorkel - marine monitoring with locals

Last month, a group of residents were treated to a presentation by local marine experts from Reef Authority on how to keep an eye of the reef. They learnt how to identify impacts, log photos of concerns and sighting of unusual marine life.

On Friday 17 November, the in-water component of **'Under Alma'** will include a free guided snorkel and transect training. If you are regular swimmer in one of Maggie's bays and would like to learn more about monitoring our corals, email us at ecosystemsmi@outlook.com. Spaces are limited for the free Guided Snorkel due to supervision required.

Bonus Pub Talks celebrates two years of CAP

Thank you all who helped us celebrate two years of the implementation of The Magnetic Island Community Action Plan (CAP). We enjoyed a bonus Pub Talk on 'Our World Heritage Values' in October with Gethin Morgan (MINCA president) giving us a deeper insight into what makes our Island home unique and of World Heritage status.

Maggie on Tap - Island Pub Talks is a great success!

Just in time for turtle nesting season, and to finish off the 2023 Maggie on Tap Island Pub Talk series, we are excited and grateful to have the hard working crew from [Magnetic Island Network for Turtles](#) share an update on local conservation efforts, impacts on local turtles, and how we can help.

On **Wednesday 29 November** enjoy the great atmosphere at **Nomads** overlooking Nelly Bay. If you purchase the Island Burger of the Month, a donation goes to help raise funds for the Maggie Island Turtle Hospital. We hope you can help celebrate 'Our Turtles' and the last Pub Talk for this year. It's Maggie on Tap!

Family Funday Sunday - join us to explore the outdoors

Have you joined a Family Funday Sunday yet? During winter we explored the mangroves with lead mangrove expert Jock Mackenzie. Then this spring we joined the Great Aussie Bird Count with fabulous bird nerd Chris Corbett. There are more Family Funday Sundays to come.

Thank you!

Thank you to our amazing community for supporting our workshops, events and volunteering your time to get involved. Our World Heritage Island has been building momentum. In the new year, we hope to bring more exciting and rewarding opportunities to help better protect our Island ecosystems. Look out for updates on more great things to come on our [Facebook page](#).

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

Photo: Chris Corbett guides a team through the Horseshoe Bay Lagoon Conservation Park as part of the Great Aussie Bird Count in October.



PLAYGROUP

Let's meet up and play

Playgroup has continued to be a safe, supportive and happy place to meet up for a chat, coffee and play with our young children. During the last few months we have seen many new faces as well as familiar ones. We are grateful for the space that the **Uniting Church**

in Nelly Bay provides us to meet every Monday from 9:30am.

The racing track and bikes are always favourites with the little ones! Unfortunately Rosalie Tenant has now left Magnetic Island so big thanks to Rosalie. Thanks also to Molly Black and Kelly Fantini for keeping things running while we look for a new person to take over.

If you would like to join or assist Playgroup please visit our [Facebook](#) page.



ZERO WASTE

Months of hard work pay off – in more ways than one!

It's November already and the Zero Waste group is still working hard to reduce our Island's waste by making it easy, appealing, and fun to recycle, reduce and reuse.

In this edition we will focus on how we have been working on it.

First, we have the **Ghost Net Weavers** who have done 5 months of weaving and recycling old nets from the sea and transforming them into art about the Island and its natural values.

Then we have news about how our **food waste which is being processed through a bio-regen process and stimulating the soils natural biology.**

Finally, we will give you news about **what our community is telling us** about waste through conversations at the market.

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](#).



MINT UPDATE

New mobile Wildlife Clinic is available for all

Last month Magnetic Island Network for Turtles (MINT) launched the new Yunbenun Land and Sea Wildlife Clinic, jointly funded by Glencore Queensland Metals and The Queensland Gambling Benefit Fund.

Kellie Whitby, Superintendent Metallurgical Processes from Glencore's Copper Refinery and Member for Townsville, Hon Scott Stewart MP jointly opened the clinic.

The new clinic provides a modern off-grid mobile treatment facility for sick and injured wildlife and will be based on the Island adjacent to MINT's Turtle Clinic. The new facility has already been used by MINT's current patient Charlie and is available for other wildlife care groups to use as well.

For more formation email MINT at mint@seaturtles.org.au or visit their [Facebook](#) page.

Keep an eye out - It's turtle nesting season!

If you see turtle tracks, please report them to [MINT](#), so they can look after them ... and please keep your dog on a leash so they don't disturb the eggs.



WHOLE OF ISLAND PLAN

Moving Maggie towards a sustainable future - the story so far

Overview: The grant to MICDA under the Community Sustainability Action Grants Program, is for a community-led project that helps deliver climate action. The project works with MICDA Working Groups, stakeholders such as the council, and other community groups.

Funding: The funding has now finished and the final report is due at the end of 2023. The report will be available at micda.com.au in the new year. If you would like to see a draft of the report please contact Aniko at: misdpc.coord@gmail.com

Activities: Since June 2023 our coordinator Aniko has held 30 meetings, 6 presentations including the Queensland Cable Network, Zero Waste, Energy, and Transport presentations at MIRRA and U3A, attended 13 networking events, organised and helped organise 2 major events; the Zero Waste Art Exhibition at the Nelly Bay ferry terminal and the Energy Forum. She has also presented at the Yunbenun Aboriginal Advisory Group. The new Marine Working Group (see below) has also been established and groups such as Planning, Water, and Marine are in the process of having their own pages included on the [MICDA website](#).

TOURISM

MICDA is now a member of Tourism Magnetic Island Inc. (TMI), and the Tourism Alliance (TOR). We are building relationships between the Working Groups listed below and TMI to focus on businesses transitioning to zero waste, harnessing solar energy to power their businesses, as well as other interests.

HEALTH WORKING GROUP

The Group is working on the implementation of the Magnetic Island Health Plan handed down in June 2023 by the Townsville Hospital/Department of Health.

PLANNING WORKING GROUP

Both MICDA and MINCA provided submissions to council about the Stage 1 review of the Townsville City Plan after council presented to the group. Concerns were raised regarding changes to the tourism development criteria which may allow more dense and incompatible development on the Island. The group is working with the council to ensure that our World Heritage values, as well as needs and concerns are included in the reviewed plan. *(See additional Planning update below).*

The Planning Working Group is also working with the Water and Marine Groups, Arcadia Coastcare, MINCA and MIRRA around the proposed sale of the land at Bremner Point.

Next meeting date: Thursday 30 November

WATER WORKING GROUP

There have been concerns around council's stormwater management after they carried out stormwater works at Alma Bay without prior community consultation; in particular the possibility of contaminated stormwater damaging the Green Zone off Alma Bay. The group is working with Arcadia Coastcare to resolve these issues and to establish a consultation process with council for future stormwater and infrastructure work on the Island.

Next meeting date: Thursday 23 November

NEW! - MARINE ACTION MAGNETIC ISLAND (MAMI)

This new Group includes community members interested in, or with expertise in, marine science and related issues focussing on the sustainability and health of the waters surrounding Magnetic Island. MAMI aims to be proactive as well as reactive, engaging in policy and legislative reform initiatives.

Next meeting date: Wednesday 29 November

Would you like to join a Sustainable Future Plan Working Group?

Please contact Aniko on **0400 305 714** if you would like to find out more about the above Working Groups or if you would like to participate - it is not necessary to be a MICDA member to be part of these Working Groups, but we always appreciate your support.



HERITAGE INFRASTRUCTURE & PLANNING (HIP)

Help or hindrance to our World Heritage Values as Government overhauls environmental laws

Following a 2020 Review by Professor Samuel of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) (EPBC), in December 2022 the Australian Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek, announced a federal government overhaul of Australia's environment laws, the introduction of new environment legislation and released the Nature Positive Plan.

HIP contacted the task force established for this initiative and by July 2023 MICDA was advised that MICDA had been added to the Department's stakeholder engagement list for Nature Positive Law Reform.

In the absence of any further follow up contact by the department, in October MICDA wrote to the Minister about the retention of EPBC Policy 5.1 (2010) Region: Magnetic Island Queensland, because this policy statement recognises the Matters of National Environmental Significance and World Heritage Values of Magnetic Island.

MICDA's representation is to ensure this policy statement is at least retained and potentially strengthened as part of the rewrite. The MICDA letter also suggests that Magnetic Island should be a priority area for consideration for an initial regional plan because it has a variety of ecosystems with high biodiversity, and because Magnetic Island's lowlands are subject to developmental pressures.

For more information contact Tania Thoreau at [**peteandtania3@gmail.com**](mailto:peteandtania3@gmail.com)



MUSOS

Sounds of Kearney Youth Talent Quest - the winners

On the 14th October Musos hosted the annual Sounds of Kearney Youth Talent Quest. This event has been held for over ten years but four years ago, thanks to a bequest from former Musos' committee member and treasurer, Ann Kearney, the prize money became significant. We acknowledge the Kearney family and the friends of Ann, who keep Ann's memory alive, and their generosity in supporting the event.

The four major prize winners this year were (from left to right):

First prize junior Section: Rowan Izzett

First prize Senior Section: Tessa Izzett

Helene Ranking Most Improved: Carmen Micic

Christine St John Prize: Nina Battensby

There are photographs of all the winners, and more details of the day, on our [Facebook page](#).

It's now called the Horseshoe Bay Community Centre

Once a month on the second Saturday the Magnetic Island Musicians' Club (Musos) has an open mic gig at the venue known by many names. Originally it was the Sport and Recreation Club building. Later it had the Skate Park built next door. For a long time it was known as the Men's Shed building. For an even longer time it's been the home of the Magnetic Island AFL 'Magpies'.

Now the Men have moved to Picnic Bay, and Townsville City Council intend, to use it as, the Horseshoe Bay Community Centre and that's where Musos continues to thrive at the stage area next to the oval.

Saturday 9th December will be our next Muso's Night. [Like Magnetic Island Musos'](#)

[Club on Facebook](#) to keep up to date with our activities.



WALLABY REFUGE

Thank you, we couldn't save them without you

The Wallaby Refuge has been busy with joeys coming into care (9 at the moment) and we would like to acknowledge both residents and visitors for their assistance and determination to get these joeys into specialised care at the Refuge.

The above photo shows two joeys in particular. On the left is a little Allied rock wallaby named 'Medic' who was found by one of our Island nurses. On the right is an Agile rock wallaby joey found by visitors from Italy. They saw the mother had been hit, checked the pouch, and found the joey. We have named this joey 'Loki'. A great rescue by all!

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

A year of great accomplishments!

The Yunbenun Magnetic Island National Park Volunteers have had a very successful year to date averaging good numbers of volunteers at each session.

We have completed several sessions at West Point where there is a challenging infestation of mother-of-millions, and have also worked at the Fort's Estate which is well on the way to returning to natural bush. As always a good watch is kept on Florence Bay so that the periwinkle (see main photo) never takes hold again, and we are greatly assisted by having the rangers facilitate these visits.

Support for ferry travel has recently been obtained from Sealink for the eleventh year. Thank you Sealink.

We are also very fortunate to be supervised by MINCA and Cate Paton, and to be working with the Wulgurukaba at several sites. We have completed our last weeding session for 2023 and look forward to starting up again in March 2024.

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.

15 Top Tips for a sustainable Christmas

We can all reduce the impact of the holiday season on the environment so here are

Did you forget to renew your MICDA membership?

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 pay by EFT, credit card or PayPal via the MICDA website** - It's only \$25 per year (\$15 concession), and your support helps all of our hard working volunteer groups!

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!

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 the Wulgurukaba people as the traditional custodians of Yunbenun (Magnetic Island) and value our collaboration with them. We recognise their continuing connection to the land and waters, and thank them for protecting this coastline and its ecosystems since time immemorial. We pay our respects to elders past and present, and extend that respect to all First Nations people present today.



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