



**Magnetic Island
Community Development
Association**

April 2024 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. As always, you're in for a very interesting read.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- **HAVE YOUR SAY!** Naming our National Park, Magnetic Island or Yunbenun?
- Volunteering 17 years of weeding!
- Working towards a net zero Magnetic Island
- TRM assisting businesses and residents with renewable energy solutions
- Zero Waste's thank you and newsletter update
- Our World Heritage Island: Sustainable Future Plan - Update on tourism, planning, health, water, marine, transport, zero waste and energy Working Groups
- MITAG aiming for reliable, resilient and sustainable Island transportation

- 2024 Magnetic Island Markets
- Reef Assist regenerates the Nelly Bay Habitat Reserve Creek
- Playgroup activities for 2024
- HIP update on World Heritage Values as government overhauls environmental laws

DIARY DATES:

- **Monday 15th April:** Playgroup returns!
- **Tuesday 16th April:** Totally Renewable Magnetic (TRM) Meeting
- **Tuesday 16th April:** Zero Waste Magnetic Island Meeting
- **Thursday 18th April:** Water Group Meeting
- **Friday 19th April:** Comments close for naming Magnetic Island or Yunbenun National Park
- **Saturday 20th April:** Resident's Waste & Energy Launch + Morning Tea
- **Saturday 20th April:** National Parks Volunteers Weeding Session
- **Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th April:** TCC Sustainability Matters Workshops
- **Tuesday 23rd April:** MI Transport Group Meeting
- **Wednesday 24th April:** MI Sustainable Planning Group Meeting
- **Tuesday 30th April:** Marine Action Group Meeting
- **Saturday 18th May:** MICDA AGM

Remember to check the [MICDA Group Facebook page](#) for any event changes and the latest MICDA news.

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

**Launch for
Island residents
Morning tea
Saturday 20th April
10 am Magnetic
Island RSL**

Free

**Waste & Energy community resident actions
Save \$ & improve resilience, eco friendly**

What can we do together ?

Contact Aniko 0400305714



Magnetic Island Waste and Energy Launch, and Community Morning Tea

Saturday 20th April from 10am at the RSL Hall

Everyone is welcome to join the Magnetic Island Waste and Energy Launch.

- Find out what Totally Renewable Magnetic is doing in 2024
- Find out how solar and batteries can improve resilience and can reduce costs
- Enjoy FREE recycled and eco-friendly gardening products
- Find out about how we might recycle and reduce waste
- Improve our resilience to climate change.

For more information, contact Aniko on 0400 305 714.



MICDA AGM: 10am Saturday 18th May at Amaroo On Mandalay

The MICDA 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 18th May at 10am** and will be followed by a General Meeting. Nominations for positions on the Management Committee are now open, and will close on the Friday 3rd May at 5pm.

[View/download the 2024 Nomination and Proxy forms here.](#)

The current AGM agenda is:

A. President's Report

B. Treasurer's Report:

1. Statement of income and expenditure, assets, liabilities and mortgages, charges and securities affecting the property of the Association for the last financial year.
2. Auditor's or Verifier's Report on the financial affairs of the Association for the last financial year.
3. Audited or Verified Statement to the meeting for adoption.

C. Electing members of the Management Committee.

D. Appointing an Auditor or Verifier.

The General Meeting agenda:

A. Working Groups are invited to report on their past year and current and future projects.

B. Questions and suggestions are invited from members.

Please email your Nomination and Proxy forms to Peter Jackson at

secretary.micda@gmail.com by 5pm Friday 3rd May.



WORKSHOP

Townsville City Council invites you to participate in the Sustainability Matters Workshop

The TCC Sustainability Matters Workshop is a FREE event that will provide insight into the latest sustainability trends and demonstrate how small changes can lead to significant cost savings for your business. The Magnetic Island workshop will be held on **Monday 22nd April from 8.30am to 11am at Amaroo On Mandalay.**

For more information or to register, visit [What's On Townsville.](#)

MICDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Naming our National Park, Magnetic Island or Yunbenun?

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation is proposing to rename Magnetic Island National Park to Yunbenun National Park.

Yunbenun is the preferred name of the Wulgurukaba Traditional Owners. *It is important to note that this proposal relates to the National Park, not the name of the island itself.*

At the last MICDA Management Committee meeting it was unanimously decided that the Committee is in favour of, and supports, the name change for the National Park, and as such will be submitting a letter of support for the name change to Yunbenun National Park.

Now it's time to have your say

Comments are to be received by 5pm on 19 April 2024.

The department is seeking comments from the public and interested groups about the proposed renaming, and Members are encouraged to submit their own comments and to encourage friends and family to have their say.

Comments on the proposed name change should be returned to:

NGBR@des.qld.gov.au

or,

North Tropical Coast Management Unit
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment, Science and Innovation
22 Hurst Street
Picnic Bay
Magnetic Island QLD 4819

For further information email NGBR@des.qld.gov.au



YUNBENUN-MAGNETIC ISLAND NATIONAL PARK VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering 17 years of weeding!

Work began for the year on 23rd March – beginning our 17th year! The first site weeded was Endeavour Creek where there is a profusion of weeds, some not commonly seen by the group, such as *Physalis angulate* (Wild gooseberry) and *Acanthospermum hispidulum* (Star burr).

The regular good rain this wet season has resulted in very vigorous weed growth, but the encouraging factor is that the native vegetation has also having a good year.

The Yunbenun Magnetic Island National Park Volunteers are keen for new participants especially Island based volunteers - come occasionally or regularly.

We meet fortnightly on a Saturday morning; **next session is 20th April**. 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

Practical support is provided by National Parks and environmental guidance by MINCA. At various sites the group works together with the Wulgurukaba Traditional Owners. SeaLink also provides sponsorship of ferry fares for volunteers.

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](#)



CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT

Working towards a net zero Magnetic Island (Yunbenun)

Background

In February 2024 [MICDA obtained a grant of \\$595,350 from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation \(GBRF\) in partnership with the Australian Government's Reef Trust](#), pursuant to the Accelerator Grants: [Community Climate Action for the Reef program](#).

The project started in March 2024 and is due for completion by October 2025.

[Read the full press release here.](#)

Who's working on this project?

MICDA is working with stakeholders such as Townsville City Council, [Boomerang Alliance/Plastic Free NQ](#), Ergon, [APC Waste Consultants \(APC\)](#), and Tourism Magnetic Island (TMI), and we would like to thank everyone for their support.

The backbone of the projects are members of our Magnetic Island community-based Working Groups, in particular, [Totally Renewable Magnetic Island \(TRM\)](#) and [Zero Waste Magnetic Island](#).

What are the objectives?

The Climate Action Projects will also employ part-time staff where the focus will be:

- Creating a zero waste strategy for Magnetic Island.
- Expanding the Island's existing organic waste conversion to [Humisoil and XLR8 liquid soil conditioner](#) trials.
- Commissioning a feasibility study for a microgrid, including community battery

storage on Magnetic Island.

- Helping tourism businesses become zero waste and 100% renewable energy powered; and,
- Improve the capacity of visitors and residents to become more energy efficient, solar energy powered, reduce their waste output, and move towards a sustainable lifestyle, helping preserve the natural environment of our beautiful Island home.

Climate Action Project Launched 4th March 2024

The Climate Action project was launched on 4th March 2024 specifically for businesses.

Speakers included:

Peter Gash OAM from Lady Elliott Island who spoke about the business, economic and environmental benefits of tourist industries on Reef islands becoming zero waste, powered by solar energy and becoming eco-friendly.

Australian waste expert **Anne Prince from APC** spoke about Lord Howe Island reducing its waste to landfill by 78%, and her vision for Magnetic Island to move toward becoming zero waste.

Joe Niven of Totally Renewable Magnetic Island eloquently shared his dream of our Island moving to being 100% solar powered by 2030, and how businesses would be helped through this process. (See the TRM update below).

What's our next step?

Resident's Climate Action Project + Morning Tea on Saturday 20th April

You are invited to the upcoming Resident's Climate Action Project Launch at 10am on Saturday 20th April 2024 at the RSL Hall. We hope to excite and inform residents about the energy projects, which include a feasibility study, and the plan for funding a trial community battery/microgrid array.

The Zero Waste team will also provide background information about the project which aims to create short-, medium- and long-term waste reduction on the Island.

For more information contact Aniko Papp at misdpc.coord@gmail.com or call 0400 305 71.

Photo courtesy of the magneticislandguide.com.au



ENERGY - TOTALLY RENEWABLE MAGNETIC (TRM)

Assisting businesses and residents with renewable energy solutions

Totally Renewable Magnetic has been busy assisting residents install solar generation on their properties. TRM spoke to residents with solar and batteries about their positive experiences during the blackout immediately following cyclone Kirrily.

TRM coordinator Joe Niven attended the Community Energy Congress to find out more about what other community energy groups have been doing.

TRM also assisted MICDA in obtaining the recent grant from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. TRM looks forward to working with businesses and residents during the rest of 2024, starting with a **community meeting on Tuesday 16th April**.

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



ZERO WASTE

Thank you - you make a difference!

In this edition we say thanks to those who are working hard to reduce our Island's waste, including our kids, how you can save up to \$2,500 per year, PLUS other Zero Waste news and updates.

Read the full [Zero Waste April 2024 Newsletter](#)

We'd love to see you (or Zoom you) at our **next Zero Waste Meeting on Tuesday 16th April** PLUS why not come to the **Resident's Launch of the new Climate Action Plan on Saturday 20th April from 10am** at the RSL Hall.

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

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

Photo: Julie Woodlock the volunteer coordinator of Zero Waste Magnetic Island (middle) and Amelia Chaplin, the Resource Recovery Projects and Education Officer (right) present the certificate and games for the students to play at Magnetic Island State School .



WHOLE OF ISLAND PLAN

Our World Heritage Island: Sustainable Future Plan UPDATE

Background

The \$50,000 grant to MICDA in July 2022 under the Community Sustainability Action Grants Program, was for a community-led project addressing climate action. This project ended in December 2023 with the substantial [Our World Heritage Island: Magnetic Island \(Yunbenun\) Report](#) being submitted.

Working Group members continue to offer their experience, knowledge and passion, to create community solutions in order to address climate change, and help our Island become more sustainable.

[Sustainable Tourism](#)

MICDA works with Tourism Magnetic Island (TMI), Townsville Enterprise Limited (TEL), and the Magnetic Island Tourism Alliance (MITA - which was set up by TEL). Our president, Les Sampson represents MICDA at the MITA meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for mid April 2024.

The next TMI meeting is at 4.30pm on Monday 3 June 2024 at the Arcadia Village Hotel, and all tourism operators/tourism related businesses are welcome to join.

[Sustainable Planning](#)

The Yunbenun Sustainable Planning Group (YSPG) is working with Townsville City Council in developing a *Local Area Plan* for Magnetic Island, as part of the current review of local, state and federal planning and environmental legislation.

Marine Action Magnetic Island (MAMI) and the Sustainable Planning Working Groups are working with the MICDA group [Heritage, Infrastructure and Planning \(HIP\)](#), around making submissions to both state and federal task forces around a current review to federal environmental laws called "Nature Positive laws". *See the HIP update at the end of this newsletter.*

Next Meeting: Wednesday 24th April 2024

[Marine Action Magnetic Island \(MAMI\)](#)

MAMI is proactive as well as reactive, engaging in policy and legislative reform initiatives. Its current projects are around safe snorkeling, safer access to the Geoffrey Bay Snorkel Trail, Reef markers in Geoffrey Bay (and other bays), damage to Arthur Bay fringing reef post Cyclone Kirrily, and coral bleaching events.

Next meeting: Thursday 30th April

[Health Working Group](#)

The Health Working Group is working on the implementation of the Magnetic Island Health Plan handed down in June 2023 by Townsville Hospital Health Service (THHS) with the Department of Health.

The group is applying for funding for a multi-disciplinary Health Hub for Magnetic Island to replace/update the current Magnetic Island Health Clinic.

Next meeting: Date to be advised.

Please visit the [MICDA Facebook page](#) for updates.

Water Working Group

The Water Working Group is working with Arcadia Coastcare around the recent Alma Bay storm water earthworks, and has established a consultation process with Council for future storm water and infrastructure work, including sewerage services on Magnetic Island.

Next Meeting: Thursday 18th April 2024

Transport Working Group (MITAG)

Current projects include EV hire/share cars on Magnetic Island, bus/ferry connections, the Alma Bay bus stop, safety concerns regarding pedestrians using Horseshoe Bay Road to walk to the Forts, QPWS trail upgrades including the construction on the Alma Bay/Old Telstra Track link and more. *See the MITAG Report to MIRRA after this article.*

Next meeting: Tuesday 23rd April

Zero Waste Magnetic Island (ZWMI)

Zero Waste's main focus this year will be the Zero Waste Strategy with consultant Anne Price (Australian waste expert). ZWMI will continue to work with the community by sharing knowledge and provide practical help to reducing waste on our Island. They also have a lot of fun using waste to create art. See the Zero Waste article above for their latest newsletter.

Next meeting: Tuesday 16th April

Totally Renewable Magnetic (TRM) Energy

TRM's focus this year is the climate action strategy for energy for a feasibility study for a micro grid battery trial on Magnetic Island. TRM is working with residents and businesses in providing information and help in energy efficiency and to transition to 100% renewable energy. *See the TRM article above.*

Next meeting: Tuesday 16th April

Come and join us!

Do you have an interest or expertise in waste, water, transport, marine, energy, health, or planning?

Would you like to contribute to community solutions around these issues?

Why not become part of one or more of our Working Groups?

Meetings are held once a month and we can arrange Zoom access. It is not necessary to be a MICDA member to be part of these Working Groups, but we always appreciate your support.

For more information contact Aniko Papp at misdpc.coord@gmail.com or call 0400 305 71.



TRANSPORT

Aiming for reliable, resilient and sustainable transportation

The Magnetic Island Transport Action Group (MITAG) met with the Magnetic Island Resident and Ratepayers Association (MIRRA) on Saturday 6th April to give an update on their current objectives and initiatives, and how to enable reliable, resilient and sustainable transportation systems - both public and private - for residents and visitors.

[Read the full MITAG presentation here.](#)

If you would like to join MITAG, contact Aniko Papp at misdpc.coord@gmail.com or call 0400 305 714.

MAGNETIC ISLAND MARKETS

@horseshoe bay

Like us on facebook
Magnetic Island Markets

2024

Tag us on Instagram
magnetic_island_markets

Sunday 9am to 2pm

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
March				24	31 EASTER School Holidays
April	7	14	21	28	
May	5	12	19	26	
June	2	9	16	23 School Holidays	30
July	7	14	21	28	
August	4	11	18	25	
September	1 Picnic Bay	8	15 School Holidays	22	29
October	6 Long Weekend	13	20	27	
November	3	10	17	24	
December	1	8	15 School Holidays	22	29
January 2025	5	12	19	26 Australia Day	

enquiries 0457 023 095 email maggiemarkets@hotmail.com

MARKETS

Magnetic Island Markets are back!

The markets returned on Sunday 24th March for another season at the Horseshoe Bay foreshore*. If you have visiting friends, relatives or guests, remember to enjoy a stroll through the markets and support our local traders.

Are you a market stall holder?

[Remember to renew your membership](#) so that you are covered by MICDA's insurance.

* On Sunday 1st September the markets will be at Picnic Bay, as part of the Sealink Father's Day Fiesta.



REEF ASSIST PROJECT

Regenerating the Nelly Bay Habitat Reserve Creek

Reef Assist teams have been recently focusing on improving creek stabilisation and regeneration at the Nelly Bay Habitat Reserve Creek.

[Read our February 2024 Report.](#)

Free fertiliser for your garden!

Remember you **can pick up a free bottle XLR-8** (made from Island food waste) from the old School House in Dent St (next to the Butterfly Walk) in Horseshoe Bay. Just be sure to dilute it before you use it!

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



PLAYGROUP

Let's meet up and play!

Playgroup continues to be a safe, supportive and happy place to meet up for a chat, coffee and play with our young children. As the weather cools, Playgroup returns every second Monday from 15th April. We look forward to welcoming new faces as well as familiar ones.

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



HERITAGE INFRASTRUCTURE & PLANNING (HIP)

Update on World Heritage Values as Government overhauls environmental laws

Further to the consultation process of the Australian Department of Climate Change Environment Energy and Water (DCCEEW), MICDA has commented on the environment law reform through the Department's online Have Your Say.

This comment presents the reasons why EPBC Policy Statement 5.1 Region: **Magnetic Island, Queensland is vital to Magnetic Island and that we would like to see EPBC Policy 5.1 retained or strengthened.**

In addition, the comment addressed the proposed bioregional planning which is part of the environment law reform and is also critical to Magnetic Island – as a location with tension between the environment /biodiversity and development.

We are advised that the Queensland Government has decided that the focus of the North Queensland Plan is renewable energy, and that we should collaborate with the Queensland Government (Department of Environment and Science [DES]) about this proposed North Queensland bioregional plan.

For more information contact Tania Thoreau at peteandtania3@gmail.com

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!

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!

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.

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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