



Friends of Melaleuca, Wildcare Inc

President's Annual Report (20 Sept 2016)

FoM currently has a fairly stable membership of 72 (Wildcare webpage).

This has been a very busy year for FoM, with our special project the Deny King Heritage Museum. A lot of work in planning and consultation has gone into the background of this project, and now the 'real' work is well underway.

Meetings

FoM held 3 general meetings at DSS over the past year. At the September meeting following the 2015 AGM, Peter Marmion gave a great presentation on birdlife at Melaleuca, Port Davey and the South Coast. In May our meeting ended with a presentation on the working bee and the museum site visit. Our July meeting culminated in a wonderful presentation by photographer Jimmy Emms. We were entranced by his stunning landscapes and seascapes.

FoM meets with PWS both formally and informally and we appreciate the great relationship that we have with Ian Marmion, Pip Gowen and Peter Rigozzi. FoM met with Shannon Troy (OBP program) and Ian on 6/5/16. Pip organized a planning meeting on 10/8/16 with a few representatives from FoM, (Andrew Boon, Erika, Janet and Geoff) to discuss summer projects with PWS staff Ashley Rushton, Ian Marmion, Brett Knowles, Peter Rigozzi and Pip. Works program and future of Rallinga Mine separating plant structure was discussed. We also had a formal meeting 4/8/16 to discuss the museum with Melissa Smith (Arts Tas Roving Curator), Fiona Rice (Education and Interps officer at PWS) and Ian Marmion.

Working bee

FoM's annual working bee in March 2016 was a great success, thanks to the energetic and skilled team. We had a team of 13 including 3 professional builders and a shipwright. Building and draining were the focus. David Butler on the drains was like a living back-hoe and Mark the mower did his usual brush-cutter thing. We had very experienced teams on our building jobs – the new ceiling in the museum; restoration of the First Camp; re-stumping the front of Claytons. It was useful to have volunteers with boating experience and associated certificates. Andrew Boon, Chris and Mark were a great help to Ranger Ian Marmion in surveying the marine infrastructure. Special mention should go to Andrew Boon (not only an electrical engineer but an electrician as well) who put a lot of effort and intelligence into sorting out the DC system at the PWS Quarters and reporting recommendations to PWS on that and the marine infrastructure. Thanks to Mark who tackled the rather perilous heights job of clearing out the gutters on the PWS quarters.

The volunteer caretakers for PWS (Tony and Chris Barber followed by Heidi Krajewskky and Stephen Anstee) pitched in and helped during the working bee. All volunteers worked hard and enjoyed the camaraderie. Thanks everyone, and to Barbara who accommodated three volunteers.

Grants

FoM was invited to apply for a special grant for work on a project appropriate to Craig Saunders' legacy. We were granted \$2472 to fund the re-cladding of a heritage miners hut, on which Craig had worked re-stumping under the front during our 2013 working bee. The new Tas oak weatherboard cladding was shipped to Melaleuca on a shared DPIPWE freight trip last September, and work on the hut was almost completed during the March working bee. We ran out of timber. Plan to complete the job this coming working bee and more timber has just been shipped on a shared DPIPWE freight run on fishing boat *Jean Nichols*.

Remembering Craig as an avid reader, the grant funding included \$200 for books for the museum's reading corner.

In December 2015 our grant applications to Arts Tasmania and the Tasmanian Community Fund were accepted. Both need to be acquitted by March 2017. These grants make the Deny King Heritage Museum project a reality rather than a plan. We already had funds from corporate sponsors and PWS which are a huge help but insufficient for the whole project, which is budgeted at \$62,719 including a very conservative \$31,880 in-kind volunteer and staff time.

Thanks to Wildcare for once again supporting our annual working bee in March with a grant of \$2000 which covered airfares, a little freight and some hardware.

The Deny King Heritage Museum

This is an exciting and ambitious project for Friends of Melaleuca. It has been a long time in planning, and we are now at a more hands-on stage.

The building work to complete the entry has been delayed multiple times for various reasons last spring and this winter. PWS field officers will hopefully manage to get there this spring. PWS is yet to invoice us for the materials component of the job.

We are really thrilled with the building work achieved by our volunteers at the working bee. The ceiling insulation makes a huge difference to the feel of the interior, and the volunteers did an outstanding job with the joinery work in the ceiling.

Arts Tasmania Small Museums program granted us \$9,217 for production and printing of interpretation panels in the museum. Added to that, Arts Tasmania has funded 8 hours of Roving Curator time to assist FoM develop and interpretation plan for the museum and advise on the production of the panels. Melissa Smith the Roving Curator is really good value. She is enthusiastic and efficient and knowledgeable. We have engaged west coast graphic designer Lea Crosswell to design the panels. Lea is energetic and talented. Good images are central to this. We are fortunate to have access to some useful collections of historic images (King and Willson collections; Charlie Vaughan; Creese collection; Peter Marmion) and some very talented photographers in our midst, Erika Shankley and Margaret Waller and many others who have generously allowed us to use their images including professionals such as Jimmy Emms, Joe Shemesh. And even artworks by Elspeth

Vaughan, Roger Murphy and Bill Mearns. We have ordered some historic images from institutions (QVMAG, TMAG, TAHO, NAA) which we have to pay for. Margaret Waller and Helen Pithie have very kindly done photo-shoots of heritage objects and paintings at Melaleuca, and in Hobart at Fentons and Willsons.

It is most helpful also to have museum curators Rona Hollingsworth and Helen Pithie on board to advise and plan. We appreciate their prodigious experience, knowledge and common sense

In April a working group went to Melaleuca on a 3 day site visit to plan and measure up for the displays. Tight planning — doing it all in one visit — was necessary due to transport costs. The group included Geoff and Janet Fenton, Melissa Smith (Roving Curator, Arts Tas) Lea Crosswell (graphic designer) Helen Pithie and Rona Hollingsworth (museum curators) Margaret Waller (photographer). Mick and Helen Statham were at Melaleuca as OBP volunteer observers and assisted with the museum planning. Unfortunately Ian Marmion was not able to attend, but we appreciate has been very helpful with advice and supportive of the project.

Roaring 40s Kayaking generously sponsored a panel about the Orange-bellied Parrot. Many thanks Reg and Jenny Grundy. Par Avion sponsored some flights for the site-visit.

Our application to The Tasmanian Community Fund was successful, for \$4372 (ex gst), for display cabinets to showcase objects of interest. During our site visit our initial plans of course changed, so that the glass showcases originally specified in the grant are no longer appropriate. Thanks Geoff for the time and effort spent in designing cabinets to be custom built. Thanks to the Channel Mens Shed who have offered to fabricate the plywood cases at cost, saving a hefty joinery charge. Associated Plastics quoted for clear acrylic small cases and lids for the big cases. We have sent a change request to TCF for an alteration in the grant. Our budget for the display cases now comes in at \$968 less than original grant.

Geoff and Janet Fenton wrote text and Ian Marmion organized printing of 5 panels for the Mining trail extension of the museum project. This is preliminary signage as an interim until we develop signage complete with photos and diagrams. They were installed in April 2016, and look great.

People have very generously donated books for the museum bookshelf. We now have a collection of 10 donated books.

Other books were donated that, while they do not fit with the museum collection guidelines, will make wonderful reading for volunteers to Melaleuca. Thanks Will Forsyth and Helen Pithie. And thanks to Barbara for agreeing to house these books at her place.

History

FoM has a strong history focus. Much of our work has a cultural heritage conservation focus, and several of our members are keen historians: Ian Terry, Erika Shankley, Peter Marmion, Tony Fenton, Chris Creese and Janet Fenton. We congratulate Tony on his book, *A History of Port Davey volume 1: Fleeting Hopes* now in press.

Reporting

Ian Ross manages a Facebook page for the group, and Mick Statham made some progress with FoM's page on the Wildcare website. Input from members, welcome.

Cate McPherson wrote a report on the 2016 working bee for Wildtimes. That issue was full so report went on the web page. Janet wrote a report for our sponsors which appeared in the Tasmanian Minerals and Energy Council annual report and a detailed report to PWS following the working bee. Andrew Boon reported to PWS on electrics and marine infrastructure.

Janet wrote a report on the site visit for the DKH Museum Interpretation plan.

Nomenclature proposals

Still in limbo. It is a requirement that nomenclature proposals for the TWWHA are approved by PWS before being submitted to the Nomenclature Board. Unfortunately our proposals have been stalled in the system, awaiting publication of the new TWWHA plan as this may dictate naming procedures in light of new a dual naming policy for Tasmania. We need to work out how to move the proposals forward.

Ian Marmion mentioned that the Nomenclature Board is up-dating track names in the area.

We very much appreciate Wildcare's support in awarding us the grants this year, enabling us to carry out much needed on-ground work. Thanks especially to Sally Salier for attending our meetings and her interest in our group, and to Carol Pacey, Wildcare bookkeeper for her prompt action on all our requests, and her attention to detail. We also thank Pip Gowen, Ian Marmion, Peter Rigozzi, Alan Thurstons and Brett Knowles at PWS for their dedicated support. And thanks to all those volunteers who helped at the working bee and at various other tasks during the year. Special thanks to all those who are helping with the museum project. Erika Shankley has been particularly helpful with comments and suggestions, hunting out images, commenting on layout and proofreading.

There is still a lot of work to do on the museum project, and we are all looking forward to seeing the outcomes of all the hard work on the museum project this summer.

Janet Fenton, President, FoM, Wildcare Inc, Sep 2016.