

Minutes of Friends of Melaleuca Meeting, 12.9.2019

Meeting commenced at 8:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Janet and Geoff Fenton, William Oliver, Vicky Murfin, Bob and Penny Tyson, Judy and Andrew Boon, Erika Shankley, Melissa Jack, Barbara Vaschina, Rob Banfield, Rona Hollingsworth, Anne Wessing, Robyn and Peter Marmion, Tony Fenton, Michele Meffre, Marina Campbell, Jenny Scott, Pip Gowen (PWS), Ian Marmion (PWS), David Mitchell, Chris Creese, Barbara Willson.

Apologies:

Jeanette Collin, Shirley McInnes, Mark Holdsworth, Sue Robinson, Qug McKendrick-King, Dave Ross, Helen and Mick Statham.

Minutes of Previous Meeting were accepted. Moved David Mitchell, seconded Tony Fenton.

Treasurer's Report:

See attached report. There was discussion around website payments/ subscriptions. Janet mentioned the very kind donation by Steve Bennett has been acknowledged via email and card.

Treasurer's report was accepted. Moved Tony Fenton, seconded Rob Banfield.

Business Arising:

Defibrillator – Still needs to be registered with the Tasmanian Ambulance Service phone app. PWS will take over servicing it.

Action – **Ian Marmion to take on responsibility for registration of defibrillator.**

Application for place name change. This matter is still to be finalised. New legislation mooted by the Hodgman Government if passed means the Minister will be the arbiter of any new nomenclature.

No action at this stage whilst we await the outcome of the new legislation.

General Business:

Jason Jacobi replied to Janet's report on the March Working Bee, congratulating Friends of Melaleuca on what we are achieving.

A Partnership Agreement is to be signed between PWS and the Friends of Melaleuca. A meeting to draw up a draft document was held recently. Present were Janet and Geoff Fenton, Rob Banfield, Erica Shankley, Barbara Willson, Pip Gowen and Ian Marmion.

Ian Marmion outlined the purpose and importance of Partnership Agreements. Discussion followed regarding insurance of volunteers and whether additional insurance is necessary when volunteers are working on the Willson and King/Fenton leaseholds. Janet has asked Wildcare CEO for clarification on this matter. It may be necessary to put forward worklists for working bees well in advance so clarification can be arranged regarding insurance coverage. Bob Tyson mentioned that there are many examples of when Wildcare volunteers work on private property or leaseholds. The stand at the Wooden Boat Festival is one prominent example. Ian suggested that providing an event is registered as a Wildcare event and volunteers are Wildcare members, there should not be a problem regarding insurance. Pip Gowen further clarified that the Wildcare insurer requires: a)

authority for work b) workplace safety report in place c) all personnel are registered d) a comprehensive safety briefing is held.

Working Bee for 2020

Proposed dates March 11-18, 2020. This date was arrived at following discussions with Shannon Troy regarding the Orange-bellied Parrot Program.

Draft Job List includes

- A) Touch up painting of Red Shed
- B) Tank stands and painting at Claytons Corner
- C) Museum painting
- D) Barbara's home painting
- E) Fish oiling of mining infrastructure

Action: Written proposals will be required for A) Claytons tank stand (**Geoff Fenton**)

B) Mining Trail Proposal (**Janet Fenton**)

C) Moving Control Tower at Rallinga Mine (Rob/Chris)

D) Electrical work 2021 (**Andrew Boon**)

E) Interpretation in huts (**Janet Fenton**)

Freight for Working Bee: Chas Wessing is doing a freight run for PWS in early December. This is an opportunity for FoM to send freight to Melaleuca.

Wildcare Gathering – Saturday, October 19th. Venue is Mt Nelson Campus for a Networking Day. Booking is required by September 27th. All welcome.

Landcare Conference: Marina Campbell mentioned the conference will be held at Blundstone Arena, Bellerive on the forthcoming weekend. The conference includes field trips, an award ceremony and welcome barbecue.

Fellow Wildcare Groups' activities:

Exhibition at Handmark Gallery by a Maatsuyker caretaker, Di Masters. Display by Friends of Maatsuyker at Clarence Library. Friends of Deal Island display at Kingston Library throughout September. Mention was also made of the Seafarers Festival at the Bellerive Boardwalk on October 27th. This is a free family event.

Wildcare Gift Fund

There are two opportunities per year to apply for funds from the Gift Fund – one in October and one in March. There are no limits on the amount which can be applied for. Action - **Janet** suggested we put forward a proposal to fund the Mining Trail in March.

Pip noted that the Wildcare internal grants of up to \$2000 are still happening.

Publications

Melaleuca featured in several publications recently including the RACT's *Journeys*, *New Scientist*, and *Nautilus Marine*

Coral Explorer

Discussion was held regarding the problems caused by the *Coral Explorer*, including pressure on the Melaleuca toilet, and track infrastructure and congestion at jetties in Melaleuca Creek. Ian Marmion mentioned there has been track surveying work undertaken by Grant Dixon and himself.

Action: **Janet** will circulate to membership the link which enables public comment on tourist access in the World Heritage area.

Action: **Janet & Peter** will write to Ashley Rushton cc Jeremy Hood, Ian Marmion, Pip Gowan asking to be invited to any round table discussions regarding Melaleuca and the wider Bathurst Harbour/Port Davey area; and that we are interested to discuss the carrying capacity of the area and the NPWS views on the limits of acceptable change.

Geoff Fenton gave a report on his recent trip to Melaleuca to groom the airstrip. He showed photos of the recent Loaparte Cove burn and the temporary weather station which has been installed near the Deep Landing in order to facilitate firing of the area to assist Orange-bellied Parrot conservation measures.

Fire Pump

Action: **Ian Marmion** to follow up regarding the status of the fire pump at Melaleuca.

Working Bee

Action: **Helen:** NPWS head, Jason Jacobi to be invited to join us during the working bee so he can gain a better understanding of the area.

Andrew Boon mentioned the cruising guide for Southern Tasmania is being updated at present and will include Port Davey. This work will be completed soon and would make a wonderful Christmas present.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm and was followed by an entertaining and informative talk by Tony Fenton regarding the **1910 Solar Eclipse expeditions to Port Davey and Bruny Island**. Tony's work is featured in a new anthology on Tasmanian History which has been published by Forty Degrees South Publishing.