



President's Report July 2022 - June 2023

Presented at Friends of Maatsuyker Island – Wildcare Inc. (FOMI) AGM, Thursday 7 September 2023

It is a pleasure to present this report on behalf of the FOMI Committee as a record of the year's achievements.

This year, FOMI celebrated 20 years with an exhibition at the Maritime Museum, followed by a dinner. The Friends of Maatsuyker Island (fondly known as FOMI) was formed in 2003 as a Wildcare group by a small group of Maatsuyker Island enthusiasts and previous caretakers. We recognise and thank our two remaining inaugural committee members, Fiona Taylor and Ailsa Fergusson.

FOMI member, Penni Rockliff wrote in her article *Return to Maatsuyker Island and Our Birthday Celebration* about Maatsuyker as a place of awe-inspiring natural beauty, fascinating cultural heritage and as 'a whole lot of magic'. This can also be said for FOMI ...it is the magic that draws us together and comes from the passion and commitment of all who care for Maatsuyker. As stated in the FOMI Strategic Plan 2021-25 "*We care about the island. We want to know that the historic buildings are being conserved, the Aboriginal heritage is acknowledged and respected, and the Island's animals, plants and marine environment are protected for future generations*".

Some of the 2022/23 highlights include:

- Celebrating 20 years of FOMI;
- Holding a successful Wildcare Inc. Friends of Tasman Island, Friends of Deal Island, and FOMI shared stall at the 2023 Australian Wooden Boat Festival;
- Conducting two on-island working bees;
- Receiving ongoing support from the Pennicott Foundation;
- Receiving support from the Wildcare Inc. Tasmania Nature Conservation Fund; and
- Partnering with the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania (IMAS, UTAS), Tasman Fracture Marine Park project.

WILDCARE Tasmania

FOMI was successful with a Tasmania Nature Conservation Fund application, which has enabled the important Weed Control and Shearwater Monitoring Program works for 2022/23 including being able to take two contractors to the island to undertake the steep terrain weed survey.

FOMI recognise and thank the Wildcare team, Kim, Linda and Alex and Board of Management for all the behind-the-scenes support. Over the past twelve months Wildcare has supported FOMI by holding the monthly Leaders Zoom where groups can come together to share their news and hear Wildcare updates; provide training opportunities such as remote area first aid, promotion of FOMI stories through the Wildcare Facebook and webpage and online shop assistance.

FOMI wish to acknowledge and thank Sharon Smith, recent outgoing Wildcare CEO. Sharon's leadership of Wildcare, along with the team, have supported FOMI to flourish. FOMI welcome Jill Maxwell, incoming CEO, and look forward to getting to know and working with Jill over the coming year.

FOMI & PWS

FOMI recognise the commitment of the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) for continued care of the island including ongoing support to the PWS Volunteer Caretaker program and operational expenditure towards the maintenance of island infrastructure including continued care and maintenance of the lighthouse. This year, PWS undertook a significant project to remove the asbestos cladding from the garage before stabilising and recladding the structure. We are looking forward to seeing the finished work.

FOMI value the relationship with PWS staff, Jennifer Mudge (Ranger responsible for Maatsuyker Island), Brett Knowles (PWS Ranger) and Jeremy Hood (Southern Parks and Reserves Manager). During the year, FOMI and PWS held an Annual Planning meeting and Lighthouse Working Group (LHWG) meeting in preparation for the season's work. FOMI and PWS have continued to progress the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FOMI and PWS, have discussions on developing an island statement, and explore the possibility of FOMI establishing day trips by helicopter to the island. Each of these initiatives are included as goals in the FOMI Strategic Plan.

FOMI acknowledge the role of PWS Volunteer Caretakers who make an extraordinary contribution to Maatsuyker Island. Both FOMI Working Bees were welcomed and well supported by David and Diane Masters during the 2022/23 season with the quarters ready for volunteers, a steady supply of freshly baked bread, assistance with preparation for the Building Maintenance and in the field with the Weed Control and Shearwater Monitoring programs. Thank you Diane and David.

FOMI thank PWS for the support toward on-island projects, in particular Jennifer Mudge for the extra support during the March 2023 Working Bee with inclement weather resulting in changes to our schedule going to, and coming off, the island.

OFF-ISLAND WORK

The off-island work continues to be a vital commitment of in-kind time from the FOMI Committee. This includes attending meetings, meeting administration, writing grant applications and reports, communications with 'friends', the sale of FOMI merchandise, developing promotional material, making representations, holding events, running stalls, and planning and running working bees. In addition, FOMI continues to provide support to the PWS Volunteer Caretaker program.

Promotion, events, merchandise, creativity and artistry

FOMI celebrated 20 years with an exhibition at the Maritime Museum in place Saturday 8 April until Saturday 29 July. Thank you Ailsa for installing the display, Fiona for bringing together the highlights (as a PowerPoint presentation, which Ailsa has produced as a booklet), and David who crafted the display case for the Maatsuyker Kerosene lamp passed from John Cook's family to FOMI. FOMI thank the Maritime Museum for their generosity of the space and for being so welcoming toward FOMI and all visitors especially for the launch and 20-year celebration evening. Thank you all who attended the launch and celebration including many past committee members; Wildcare Board Chair Donna Burton and members Stephen Mattingley, Marianne Gee, Peter Quinn; PWS staff Jennifer Mudge and Jeremy Hood; and Peter Arthur, Helicopter Resources; Cindy Hull; and Robert Pennicott.

FOMI joined forces again with Wildcare groups Friends of Tasman Island and Friends of Deal Island to hold a stall at the biannual Australian Wooden Boat Festival. The Wildcare Office also shared the tent during the festival. The festival is a great opportunity to share time with 'friends', meet new people and raise funds for each of the groups. Thank you Wildcare for the grant toward the tent hire. Extra thanks to Linda Lever for the terrific support toward the combined 'friends of islands' stall at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival including setting up the online raffle.

FOMI merchandise sales continue to contribute funds toward FOMI's work on Maatsuyker Island. FOMI merchandise is on sale on the Wildcare Online Shop website and at FOMI events. Ailsa Ferguson is FOMI's creative 'go to' Committee member and is always working in the background to ensure that FOMI is promoted wherever the opportunity arises and that our displays are of the highest of standard.

We are delighted with the recent banner created by Robyn Mundy and Ailsa Fergusson on FOMI's Shearwater monitoring program, acknowledging the key supporters toward this program, including the Pennicott Foundation and the Wildcare Nature Conservation Fund.

The FOMI Facebook and Wildcare stories continue to reach friends with many interesting stories posted thanks to Fiona Taylor and contributions from the lighthouse community.

ON-ISLAND WORKING BEES

In 2022/23, FOMI held two working bees, made possible through grants (see below), FOMI fundraising, a Pennicott Foundation donation, the logistics support of PWS, and ongoing support from Helicopter Resources.

- 30 November – 11 December 2022; Weed Control and Shearwater Monitoring (5 volunteers - Sheryl Hamilton, Peter Puskic, Josh Mansell, Marina Campbell and Desley Kippax).
- 5 – 19 March 2023; Weed Control, Shearwater Monitoring and Building Maintenance (10 volunteers - David Milne, Stephen Anstee, Marina Campbell, Sheryl Hamilton, Olly Dove, Jonah Wiltshire, Penni Rockliff, Helen Leighton, along with Dave James and Alex Hartshorne contracted to undertake steep terrain weed control with both contributing additional volunteer hours.)

Thank you Phil Wyatt, Friends of GIS (Wildcare Inc.), for your ongoing support to FOMI's Weed Control Program with all our Fulcrum and mapping related requests including assisting Dave James with information for the Steep Terrain Weed Control report.

IN-KIND SUPPORT

The work of FOMI is made possible by the generosity of all our volunteers who contribute on and off Maatsuyker Island. Over the past year, FOMI (Committee & friends) contributed at least 2199 volunteer hours:

- working bees x 2 (planning, organising and running) 445 hours off island, 1144 hours on-island (working bee total 1589 hours);
- events (Wooden Boat Festival and Maritime Museum), promotion and merchandise sales 200 hours;
- meeting attendance (Committee, PWS/FOMI, Wildcare and other) 200 hours;
- lighthouse working group 30 hours;
- administration (minutes, agendas, inquiries, training, other) 100 hours; and
- grant/sponsorship (writing and reporting) 80 hours.

Thank you all for your many hours of effort and contribution. ***Conservatively, 2199 hours (1055 off island and 1144 on island) @ \$39 per hour (recommended in-kind rate) = \$85,761 in-kind.***

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

This year's grant application writing and donation support was undertaken by Sheryl Hamilton, Amy Saunders, Peter Blackwell and Marina Campbell. Thanks also to Jennifer Mudge, PWS for support of FOMI grant applications.

Pennicott Foundation donation:

FOMI are proud to again receive a donation of \$5000 from the Pennicott Foundation for the Weed Control and Shearwater Monitoring programs for the 2022/23 season. This is the Foundation's sixth year of support. FOMI is extremely grateful and proud of the support and sponsorship from the Pennicott Foundation. FOMI thank Robert Pennicott for his ongoing interest and enthusiasm toward the conservation work on Maatsuyker Island.

Heli-Resources donation:

FOMI thank Heli-Resources for the generous donation in recognition of FOMI's 20-year celebration.

Donation summary

Pennicott Foundation	<i>Weed Control & Shearwater Monitoring Programs</i>	\$5,500 (gst Inc.)
Heli-Resources	<i>Ryans Point to Maatsuyker 5 passengers</i>	\$1,200 (approx.)

Total donations received 2022/23 = \$6700

The following grants were awarded during the 2022/23 financial year:

<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Awarded/ notified</i>	<i>Title and brief description</i>	<i>Amount (GST excl.)</i>	<i>Completion/ Final Report</i>
Wildcare Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund Round 2	7 Oct 2022	Friends of Maatsuyker Island - Invasive Weed Elimination & Shearwater Monitoring 22/23	\$18, 500	Due 7 Oct 2023
Wildcare Tasmanian	Jan 2023	Australian Wooden Boat Festival Stall project – FOMI share of combined with Friends of Tasman and Deal	\$433	Feb 2023
Landcare Tas 2023	Annual	Landcare Assistance Program	\$120	No report required

Total grant monies received 2022-23 = \$19,053

WITH THANKS

The FOMI Committee and friends, working alongside PWS, are dedicated to caring for all that is special about Maatsuyker Island. We all work together towards our aim: to protect, conserve and promote the natural and historic values of Maatsuyker Island. Heartfelt thanks to each of the members of the FOMI Committee who have contributed many hours toward the works on and off Maatsuyker Island: Fiona Taylor, Ailsa Fergusson, Penni Rockliff, Peter Blackwell, David Milne, Gary Miller, Derek Inglis, Jonah Wiltshire, Lee Thompson, our Treasurer, Stephen Anstee, Secretary, Amy Saunders and Vice President, Sheryl Hamilton. Thanks also to the Lighthouse Working Group led by David Milne, with other members Bruce Frankcombe, Ron Fehlberg, Stephen Anstee, Derek Inglis, Peter Blackwell, Gary Miller and Marina Campbell (all FOMI), and Jennifer Mudge and Brett Knowles (PWS). FOMI recognises the contribution of outgoing FOMI Committee member, Lee Thompson.

The Committee have enjoyed Georgie and Ash Carr attending and contributing to several FOMI meetings throughout the year as they prepare for their 6-month PWS Volunteer Caretaker stint, September 2023 to March 2024. We wish Georgie and Ash all the best.

On behalf of the FOMI Committee, thank you to all 'friends' for your support toward the care and protection of Maatsuyker Island.

Marina Campbell,
President