



Friends of Deal Island

FRIENDS OF DEAL ISLAND

Newsletter 36

August 2017



Travelling Museum Display:

As reported in the December Newsletter, the Maritime Museum offered FoDI the use of a small area adjacent to the Carnegie Gallery to promote the work that our group has been doing. The display was installed in December 2016 and was in place for 6 months. Museum staff noted many visitors taking a close look at the display. There were around 10,000 visitors to the Museum in that time.



It is now about to be installed in the Bass Strait Maritime Centre in Devonport. A good opportunity to promote our work more widely and for our northern members to pop in and have a look!

Paintings by past-caretaker Nye Evans: Nye and partner Ros Holgate have already donated \$484.52, partly from the sale of paintings which Nye did, which were inspired by his time on the island. He has given a further three works (all framed) to raise money for FoDI. We hope to have them on display at the Bass Strait centre.

Working Bees: The working bee planned for March 20 to April 2 this year was cancelled two weeks before the starting date. This is now to be held from 25 October through to 11 November. Fortunately, most of those meant to go in March are available for the November bee, and the remaining places were filled from the waiting list. A second bee will be held in the first two weeks of February 2018. The major emphasis of this bee will be the control of ragwort.

And what news of the ragwort flea beetles which were released in December 2016 as biological control agents to control that weed? We are still looking for signs that the beetles have established at the release sites. The current caretakers, Mary and Adrian Pyke reported seeing damage to some of the ragwort foliage and sent us photos. These were passed on to our consultant Richard Holloway. His opinion was there was not yet definitive evidence of the beetle's presence, and we should expect to wait until late summer this year, or even years longer before we see this.

Next General Meeting: It has been suggested for last week in November; at Sandy Bay Sailing Squadron. Items to be tabled would include a report from November working bee, plans for February bee, and fund raising. The meeting would conclude with dinner and Christmas drinks. Stay tuned for more information.

Our Annual General Meeting is proposed to be held after the February 2018 working bee, in early March (before Wildcare AGM). More details will be available later.

It has been proposed that a weekend get together of FoDI members, past caretakers, and others interested in Deal Island be held, sometime during the summer months. We will have to gauge the level of interest for this. Any ideas of a suitable site?

Deal Island cards: Kate Hansford, a member of FoDI who has been a member of working bees on several islands - including Deal Island, and other places too - has offered us the use of this wonderful art work to raise funds for our Group. It features a Cape Barren Goose in flight, a flame robin, casuarina, the yellow coast twinleaf in flower, and a distant view of the lighthouse atop its granite tor. Available as a card (on good quality paper and with envelope) and measures 13cm x 13cm approximately. Cost of the card is \$4:00. Use them as gift cards, or Christmas cards. A larger version looks good on a wall, and as the drawing has now been digitalised, it is possible to arrange with the printer to print a size to fit your space. Contact Penny Tyson for your order.



Renew your Wildcare membership: Quick tip (repeated) - It's a lot easier to renew your Wildcare membership **before** you renew your Parks and Wildlife Annual Car Pass. If you do, simply quote your Wildcare number and you will receive a discount on your Park Pass.

Check that you actually are a member of Friends of Deal Island by logging in to Wildcare Tasmania, selecting the "members" button, then "my preferences". Here you will find a list of all the groups you have expressed interest in. If Friends of Deal isn't on your list, use the box provided to "add new group". Please do check. It saves so much time and effort in getting information out to you if we can use member lists which are complete and up to date. If you wish to withdraw your membership, or do not want to receive news by email, do let us know and we can 'unsubscribe' you.

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