



# FRIENDS OF DEAL ISLAND



Greetings,

What a busy and productive start to the year we have had!

Thanks to all who attended our AGM in March, it was a lovely day out in Ross, 18 members attended and we enjoyed a great lunch at the Man O Ross hotel. Bob Tyson stepped back from an executive role after many many years at the helm and in other various roles. We are very much indebted to both Bob and Penny for their amazing contribution to the branch and Deal Island we are very grateful you are both remain active members willing to provide your sage advice and endless knowledge of all things Deal when needed. I hope you all saw the great article Wildcare featured if not you can find that here: <https://wildcaretas.org.au/wildcare-news/the-perfect-deal-17-years-volunteering-wildcare-tasmania/>

Office bearers:

President (& Social Media)	Jo Widdowson
Treasurer	Stuart Dudgeon
Secretary	Phillipa and Margo Foster

At this meeting we also formed a new Merchandise Subcommittee:

Di Masters  
Alison Moore  
Phillipa Foster

As you may have already seen they have been very hard at work already with more information below.

Our first working bee of the year after a few reschedules finally took place 9-21 May. David Milne did an exceptional job of leading this working bee and Wendy provisioning, very thankful for their hardwork - planning, leading and provisioning a working bee is a lot of work and we appreciate the time and effort you both put into this. Thanks also to Phillipa for her expertise and leadership in the weeding program on island.

Our intentions are to hold another working bee later in the year and a general meeting prior to this which we will communicate later.

Keep safe, stay well

Jo, Stuart, Phillipa and Margo

## Working Bee 9-21 May - summary

Covid 19 and PWS operational requirements on Deal meant we hadn't held a working bee on the island since Nov/Dec 2019 so obviously everyone was excited to have one planned as we had 18 applications for just 6 spaces! After a few date and participant changes the final group was David & Wendy Milne, Phillipa Foster, Lee & Don Cameron and Christine Bowman. Great to have so many members who hadn't been to deal on a working bee previously.

We are very grateful to the NRM weeds fund grant that funded this working bee. Our objectives for this trip were:

- Check and conduct maintenance weeding of all known [approx. 50] weed sites on the island.
- Look for new weed infestations and map any found.
- assess the known ragwort infestation sites for weed spread and signs of ragwort beetle activity.
- record weed work done and locations added to the Wildcare Ipad utilising the Fulcrum program.



The group arrived on Deal Island after a flight to Flinders and two trips Flinders to Deal to find all the grassed areas a lush green. PWS and Caretakers have been busy during the last two years, it is encouraging to see the results of recent works. Restoration of Lighthouse, Building roof replacement in Caretakers house and Visitors house, Replacement of solar battery bank, Electric Fencing and improvements to Airstrip, Vehicle replacement and many others.

Regardless of the persistent, mostly gale force winds, the group cheerfully went about their tasks and quickly gelled as a team. We covered a large area and we're very successful in our quest. Quick return visits to sites were valuable. We enjoyed a great relationship with the current caretakers, shared several meals, many conversations and appreciated their support of our working bee.

## Weeds and plants removed - summary

Sea Spurge. - 1048, Arum Lilies - 46, Horehound - 121, Great Mulein - 122, Creticum - 26, Ragwort & Thistles Numbers not recorded

Weeding Hours in Field- 240hr, Data Entry Mapping on Ipad 30hrs

Well done to all involved. The full working bee report can be found in our branch files:

<https://wildcareas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Friends-Of-Deal-working-bee-report-21-2.pdf>



## NEW MERCHANDISE!!

Our newly formed merchandise committee have been flat-out coming up with new and exciting merchandise.

We are extremely fortunate to have Philip Wolfhagen allow us to reproduce two of his pieces of work as cards. "Archipelago" and "Fieldworks" were created during his time on Deal back in 2002.

Our very own Di Masters, visual artist extraordinaire has created both the new geese card and the images on the aprons and totes.

Massive thank you to both of these artists as well as the other members of the merchandise team - Alison & Phillipa.

We are excited to have some great quality products available to support the branch and look forward to sharing some more new products in the coming weeks

Click here to order from our Wildcare Shop <https://wildcaretas.org.au/branches/friends-of-deal-island/>

thank  
you!

We would like to acknowledge and thank Robyn Mundy who generously gave her time and knowledge to assist with the design wk on our new cards

Robyn is a writer, twice caretaker at Maatsuyker Island (Wildlight being a book set there) summered and wintered at Antarctica and has been a guide on adventure tourist trips to Antarctica (The Nature of Ice being another novel). An interesting and generous lady we appreciate your support



***Dont forget to like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. If you have any photos that you are happy for us to share please email them through to: [dealisland@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:dealisland@wildcaretas.org.au)***

