Wildcare Friends of Deal Island

General Meeting Minutes. Ross, 22.09.2019 11am.

ATTENDEES. Bob and Penny Tyson. Jo Widdowson. Wayne Dick. Shirley Fish. Christine Sedevic. Stuart Dudgeon. Angus and Alison Moore. Derek Inglis. Jenny Tudehope. Barbara Vaschina. David Reynolds. Christian Bell.

APOLOGIES. Fraser and Diana Dawson. Phillipa Foster. Anne and Steve Robbins. Dave and Di Masters. Ron and Glenda Fehlberg. Jane Cooper & Kerry Clough

President Bob chaired the meeting.

AGENDA. Copies of the Agenda, minutes of the last General Meeting, the Finance report, and the Presidents report were handed round to the participants.

Bob gave a special welcome to Wayne Dick, Ranger in Charge of Furneaux Islands.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. (see attached) Bob spoke re items in his report.

Grants. Successful applications for grants this year mean that two working bees can be held in the forthcoming year, also that financial contributions for training for Chemcert and First Aid courses for working bee participants can be made. Parks may have some opportunities for participating in training through the volunteer co-ordinators (David mentioned Friends of Maria Island currently discussing opportunities with southern co-ordinator). Other grant applications are pending.

Working bees. A draft Expression of Interest form was circulated at the meeting. and will be available to all FODI members on the website. A working bee is planned from 12 to 25th November (\*\* post meeting note now early December due to workers on island now in Nov) and also one in Feb/March 2020.

Built Heritage. Discussion is occurring re preparing a joint nomination for Australian Heritage listing of the Deal Island, Maatsuyker Island and Tasman Island light stations. Peter Rigozzi (Tas PWS Heritage Officer) is looking into this.

Discussion re the report was invited.

The purpose of the working bees was discussed, and summarised as weed control (including weeding, spraying and biological control), erosion control, plant propagation for erosion control, and possibly built heritage repair and maintenance and other miscellaneous tasks.

David queried whether weed control on Erith Island needed assistance, Wayne replied that the “Erith Mob” were very active with weeding and unlikely to need assistance.

AGM venue was discussed and agreed by the majority that Ross would be the best location – date likely is March or April after 2nd working bee

TREASURERS REPORT. (see attached) Jo spoke re this report as circulated to the attendees, referring to the improved financial position this year, and that two working bees can be held in the next 12 months. Bob reminded us that transport for the working bee is the biggest expense, at about $8000 per working bee, after participants contribute their amount. Part of the Australian Government grant may be used to hire a vehicle on Flinders Island if necessary. It may be cheaper to charter a flight from Bridport to Flinders Island when the changeability of timing of the flight due to weather conditions is taken in to consideration.

Social Media update (see attached). Jo said that our Facebook page is successful, with 246 followers, we also now have an Instagram page with 76 followers, she asks for more photos and stories to be sent to her to put on Facebook. Christian said that the webpage has to be regularly renewed otherwise it expires – ours has expired and we were unable to obtain the information to renew so now need to remove from Wildcare site.

In reference to publicity for FODI, David asked re having a Deal Island photographic exhibition in the Flinders Island Community Arts Centre gallery, and the possibility of using Flinders Island airport space was also suggested. David recently set up a Deal Island display in the Kingston Library and could provide this for other venues. This was supported by the meeting.

REPORT FROM WAYNE DICK.

A positive result of his efforts over many years to fund major works on the lighthouse and the houses on Deal Island. The asbestos removal from the roofs of the houses has been accomplished, as well as from some sheds, and remaining funds were used to start the lighthouse restoration. Much corrosion was removed, cracks gouged out, filled and painted. The work is not finished due to the contractor breaking his leg elsewhere, but will be continued this summer. The caretakers house also received a new roof with a slightly different pitch which has fixed the leaking ceiling issue. At one stage, 15 contractors were on the island.

Work on the grass airstrip has been successful too, It has been lengthened to it's original length and fenced, including an electric fence to keep the animals off it. It is still classed as a closed strip, with only Parks being able to use for operational needs at this stage. The perimeter of the strip will now need regular spraying – FODI will be happy to do this.

The jetty. This has further deteriorated and cannot be repaired. Wayne investigating replacement costs and funding submissions. Very serious possibility of not being able to use some time in the near future.

Commercial activity. This year a small cruise ship will visit (using their own boats for shore access). This increases the recognition of the assets of Deal Island and improves possibility of future funding. There is also a walk operator on Flinders keen to have walking trips on Deal if accessible by air – Wayne investigating. A discussion ensued on how to encourage tourists and tour operators to make donations to the upkeep of the island, including tax-deductibility, Wildcare donations and a foundation specifically for the island.

Medical emergency. Wayne described the recent event where a caretaker broke her leg. Several things arose from this. The need to have adequate, detailed information about the severity of the injury to accurately assess when an evacuation needed and the caretaker did not have information that there was an inflatable splint in the first aid kit in the caretakers house, or how to use it. On the positive side, the person was able to be evacuated using the renewed airstrip, rather than an emergency helicopter being used. These factors will be reviewed by Wayne.

Further discussion of topics with Wayne.

Derek asked re the caretaker placements. There have been 2 recent times that caretakers have pulled out at the last minute. Wane said that other volunteers can usually step in – there were 48 applications last year, usually about 30 per year. This despite caretakers now having to pay for their transport to Flinders and gear – in fact this has enabled the programme to continue.

Christian asked about asbestos in the walls of the houses. Wayne said that it is still there, but as long as they are painted, there is no risk.

Lunch break.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Working bee planning. Bob put forward a suggestion from recent Caretakers Tim and Lyn for a new walking track near the lighthouse to a great viewpoint. Wayne asked that it be put in a proposal to Parks for consideration and funding. Also the Winter Cove track access to the beach may need repositioning– this will be looked into as part of the injury investigation.

Jo discussed future goals for FODI including future displays in the museum and possible repairs to the upstairs section.

Wayne discussed priorities for work on the superintendent’s cottage and the possibility of power being available down the track.

He said that if future access to the lighthouse is made available it will most likely have to be supervised by the caretakers.

Jo asked for some subcommittees, so the workload can be spread out and others can “learn the ropes”. Stuart, David and Christian volunteered to assist Bob with Grant Applications.

Alison offered to assist with the Merchandise work.

Bob asked for assistance in organising the working bees- one to do the organising, one to lead the weeding. Barbara volunteered to assist with organising the working bees.

Chris discussed the selection process for the working bees, making sure there are new people and those selected match the needs for the type of work to be done. Also to call for a couple of volunteers to be on a reserve list, to cover for last-minute cancellations. Jo said the EOI that Bob compiled will be emailed to all FODI members. Barbara suggested doing this as early as possible, not just a month before the working bee. All present agreed that they were happy for the Exec – Bob, Jo and Phillipa, to assess the applications and decide on offers to participate. Developing an actual application form, as well as the EOI form, was discussed.

Other General Business.

Angus mentioned what he thought might be a pictograph near Pulpit Rock, and David mentioned a cave on Deal Island, these sites possibly having links to aboriginal history. Wayne noted this information.

Jo mentioned the idea of adding natural history items to the museum. David offered to contribute some of Trauti's drawings.

Wayne stated that 90% of the surveyed electrical work on the island had been completed, and the remaining work in the ceiling of the visitor's house will be done next week.

Wayne also mentioned the possibility of an “Artist-in -Residence” programme.

Actions

1. Amend expression of interest document for working bee to include data collection (Jo)
2. Remove reference to website from Wildcare page (Jo)
3. BOM grant application due now (Bob)
4. Letter to Bridget Archer – MHA to seek funding support (Bob)
5. Subcommittees to make contact to discuss needs, actions and responsibilities (Jo & Bob)
6. First aid and Chem cert (or equiv) training options to be investigated & discussed with Pip Gowan (PWS Sth volunteer coordinator) Bob
7. Look into iCloud storage& start archiving docs, images & grant application info (Jo)

Future actions – to be discussed further at next meeting

1. Museum – possibly a sub committee to look at guidelines around Museum and options for future development
2. Consideration for submissions for other walking or viewing tracks on island
3. Erosion at East cove – how can we assist

The meeting closed at 2.15pm.

**Wildcare Friends of Deal Island**

**Presidents Report, General Meeting, Ross, 22nd September 2019.**

Welcome everyone, and thankyou to Wayne Dick for making the time to attend. We are looking forward to hearing about the works to the houses, the lighthouse, the airstrip, etc. Great accomplishments after all these years of your lobbying and funding submissions.

Thanks to committee members, Jo Widdowson, who has done a great job with social media, our online shop, and keeping track of finances; Phillipa Foster, our secretary, an apology today as she is caretaking on Deal. Thanks also to Penny Tyson for her ongoing input to the weed control program.

**Wooden Boat Festival**

Back in February we joined forces with Friends of Tasman and Friends of Maatsuyker with a joint stall at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival. We raised a bit over a $1000 from merchandise sales and our share of the raffle proceeds. Thanks to all who assisted.

**Grants**

We have had more success lately with grants.

* $5000 from Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife for weed management and restoration of native vegetation, $3,750 in the bank so far, with balance of $1250 payable on completion of our final report.
* $1200 from Australian Government Volunteer grants for training, transport assistance, and small equipment.
* $2000 from Wildcare Board for working bee transport assistance.

There are a number of other grant opportunities we are investigating;

* Communities Environment Program, where grants are made available in each Electorate. We are following up with the Member for Bass, Mrs. Bridget Archer.
* Wildcare Gift Fund which has recently been opened for Wildcare groups to apply.
* Tasmanian Government Weed Action Fund for control of priority weeds including ragwort. Waiting for next round to be called.
* Landcare Tasmania Project Bank – submit project application and Landcare staff will match it to available grants as they become available.

**Working Bees**

A Working bee is planned for 12th to 25 November, expression of interest forms available today. The next working bee is proposed for February – March next year, dates yet to be set.

**Built Heritage**

On the Heritage front, Peter Riggozzi has suggested a joint nomination for Australian Heritage listing for the Tasmanian Lighthouse stations managed by Parks – Deal, Bruny, Tasman and Maatsuyker. Further information as this idea develops.

**Annual General Meeting is proposed early next year following the February-March working bee.**

**Finance Report for FODI Meeting 22/9/19**

Total Funds $13,266.29

Grants $7322.72

Deal Is BOM18 Working Bee. $2,000.00

Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife $3,750.00

Landcare Tas 18 $120.00

Landcare Tas 19. $120.00

Commonwealth Gov Volunteers Grant $1,090.91

General $6,027.29

Includes

Wooden Boat Festival

$1612.23 of which about $510 in merchandise, $75 in donation and balance raffle

Merchandise $854.18

$510 from wooden boats

$247.18 (online sales)

$97 pending

Merchandise on Hand (approx $1200)

Wraps 42

Cookbooks 30

Reflection book 7

Gift cards 27

**Social Media update**

Facebook

* was 166 Oct 18
* Currently 246
* Approx 60 posts or activity a couple of posts with engagement around 1000 most around a hundred

Instagram

* Started Oct 18
* 76 followers
* 20 posts

Need – story ideas, pics, short clips, features on people

Wildcare branch membership

* was 116 Oct 18
* Currently 106 (41 expired in last 12 months)

Opportunities – email new members, regular newsletters and regular meetings