

## Minutes of Wildcare Friends of Irapuna Coast Meeting

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### Sea Spurge free East Coast Organising

Falmouth Community Centre, 10 am to 12:00 pm, Saturday 4 March 2023

## General Meeting- Wildcare Friends of Irapuna Coast Branch

**AGM Meeting commenced 10am**

### Attendance

Polly Buchhorn, Mary Mumford, Ashton Keene (Zoom), Kirstin Seaver (Tamar NRM Coord.), Stan and Helen Matuszek, Susan Blackburn Dr, Ian and Marcel Nielson, Todd Dudley (NEBN), Rod Stevenson, Nathan Secombe (PWS, Zoom), Amanda Blakely

### Apologies

Peter & Sally Scher, Helen & Ron Lowe, Sam Cuff, Jason Orr & Ruth (Lulworth Community Association), Cathie Plowman, David Butler, Lily Neyland, Revel Munro, Fiona Perron, Kris Mc Quade

### Welcome and Reports

The Wildcare Branch process was explained. Group arose out of Irapuna Community Weekend that began in 2014. Wildcare group formed in 2017, with interim office bearers to make it possible.

2022 activity (report attached) was reviewed. Wildcare Friends of Irapuna Coast Branch has a Volunteer Program Plan 2022-2025 with PWS. Future needs highlighted included finding funding, developing new activity across the east coast (Wildcare and other 'sea spurge free' work) and data collection/mapping.

Reviewed financial report. The Branch has \$295 of funds with Wildcare Tasmania.

### Election of Office Bearers

Explanation of roles required as a Wildcare Branch. The President is responsible for approving activities of the Branch as 'Wildcare Tasmania' activities of the Branch. Wildcare Tas. has financial accounts to hold and manages Branch funds and a Wildcare grants fund.

The Wildcare group and wider east coast opportunities need more people and activity. Irapuna Community Weekend involves a number of partners and coordinating of resources and efforts with the group and PWS. It also involves managing an Eventbrite booking and registration website.

As part of Wildcare Tasmania the Branch needs to have a President, Secretary and Treasurer. It can also create any additional roles it needs.

President - Polly Buchhorn elected unanimously.

Secretary - Sam Cuff elected unanimously (not present but had indicated willingness to take on a role)

Treasurer - Amanda Blakely elected unanimously (to role in general meeting following AGM and agreement to include in AGM minutes).

General Committee - Stan Matuszek, Kirstin Seaver, Mary Mumford, Marcel Neilson and Rod Stevenson.

**AGM closed 10.35am and General meeting commenced.**

## General Meeting and organising discussion.

Discussion of plans and opportunities for 2023 and beyond for the Friends of Irapuna Coast group and development of a Sea Spurge free East Coast campaign.

### 1. Biocontrol fungal release

Sea spurge biocontrol (CSIRO fungus) were discussed and possibilities for the groups involvement in ongoing trials of fungal agent. Abbotsbury Beach supported as Irapuna trial site due to remote strategic location of this large infestation that is not under control.

Discussed possible involvement of group members in assisting with trial by assisting in walking into site and inoculating with infected sea spurge from existing trial sites – likely collect, drag, spread. Willingness to do this expressed by Mary, Rod, Stan and Helen.

Discussed this would involve contact with PWS that would need to be followed up and occur with short notice (days).

### 2. Irapuna Community Weekend in 2023 – 12-20 August (National Science Week)

Discussion of dates for 2023 community weekend and necessary planning. Proposed to have weekend during National Science week (same as last year).

Stan offered to help re organising Irapuna weekend.

Discussed possible involvement of school groups- needs more follow up as to how this could best happen.

### 3. Sea Spurge free East Coast coordination

Discussion of coordinating east coast data collection and management. Beyond the Irapuna Community Weekend beaches records were patchy and information varied and limited.

#### Coverage – people

Discussed the need to review records and active people to identify where along the coast is being covered by whom and gaps to fill. Search and control may be needed twice a year. And constrained to outside breeding season of shorebirds.

Not limited to Wildcare members – many different people can know about and how to manage sea spurge well and safely - PWS, Wildcare (Fo Freycinet and Irapuna Coast), other volunteer groups, individuals/residents and visitors. Keeping the east coast sea spurge free will take a large number of contributors.

#### Mapping/data

Discussed the issue of lacking a centralised point for holding and managing data. Nathan to investigate within PWS potential of them hosting a data base. Need publicly accessible method/tools. iNaturalist discussed as tool to enable individuals to record data. Currently supported through Break O'Day Council with 'Fulcrum' (paid) service. Amanda to investigate potential of iNaturalist.

4. Need for further forum.

Discussed need for further forum/event ('Sea Spurge Summit') to develop *Sea Spurge free East Coast* idea (safe sea spurging method, PWS volunteering, data collection, coast coverage/contributors), public information and invite contributors to join. No specific action or date decided yet.

5. Further issues, additional beach walk days, events, sea spurge infestations

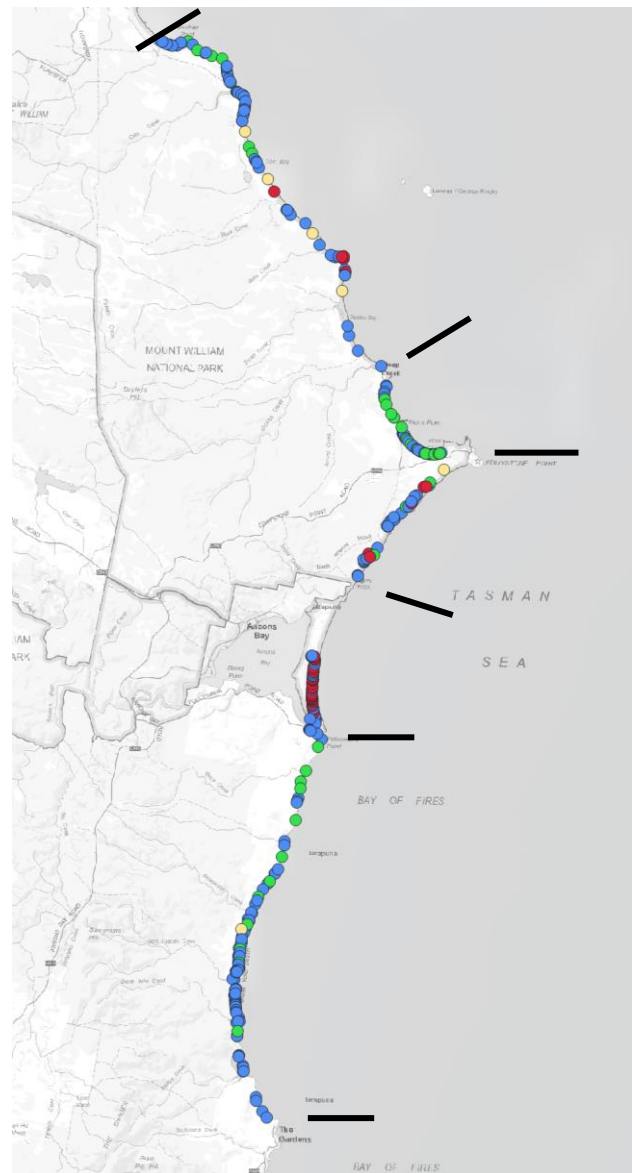
Sue Blackburn asked about Arum Lilies getting out of control at The Gardens. People's experience with them, advice and how this can be tackled at The Gardens and resources available were discussed. Size and extent there suggested work by professional contractor would be needed to start. Follow up manual treatment might then be practical.

Broke for BBQ lunch. Additional beach walk days, events, sea spurge infestations not discussed.

**Meeting closed 11.55am**

## 2022 Irapuna Community Weekend

- 70 walkers and 27,500 less sea spurge.
- Friday, Saturday, (Sunday severe weather cancelation), next weekend Policemans Pt-Gardens.
- Most of coast is free of sea spurge (green – ‘patrol’) or was cleared of sea spurge (blue – ‘controlling’). 15,000 were left behind on (red) ‘uncontrolled sites, and a few sites marked as ‘unknown (orange).
- Later Abbotsbury Beach mapping survey found an estimated 30,000 uncontrolled sea spurge on 11 patches/1.5ha.



## Group funds

The Friends of Irapuna Branch of Wildcare received a Break O'Day Council Community Grant in 2019 to cover costs of the Irapuna Community Weekend that year. Surplus covered snack packs in 2022.

Costs for the Irapuna Community Weekend in 2022 were mostly covered by NRM North's Defending the Hood project (bus charter) and inkind by Tas. Walking Co. (catering), Break O'Day Council (BBQ trailer) and ALCT for Saturday's venues.

The group has funds of \$295.03 remaining out of a Community Grant from Break O'Day Council in 2019 (with Wildcare Tasmania).