
FRIENDS OF MAATSUYKER ISLAND, WILDCARE INC

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018–2021



OUR PHILOSOPHY

We care about the island. Even if some of us never go there, 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.



Swamp antechinus
(*Antechinus minimus minimus*)



Maatsuyker Island lighthouse
prisms, first order fresnel lens



Original haulageway whim



In partnership, FOMI and PWS carried out extensive restoration of the Maatsuyker Island lighthouse in 2016

OUR VISION

FOR MAATSUYKER ISLAND

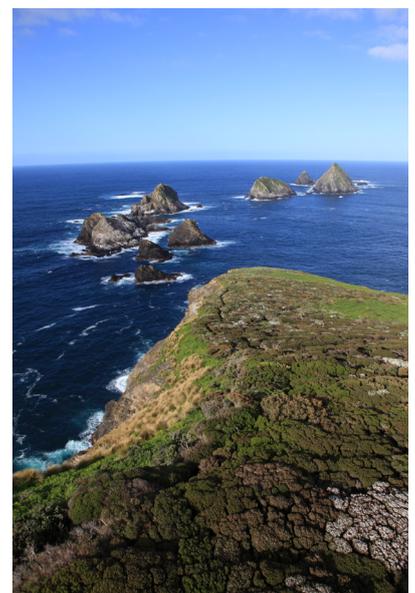
Maatsuyker Island is recognised in Tasmania, nationally and internationally as one of a group of Tasmanian islands with important heritage, natural and Aboriginal values and which:

- has well conserved historic buildings and other infrastructure, which are protected by heritage listing;
- is a pest free island, with healthy, robust natural values;
- offers an opportunity for well-managed, structured volunteer and limited visitation experiences;
- has a clear set of management objectives described in a Maatsuyker Island Group Management Statement and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Management Plan; and,
- is well promoted and highly treasured for its unique values.

FOR THE FRIENDS OF MAATSUYKER ISLAND (FOMI)

- We have a mutually beneficial, professional relationship with the land manager of the Island: Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.
- We have an enthusiastic, diverse and strong membership and supporter base with which we communicate through a range of means.
- We acknowledge the Aboriginal community as past, present and future custodians.
- We welcome involvement with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities.
- Our work is carried out in line with current workplace health and safety legislation, policies and guidelines.
- We are recognised for the research projects conducted by FOMI in relation to the Island biodiversity.
- We are financially sustainable and our resources enable us to work towards realising our vision for Maatsuyker Island.
- We have a long-term commitment to the Island and engage in succession planning activities to enable this commitment to be realised.
- We have a strong working relationship with other Wildcare Inc. branches.
- We have partnerships with business organisations to further our vision.
- We have engaged with all relevant tourism operators to further our vision.

Friends of
Maatsuyker



The Needles, Maatsuyker Island



PWS volunteer caretaker working on restoration of a window in the lighthouse

OUR MISSION

To contribute to the conservation, protection and recognition of the historic, natural and Aboriginal values of Maatsuyker Island.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US?

- Working collaboratively with the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and other stakeholders.
- Having a long term commitment.
- Conservation and protection of the historic, cultural and natural values of the Island.
- Promoting community understanding and appreciation of the Island's values.
- Recognition of the variety of skills and expertise brought to FOMI by our volunteer base.

From 2015-17, some of the flooring was replaced in Q1, 2, 3 during FOMI and PWS joint working bees



WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

Over the last five years Friends of Maatsuyker Island or FOMI has:

- maintained a vibrant, well-functioning Wildcare Inc. group with a high level of commitment to the Island and its conservation;
- maintained a professional and mutually beneficial relationship with the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service as the land managers of the Island;
- secured funds and carried out substantial work to upgrade the historic houses on the Island to a functional standard;
- undertaken regular volunteer weed management programs supported by funds secured by FOMI;
- secured funds and worked in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service to undertake extensive and necessary work to weatherproof the lighthouse tower and other restoration works;
- documented most of the historic objects located on the Island;
- conducted boat trips to the Island to promote community understanding of the Island's importance;
- worked with the Parks and Wildlife Service to support volunteer caretakers and artists in residence on the Island;
- secured funds to undertake annual monitoring of the short-tailed shearwater breeding population on the Island;
- produced community education materials about Maatsuyker Island, and mounted displays/exhibitions and taken part in events to celebrate the role of the Island in Tasmanian history such as the Wooden Boat Festival and Seafarers Festival.



FOMI volunteer treating *Veronica elliptica*



Restoration works carried out on light tower



FOMI volunteers repairing the historic quarters



Historic objects located and documented 2013 and 2017

PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2018–2021

1. Contribute to the conservation and protection of Maatsuyker Island’s European historic heritage.

Priority	Actions	Time frame
The Maatsuyker lightstation is preserved, protected and, where feasible, restored, in partnership with Tasmania PWS.	Undertake works as outlined in the Light Tower Catch-up Maintenance Plan.	2018-2021
	Develop a new Maintenance Plan and Conservation Plan for the lightstation structures (excluding the Light Tower) and source funding to implement the plans.	2018-2021
	Develop appropriate ways of conserving the Haulage Winch Shed (the Whim Shed), the Old Shed, sections of the haulage-way and the ‘Olympic Pool’.	2019
	Continue to provide labour and resources to restore the lightstation buildings.	Ongoing
Historic structures and objects on the Island are conserved and documented in a way that contributes to increased community awareness of the historic heritage of the Island.	Complete the Historic Objects record for the Island.	2018-2021
	Find a suitable repository for information about Maatsuyker historic European heritage to be made available to the public in Hobart.	2018-2021
	Research and develop more historical information about European history in relation to the Island.	2018-2021
	Work with Parks and Wildlife Service and the other ‘lighthouse’ groups to develop a joint application for Australian Heritage listing for the Island lighthouses and associated structures.	2018-2021
	Hold on-island and off-island events that celebrate the Island’s historic heritage.	2018-2021



2. Contribute to the conservation and protection of the Island's natural heritage and values.

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Maatsuyker Island has intact natural values and is free of weeds, pests and diseases.	Continue to support and document the annual weed control program on the Island and maintain the weed database and maps.	2018-2021
	Work with PWS to continue to improve and promote the use of the FOMI biosecurity protocols for the Island to prevent introduction of pests or diseases that may threaten natural values.	2018-2021
Current, robust and extensive scientific knowledge exists about the natural values of Maatsuyker Island.	Continue the annual shearwater monitoring program to obtain accurate long-term population data for the Island.	2018-2021
	Identify knowledge gaps in terms of the natural values of the Island and support efforts to conduct scientific research in these areas.	2018-2021
	Archive data on marine values, including seal populations, for future scientific use.	2019
Resources are available to support promotional activities that focus on the Island's natural values.	Develop new education and information resources about the flora, fauna and geology of the Island for use in promotional activities both on and off-Island (e.g. day trips, bird festivals, native plant events).	2018-2021

3. Contribute to the conservation and protection of Maatsuyker Island's Aboriginal heritage.

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Tasmanian Aboriginal communities are actively encouraged to engage with FOMI activities on Maatsuyker Island.	Invite local Aboriginal organisations to be involved in working bees and scientific projects undertaken by FOMI (e.g. Shearwater monitoring program).	2018 onwards
Opportunities for projects between FOMI and Tasmanian Aboriginal communities are explored.	Begin a dialogue with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities about their interests in Maatsuyker Island with a view to developing joint future projects in conjunction with the Land Manager (e.g. interpretation, archaeological research).	2018 onwards
The importance of Aboriginal heritage in relation to Maatsuyker Island is promoted to the wider community.	Ensure that information resources developed by FOMI acknowledge and accurately represent what is known about Aboriginal heritage on Maatsuyker Island.	2018 onwards

4. Strengthen the capacity of FOMI to achieve its goals.

Priority	Actions	Time frame
FOMI has a strong support base within Tasmania, Australia and internationally.	Upgrade the FOMI contacts database to enable it to be used more efficiently to maintain contact with members and other interested people.	2018
	Develop a recruitment strategy to attract more members and those with specific skills required by FOMI.	2018-2021
	Investigate the development of appropriate merchandise or other incentives for members of FOMI.	2018-2021
	Maintain links with relevant organisations (e.g. Lighthouses Australia, Birdlife Australia) in order to establish and maintain contact with people who may have shared interests.	Ongoing
	Provide opportunities for potential, current and past caretakers and artists-in-residence for Maatsuyker Island to gain information about the Island and join the work of FOMI.	Ongoing
Members and supporters of FOMI are actively engaged	Use a variety of communication methods to engage with members and supporters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • email newsletters; • managing the FOMI Facebook page and Wildcare website page. 	Ongoing
	Involve members and supporters in FOMI organised day trips to the Island.	Ongoing
The skills of members and supporters are effectively harnessed and developed by FOMI.	Survey members to find out what type of information they would like to receive and identify the skills available to FOMI from its membership base.	2019
The FOMI committee is functioning well and continues to support FOMI's work into the future.	Develop a succession plan for the FOMI committee, including the desired skills mix within a future committee.	2018-2021
FOMI has resources to support its range of work on and off Island.	Continue to apply for appropriate grants from a range of sources.	Ongoing
	Explore the potential for members and supporters to make bequests and donations to FOMI.	2018-2021
	Work with Wildcare Inc. to develop sponsorship opportunities, joint skills development and marketing projects.	2018-2021

Priority	Actions	Time frame
FOMI is strategic in developing partnerships with eco-tourist operators and industry groups who may have an interest in the Island.	Review and consider available information on eco-tourism options for Maatsuyker Island.	2018-19
	Explore potential collaboration with eco-tourism operators in relation to Maatsuyker Island.	2018-19
	Liaise with the fishing industry to explore potential areas of collaboration and support for FOMI activities.	2018-19

FOMI coordinates and leads day trips to the island

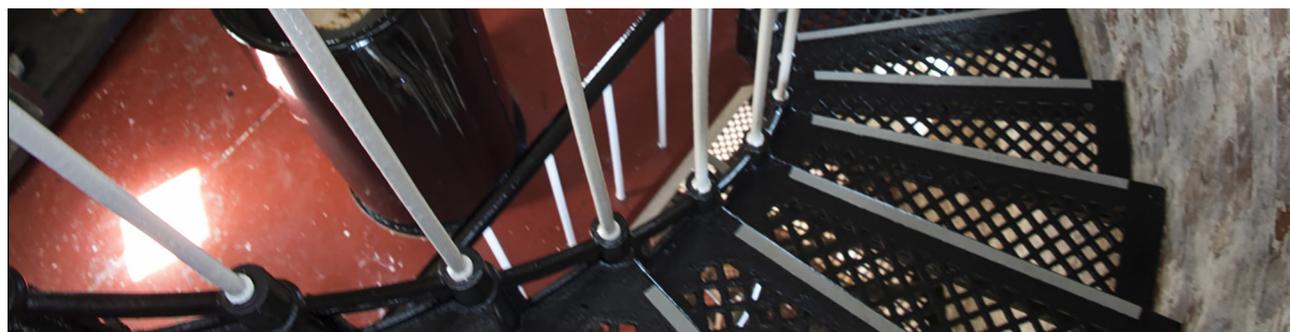


Monitoring of Short-tailed Shearwaters (*Ardenna tenuirostris*) that annually breed on the island



5. Maintain the strong relationship and partnership with Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service (the land manager).

Priority	Actions	Time frame
A mutually beneficial and professional relationship exists between FOMI and the Parks and Wildlife Service as the Land Manager.	Hold regular meetings and maintain email contact with the Parks and Wildlife Service Managers responsible for Maatsuyker Island.	Ongoing
Develop aligned and complementary plans for the Island.	Liaise with the Parks and Wildlife Service in order to gain efficiencies and mutual benefit in terms of planning travel or other logistics for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • caretakers; • maintenance activities; • research and conservation activities; • artists in residence placements; • other service organisations such as AMSA, BOM, Telstra. 	Ongoing
Maintenance plans are reviewed annually and updated with specialist input.	Hold an annual meeting with Parks and Wildlife specialist staff (e.g. heritage, asset management, builder, manager responsible for Maatsuyker Island) in order to review maintenance plans for infrastructure on the Island and to plan working bees.	Yearly
PWS is kept up-to-date about the results of FOMI projects and activities on the Island.	FOMI provides reports on working bees and other projects to the Parks and Wildlife Service.	Ongoing
Liaise with the Parks and Wildlife Service in order to provide input to the Management Statement for the Maatsuyker Group and the World Heritage Area Management Plan.	The knowledge and skills of FOMI members are harnessed in the preparation of management plans and statements about the Island.	2018-2021
FOMI adds value to the Caretaker Program on Maatsuyker Island.	FOMI provides support and information to the caretakers so that there is continuity over time across the program and for the Island.	Ongoing
FOMI adds value to the Artist in Residence Program on Maatsuyker Island.	FOMI engages with Maatsuyker Island artists-in-residence.	Ongoing





FOMI volunteers repairing the historic quarters, lighthouse and weeding



Pink robin (*Petroica rodinogaster*) on Maatsuyker Island

Maatsuyker Island has Australia's most southerly lighthouse and was the last in Australia, in 1996, to be demanned





Friends of
Maatsuyker
Island



Friends of Maatsuyker Island Strategic Plan 2018–2021
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Photographs courtesy of Marina Campbell, Gwen Egg, Ron Fehlberg, Sheryl Hamilton, Georgie Hedley, Robyn Mundy, Al Wiltshire