



MINUTES

Wildcare Friends of the Orange Bellied Parrot

General Meeting, 6.30pm 30 May, 2019

Venue: Derwent Sailing Squadron, Marieville Esp., Sandy Bay.

Attendees

Chair: Marianne Gee

Margaret Waller, Barbara Willson, Erika Shankley, Judy Clarke, Geoff Fenton, Janet Fenton, Helen Pithie, Craig Searle, Debbie Searle, Mark Holdsworth, Marg Cranney.

Apologies

Will Oliver, David Butler, Cathie Plowman, Michael and Sally Simco. Sue Walker

| No | Item |
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1. MEETING OPENED AT 6.40pm

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (19 September 2018)

The minutes were accepted with the correction of a typo – change “sued” to “used” under the heading “Funding”.

Moved: Debbie/Craig

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Report on the 2018/2019 Melaleuca Volunteer Monitoring Season

i) End of season summary

- Applications received from 35 individuals (13 pairs and 9 singles)
- 24 applicants initially selected made up of 14 returning and 10 new. One returning volunteer dropped out at the last minute and was replaced by 2 new volunteers – see below.
- The season was originally slated to be from 25/9/18 to 30/4/19 but wrapped up a week early at 23/4/19 - a total of 30 weeks – see below.
- Volunteers were accommodated at Willsons for 13 weeks and at the Parks hut for 17 weeks.
- Lengths of volunteer shifts varied - 4 weeks (1 pair), 3 weeks (5 pairs), 2 weeks (6 pairs).
- Total flight costs were \$15000 (25 volunteers @ \$600). Of this, DPIPWE paid \$9600. The balance of \$5400 was paid for from Mark’s Go Fund Me resources.

Issues that cropped up during the season:

- Just prior to the season commencing, the couple who were to finish the season had to drop out. A new couple were added to the roster. Because they were not known to Barbara and she was not comfortable with them shutting down her house, they were accommodated at the Parks hut.
- Following the death of a Par Avion pilot, the volunteers on site were moved from the Parks Hut to Willsons to enable better communications. Their flight out date was changed due to understandable nervousness about flying in poor weather.
- A returning volunteer who was to have completed a 3 week shift dropped out at the last minute. Several unsuccessful candidates were contacted but were unable to help. Eventually 2 new volunteers were found who completed about 10 days each.
- The last two volunteers left early – one for work and the other because of weather concerns(?) Consequently there was no packing up done at the end of the season and Shannon took on this role.
- Par Avion flight times disrupted our program and made same day handovers very difficult.
- We may have to address the issue of nervous flyers in the application process.
- Having a brand new set of volunteers starting the season put added pressure on Shannon in terms of setting up the season and organising FoOBP gear which was less than desirable.

ii) OBP Volunteer Feedback 2018/2019 season

All of the volunteers for the past season were surveyed and asked to provide feedback on their experience at Melaleuca. Responses have been listed in bold where they were identified by multiple volunteers.

Positives, What Worked Well, Highlights

- The WhatsApp system for communication
- Volunteer manual very comprehensive and helpful
- Good induction
- Spending time working with Shannon
- Communication and preparation via Shannon and FoOBP
- Staying at Willsons
- Spending time at Melaleuca
- Being able to assist with various aspects of the program
- Interaction with PWS Caretakers
- Interacting with tourists

Negatives, Challenges

- Bikes – broken, unsafe, lack of baskets, unable to find maintenance kit
- Interaction with PWS Caretakers
- Short or no handover (due to change in Par Avion flight times)

- Power problems at Willson's
- Par Avion crash
- PWS mattresses
- Disposing of heavy buckets of old bleach
- Worn ID leg bands on birds
- PWS Caretakers left early and OBP volunteers had to look after both roles

Appreciation was expressed to Craig for his work in co-ordinating the volunteers this season and his additional efforts in supporting volunteers following the tragic plane crash.

Appreciation was expressed to Barbara for her generosity in making her home available to volunteers.

Helen and Margaret W thanked Craig for the opportunity to volunteer on the monitoring program.

b) Suez Grant Application

Not successful. Suez is a recycling company on the mainland that provides environmental grants up to a total of \$20,000. This opportunity might come up again and applications may be due soon.

Action: Mark will check application due date.

c) New Inverter at Willson's House

Mark has wired up a new inverter at Willson's house. A separate power supply for the inverter will be installed next Spring. Mark went in with Ian Bateman, solar guru, who has come up with a solution for a stand-alone system. This will cost between \$6000 and \$7,000 and can be funded from Go Fund Me.

d) Letter of thanks to NE Field Naturalists

This was for a donation of \$200 from the Scottsdale showing of the Desperate Plight of the Orange Bellied Parrot film.

Action: Marg C to check and send if it hasn't yet been sent.

e) Autumn Migration Survey

Initial planning was for March to May 2019. Didn't go ahead because King Island and Cradle Coast NRMs were not funded. Mark will look at it again for next year.

f) Funding request for ANU Volunteers 2018/2019

This request was denied.

g) Birches Inlet cleanup / Parks working bee

This has been in the pipeline for a couple of years. The aviaries need to be removed. PWS are keen to do it. Nov/Dec is a good time to do it. An email from Michael and Sally Simco, who are keen to be part of the clean-up, was read out. In 2017 Sally and Michael approached Rhys Wilson, about getting the project underway using a team of volunteers. The suggestion was well received by PWS and Andrew Crane. A contingency plan was developed but not actioned due to

| No | Item |
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| | <p>various circumstances including staff changes at the Strahan Field Centre. Taylor Benny, is now the PWS contact at Strahan. (After meeting note: Will Oliver has been liaising with Taylor about this clean-up)</p> <p>Action: Will to continue to liaise with Taylor Benny and start the ball rolling.</p> |
| | <p>h) New aviary at 5 Mile Beach</p> <p>The DPIPWE OBP captive bred population has been moved from Taroona to the new aviary to Five Mile Beach. The Taroona site has been given to UTAS. No information was available about how UTAS will use it.</p> |
| 4. | <p>FINANCIAL REPORT – Marianne on behalf of Will</p> <p>Will provided financial documents before he left on his overseas trip and they were distributed. Our global balance was \$2,212.62.</p> <p>The financial reports were accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Marg /Mark</p> |
| 5. | <p>FUNDRAISING</p> <p>a) Mark's Go Fund Me campaign</p> <p>Still active and raising money. For next season, Mark will commit \$5,000 from a total of \$7,000-\$8,000 from Go Fund Me.</p> <p>b) Sponsorship - Roaring 40's Kayaking</p> <p>Have made a donation of \$600 towards the next season's costs.</p> <p>Action: Marg C to send a letter of thanks to Roaring 40's Kayaking</p> <p>c) Collection of donations at Melaleuca.</p> <p>Michael and Sally Simco's email stated that visitors to Melaleuca thought the donations they were placing in the Friends of Melaleuca donation box would also go to FoOBP. Are we missing out on an opportunity to raise funds? It was resolved that FoOBP did not want to detract from the fundraising of the Friends of Melaleuca. However, with agreement from Janet and Geoff, we would place a sign in the Museum letting visitors know how they could make a donation to our Wildcare page.</p> <p>d) FoOBP donation page on Wildcare website</p> <p>Action: Marg C to follow this up with Kimberley at Wildcare.</p> <p>e) Funding application to build a new middle hide at Melaleuca</p> <p>Plans have been developed to build a new hide on platform and posts much like the structures at the standing camp. After an RAA is approved by PWS we will need to apply for funds.</p> <p>Action: Mark will submit an RAA</p> <p>f) Orange Brand sponsorship.</p> <p>Marianne suggested that we contact the company that makes orange brand cleaning products and seek sponsorship</p> <p>Action: Marg C to write a letter to them.</p> |

6. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT - Marianne

a) Implementation of the 2018/2019 partnership

There was one meeting of the partners during the season. This was the first year of the partnership and there are a number of things that need to be clarified for a partnership to continue.

b) Review of the 2018/2019 partnership / development of a new partnership for 2019/2020

The Committee is meeting with DPIPWE tomorrow to begin the review process. In arrangements for future seasons Barbara requested that she be given contact details for volunteers at the beginning of the season and that new people be asked to contact Barbara prior to coming down.

Action: Craig undertook to provide those details in the future.

Barbara also stated that water used to clean the feeding table come from the hose near the aviary which is from the dam and not from the laundry taps which is tank water.

Action: Craig will pass this on to Shannon as this requires a change to the volunteer manual.

7. PLANNING FOR THE 2019/2020 MELALEUCA VOLUNTEER MONITORING SEASON

a) Transportation of gas and general volunteer supplies – Mark

There are 10 full bottles of gas at Willson's house now and that should be enough for next season.

b) Additional baggage allowance

This season volunteers were asked to contact Craig if paying for additional baggage caused financial hardship. Three volunteers contacted Craig and claimed reimbursement.

c) Flights

Par Avion are changing how they schedule flights. They are bringing tourists in first and then bushwalkers with OBP volunteers.

Action: Craig will ring Par Avion and clarify

d) Proposed shed for bikes

One of the campground hosts designed a lean-to bike shed to be built at the side of the PWS hut and discussed this with Ian Marmion who thought it was a good idea. There are 6 bikes at Melaleuca, 4 of which are OBP bikes. They are currently stored in the loader shed. The bikes are not clearly labelled.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Recovery Team Meeting

No **Item**

Marianne attended the Recovery Team Meeting 2 weeks ago. Confidential reports were discussed. However, a summary page about the season is available for distribution.

Action: Mark will make this page available to members

b) Carl Jones visit.

FoOBP, through Go Fund Me, hosted a visit from Carl Jones a famous Welsh conservationist in February/March. He met with Mark and others to discuss the OBP Program and has written a report.

Action: Mark will circulate this report to members.

c) OBP Logo

A new interpretation panel is being developed by ANU and they wanted a copy of our logo. This prompted a discussion as up until now we have used the DPIPWE OBP logo.

The Committee proposed that we create a new logo from a painting created by Mary Armsby - one of our Birchs Inlet volunteers in 2006. Copies were distributed.



There was agreement that this image be our logo and it was resolved that we lighten the background and create more space in the front of the bird.

Action: Marianne will tweak the image and add our name to create a new logo.

d) Pair of OBP's at Cockle Creek

Red G Pink and White Blue Y? were last seen on May 6.

9. DATE FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE FOLLOWED BY NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday August 29, 2019 at the same venue.