

Wildcare Friends of Deal Island Working Bee 27 April to 8 May 2020 (TBC) Information and Expression of Interest

Grants from the Foundation of National Parks and the Wildcare Board are providing the funds to transport to Deal island from Flinders and contribute towards airfares for a group of 6 volunteers for an April 2020 working bee. Dates will be confirmed closer to the time but are likely to be last week of April for approximately 10 -12 days. Tasks include, weed management concentrating on Ragwort and follow up of previous weeding on Sea spurge, Arum lily, and Horehound, some work on the Kent Group Small Museum and include general maintenance or restoration work as agreed with Tasmania Parks & Wildlife.(PWS)

See PWS website for information about the Kent Group National Park.

Travel arrangements:

We will fly from either Bridport to Lady Baron in a single engine charter plane, or with Sharp Airlines from Launceston to Whitemark. To be confirmed. For this working bee we may fly from Flinders to Deal in a single engine charter plane. You will need to make your own way to Launceston or Bridport.

Accommodation

We will stay in a 4 bedroom 1930's light keepers' quarters known as the Visitor's house. The bunks are very comfortable with quality mattresses. Allocation of rooms will be sorted on arrival. There is a hot shower (gas), gas stove, electric fridge and freezer, and 24 hour 240 volt power via solar panels. Clothes washing is done by hand (powder supplied). Crockery, cutlery, pots and pans, and kitchen implements are all there.

Things to bring:

1. Bedding. Sleeping bag, sheet to cover mattress, pillow slip (pillows available) and a towel.
2. Work clothing, wet weather gear, warm hat and sun hat, warm jacket (thermals?) good boots. Gators or wet weather pants are good for protecting against stinging nettle
3. Sun screen etc, toiletries & towel, personal medication, reading material, torch, kneeling pads(if you wish) Sunglasses, camera
4. Bathers, snorkelling gear
5. Lunch box, drink bottle, thermos; a small personal first aid kit,
6. Books to read and share
7. Plenty of patience and good humour!

Catering

All the food will be pre - ordered.

Breakfasts: You will be asked to advise your preferred cereal, and spreads, beverages etc.

Lunch: Most days you'll be away from the settlement so cut lunches and thermos are the go.

Evening meals: Everyone all take a turn at the cooking. (Rather than being the sole cook, people usually decide to work in pairs for cooking evening meals.) You will be asked to choose a recipe (a favourite?) which you would use for your turn at cooking. Simple one pot meals are quickest and easiest.

Bread making using the bread maker is another task which is shared. Everyone needs to be prepared to help in preparing the other outstanding meals – in fact, everyone usually helps with a whole range of tasks.

Costs:

The cost of communal food will be shared between us and will be approx. \$150 per person. We ask for a contribution of \$100pp towards that airfare cost to Flinders please discuss with Bob if this creates a problem.

For the working bee, the approximate costs to individuals are:

Airfare contribution	\$100
Meals on Deal	\$150 approx
Drinks, extras etc	\$up to the individual

Take some spending money with you, we have been known to head to the pub for a meal if stuck on Flinders.

Communications on Deal:

NextG mobile phone coverage on the Telstra network is possible from limited spots including two within 5 minutes' walk of the house.

Safety:

As well as communications via mobile phones, there is a landline phone in the caretakers' house so that emergency services can be contacted in the unlikely event of any incident. One of the group will also have sat phone.

There is a comprehensive first aid kit on the island. First aid kits are on the transport vessel, and one will be carried by the work team. Qualified first aiders are on the team. In addition, everyone should carry their personal kit whilst out and about on the island.

Job Risk Analyses (JRA's) will be provided for each of the tasks undertaken and these will be discussed by the group. You will also be advised of safe work practices. You must follow the safe working guidelines; use the provided safety equipment at all times, and also look out for the safety of other members of the team. Safety briefings will be held on arrival, and each morning about the day's activities.

Some potential hazards:

Bass Strait islands are notorious for being inhabited by large and venomous snakes, but **not on Deal Island**, where there are only white lipped whip snakes who prefer skinks.

The most common injuries incurred by weeders are scratches or punctures to the eyes from brushing against sticks, and more commonly, the sharp tips of blades of grasses such as *Poa tussock* grass. Whilst weeding or spraying, safety glasses must always be used.

Sea spurge, one of our target weeds is a *Euphorbia*, a plant with toxic sap. This can cause skin irritation and can be extremely painful if it gets in your eyes - another reason for wearing those safety glasses. Weeding gloves impervious to the sap and herbicides used for the work are provided, together with barrier cream. There will also be wash facilities at the work site.

Another plant to be wary of is the **native stinging nettle**. These are generally found in grasslands, often in areas which have been disturbed. Their sting is painful, and the injured part can be affected for days. Some people, who are more sensitive to its effects than others, may need to be treated with an antihistamine.

Avoid the introduction of new pests and diseases.

As far as we know, the root rot fungus *P. cinnamomi* does not occur on Deal Island. As Friends of the island we particularly do not want to inadvertently cause the introduction of it, nor any other disease-causing organism, nor another type of pest. The following measures will help avoid this possibility.

- Vacuum pockets, cuffs of clothing, packs and similar to remove any seeds.
- Clean all Velcro on gaiters, rain gear, clothing, packs etc
- Clean all footwear, tent pegs and poles etc which may be carrying soil borne diseases. Bleach and /or detergent will help decontamination and a foot bath is kept in the jetty shed.
- To avoid introduction of water borne diseases properly dry any wetsuits, fishing equipment etc., which has been in contact with water previously. These must be totally dry for at least 2 days before being taken on to the island.

Insurance

All participants will be provided with insurance by PWS and/or Wildcare to cover:

- Public Liability (covering the volunteer against damage claims resulting from their actions), and
- Personal Accident (including cover for loss of income and non-Medicare medical expenses).

Expression of interest process

Expressions of interest are invited, to be emailed by 5th March 2020. We are limited to 6 places due to capacity on the plane, it may not be possible to take everyone who is interested.

Expression of interest

Selection will be made on the basis of the following information:

Name:

Address:

Best contact ph#

Email:

Age last birthday:

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? (please tick a box) Yes No

Please list any significant/relevant medication conditions:

.....

.....

Wildcare 2020 membership number:

Current member of Friend of Deal Island? Yes No

Have you been on a working bee to Deal Island previously Yes No

If yes how many times

Please provide detail on the following criteria (no more than 1 pg)

1. **Health and fitness** – we generally walk several kms each day (can be up to 10) with some steep hills. Much of the weeding is on hands and knees on steep slopes.
2. **Previous weeding experience**
3. **Willingness to work as part of the group**, sleeping in shared bunkrooms, sharing cooking duties, etc.
4. **Flexible with dates** - willingness and time availability to wait out weather delays at both ends of the trip
5. Willingness to lead and assist in organising this working bee and prior experience

We welcome newcomers who haven't been on previous Deal Island working bees. We aim for a balance of experienced Deal Island volunteers and newcomers.

Willingness to get involved with the Friends of Deal Island committee, our fund raising and group management particularly welcome.

Before completing your application, please consider whether you are likely to be suitable for the work.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries.

Bob Tyson
President Friends of Deal Island
Mb 0428248808

Email for applications: dealisland@wildcaretas.org.au