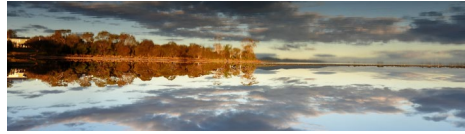




WILDCARE: FRIENDS OF LUMEAH POINT



Newsletter August 2022

Web <http://wildcaretas.org.au/branches/wildcare-lumeah-point/>

There will be a meeting at

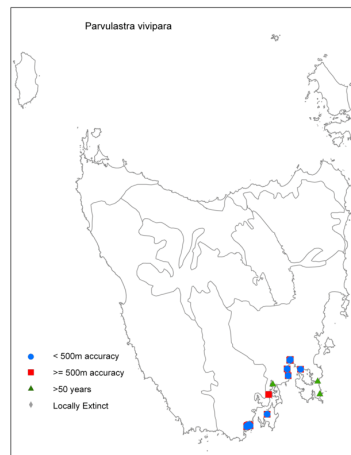
**2.00pm Sunday 14th
43 Honeywood Drive**

To gauge interest in the reestablishment of the *Wildcare: Friends of Lumeah Point* to work with the Tasmanian Oyster Company on feral Pacific Oyster removal and other projects of interest.

If you would like to chat but cannot make the meeting, please feel free to knock on my door, ring on my bell or tap on my windowpane, or phone or email.

The Tasmanian live-bearing seastar

<https://www.threatenedspecieslink.tas.gov.au/Pages/Tasmanian-Live-bearing-Seastar.aspx>



Communication

If you have received this in your letterbox rather than your inbox, please email garry.hulme@gmail.com subject “Wildcare” to get on our electronic distribution list. email garry.hulme@gmail.com, SMS or phone 0439 000 391. If you don’t wish to receive further emails or newsletters, please advise me as is convenient, including your name/s, street address and email/s.



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Background

In early 2013 a meeting of residents of Lumeah Point was held to discuss issues related to vehicle access at the Eastern end of the Point. A working group convened to develop an issues paper for the community's consideration. Issues identified included rabbit infestations, exotic weeds, the poor state of vehicle tracks, and the proliferation of feral Pacific Oysters.

Some work was done hardening the vehicle track, and some minor works undertaken involving the removal of a dumped boat and attempts to halt the incursion of parking onto native plant areas. To be able to formalize negotiations with Government, Council, and commercial entities, and to have insurance cover for working bees, the *Wildcare: Friends of Lumeah Point* group was established. A tree planting project along the Northern side of Honeywood Drive was done in collaboration with the Clarence City Council.

With support from the Pipeclay Lagoon Oyster Growers Association the main project undertaken was feral oyster removal. Over the next three years oysters were removed from almost the entire Eastern end of the Point. In early 2016 the Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome found its way to Tasmania and oyster growers were more focused on dealing with an existential crisis. There was a brief resumption in mid-2018 after which the entire planet went into an existential crisis.

The Tasmanian Oyster Company (TOC) has responded to recent enquiries by advising that it intends to resume feral oyster controls. I believe it is an opportune time to reconstitute the Wildcare group to provide communications between the TOC and local community, enable residents and users of Lumeah Point to assist as appropriate, and canvas the community on other projects to improve the environment and utility of Lumeah Point.

Resumption of Feral Oyster Removal – take 2

Those of you who participated in the previous clean ups will fondly remember puddling around in 9-10 degree water, chipping oysters of rocks, filling bushel bags of oysters and delicately placing little orange sea stars back in the water. We made serious inroads into the oyster infestations, and it would be great to finish the job to the point where preventing further large infestations becomes the ongoing task.

Pipeclay Lagoon is a unique and fragile environment and as such any disturbances need to be planned and monitored. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) have worked with the TOC to assess potential threats to local aquatic life. The Live Bearing Sea Star is endemic to the Lagoon and NRE have done some initial studies into its exposure to oyster removal operations. The removal of the large offshore infestations has been approved and will proceed shortly. Approval of shoreline removals is subject to further studies and the design of removal methods that minimize deleterious impacts on the sea stars.

TOC is coordinating the oyster growers' participation and they in turn are contributing significant resources. Support and participation from the community will expedite this program, and *Wildcare: Friends of Lumeah Point* can facilitate formal links with business and government as well as insurance cover for registered volunteers.