

Friends of Melaleuca Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 12 October 2023 – Board Room, Derwent Sailing Squadron, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay.

Meeting opened at 7pm with a welcome and acknowledgement of country by Janet.

Members present: Janet & Geoff Fenton, Peter & Robyn Marmion, Mel Jack, Rob Banfield, Erika Shankley, Stephen Mattingley, Greg Hodge, Imogen Burleigh, Judy & Andrew Boon, Ian & Helen Marmion, Mark Divine, Tony Fenton, Chris Creese, Barbara Willson, Jim & Helen Thyne, Dave Ross, Janet Stephens, Ann Wessing.

Apologies: Nell Tyson, David Mitchell, Jill Maxwell, Helen & Mick Statham, Endra O'May, Lee & Don Cameron, Marina Campbell, Alison Viner, Jannie Chin.

Minutes of last year's AGM were accepted – moved Rob Banfield, seconded Helen Thyne, carried.

President's Address (Janet Fenton): see attached. It was suggested a letter of thanks be sent to Parks & Wildlife staff Steve Locke, Dan Rowe and Andy Condous for their generous support of the annual working bee especially the Mt Beattie track work.

Treasurer's Report (Tony Fenton): see attached. Moved Dave Ross, seconded Ann Wessing that the report be accepted. Carried.

Helen Thyne took the chair for the election of office bearers for 2023/24.

Those elected were:

President, Janet Fenton

Secretary, and Social Secretary, Peter Marmion

Assistant Secretary and Vice President, Rob Banfield

Treasurer, Tony Fenton

General Committee Members, Geoff Fenton, Ann Wessing, David Mitchell, Andrew Boon, Barbara Willson, Stephen Mattingley, Chris Creese, Erika Shankley.

It was suggested a letter of thanks be sent to Helen & Mick Statham for their work in the secretarial/committee role.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Friends of Melaleuca General Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 10th August 2023 were accepted, moved Mel, seconded Erika.

Treasurer's Report: Main activity was receipts and payment for the Sounds of the Southwest event. Tony outlined a scam issue which arose from paying the hire fee for the Moonah Arts Centre. Funds were unable to be recovered. Moved Barbara, seconded Helen, report accepted. It was suggested that the scam be reported to the Australian Signals Directorate.

Business arising:

Heritage Mining Interpretation – a Reserve Activity Assessment was sent to the Parks & Wildlife Service on 8th September, 2023. Steve Locke is in the final stages of reporting to the Parks & Wildlife Service on this matter.

Marine BioSecurity Pamphlet – Peter reported that he has been in contact with marine scientist, Ally King. Ally informed him that the results from surveys undertaken by Neville Barrett will be published shortly and we should wait for this to occur so that the pamphlet may meet any recommendations put forward. Peter and Ally will continue work on this project in early November. It was suggested that Karen Gowlett-Holmes could be a good source of photographic material. It was suggested that once completed, the pamphlet should be shared with the fishing as well as the yachting community. It should be placed in the 'show bag' for circumnavigation crews. Peter circulated a pamphlet produced by NRM when the Marine Park was new, highlighting the risks of feral pests entering Port Davey aboard poorly maintained vessels. The pamphlet received positive comment due to the succinct manner in which information was conveyed. Rob Banfield suggested that once our pamphlet is produced, a media release should be organized.

Clayton's Fireplace – Rob Banfield introduced bricklayer and volunteer, Mark Divine, who will undertake repairs on the chimney. Rob thanked Mark for offering his services. Par Avion has provided 2 return airfares to Melaleuca so that the project can be scoped out. Bob Cleary has offered freight support. Chris, Mark and Geoff will be the consultant engineers. It was suggested that crowd funding could be used to pay for this project. There could be a need to consult a Heritage Officer regarding the type of brick to be used. Peter will write to Shannon Wells to thank him for his support.

Clayton's Wiles Shed – No changes regarding this project at the moment. A Wiles shed subcommittee was formed, consisting of Rob, Chris and Geoff to design foundations for the shed.

Museum Sign Damage – the current facade sign on the exterior wall has been damaged by winter gales. Fast Forward Digital will be asked to make a new one. They still have the original artwork so the cost should not be high.

Sounds of the Southwest – a second successful show to a full house took place in September. Approximately \$5000.00 has been raised from these two events.

General Business:

Working Bee Dates – 13–20th March, 2024. Expressions of interest to take part have been received from Mark Divine, Richard Tatnell, Rob Banfield, Ken Jones, Lauren Jones, Carolynne Smith, Chris Creese, Geoff & Janet Fenton, ~~Ray Glancy, Chris and Shannon~~ (now withdrawn). A roof painter is needed – if you know of one please let Janet know.

Hidden Worlds – a book about Port Davey by Peter Marmion has been published and is now available directly from Peter or in book shops.

Heritage Listing Application for Rallinga Mine Smelter – the Friends of Melaleuca will send a letter of support for this proposal.

Friends of OBP News – 15 birds have turned up at Melaleuca so far. A release of captive bred birds will take place in the next fortnight.

Funding from Wildcare – general discussion. Stephen Mattingley will report on the current review of Gift Fund protocols.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm and was followed by an informative talk and slide show by Churchill Fellow, Ian Marmion, on his recent research in North America regarding management of large visitor numbers in National Parks.