



## **Friends of Melaleuca, Wildcare Inc**

### **President's Annual Report (20 Sept 2018)**

FoM currently has a membership of 128 (Wildcare webpage).

We are fortunate to have an active membership comprising volunteers with diverse and useful skills.

#### **Museum**

The Deny King Heritage Museum, our big project over the past 3 years, is now complete, with the final two interpretation panels added in January plus an introductory panel on the outside wall. A large illustration depicting the diversity of life in the local moorland habitat, printing was sponsored by Roaring 40s Kayaking. A panel in the entry area acknowledges the Needwonnee people and directs visitors to the Needwonnee walk. Also in the porch we installed a huon pine plank with a routed quote: "Those who drink the buttongrass water always return", set off with a sprig of buttongrass. We have also installed a collection of reference books in the museum. Producing a set of information folders is ongoing, the first ones about fauna are now in the museum, thanks Mick Statham. Extra signage outside and the pick and shovel display on the outside of the entry wall added during the working bee help to make the building look more interesting. Panels are holding up well; a little scratching on those under the windows, so we may have to look at re-printing these every so often. And there is more to do of course — such as digitising the catalogue of objects on display.

#### **Meetings**

FoM held three general meetings at DSS over the past year. At the September meeting following the 2017 AGM, Rob Banfield gave a presentation about volunteering at the Quarantine Station at Bruny Island. Great to hear what some of our fellow Wildcare Groups are achieving and how they address different problems. Mick presented the Gwladys Morris album, a copy of an album in the State Library of Victoria (made by Critchely Parker's mother's companion Gwladys Morris) about their visits to Port Davey in the 1940s.

At the May meeting we had a wrap-up of the March working bee. At the July meeting Tony Fenton gave a presentation about a new book *Mapping van Diemens Land and the Great Beyond: rare and beautiful maps from the Royal Society of Tasmania*. Tony Fenton and Peter Marmion were invited to write a chapter about the maps in the collection that depict west and south-west Tasmania.

On 9 November 2017 several FoM members attended a Wildcare function at Woodvine Reserve to mark the handover of Trauti Reynolds albums to the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office.

FoM is a member of the Maritime Heritage Organisations of Tasmania. A MHOoT conference was held at Swansea May 23rd. Organized by John Wadsley, MMT, 50 museum delegates from around the state attended. Erika gave a brief report of this interesting gathering.

Erika and Janet attended a Wildcare website training day at Rosny Library on 4 August.

FoM meets with PWS both formally and informally and we appreciate the great relationship that we have with Ian Marmion, Pip Gowen and Peter Rigozzi, Alan Thurston and Brett Knowles.

Geoff, Janet and Rob Banfield met with Ian Marmion on 19 Feb to plan final details for the March 2018 working bee.

### **Working bee**

FoM's annual working bee in March 2018 was a great success, thanks to the energetic and skilled team. (See separate report in our group's FILES on our webpage). We had a team of 12 and completed draining, brushcutting, carpentry and joinery, fish-oiling, museum displays, electrical work and replacement of gutter on the 2nd bushwalkers hut. It was useful to have volunteers Andrew Boon and Dave Ross with boating experience and coxwain certificates. Thanks to Rob Banfield who took on organisation and team leadership of the Claytons work. Andrew Boon, David Mitchell and Rik Head did a fantastic job on the electrical work at the Barbara's. Thanks also to caretakers David and Wendy Milne and OBP volunteers Craig and Deb Searle who lent a hand.

All volunteers worked hard and enjoyed the camaraderie. Inclement weather held up departure yet again. Barbara was not able to join us this year but accommodated two volunteers in her home. Thanks everyone.

### **Financial support**

Thanks to Wildcare for once again supporting our annual working bee in March with a grant of \$2000 towards airfares, freight and some hardware.

Roaring 40s Kayaking sponsored a project again this year. This time a facsimile of Win and Clyde Clayton's visitors book spanning the years 1950 to 1995. To be housed at Claytons Corner.

Jim Poynter, a lover of wild places including the South West, died this year aged 100. His family kindly asked for donations to Friends of Melaleuca as tributes to his memory. This money has been placed in the Wildcare Gift Fund, tagged for our group.

FoM was pleased to contribute to the purchase of a defibrillator, now housed at the Troedel shelter at the airstrip at Melaleuca. Project organised by Mark Holdsworth.

### **Reporting**

Thanks to Erika Shankley for the group's Facebook page and Mick Statham for FoM's page on the Wildcare website. I wrote a detailed report on the working bee for PWS including recommendations to help with planning next year's work, plus a more general one for Wildcare. Various stories about our work have been published on the Wildcare Website and also one in Wildtimes.

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We appreciate Wildcare's support in awarding us a grant for on-ground work, and for Wildcare's behind-the-scenes office and bookkeeping work. Thanks Rob Banfield for organising the Claytons work this year as well as roofing materials for the smelter. Thanks Pip Gowen, Ian Marmion, Peter Rigozzi, Alan Thurstons and Brett Knowles at PWS for their interest and support for our projects. And thanks to volunteers who helped at the working bee and at other tasks during the year. There is more on-ground work, and further interpretation projects to look forward to, namely the mining trail and bushwalkers huts.

*Janet Fenton, President, FoM, Wildcare Inc, Sep 2018*