



Friends of Melaleuca meeting minutes

Thurs 26 May, 7pm — Board Room, Derwent Sailing Squadron, Marieville Esplanade

Welcome: Janet opened the meeting and Peter made acknowledgement of the mouheneenner people as original owners and custodians of the land.

Present: Hilary Bennell, Rob Banfield, Chris Creese, Archie Donley, Janet, Geoff and Tony Fenton, Greg Hodge, Rona Hollingsworth, Mel Jack, Ian Marmion, Peter and Robyn Marmion, Erika Shankley, Mick and Helen Statham, Alison Viner, Ann Wessing,

Apologies: Marina Campbell, Jeanette Collin, Stephen Mattingley, David Mitchell, Dave Ross, Barbara Willson, Ian Johnston:

Minutes of the previous meeting: Thurs 23 September 2021 passed (Peter/Mel)

Treasurer's report: Tony's report was passed (Tony/Peter).

Opening balance \$29,735.99. Closing balance \$41, 614.17

Major receipts: Arts Tasmania - Mining trail grant \$10,662.00, Pedra cruise 'tickets' \$4,272.73, and a very generous private donation of \$3,000.00

Major payments: Par Avion working bee flights \$2,755.00, Pedra cruise boat charter \$2,727.27

There is a carryover of the Mt Beattie track work funding that will be used next summer.

Business arising

- TNCF grant for Mt Beattie track work. Rob reported that work concentrated on the lower elevations of the track this year. A news article was posted on the Wildcare website and a full working bee report can be found in FoM files on the website. Peter and others thanked Rob and his team, commenting on the great improvement achieved.
- Arts Tasmania funding and Roving curator support for Mining Trail interps has been granted and monies received. Work on information display boards will start soon, with committee members and others asked to help, primarily with editing.

General business

- PWS ecological burns have been delayed this season due to atypical dry summer weather. A burn was carried out recently near Louisa River and a natural values assets burn was carried out this week in the Old River valley. Two OBP burns will be carried out in the Melaleuca area soon, one to the south between Moth Creek and South Coast Track, the other to the southeast towards Pandora Hill.
- Roaring 40s Kayaking has changed hands with Jenny and Reg Grundy selling out to Tory Stewart and Luuk Veldkaamp. Helen to write letter of thanks to Jenny and Reg who have been very supportive by sponsoring some very useful FoM projects most years.
- PWS Ranger-in-charge Ian Marmion has moved to Seven Mile Beach. Janet thanked him for his friendly advice, help and cooperation in our work at

Melaleuca and Claytons. Geoff showed a collection of photos of Ian at FoM working bees since 2014. A printed and framed montage of a few photos and a set of FoM cards was presented to him in appreciation.

- Museum catalogue and eHive – Rona introduced us to eHive, a collection management system data base for small museums, historical sites, collections etc which she is using to catalogue the museum items and will extend to include the mining trail sites as well. An international system, currently used by 21 Tasmanian groups, eHive stores the data in the cloud. It allows up to 200 items to be recorded per group, free of charge. Rona currently has 90 Deny King Heritage Museum records on data sheets ready to transfer to eHive. Volunteers for data entry may be required down the track. Ann Wessing and Greg Hodge put up their hands.
- Pacific Oysters in Bathurst Channel – Pacific Oysters have been recorded near Schooner Cove, and one was found (and removed) from Eve Point upstream of The Narrows. Concern was expressed regarding the possible spread of these and other non-local invasive animals being introduced and spreading in the Port Davey – Bathurst Harbour waterways, particularly with the increasing number of boats visiting from warmer waters. Constant vigilance will be needed to try to prevent occurrence of invasive species and to control any that do arrive. Peter to contact Graham Edgar (Senior Research Fellow IMAS) and Peter Mooney to form a committee to work out a strategy to deal with the problem.
- Tables at Claytons and in museum – another table has been left at Claytons. Now there are two that need to be taken away. Our objective is to swap the original Claytons wooden table now at the Melaleuca staff quarters with the Laminex one at Claytons.
- Follow up Wiles Shed proposal for Claytons – Rob has sent a reminder to PWS of FoM's proposal requesting permission to re-erect 'like-for-like' a steel shed of the same historic design as Claytons' original, incorporating a few remaining parts from the original shed.
- OBP news – Mick and Helen gave a brief summary of the season's data as gained from the OBP Recovery Program News, May 2022. A record 70 adult OBPs (34 males and 36 females) returned from the mainland. From the records 38(54%) of these and 3(12%) of 24 captive-bred adults released in spring remained in the area during the breeding season. There were no signs of predation or health issues to explain these percentages which were lower than usual. The number of breeding pairs and nesting attempts were lower than expected, most likely due to the decline in female numbers prior to the onset of nesting. However success of each nesting attempt was high, with 60 fledglings recorded, averaging 3.3 per nest. It will be most interesting to hear how many OBPs are recorded in the mainland winter surveys and find out the proportion of unbanded adults that return next season.

Any Other Business?

New toilet at Claytons – The old long drop has finally been replaced by a smart new loo. Rob to email Parks passing on our compliments.

Jetty at Claytons – this a bit rickety. Parks has a replacement on in planning. MAST is providing funding and collaborating with Parks through Ashley Rushton, Southern Regional Manager. FoM would like the chance to have feedback on the design. We would also like to be able to acquire any reusable material rather than it be shipped out.

FoM cards – Erika has them here tonight for sale.

Portable pump – during the presentation afterwards, a photo was shown of caretaker David Milne using a small fire-fighting pump (sent in by PWS) to transfer water between tanks. This prompted the Fentons to remind us of the frequent need of a portable pump

for water transfer and washdown operations at Melaleuca and Claytons. The consensus was that it would be good to look into to FoM purchasing a pump, and that a proposal be put to the next meeting. Ian said that PWS Radios & Equipment Officer Lawrence Clark would know where to source such a pump.

Next meeting

August 11th, DSS, meal 6pm, meeting at 7.

Presentation

Working-bee photos:

1. Rob – Mt Beattie track work, Claytons
2. Chris – work on Willson house flooring and wall ventilation
3. Janet and Geoff – Fenton/King House reroofing, Pixie and Blue Boat restoration, slashing, mining trail and photos from David and Wendy Milne (last caretakers for the season).