Friends of Melaleuca

General Meeting 6.10.22

Venue: Derwent Sailing Squadron

 Sandy Bay

Meeting opened 7.35pm.

Members present: Greg Hodge, Dave Ross, Janet Fenton, Geoff Fenton, Tony Fenton, Peter Marmion, Claire Marmion, Marina Campbell, Andrew Boon, Judy Boon, Mel Jack, Rob Banfield, Chris Creese, Erika Shankley, Helen Thyne, Jim Thyne, David Mitchell, Janet Stephens, Rona Hollingsworth, Stephen Mattingley, Barbara Willson.

Apologies: Sharon Smith, Robyn Marmion, Richard Tatnell, Anne & Alan Goldizen, Ian Marmion, Kim Willing, Nell Tyson, Helen & Mick Stratham, Mark Holdsworth.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted. Moved by David Mitchell, seconded by Andrew Boon. Carried.

Treasurer’s Report given by Tony Fenton. Moved Rob Banfield, seconded Dave Ross, that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. Carried.

General Business:

*Museum:*

Geoff Fenton and Rona Hollingsworth reported on Museum collection system called eHive. The live account is now available. Photographs just need to be cropped and added. Rona will continue this work in coming weeks/months. The cost for running the site is $0 as long as we stay under the minimum megabyte level. If we exceed this level, the cost is minimal. The new email address is: friends.melaleuca@gmail.com All Museum exhibits will eventually be recorded on this system.

Janet thanked Rona and Geoff for their efforts.

*Mining Trail:*

A meeting is to be held with Planning Officer Lynne Sparrow and Jeremy Hood 17.10.22. Janet & Geoff will attend this meeting. The Parks & Wildlife Service are currently not supporting construction of signs or tracks in the wilderness zone which starts at the Parks & Wildlife shed. This zone is problematic and will be an agenda item at the meeting. The funding from Arts Tasmania ($10500.00) will be carried forward until next year. We are grateful to Arts Tasmania for their understanding of the issues we are facing with this project.

*Biosecurity Group – Pacific Oyster incursion in the Port Davey/Bathurst Harbour Marine Reserve:*

Two articles have been sent to the MAST magazine for publication shortly. Graham Edgar wrote one of the articles and we are grateful for his input. Bob Cleary wrote an article about preparing your boat for a trip to Port Davey. Janet suggested these articles should also be published on the Wildcare website. We are interested in producing a pamphlet for distribution to the yachting/fishing/tourism fraternity.

There are problems with accessing the original Port Davey Boating Guide electronically. It was suggested we approach Parks & Wildlife to upgrade the amount of information on their website regarding matters such as biosecurity. Greg Wall may be a good contact for this. Andrew Boon offered to write to Jason Jacobi, Deputy Secretary, Parks & Wildlife Service, regarding this matter.

The biosecurity working party will meet again to further the production of a pamphlet.

Andrew Boon suggested a lowtide survey to search for Pacific Oysters in the waterway be undertaken this summer.

*Fire Pump:*

Greg Hodge has organized for a fire pump to be sent to Melaleuca with the next shipping opportunity. Laurence Clark from Parks & Wildlife has been very supportive and the fire pump system will be compatible with the Parks & Wildlife system. The pump will be modified to include a larger fuel tank. We are welcome to borrow hoses from under the Parks hut at Melaleuca when required. Greg will pick up and deliver the pump to Janet & Geoff.

*Clayton’s Shed:*

The proposal to erect a shed at Clayton’s has not yet received a response from Parks & Wildlife. A working bee will be needed to conduct conservation work on the roof purlins, Rob & Mel will organize. The floor at Clayton’s needs survey by a builder. Peter Marmion reported that Dave Ross, Greg Wells & himself swapped tables around between the Melaleuca Ranger’s hut and Clayton’s. Two other tables were removed and stored at the Deep Water Landing to be shipped out soon. Janet’s original painting of Reemere is owned by Hayden Abbott. We intend to borrow the painting from Hayden to copy and then install above the fireplace at Clayton’s. Mel offered to frame the print.

*Wildcare Expo:*

Details are on Wildcare website. Venue: Kingston Hub, Goshawk Way. Date: 3.12.22. Friends of OBP are having a stall there and Stephen Mattingley offered to take Friends of Melaleuca cards to sell at the expo.

*Parks & Wildlife Heritage Officer:*

Peter Rigozzi has retired and been replaced by Annita Waghorn. Peter Marmion will send a letter welcoming her to the new role.

*Film Night:*

Peter Marmion reported that a film night fundraiser is proposed for autumn 2023. Possible venue, Moonah Arts Centre. Greg Wells has offered to play, Tony will deliver his talk on the Piano in the Wilderness, Steve Crump has offered to play the Port Davey Boatsong, we will show short films such as The Gliders and footage of Port Davey taken by Mick Lawrence. Mick has offered to be the projectionist on the night.

*Building Material Shipment for Melaleuca Working Bee aboard Chas Wessing’s fishing boat:*

A loading day will be necessary to transport materials from the Fenton’s property and load at Kettering. The date is set for 18 October, and we have volunteers with 4 vehicles. If arrangements change so that back-up hands are needed, Janet & Geoff will advise. Rob Banfield, Greg Hodge & Dave Ross offered their help and trailers if necessary.

*Working Bee Date:*

Start date: 16.3.23, first Wednesday after the long weekend. No strict works program has been developed as yet but will include the Mt Beattie track, sealing work at King’s home. Chris Creese will produce a list of work to be undertaken at Barbara’s house. Other possible work would include painting tractor shed roof and King’s house roof.

*Meeting Venue:*

After some discussion it was decided to continue to meet at the DSS. Peter Marmion will meet with the DSS prior to each meeting. The next meeting will be in May, date to be announced.

*Guest Speaker:*

Peter Marmion showed photos taken this year in the South West.

Meeting closed at 9pm.