

Friends of Melaleuca

Minutes of Meeting 22.6.23

Derwent Sailing Squadron, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay

Meeting commenced 7:12pm

Apologies:

Will Oliver, Claire Marmion, Rob Banfield, Mel Jack, Mark Holdsworth, Mick & Helen Statham.

Present:

Janet & Geoff Fenton, Erika Shankley, Barbara Willson, Archie Donley, Alison Viner, Ian Marmion, Tony Fenton, Hilary Bennell, Judy & Andrew Boon, Chris Creese, Peter Marmion, David Mitchell, Jannie Chin, Ann Wessing, Janet Stephens.

Minutes of previous meeting 6.10.'22: passed as being a true and accurate record. Moved David Mitchell, seconded Andrew Boon. Carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Tony presented a balance sheet. He mentioned the major expenses were for helicopter flights for the Mt Beattie track work, working bee flights and the purchase of a fire pump. Major receipts were associated with the Sounds of the Southwest fundraiser. Profit from this fundraiser was nearly \$3000.00. A very kind donation of \$250.00 was made by Stuart Lester. Balance is \$27142.53. Moved David Mitchell, seconded Erika Shankley. Carried.

Business Arising:

Museum Catalogue – Rona Hollingsworth has placed 56 items on eHive with valuable help from Ann Wessing & Greg Hodge. Geoff & Janet Fenton will fine tune some of the entries.

Arts Tasmania Grant for mining trail – our first application to PWS stalled due to wilderness zoning issue, which means no signs can be erected beyond King's mine. We can however produce a pamphlet. A suggestion was made that an electronic trail could be developed. [After our first application was rejected, FoM put in another application limited to signage within the recreation zone (ie not beyond King's Mine). The first stage of this assessment has been approved, and now the application is in the second stage of Reserve Activity Assessment. This is a to-and-fro process between PWS and FoM and the proposal also needs approval of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.] Spending on the grant has been postponed, and now is available from July 2023 to June 2024. Access issues regarding crossing the airstrip were discussed. Tony and Peter's suggestion of an overpass failed to gain the support of the meeting!

Biosecurity – we have \$1500.00 allocated for spending on the production of a pamphlet for fishermen and yachts people regarding biosecurity threats to the marine national park. Pacific oysters have been found and marine scientists are concerned about incursions by green crabs. It was

suggested that Graeme Edgar, Neville Barrett, Simon Groves & Karen Gowlett-Holmes would be valuable contacts for the development of this pamphlet which is to be produced in time for the next cruising season to Port Davey. Distribution of the information was discussed and included distributing to Afloat Magazine and to all yacht clubs, both in Tasmania and Victoria in electronic form and hard copy. A distribution point could also include Melaleuca, at the airport lounge. It should also appear on the Parks & Wildlife website. Steven Johnson would be a good contact person to assist with this. Erika, Ann, Barbara and Ian offered their services in editing the pamphlet.

Fire Pump – the fire pump is now on site. It is stored in the King/Fenton garden shed with other FoM equipment. It was suggested that a fire pump drill be held annually at the working bee.

Clayton's Site – Wiles shed installation still in limbo awaiting Parks & Wildlife approval. A reproduction of Janet's *Reemere* painting is now in place at Clayton's.

Wildcare Expo, December 2022 – Friends of Melaleuca cards were sold at this event. Thanks Barbara Willson and Marianne Gee.

Sounds of the Southwest fundraiser & social event – Janet thanked Tony, Rob & Pete for their organization. It was decided to repeat the program at the same venue in mid September as many people had been unable to attend due to the event being booked out.

Building materials - preparation & loading October 2022 – Janet thanked Ann, Archie & Alison, Rona and Greg Hollingsworth for helping to prepare materials and load the *Jean Nicholls* and thanked skipper Chas Wessing for his able assistance once again.

General Business:

Melaleuca news – fires and floods. Janet & Geoff gave an update on controlled burning sites in close proximity to Melaleuca this autumn/winter. Ian Marmion encouraged members to discuss burn off issues with Parks and Wildlife Service fire management chief, Mark O'Brien if the opportunity arises. Melaleuca received very heavy rains at the end of May. From a Troedel Shelter webcam photo, Geoff pointed out the extent of flooding on Moth Creek. New release aviary, feed table and board walk are to be installed near Barbara's home in July. Chris Creese and Dave Butler will assist with construction.

Parks & Wildlife Service call for caretakers – the service has called for caretakers for Melaleuca, Cape Bruny and the Quarantine Station for the coming summer.

Thank you letter – in National Volunteer Week, Michael Spaulding, Acting Regional Manager South, sent us a letter recognizing our work.

Love Your Wildlife Festival Cygnet, November 5th – an opportunity for distribution if our marine biosecurity pamphlet is available at this time.

Museum signage – a sign about Friends of Melaleuca volunteer work should be developed – the meeting decided that it should be placed in the Museum foyer immediately adjacent to the Needwonnee panel.

Boat size limit Melaleuca Creek – Greg Wells has informed Friends of Melaleuca members that the Parks & Wildlife service are intending to impose a boat length limit of 7 metres for vessels navigating Melaleuca Creek.

Mountain Huts website Australia – Chris Creese alerted Janet & Geoff to multiple errors in this site. Janet has corrected much of the information but some errors still remain and the site has only been partly updated. A link to the site will be sent out with the minutes so the membership can run their eyes over it too. <https://mountainhuts.net/huts-of-tasmania-1>

Working Bee March 2024 – work suggestions: brushcutting, fish oiling, Barbara’s drains, *Blue Boat* (if Ken Jones is available), Wiles shed installation (if permission has been gained), track renovation if in PWS planning, Clayton’s home fireplace (Rob Banfield has contacted a bricklayer), gutter at smelter, restoration of foundation of box shed at King’s, oiling timber cladding at Barbara’s house, first camp leak in roof, Karina’s hut renovation (Archie has several ideas on this project), removal of rubbish on either *Jean Nicholls* or *Georges Bay*.

Working Bee 2024 will be held March 15th to 21st. Peter will liaise with Par Avion re bookings on March 14th & March 15th.

Dates for next meetings - August 10th 2023, October 12th.

.....

Images of the March 2023 working bee and the Sounds of the Southwest event were shown.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.