

Friends of Melaleuca Meeting Minutes

10.08.2023

Derwent Sailing Squadron, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay

Meeting opened 7pm.

Present: Erika Shankley, Barbara Willson, Andrew Boon, Janet Fenton, Geoff Fenton, Tony Fenton, Nell Tyson, Marianne Gee, Min Campbell, Janet Stephens, Greg Hodge, Imogen Burley, Stephen Mattingly, Rob Banfield, Melissa Jack, Jannie Chin, David Mitchell, Peter Marmion.

Apologies: Helen & Mick Statham, Judy Boon, Mark Holdsworth, Claire Marmion, Ian Marmion, Chris Creese, Rona Hollingsworth, Ann Wessing, Archie Donely & Alison Viner.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (22.06.23) were moved as correct by David Mitchell and seconded by Andrew Boon, following a correction that the starting date of the working bee is Wednesday, 13th March (not Friday the 15th). Working bee end date is 20 March, 2024.

Treasurer's Report: See attached documentation. Tony Fenton acknowledged a generous donation by Jenny Scott of \$1000.00. Erika has sent a thank you card. The financial report was accepted, moved Erika, seconded Barbara. Carried.

Business Arising:

Museum catalogue eHive – Rona Hollingsworth, Greg Hodge & Ann Wessing have been updating the exhibits list on eHive. Janet & Geoff will check it and write a story for *Wildcare News* advertising this service.

Arts Tasmania grant/Mining Trail interpretation – environmental assessment has been passed by Steve Locke, Ranger. We now have a Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) in preparation for the Parks & Wildlife Service. Ann Wessing, Peter Williams & Ian Marmion will be approached to assist Janet & Geoff with filling out the forms.

Biosecurity pamphlet for Marine National Park – It was suggested that the New Zealand green crab and screw shell be included on this pamphlet. Peter Marmion will begin work to prepare the pamphlet in the coming weeks. Erika offered her services as editor. It is hoped to have the pamphlet available for this year's cruising season.

Clayton's site – Rob Banfield reported on progress. Wiles shed is still in storage at Margate awaiting approval from the Parks & Wildlife for installation at Clayton's Corner. Janet suggested that to gain approval we should demonstrate a need. Rob suggested we re-jig the application and consult the Cultural Heritage Officer, Annita Waghorn. We need to reiterate that the original sheds would still be in situ but management delays meant that critical maintenance was missed, allowing their collapse. We should invite Annita to visit Melaleuca so she can have firsthand knowledge of the sites, including Claytons' and the Willsons' smelter. The March 2024 working bee could be an ideal opportunity for her visit.

Curtain rings – Rob has approached a metalworker to make curtain rings for the bedroom at Clayton's. Rob asked the meeting for approval to pay (\$22 for brass and say \$50 for labour) and/or give a copy of Janet's *Win & Clyde* to Mark Power, the metalworker. This was approved and a copy of Janet's book will be presented to Mark.

Fireplace chimney – Rob will contact Mark Devine (bricklayer) who has offered to assist with

renovation both inside and externally. We may need to fly him in (day flight) to evaluate. Steve Locke has been appraised.

Sounds of the Southwest concert – it has been decided to repeat this concert as many people were turned away last time. It will be held at the Moonah Arts Centre on Thursday September 7th. Members are encouraged to spread the word. Peter Marmion will endeavour to have another article in the *Mercury*. Bob Brown may be available to introduce the Nigel Westlake section of the program. [After the meeting, Mitch and Jannie offered to man the door.]

General Business:

New Wildcare CEO, Jill Maxwell, has been announced. We will invite her to our next meeting (October 12th) and to Sounds of the Southwest.

Death of Bill Forsyth – Janet talked about Bill's devotion to Wildcare. He was a much loved and respected early co-chair of Wildcare. Bill donated many walking books to the Friends of Melaleuca. They are currently housed at Barbara Willson's home. Bill passed away on the 28th July 2023.

Working Bee – there will be no Parks & Wildlife Service freight run to Melaleuca this season. Peter Marmion suggested that *Odalisque* will be travelling to Port Davey in early January and may be able to assist. Peter will talk with owner, Pieter van der Woude regarding this matter. Further work is required on the Mount Beattie track and the Port Davey track near the airstrip and there are already some materials on site. When planning the working bee with Steve Locke, we could offer to assist with these projects. It is anticipated that there will be more Parks & Wildlife ranger presence next season.

Orange-bellied Parrots – The OBP team (including volunteers Chris Creese and David Butler) is currently installing new infrastructure near Barbara's, slightly to the south.

Jennifer Riddle exhibition – Jenny's exhibition features Bathurst Harbour area. The exhibition is at the Long Gallery, open until 13th August. It is well worth a visit.

Meeting closed at 8.03pm. The next meeting will be Thursday October 12th, 7pm at the DSS. Meals will be available from 5.30pm. Please RSVP to Peter Marmion - peter.marmion@gmail.com

The meeting was followed by an informative presentation on the Huts of Cox Bight by master researcher and storyteller, Tony Fenton.