

Friends of Melaleuca

Minutes, 16.5.24

Board Room Derwent Sailing Squadron

Marievilla Esplanade

Sandy Bay

Meeting commenced at 7.40pm.

Present:

Peter Marmion, Claire Marmion, Tony Fenton, Janet Fenton, Geoff Fenton, Stephen Mattingley, Dave Ross, Mel Jack, Ann Wessing, Erika Shankley, Chris Creese, Andrew Boon, Judy Boon, Mark Devine, Robyn Delaney, Simon Ward, Min Campbell, Janet Stephens, David Mitchell, Jannie Chin, Jonathan Bertram, Isla Veltkamp, Oliver Veltkamp, Anne Goldizen, Alan Goldizen.

Apologies:

Mick & Helen Statham, Robyn Marmion, Rob Banfield, Will Oliver, Deb & Russell Brown, Carolyn Smith, Barbara Willson, Rona Hollingsworth, Mark Holdsworth, Bridget Jupe.

Acknowledgement of Country - Peter Marmion

Minutes of previous meeting (12.09.23) were accepted.

Treasurer's Report - Tony Fenton

A notable donation of \$1500 was received from Roaring Forties Sea Kayaking.

Report accepted, moved Alan Goldizen, seconded Erika Shankley.

Business Arising:

Heritage mining interpretation - Arts Tasmania has given us an extension for the Roving Curator Grant until the end of the calendar year.

Application for Rallinga mine heritage listing (made by Janet and Geoff Fenton) – good progress has been made. Janet received confirmation that the assessment has been internally approved by Heritage Tasmania and the application will now go to the Tasmanian Heritage Council (the state's peak body responsible for heritage, who next meet in June. [<https://heritage.tas.gov.au/tasmanian-heritage-council>])

Marine BioSecurity team report - a meeting to further this project will be held at the Bellerive Yacht Club on 21.5.24 at 3pm. Marine scientist Allie King has done considerable research on this matter and will present her ideas at the meeting. Her deliberations are based on recent research conducted in the Marine Reserve. *Afloat* magazine, which has an enormous reach throughout Australia, has offered to print information about the risk of introduction of feral marine life in their September issue.

General Business:

Dark Sky proposal - Mel Jack, Rob Banfield and Janet Fenton attended an evening hosted by the Wilderness Society launching 'Southwest Sky Country'. The Wilderness Society is proposing sanctuary status for southwest Tasmania. [See Dark Sky International <https://darksky.org/>].

Concern was raised that this might attract too many tourists.

Gift - Melaleuca camp caretakers Deb & Russell Brown donated two cushions to enhance comfort at the Museum.

Working Bee 13.3.24 - 20.3.24 - Janet thanked the volunteers who ensured the working bee was a great success with many positive outcomes. Fine weather was a boon.

Friends of the Orange Bellied Parrot track work - Volunteers Stephen Mattingley, Ann Wessing, Leslie Ashburn ably supervised by Dan Rowe from Huonville Parks & Wildlife Service and Claire Lawrence from the OBP program, constructed 70 metres of track to the new hide southeast of Barbara's house. More work needs to be done, including covering the boardwalk with chicken wire.

Burns at Melaleuca - NRE Tas burns have been carried out in early May in an area to the southeast of the airstrip. Photos by Ann Wessing indicated the extent of the burn.

Wildcare proposed changes to Tasmania Nature Conservation Fund (TNCF). Stephen Mattingley informed the meeting of proposed changes to this grant process. The review of the TNCF is considering changes in light of recent changes to federal tax law. The Wildcare website has information regarding the proposed changes [<https://wildcareas.org.au/wildcare-news/stage-2-of-the-tasmanian-nature-conservation-fund-review-seeking-your-input/>] and interested members are directed to this source. Comments are welcome until the end of May. There will be a transitional period of one or two grant rounds before the new process is fully embedded.

Stephen also suggested FoM should apply to the TNCF September grant round to gain funds to further work on the Mt Beattie track. The track connecting the second bushwalkers' hut to the Parks & Wildlife Service jetty is also in need of maintenance. A small committee consisting of Stephen Mattingley and Rob Banfield will meet with Dan Rowe.

Museum interpretation boards - interpretation panels under the windows are starting to peel and will need to be replaced. The artwork is still available at Fast Forward Digital, so this should not be a costly project. Janet will obtain a quote to complete this work.

Broken window in smelter - a window at the smelter fell out and broke. A temporary patch was placed over the opening. The whole window will probably need to be replaced to due window frame deterioration. Chris Creese suggested a temporary repair prior to a fuller assessment and Geoff has measurements for the glass.

Wheelbarrow for fire-pump - it was suggested a wheelbarrow with non-de-flatable tyres be purchased or made. Chris Creese will investigate and consult with Greg Hodge. The meeting supported this idea.

Port Davey Marine Reserve letter - Andrew Boon has suggested some changes to the Port Davey Marine Reserve and to how changes are handled in future. The meeting resolved to support Andrew's proposals which are detailed in a document which Andrew presented. Friends of Melaleuca, along with the Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania and the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, are happy to be co signatories to a letter to the Minister addressing these proposed changes.

In view of difficulties some visiting boats have had in the past couple of years, Bob Cleary has suggested installing a permanent public mooring. The meeting decided this should be considered as a separate issue to Andrew's letter.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25th July at the Derwent Sailing Squadron.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm and was followed by a presentation of photos of the working bee.