



# FRIENDS OF DEAL ISLAND



Greetings,

What a busy and productive start to the year we have had!

Thanks to all who attended our AGM in March. It was a lovely day out in Ross with 18 members attending, a productive meeting and a great lunch at the Man O Ross hotel.

Bob Tyson stepped back from an executive role after many many years at the helm and in other various roles. We are very much indebted to both Bob and Penny for their amazing contribution to the branch and Deal Island and we are very grateful they both remain active members, willing to provide sage advice and endless knowledge of all things Deal when needed. There is a great Wildcare article featuring them which you can find here: [Wildcare article](#)

Office bearers elected:

President (& Social Media)	Jo Widdowson
Treasurer	Stuart Dudgeon
Secretary	Phillipa and Margot Foster

At this meeting we also formed a new Merchandise Subcommittee:

Di Masters

Alison Moore

Phillipa Foster

As you may have already seen they have been very hard at work already!

Our first working bee of the year after a few reschedules finally took place 9-21 May. David Milne did an exceptional job as leader with Wendy provisioning. We are very thankful for their hard work, it is a lot of work planning a working bee and we appreciate the time and effort you both put into this. Thanks also to Phillipa for her expertise and leadership in the weeding program on island. Our intentions are to hold another working bee later in the year which will be discussed at our next General meeting (date TBA).

Keep safe, stay well

Jo, Stuart, Phillipa and Margot

## **Working Bee 9-21 May**

Covid 19 and PWS operational requirements on Deal meant we hadn't held a working bee on the island since Nov/Dec 2019 so obviously everyone was excited to have one planned as we had 18 applications for just 6 spaces! After a few date and participant changes the final group was David & Wendy Milne, Phillipa Foster, Lee & Don Cameron and Christine Bowman. Great to have so many members who hadn't been to Deal on a working bee previously. We are very grateful to the NRM weeds fund grant that funded this working bee. Our objectives for this trip were:



- Check and conduct maintenance weeding of all known [approx. 50] weed sites on the island.
- Look for new weed infestations and map any found.
- assess the known ragwort infestation sites for weed spread and signs of ragwort beetle activity.
- record weed work done and locations added to the Wildcare Ipad utilising the Fulcrum program.

The group arrived on Deal Island after a charter flight to Flinders then two trips Flinders to Deal to find all the grassed areas a lush green. PWS and caretakers have been busy during the last two years, it is encouraging to see the results of recent works. Restoration of lighthouse, building roof replacement in caretakers house and visitors house, replacement of solar battery bank, electric fencing and improvements to airstrip, vehicle replacement and many smaller jobs.

Participants assessed previous weed areas, removed target weeds, recorded numbers and disposed of weeds appropriately.



### **Sea Spurge**

Garden Cove was first area done with 731 plants removed. A significant number was found well away from the beach were in full flower. A group returned a week later and removed another 330 plants indicating the importance of follow up.

### **Arum Lillies**

All former Arum Lilly sites were checked and residual plants removed. This needs to be repeated due the numbers found. At East Cove gully (behind the Telstra chair) over 40 plants were removed, some in flower and a concerning number were very large clumps. One small Arum Lilly was found at the halfway house. (Lighthouse Ave)

### **Horehound**

120 plants were removed at the southern end of East Cove beach, some with spent flower heads. This area needs ongoing monitoring.

### **Creticum**

2 Creticum sites were checked and weeded at East Cove and are still active.



### Great Mullein

Still finding these in the erosion gully at Winter Cove and occasional plants found scattered near old garden at Garden Cove - also discovered 70+ mature plants between airstrip and East Cove Rd. These were mapped and removed.

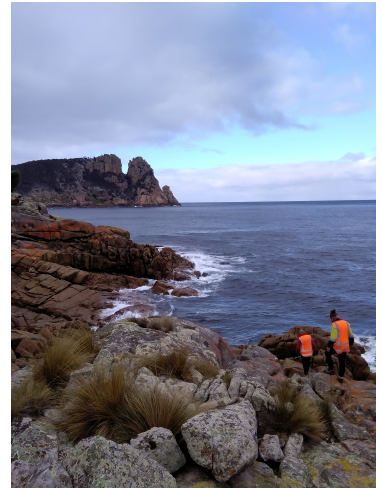
**Ragwort** is rampant at Winter Cove and is spreading steadily further afield - We recommend revisiting biological control options due to the mass of viable seed and penetration of pot making which makes removal near impossible.

**In summary** this working bee had a significant impact on all targeted weeds except Ragwort. Volunteers made repeated efforts to remove outliers such as single Ragwort or thistles etc whenever crossing ground.

Despite the setback in 2020, weed work over last 20 years has been an enormous success but will need annual or biannual working bees to ensure weeds are kept under control or eliminated where possible.

Regardless of the persistent, mostly gale force winds, the group cheerfully went about their tasks and quickly gelled as a team. We covered a large area and we're very successful in our quest. We enjoyed a great relationship with the current caretakers, shared several meals, conversations and appreciated their support of our working bee.

Well done to all involved. The full working bee report can be found in our branch files or here: [Working Bee report](#)



Dont forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram and feel free to share any great Deal pics or stories you have!

## NEW MERCHANDISE!!

Our newly formed merchandise committee have been flat-out coming up with new and exciting merchandise.

We are extremely fortunate to have Philip Wolfhagen allow us to reproduce two of his pieces of work as cards. "Archipelago" and "Fieldworks" were created during his time on Deal back in 2002.

Our very own Di Masters, visual artist extraordinaire has created both the new geese card and the images on the aprons and totes.

We are excited to have some great quality products available to support the branch and look forward to sharing some more new products in the coming weeks  
Click here to order from our Wildcare Shop:  
[shop now](#)

[Facebook Link](#)

[Instagram Link](#)



We would like to acknowledge and thank :

**Philip Wolfhagen** - for allowing us to reproduce two of your amazing pieces of art as cards. We appreciate your generosity and trust.

Philip is one of Australia's leading contemporary artists, based here in Tasmania who shares our love of Deal Island.

**Robyn Mundy** who generously gave her time and knowledge to assist with the design wk on our new cards.

Robyn is multi-talented - a writer, twice caretaker at Maatsuyker Island (Her book *Wildlight* being set there), Antarctic expeditioner (she has both summered and wintered there and guided on adventure tourist trips. (*The Nature of Ice* is a novel also set in Antarctica).

**Di Masters** - for her passion and designs for our geese card, aprons and totes, you are fabulous!

Our other Merch committee legends - **Phillipa Foster & Alison Moore** thank you for all the time and effort you have both put in - meetings, sewing, organising and posting Merch.

We very much appreciate your support



