


FRIENDS OF MAATSUYKER ISLAND (WILDCARE INC.)

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021–2025



A photograph of a gnarled tree with green foliage against a blurred green background. The tree has several main branches that are thick and twisted, with smaller, more delicate branches extending from them. The leaves are a vibrant green color. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a forest or a hillside. The overall mood is serene and natural.

We care about the island. We want to know that the historic buildings are being conserved, the Aboriginal heritage is acknowledged and respected, and the island's animals, plants and marine environment are protected for future generations.

— Friends of Maatsuyker Island

FRIENDS OF MAATSUYKER ISLAND (FOMI)

OUR MISSION

To ensure the conservation, protection and recognition of the historic, natural and Aboriginal values of Maatsuyker Island.

OUR VISION

FOR MAATSUYKER ISLAND

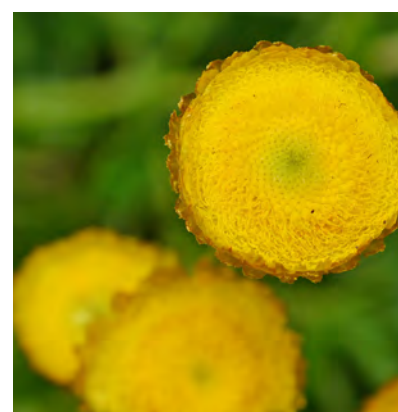
Maatsuyker Island is recognised locally, nationally and internationally as having unique heritage, natural and Aboriginal values where:

- historic values and evidence of Aboriginal heritage are well conserved and protected by heritage listing;
- natural values are healthy and free of impacts from invasive species;
- these values are clearly reflected in a Maatsuyker Island Group Management Statement and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Management Plan and
- volunteer programs and limited public visitation opportunities are well-managed and support conservation of the island's values.

FOR THE FRIENDS OF MAATSUYKER ISLAND (FOMI), THAT WE:

- Have strong, enthusiastic, diverse and well-informed members and supporters.
- Acknowledge the interest and role of Aboriginal Tasmanians as past, present and future custodians of the island and encourage engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and communities.
- Have a mutually respectful, professional relationship with the land manager of the island: Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS).
- Undertake volunteer work and activities that meet or exceed the workplace health and safety legislation requirements, policies and guidelines.
- Conduct or facilitate useful, respected, relevant research and information sharing projects.
- Are financially sustainable such that our resources enable us to realise our vision.
- Have a long-term commitment to the island and engage in succession planning activities.

Friends of
Maatsuyker



Golden buttons (*Cotula coronopifolia*)

Front cover: Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse

Opposite: Tea Tree (*Leptospermum scoparium*) dominates the island's landscape



Common heath (*Epacris impressa*)

- Have a strong working relationship with other Wildcare Inc. Branches.
- Have partnerships with business organisations to further our vision.
- Engage with all relevant stakeholders to further our vision.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO US?

- Conservation and protection of the historic, cultural and natural values of the island.
- Working collaboratively with PWS and other stakeholders.
- Having a long-term commitment.
- Promoting community understanding and appreciation of the island's values.
- The skills, expertise, sustained effort and substantial input contributed by FOMI's supporter and volunteer base over a significant time period are recognised by PWS.

Weed survey line



WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

Over the last ten years FOMI has:

- Contributed at least \$100,000 per annum of volunteer in-kind and money to achieve the following in partnership with PWS:
 - extensive and necessary work to weatherproof and restore the lighthouse tower and fittings;
 - annual weed control, reduced the areas of four target weeds (Blackberry, *Veronica* (prev. *Hebe*) *elliptica*, Montbretia and Californian Thistle) by approximately 70 ha;
 - completed substantial work to bring the island's historic quarters up to a functional standard, including the internal fitting out of houses;
 - annual monitoring (since 2013) of the island's short-tailed shearwater breeding population;
 - documented most of the historic objects located on the island.
- Maintained a vibrant, well-functioning Wildcare Inc. group that has a high level of commitment to the island and its conservation.
- Maintained a professional and mutually beneficial relationship with the PWS.
- Worked with the PWS to support the PWS volunteer caretakers and artists in residence on the island.
- Conducted 13 day-trips to the island by boat to support the PWS volunteer caretaker program and to promote community understanding of the island's importance.
- Published a booklet and other education materials about Maatsuyker Island.
- Mounted four displays and exhibitions (10 Days on the Island, Maritime Museum, Rosny School House and Rosny Library) and consistently took part in events such as the Australian Wooden Boat Festival and Seafarers Festival, as well as conducted talks and held information sharing (The Royal Society of Tasmania, the Lighthouse Conference, Landcare Tasmania Conference, Wildcare Gathering and U3A Island Arks Symposium) regarding the unique values of Maatsuyker Island.



Shearwater survey: inspecting with a burrow scope



Day trips to the island



Replacement flooring in Quarters 2



Lighthouse restoration



Weed eradication program



Quarters 2 pantry floor replacement

New platform for water tanks



FOMI Achievements 2018–2021

- Lighthouse restoration – especially rust and stain removal, steel priming and interior paint removal (latter approach now adopted by other lightstation repair projects).
- Weed eradication program – implemented Fulcrum GIS mapping and tracking of weed locations; rope work extended and consolidated works; significant decrease in remaining target weeds.
- Consolidated annual shearwater monitoring program and received increasing recognition for its importance.
- Building achievements – restored floors in all houses. Found and installed matching Q2 bedroom door.
- Historic objects – restored a whim trolley and acquired and re-installed kerosene tanks in the lighthouse.
- Inclusion of PWS volunteer caretakers in working bee programs.
- Strengthened and diversified FOMI committee and membership and working bee participation.
- Strengthened PWS engagement and partnership.
- Increased social media profile, taking advantage of Wildcare marketing opportunities and development of high-quality merchandise products.
- Attracted consistent, annual grant and philanthropic funding including ongoing support and recognition from the Pennicott Foundation of the weed control and shearwater monitoring programs.



PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2021–2025


1. Contribute to the conservation and protection of Maatsuyker Island’s European historic heritage.

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Ensure the lightstation is restored, protected and preserved	Develop and propose a scheduled maintenance plan for the Lighthouse and assist PWS to implement it.	2021-2023
	Develop and propose a new Maintenance and Conservation Plan for the other lightstation structures in partnership with PWS and assist PWS to implement it.	2021-2023
	Design and implement projects that FOMI can undertake to achieve the above.	Ongoing
Historic structures and objects are conserved and documented in a way that contributes to community awareness of the historic heritage of the island.	Maintain and add to the Historic Objects record for the island and make it publicly accessible.	Ongoing
	Develop and implement methods to make information about Maatsuyker’s historic European heritage available to the public.	2021–2023
	Research and develop information about European history in relation to the island.	Ongoing
	Identify and implement opportunities to conserve European artefacts relating to the island.	Ongoing
	Identify and implement opportunities to develop joint applications to have island lighthouses and associated structures Australian Heritage listed.	2021–2023
	Plan and hold events that celebrate the island’s historic heritage.	Ongoing




PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2021–2025

2. Contribute to the conservation and protection of the island’s natural heritage and values.



Priority	Actions	Time frame
Ensure Maatsuyker Island has healthy natural values, free from the impacts of significant weeds, pests and diseases that could threaten the natural values.	Support and document the weed control program and maintain the weed database and maps.	Annually
	Revise the weed management plan to inform future work on target weeds.	2021-2022
	Work with PWS to improve, publicise, encourage and enforce the use of biosecurity protocols for the island.	2021-2022
Support efforts to undertake scientific research where gaps are identified.	Undertake annual shearwater monitoring program to obtain accurate long-term population data for the island.	Annually
	Identify key gaps and support efforts to conduct scientific research.	Ongoing

3. Contribute to the conservation and protection of Maatsuyker Island’s Aboriginal heritage.

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Explore opportunities for engagement and joint projects involving Tasmanian Aboriginal people.	Grow the dialogue with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and communities about their interests in Maatsuyker Island with a view to developing and implementing joint projects.	Ongoing
	Invite local Aboriginal people and organisations to engage with and be involved in FOMI activities.	Ongoing
Better understand the importance of Maatsuyker Island for Aboriginal heritage and promote respect for it.	Identify and implement opportunities to ensure that evidence of Aboriginal heritage is respected, well conserved and protected by heritage listing.	Ongoing
	Research the knowledge and resources that are available to inform ourselves about the importance of Maatsuyker Island for Aboriginal heritage and consider the implications for FOMI activities and interpretation.	2021-2023
	Seek opportunities to interpret and promote Aboriginal heritage on or off island, with direction, support and collaboration from Aboriginal Tasmanians.	Ongoing


PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2021–2025

4. Strengthen the capacity of FOMI to achieve its goals.

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Ensure FOMI has a strong support base within Tasmania, Australia and internationally.	Keep the FOMI contacts database of Wildcare members and other interested people up to date.	Ongoing
	Maintain links with relevant organisations to establish and maintain contact with people who may have shared interests.	Ongoing
	Engage with caretakers, working bee participants and artists-in-residence to promote involvement in FOMI activities.	Ongoing
Members and supporters of FOMI are informed and actively engaged	Use a variety of communication methods to inform members and supporters of FOMI activities	Ongoing
	Where practicable, ensure working bee parties include new participants	Ongoing
	Encourage members and supporters to participate in FOMI activities.	Ongoing
The FOMI committee functions well and continues to support FOMI's work into the future.	Plan for succession of the FOMI committee	2021-23
	Support relevant training for current and prospective committee members	Ongoing
FOMI has resources to support its range of work on and off island.	Seek and raise funds from known and new sources and activities.	Ongoing
	Promote the potential for members and supporters to make bequests and donations to FOMI or its projects	2021-23
	Develop and maintain sponsorship opportunities and marketing projects	2021-23
	Explore how FOMI should best inform, involve and recognise significant sponsors	2021-22
	Undertake training opportunities to upskill FOMI members	Ongoing
	Develop and market FOMI merchandise.	Ongoing
	Produce well-presented reports of FOMI projects and outcomes to support funding and sponsorship bids.	Annually
FOMI engages with other stakeholders that have interests in Maatsuyker Island.	Ensure FOMI is informed, skilled and able to respond to new proposals that may impact the island.	2021-23
	Develop a list of stakeholders with whom to engage (e.g. fishing and boating communities)	2021-23

PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2021–2025


5. Maintain the strong relationship and partnership with Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service (the land manager).

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Progress FOMI's relationship with PWS to facilitate a joint approach to management of the island's natural and historic values.	Review and renew FOMI-PWS Partnership Agreement (or replace with a MoU) to ensure it is relevant and current.	2021-2022
	At the FOMI-PWS annual meeting, discuss maintaining our joint roles and contributions to island management (include PWS staff from various areas and levels, i.e. heritage, asset management, PWS rangers, reserve manager)	Ongoing
	Lighthouse Working Group to meet biannually to ensure planning of future lightstation works and include current caretakers where practicable	Ongoing
	Engage in regular communication to ensure appropriate consultation between FOMI and PWS rangers	Ongoing
	Liaise with the PWS in order to enable logistical efficiencies	Ongoing
Work in partnership with PWS to develop, implement and review plans in the care and protection of the values of the island.	Liaise with PWS to develop a Management Statement for the island.	2021–2023
	Keep PWS up-to-date about the plans for and results of FOMI projects and activities on the island, including provision of reports.	Annually
	Review plans annually, engaging PWS or external expertise as identified	Ongoing



PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2021–2025

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Priority	Actions	Time frame
	Assist in the PWS Volunteer Caretaker Program	Ongoing
	Ensure FOMI's co-management role and partnership with PWS is communicated to prospective and selected caretakers.	
	Maintain FOMI role on the caretaker selection panel and contribute to the induction program.	Ongoing
	Welcome and support caretakers to be involved in FOMI.	Ongoing
	Provide support and information to current and prospective caretakers so that there is continuity across the program	Ongoing
	Welcome and enable active caretaker involvement in on-island working bee activities.	Ongoing
Review and implement FOMI day trips to the island to support island management and the caretaker program.	2021–2022	





Friends of
Maatsuyker



Friends of Maatsuyker Island Strategic Plan 2021–2025 prepared by Friends of Maatsuyker Island Committee. Design by Robyn Mundy.

Email: wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com

www.wildcaretas.org.au



Images:

Marina Campbell

Ron Fehlberg (cover photo)

Dave James

Diane Masters (cover artwork)

Gary Miller

David Milne

Robyn Mundy

James Stone

Kate Worthington (currawongs artwork)