



# FRIENDS OF DEAL ISLAND



It was fantastic to see the works that have been completed on the island up close and personal. The houses with their new roof's are looking great and the lighthouse looks amazing!  
Minor painting and restoration to be completed within the next few months will bring these works to a close. Well done to Parks & Wildlife Tas and all involved.

## **Working Bee December 2019**

A grant from the Foundation of National Parks and Wildlife enabled us to fund our December 2019 working bee.

The weeding team selected included a couple of experienced Tasmanian regulars from previous work on the island, another who was last at a working be in 2008 and 3 newcomers a Tasmanian and a Victorian couple..

Over the 10 days we worked on most of the weed sites on the island. Sea spurge was searched out and pulled from Garden Cove, Winter Cove and East Cove. Checked for a few other spots on the islands 20 km foreshore fortunately with no spurge found. Ragwort is our biggest challenge with about 10 sites in the islands tussock grasslands. Ragwort flea beetle a biological control agent, was introduced a few years ago unfortunately no significant evidence of its activity has been found.

We spent many hours digging and pulling ragwort rosettes from 10 sites ranging from 20 ha to a few square metres. Other weeds present on the island include Arum Lily, Horehound, two species of Mullein and three species of thistle, these were all removed when found. All sites were mapped and recorded. Sites of the two species we believe we had eradicated were carefully checked - Marron grass at winter Cove and Cumbungi at Winter Cove creek.



A great working bee, everyone working well together on some prickly, some deep rooted and some tiny hard to spot weeds. There were a few wet days and plenty of wild windy days. We had great meals prepared by a roster of great cooks. Caretakers Diane and David were great neighbours and it was a pleasure working with them and sharing meals.

### Save the date! AGM and General Meeting 24 May

Our AGM is planned for Sunday 24th May with a general meeting to follow. Love to see another great turnout, details to be advised closer to the date.



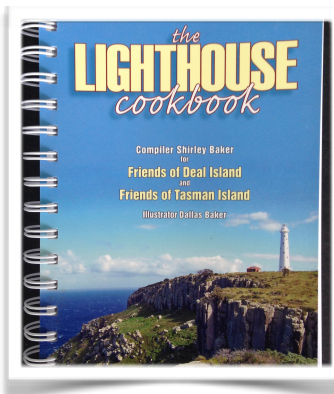
### Working Bee Expression of interest

We are now calling for expressions of interest for the next Working Bee to be held in late April 2020. Approx dates 27 April to 8 May. This working bee will continue the weed focus of the previous group but possibly also include some further heritage restoration works. See form attached

Timelines for this trip are:

Expression of interest close 5th March

Successful applicants notified by 19 March



### Merchandise available!

Beeswax Wraps - a great environmentally friendly alternative to plastic wrap and an essential for any caretakers! \$14 plus \$2 postage

The Lighthouse Cookbook - whether your caretaking an island or just feeding a gathering this is a great addition to your recipe collection \$12 plus \$8 postage  
Both available at AGM, through the Wildcare site or send us an email. & online!

### THANK YOU!

We have recently received a generous donation of a "pod necklace" from the very talented Tasmanian jeweller Janine Coombes! Janine is a fellow lover of Deal having spent time on the island also.

Thanks so much Janine for your support!  
<https://janinecoombes.com/pages/artist>



**Dont forget to like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. If you have any photos that you are happy for us to share please email them through to: dealisland@wildcaretas.org.au**

**Love to see some Deal Island pics on the ABC Weather if anyone is keen to send some in..**