

---

Wildcare Inc. — Friends of Maatsuyker Island  
**Strategic Plan 2015–2018**

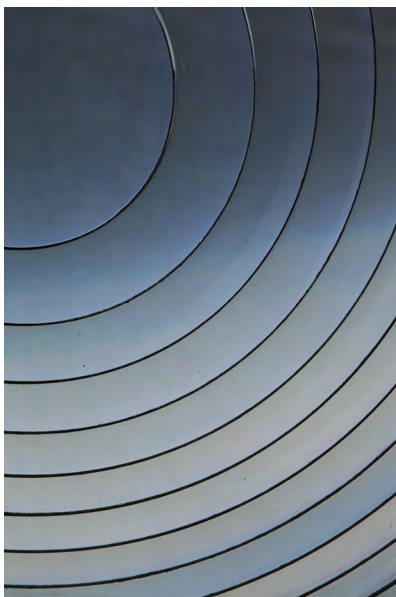




Swamp antechinus  
(*Antechinus minimus minimus*)

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

We care about the island. Even if we never go there 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.



Maatsuyker Island lighthouse prisms, first order fresnel lens



Original haulageway whim Maatsuyker lighthouse dressed with signal flags created by Gwen Egg, Maatsuyker Island Artist in Residence Program

## FRIENDS OF MAATSUYKER ISLAND (FOMI)

---

### OUR VISION

#### FOR MAATSUYKER ISLAND

Maatsuyker is recognised in Tasmania, nationally and internationally as one of a group of Tasmanian islands which has important heritage, natural and Aboriginal values and which:

- has well conserved historic buildings and other infrastructure which are protected by heritage listing;
- is a pest free island with healthy, robust natural values;
- offers an important destination for well managed, structured volunteer and limited eco-tourism experiences;
- has a clear set of management objectives described in a Maatsuyker Island Group Management Statement and the Tasmania World Heritage Area Management Plan.

#### FOR OUR ORGANISATION

- FOMI has a mutually beneficial, professional relationship with the land manager of the Island: Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania.
- We have an enthusiastic, diverse and strong membership and supporter base with which we communicate through a range of means, including through social media.
- Our work is carried out in line with current workplace health and safety legislation, policies and guidelines.
- Our organisation is financially sustainable and our resources enable us to work towards realising our vision for Maatsuyker Island.
- We have a long term commitment to the Island and engage in succession planning activities to enable this commitment to be realised.
- We are recognised for the research projects conducted by FOMI in relation to the Island biodiversity.
- We have a strong working relationship within Wildcare Inc. for example Friends of Melaleuca, Friends of Tasman Island and Friends of Deal Island.
- We have connected with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.
- We have developed partnerships with tourism and business organisations to further our vision.

Friends of  
**Maatsuyker**



Needle Rocks, Maatsuyker Island



PWS volunteer caretaker working on restoration of a window in the lighthouse

## OUR MISSION

To contribute to the conservation, protection and recognition of the historic, natural and Aboriginal heritage of Maatsuyker Island.

### WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US?

- Working collaboratively with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, and other key groups.
- Having a long term commitment.
- Conservation of the historic, cultural and natural values of the Island;
- Promoting community understanding of the valuable heritage values of the Island.
- Recognition of the variety of skills and expertise brought to FOMI by our volunteer base.

During 2011 new gutters, facias and soffits were installed on Quarters 1, 2 and 3 during two FOMI and PWS joint working bees



## WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

Over the last five years Friends of Maatsuyker Island or FOMI has:

- maintained a vibrant, well-functioning Wildcare Inc. group with a high level of commitment to the Island and its conservation;
- developed a professional and mutually beneficial relationship with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service as the land managers of the Island;
- secured funds and carried out substantial work to upgrade the historic houses on the Island to a functional standard;
- undertaken regular volunteer weed management programs supported by grant funds secured by FOMI;
- secured funds and worked in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service to undertake extensive documentation detailing the necessary work to weatherproof the lighthouse tower;
- documented most of the historic objects located on the Island;
- conducted boat trips to the Island to promote community understanding of the Island's importance;
- worked with the Parks and Wildlife Service to support volunteer caretakers and artists in residence on the Island;
- secured funds to initiate and conduct a scientific monitoring project in relation to the population of Short Tailed Shearwaters which nest on the Island;
- produced community education materials about Maastuyker Island, and mounted displays and taken part in events to celebrate the role of the Island in Tasmanian history such as the Wooden Boat Festival and 10 Days on the Island.



FOMI volunteer treating *hebe elliptica*



Funding secured for documenting work required for the light tower





FOMI volunteers repairing the historic quarters



Historic objects located and documented


## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2015–2018

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

Priority	Actions	Time frame
The Maatsuyker lighthouse and other structures on the Island are weatherproof and in functional condition	Work with the Parks and Wildlife Service Manager and specialist heritage staff to waterproof the lighthouse tower and undertake the works as outlined in the Light Tower Catch up Maintenance Plan.	2015–2018
	Develop a new maintenance plan for the lightstation structures (excluding the light tower) and source funding to implement the plan.	2016
	Develop, in conjunction with the Parks and Wildlife Service, appropriate ways of conserving the Haulage Winch Shed (the Whim Shed) and sections of the haulage-way and the 'olympic pool'.	2017–2018
	Continue to resource and provide volunteer labour to upgrade the houses on the Island.	Ongoing
Historic structures and objects on the Island are conserved and documented in a way which contributes to increased community awareness of the historic heritage of the Island	Complete the Historic Objects record for the Island.	2016
	Find a suitable repository for information about Maatsuyker historic European heritage to be made available to the public in Hobart.	2016
	Research and collate more historical information about European history in relation to the Island.	2016–2017
	Develop a new DVD about the lighthouse and its equipment to be used at promotional events off-Island and to enhance the visitor experience on-Island.	2015
	Develop more interpretative materials in relation to historic heritage for day visitors and working bee participants (on-Island resources).	2016–2017
	Work with Parks and Wildlife Service and the other Island Friend groups (e.g. Friends of Tasman, Deal and Bruny Islands) to develop a joint application for Australian Heritage listing for the Island lighthouses and associated structures.	2015–2018
	Hold a ceremonial event which involves lighting of the lighthouse tower to draw community attention to the historic importance of Maatsuyker Island.	2018

## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2015–2018

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

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Maatsuyker Island has intact natural values and is free of weeds, pests or diseases	Seek funds to support and document an annual weeding program on the Island and maintain the weed database and maps.	2015–2018
	Work with PWS to continue to improve and promote the use of the FOMI bio-security strategy for the Island to prevent introduction of pests or diseases that may threaten natural values.	2015–2018
Current, robust and extensive scientific knowledge exists about the natural values of Maatsuyker Island	Undertake a Short-tailed Shearwater monitoring program to develop accurate population data for this species on the Island.	2015–2018
	Identify knowledge gaps in terms of the natural values of the Island and support efforts to conduct scientific research in these areas.	2016–2018
	Liaise with volunteer caretakers to continue to collect data on seal and marine values where possible.	Ongoing
	Archive data on marine values, including seal populations for future scientific use.	2015
Suitable resources are available to support promotional activities which focus on the natural values of the Island	Develop new education and information resources about the flora, fauna and geology of the Island for use in promotional activities both on and off-Island (e.g. day trips, bird festivals, native plant events).	2016–2017



# PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2015–2018

## 3. Conserve and protect Maatsuyker Island’s Aboriginal heritage

Priority	Actions	Time frame
The Tasmanian Aboriginal communities are actively encouraged to engage with FOMI activities on Maatsuyker Island	Invite local Aboriginal organisations to be involved in working bees and scientific projects undertaken by FOMI (e.g. Short-tailed Shearwater monitoring program).	2015 onwards
Opportunities for joint projects between FOMI and Tasmanian Aboriginal communities are explored	Begin a dialogue with the Tasmanian Aboriginal communities about their interests in Maatsuyker Island with a view to developing joint future projects in conjunction with the Land Manager (e.g. interpretation, archaeological research).	2015 onwards
The importance of Aboriginal heritage in relation to Maatsuyker Island is promoted to the wider community	Ensure that information resources developed by FOMI acknowledge and accurately represent what is known about Aboriginal heritage on Maatsuyker Island.	2015 onwards

FOMI coordinates and leads day trips to the island



Monitoring of Short-tailed Shearwaters (*Ardenna tenuirostris*) that annually breed on the island





## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2015–2018

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

Priority	Actions	Time frame
FOMI has a robust and varied support base within Tasmania, Australia and internationally	Upgrade the FOMI data base to enable it to be used more efficiently to maintain contact with members and other interested people (e.g. establishing a new group of supporters of FOMI).	2015
	Develop a recruitment strategy to attract more younger members and those with specific skills required by the organisation.	2016
	Work with Wildcare Inc. to address the issue of fluctuating membership numbers due to alignment with Parks pass renewal processes.	2015 onwards
	Investigate the development of appropriate merchandise or other incentives for members of FOMI.	2015–2016
	Maintain links with relevant organisations (e.g. Lighthouses Australia, Birdlife Australia) in order to establish and maintain contact with people who may have shared interests.	Ongoing
Members and supporters of FOMI are actively engaged in the work of the organisation	Use a variety of communication methods to engage with members and supporters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• email newsletters</li> <li>• creating and managing a FOMI Facebook page</li> </ul>	2015 onwards
	Involve members and supporters in FOMI organised day trips to the Island.	Ongoing
The skills of members and supporters are effectively harnessed by FOMI	Survey members to find out what type of information they would like to receive and identify the skills available to the organisation from its membership base.	2016
The FOMI committee is well functioning and can continue to support the work of the organisation into the future	Develop a succession plan for the FOMI committee, including the desired skills mix within a future committee.	2015
FOMI has adequate resources to support its range of work on and off Island	Continue to apply for appropriate grants from a range of sources.	Ongoing
	Explore the potential for members and supporters to make bequests and donations to FOMI.	2015
	Work with Wildcare Inc. to develop global sponsorship opportunities, joint skills development and marketing projects.	2015 onwards

## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2015–2018

### 4. Strengthen the capacity of FOMI to achieve its goals (*continued*)

Priority	Actions	Time frame
FOMI is strategic in developing partnerships with eco-tourist operators and industry groups who may have an interest in the Island	Review and consider available research on eco-tourism options for Maatsuyker Island.	2015 onwards
	Explore potential collaboration with eco-tourism operators in relation to Maatsuyker Island.	2015 onwards
	Liaise with the fishing industry to explore potential areas of collaboration and support for FOMI activities.	2015 onwards



Pink robin (*Petroica rodinogaster*)  
on Maatsuyker Island



Christmas Bells (*Blandfordia punicea*)

Maatsuyker Island has Australia's most southerly lighthouse and was the last in Australia, in 1996, to be demanned



## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2015–2018

### 5. Relationship with the Land Manager

Priority	Actions	Time frame
A mutually beneficial and professional relationship exists between FOMI and the Parks and Wildlife Service as the Land Manager	Hold regular meetings and maintain email contact with the Parks and Wildlife Service Manager responsible for Maatsuyker Island.	Ongoing
Aligned and complementary plans are developed for the Island	Liaise with the Parks and Wildlife Service in order to gain efficiencies and mutual benefit in terms of planning travel or other logistics for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• caretakers</li> <li>• maintenance activities</li> <li>• artists in residence placements</li> <li>• Other service organisations such as AMSA, BOM, Telstra.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Maintenance plans are reviewed annually and updated with specialist input	Hold an annual meeting with Parks and Wildlife Specialist staff (e.g. heritage, asset management, builder, manager responsible for Maatsuyker Island) in order to review maintenance plans for infrastructure on the Island and to plan working bees.	Yearly
PWS is kept up to date about the results of FOMI projects and activities on the Island	FOMI provides reports on working bees and other projects to the Parks and Wildlife Service.	Ongoing
The knowledge and skills of FOMI members are harnessed in the preparation of management plans and statements about the Island	Liaise with the Parks and Wildlife Service in order to provide input to the Management Statement for the Maatsuyker Group and the World Heritage Area Management Plan.	2015–2016
FOMI adds value to the Caretaker and Artist in Residence Programs on Maatsuyker Island	FOMI provides opportunities for potential, current and past caretakers and artists in residence for Maatsuyker Island to gain information about the Island and join the work of FOMI.	2015 onwards





---

Friends of  
**Maatsuyker  
Island**



Friends of Maatsuyker Island Strategic Plan 2015–2018  
prepared by Friends of Maatsuyker Island Committee

Not to be reproduced, or any part thereof, without permission of Friends of Maatsuyker Island

Email: [wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com](mailto:wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com)  
[www.wildcaretas.org.au](http://www.wildcaretas.org.au)

---

Photographs courtesy of Marina Campbell, Gwen Egg, Ron Fehlberg, Sheryl Hamilton, Georgie Hedley, Robyn Mundy, Al Wiltshire