



Newsletter

No. 12, November 2017

Building maintenance program March 2017 in memory of Craig Saunders

Craig Saunders played a significant role in the formative years of FOMI, as the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Services (PWS) Volunteer Facilitator, working bee coordinator, Treasurer of Wildcare Inc. and a Friend of Maatsuyker Island. Craig tragically passed away on 5 August 2013. FOMI are honoured to have received funding from the Craig Saunders Memorial Fund toward the restoration of the Quarters 2 veranda floor; most fitting as Craig often camped on the veranda during working bees.

The priority work for the March 2017 working bee was to replace the flooring on the Q2 veranda. It had been postponed a couple of times because of more urgent works, the Q2 kitchen floor. We were fortunate to get all the extra timber across on the first day of the working bee.



Photo credit: Chris Arthur

This enabled David Milne and Ron Fehlberg to start on the veranda floor straight away. The whole floor had to be taken out back to the bare earth. New vents were cut in to allow air circulation as before there was none. We put in new bearers, joists and top grade tongue and groove flooring. We were able to complete the task with the extra help of Bruce Frankcombe. A great job done with Chris Arthur putting a coat of tung oil on to complete the job. A fitting tribute to Craig Saunders dedication to Maatsuyker Island.

The works undertaken were discussed with Craig's family and it was very special to have Desley (Craig's partner) on the March working bee to see the transformation first hand. FOMI are honoured and happy that Craig's family play an ongoing role in the care of Maatsuyker Island.



Craig Saunders
Photo credit: Marina Campbell

Exhibition launch

FOMI was thrilled by the number of people who attended the launch of 'Inspired Solitude: artistic interpretations of Maatsuyker Island' at the Schoolhouse Gallery, Rosny Farm, on 12 October. The exhibition featured new and experimental work from a number of caretakers, artists in residence and working bee volunteers who have all been inspired by the island and its many moods. The Mayor of Clarence (Doug Chipman) launched the exhibition with guest speakers Marina Campbell (FOMI President) and Paul Richardson (artist and former Maatsuyker caretaker), and was supported by Jansz Tasmania. It featured painting, drawing, mixed media, photography and current and historical information. It was also a chance to see the Maatsuyker haulage way trolley recently restored by FOMI.

The artists exhibited were: Raeleen Mibus, Kate Worthington (Frankcombe), Amanda Walker, Ailsa Fergusson, Gwen Egg,

Ron Fehlberg, Bruce Frankcombe, James Stone, and Paul Richardson.



Photo credit: Fiona Taylor

NBN has reached the remotest lightstation in Australia...

2017 has marked the end of an era and a reliance on more 'old school' communications on Maatsuyker Island. The island is now connected to the NBN!

The current PWS Volunteer Caretakers, Taylor Stevens and Jesse Siebler, have been making the most of the new opportunities to connect with the outside world. They have been posting wonderful photos on Instagram (@thelighthousekeepers) and fantastic stories of their experience on their blog "The Lighthouse Keepers"

www.thelighthousekeepers.org

It's definitely a new era when Maatsuyker Island joins the instant social media forum!

Also check out FOMI's facebook page which has regular updates on activities or special interest stories

www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsOfMaatsuykerIsland



Taylor and Jesse before departing for Maatsuyker Island
Photo credit: Huon Valley Visitor Information Centre

Maatsuyker Island haulage way trolley restoration

Friends of Maatsuyker were fortunate to be gifted two haulage way trolleys, thanks to the assistance of Chris Creese of Friends of Tasman, and Lyndon O'Grady of AMSA. The trolleys had been in use on the Maatsuyker haulage way, until the haulage way was decommissioned, and were stored at the Queen Victoria Museum in Launceston for many years. One trolley, in its "as found" condition, was transported to the Parks base at Huonville, and it is intended this trolley will eventually be relocated back to Maatsuyker Island.

During the summer of 2016/2017 the other trolley was disassembled in David Milne's workshop at Windermere. This work required much grinding and cutting to get all the components and parts into a state suitable for grit blasting and painting. Practically all of the timberwork was rotten and not worth salvaging. However the fabricated metal frame was sound and, thanks to a galvanized coating, was in a reasonable condition.

The metal frame and axle bearing brackets were grit blasted and repainted with zinc based primer coating (Al's Paint service Bell Bay).

The cast steel flanged wheels and axles required many hours of needle descaling to remove years of built up paint and rust.

Allen Bryan constructions of East Tamar Highway provided new timber for the trolley deck. David Milne and Bruce Frankcombe machine painted and fitted a replacement timber deck. David Grainger plumbing provided all of the replacement galvanized fasteners. A final topcoat paint of Indian Red (the original colour) was applied. The trolley was transported to the Parks' Lutana depot on 8 June 2017.



Left-right: Bruce Frankcombe & David Milne
Photo credit: Marina Campbell

Seafarers Festival

Sunday 29 October saw a band of enthusiasts at the Seafarers Festival on the Bellerive Boardwalk. This is a family oriented event and this year we shared a marquee with the Antarctic Division and a refrigerated tank of live krill. There was a constant flow of interested passersby, though we were a little less busy than usual with the children's activities, as the

surrounding displays drew the attention. We said we would have a theme of wind and weather, and right on cue the wind came up a bit too strong bringing the event to a close a little early. We made \$116 from merchandise sales and enjoyed the opportunity to talk to many people about the wonders of Maatsuyker Island.

Signal flags project

This year FOMI embarked on an ambitious project, now nearly completed, to make two complete sets of signal flags. One set is for the lighthouse, with the flags to be stored in the cabinet of flag canisters in the base of the tower and to be flown at the lighthouse on special occasions. The other smaller set is to be used by us at community events here on mainland Tasmania. There are 40 flags in each set. Amanda Walker was, and is, the driver of the project. She researched the materials and how-to-make information, and with Ailsa Fergusson, did hours and hours' worth of designing, cutting, marking, bagging and labelling the flags so they could be sewn by volunteers. At the FOMI AGM we had an auction, MC'd by David Masters, for the first five people to sponsor the flag of their choice – reserve price \$50 for a large flag, \$20 a small flag. This event snowballed to the extent that at the end of the evening we had over \$1500 pledged and most of the large flags sponsored. Others have been sponsored in the weeks since. The maker's name, and the sponsor's name, are to be embroidered by hand at the base of each flag. We will end up with two extraordinary sets of flags, hand-made and hand-embroidered, each with its own distinct personality. A fantastic resource, and heritage items for the future!

It has been an extraordinary journey, culminating in a series of six flag-sewing workshops at the Rosny Schoolhouse Gallery at the same time as FOMI's art exhibition. Funding for materials came from a NRM South Bite Sized Grant of \$500 and a wonderful anonymous donation of \$1000.

FOMI again thank Lyndon O'Grady, AMSA for the donation of number Signal Flags possibly last flown during the Lightkeeper era.



Photo credit: Jenny Scott

Sponsorship support for FOMI works

FOMI value the support of the Pennicott Foundation with a \$5000 donation toward our 2017 Weed Control and Shearwater Monitoring programs.

FOMI extend a huge shout of thanks to the PWS team for all their support throughout the year.



FOMI thank Jansz Tasmania for supporting our exhibition. It was a special event on a lovely evening among good friends, enjoying the art works while celebrating Maatsuyker Island with a toast of Jansz Tasmania Premium Cuvée.



FOMI thank Heli-Resources for their support toward our working bees.



Interested in joining or knowing more about Friends of Maatsuyker Island

Contact: Sheryl Hamilton, Secretary, FOMI - Wildcare Inc. wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com

Or visit: www.wildcaretas.org.au

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