



FRIENDS OF DEAL ISLAND



.....News From the Island....

The Autumn caretakers Reg and Jenny Grundy have returned safely to Bridport and life in the fast lane. Their stay was memorable on several fronts with both really enjoying the company of the builders who reroofed the Museum in March, and Reg having use of the new Xero turn mower that has made the mundane mowing much more enjoyable. And then there was swimming with dolphins, dining on abalone, snorkeling, and the amazing scenery.

The roof replacement is a major achievement and a credit to Parks staff managing the Island (Dominique) and the Heritage Officer Annita Waghorn, who prioritized the funding and delivery of the project through the builders Paradigm constructions. FoDI members have been sending in regular condition assessments over the past three to four years, undertaking minor repairs, and setting up drip trays to catch the leaks inside the roof. The roof was last replaced in the late 1990's. The outbuildings were part of the project and now have the same roofing as the museum.



As a result of the roofing works the usual Autumn working bee had to be cancelled. We were fortunate however to have Reg and Jenny take up the weeding baton for us. They reworked our areas of sea spurge collecting a significant number of flowering plants, and picking up the start of a new infestation at Peg Leg. Horehound, Ragwort and Mullien populations also took a hit.

.....A changing of the Guard.....

Our PWS contact for the last 5+ years Dominique Couzens is approaching retirement, and has handed management of the Kent Group to Jayne Hutchinson who is the Ranger in Charge on Flinders... on behalf of the FoDI committee I would like to say thank you to Dominique for your commitment to the Kent Group and support of FoDI projects over the years. I am still in discussion with Jayne about her ideas on the roles FoDI can continue to play in helping PWS deliver good management outcomes for the island.

.....Wooden Boat Festival 2027.....

A number of FoDI committee members gathered for a planning session in Bicheno in February. Among our many discussions we've agreed to participate in the Wooden Boat Festival next year, alongside the Friends of Tasman Island group. Georgie Dudgeon is coordinating our involvement

The WBF runs from the 5/2 – 8/2 2027, with a setting up day on the 4th and a pack up day on 9/2.

FoDI will put out a call for interested members to assist in meeting and welcoming festival goers, selling raffle tickets and merchandise, and generally promoting the work the volunteers and caretakers contribute to the island.

The ideal is two members for 3 ½ hr shifts for the morning, afternoon and evening, starting @ 8.30, 11.30 and 2.30 with a 30min handover. This also allows for plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the festival.

Any amount of time you can give will be a great help towards its success, so keep the dates free.

As part of fundraising the combined groups are running a raffle, with our contribution to prizes being:

1. A framed photo donated by Simon Olding through his business Full Gamut from his working bee trip to Deal Island,
2. A shell necklace made by an indigenous artist donated by Cathie Plowman.

Prizes are also being donated by Friends of Tasman and Friends of Maatsuyker Island groups.

Tickets sales will be online and at the WBF.

Other merchandise will include:

1. cards from artworks created by Trauti Reynolds, and several her tapestries donated by David Reynolds.
2. cards, tea towels, aprons and tote bags printed with original designs from our members.

We are seeking assistance from FoDI members with knitting or crocheting cotton dish cloths, to help with our fundraising.

These are easy and quick to make and are a fantastic addition to any house, especially as they do not contain any micro plastic fibres. Cotton yarn is available at wool shops or better still find a cotton knit at your favorite recycle shop and unpick it.

If you need a pattern or more info please email georgie.dudgeon@gmail.com



.....Up Coming Events.....

Our AGM will be held on 30th of August at 10 for a 10.30 start. It will be held at the Full Gamut shopfront at 197 Harrington st in Hobart this year. The plan is to hold next years in the north of the state.

Our Spring working bee dates will be confirmed at the AGM. It will be held in late October

We will be seeking funding to visit the island in January to sample areas for the Ragwort Beetle and crown and stem boring moth populations, to ensure our releases have been successful.

Wooden Boat Festival 5- 8 February 2027.



Your FoDI committee hard at work at the planning session in Bicheno February 2026