

Friends of Deal Island Committee Meeting 30 September 2025

Apologies: Cathie Plowman, David Butler, Jo Widdowson, Lee and Don Cameron

Attendees: Gabrielle Balon, Georgie and Stuart Dudgeon, Cassie Strain, Tamara Terwal, Mike Comfort, Jane Davis.

October/November 2025 Working Bee

Participants: Cassie Strain (Team Leader), Gabrielle Balon, Lily Neyland, Roz Thurn, Peter Wiseman, Kaely Kreger.

Cassie has liaised with Jenny and Ralph Baulis, who are current Deal Island Caretakers and were previously participants in a FoDI Working Bee in 2024.

For weed mapping, GPS units to be obtained from Jon Marden-Smedley's SPRATS representative as Jon is away for a prolonged time.

Action: Gabrielle will follow-up on the GPS units.

FoDI Activity Plan items

Newsletter: One question was regarding how often to produce a newsletter.

Plan: 2-3 times per year when there are items to make it worthwhile producing eg after a FoDI Working Bee, participation in activities such as Wildcare stall at the Wooden Boat Festival, or when there an historical story comes to light etc.

Social Media: Jo Widdowson: still in the role of putting FoDI items on Facebook/Instagram.

Procedural Checklist / Committee roles: Jane volunteered to work on these. Will obtain the draft Working Bee procedural checklist which was drafted by Mike/Cassie in 2024. Stuart mentioned a number of items to go on this checklist eg Job Risk Assessments.

Fundraising:

Raffle: Cathie had volunteered to be in charge of a raffle, planning for 2027.

Merchandise: Action: subcommittee run by Temara. Subcommittee with Cassie, perhaps with friend/artist Joyce, Cathie?, and Jane. Jane is planning to draft a design for a Deal Island tea towel.

The merchandise sub-committee is to come back with proposal before any funds are to be committed. This does place an emphasis on need for reasonably frequent sub-committee meetings to discuss/ give go ahead for expending funds.

Grant applications: Jo and Stuart will investigate grant availability and attend applications. Mike is willing to assist in reviewing application drafts as needed.

Landcare grants: Cassie/Gabrielle mentioned that there potentially are Landcare grants, and that FoDI needs to obtain membership with Landcare (cost of about \$40) in order to be eligible to apply. The Committee agreed to Landcare membership.

Action: Stuart/Jo to action Landcare Membership.

FoDI History: It would be valuable and interesting to capture Caretaker stories and other historical events.

Action: Gabrielle to check out the Caretaker reports which are held on Deal Island. Gabrielle has already approached an Arts Tas curator regarding scoping the best value of these ideas eg aims, audience, direction, pitfalls.

FoDI Weeding Program

Discussion about future weeding activities as the workload of weeding as Sea Spurge lessens, and Ragwort biological control proceeds. The weeding plan may require a change of focus, including a review of the current Weed Plan (written by Penny Tyson). There is probably no changes required for the next two working bees.

Stuart mentioned that currently Dominique (Parks' representative) gives current plans to Caretakers.

East Cove bank stabilisation

Concerns regarding

- It was suggested that the East Cove wallaby exclusion fence needs a maintenance / Parks work plan. The fence is crucial for the East Cove bank stabilisation/rehabilitation.
- Concerns were raised about the retaining wall at the base of the East Cove rehabilitation area. Stuart mentioned that it hasn't changed much since early 2000s but suggested some monitoring points could be set up.

Stuart to discuss these items with Parks' representative.

Building Heritage Maintenance: Stuart will clarify the role of FoDI in building heritage planning and discuss a plan with the appropriate Parks representative.

Draft FoDI Activity Plan worksheet (Ver 2) has been updated and attached to the minutes.

Next Committee Meeting: to be advised. Possibly January 2026