

Friends of Melaleuca AGM Minutes & General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 30 October, 2025

Board Room, Derwent Sailing Squadron, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay.

Annual General Meeting started 7.15pm.

Acknowledgement of Country: Erin McGilvray.

Present: Tony Fenton, Janet Fenton, Geoff Fenton, Peter Marmion, Claire Marmion, Mel Jack, Marianne Gee, Janet Stephens, Will Oliver, Dagmar Willson, Nell Tyson, Chris Creese, Alan Goldizen, Anne Goldizen, Ann Wessing, Erin McGilvray, David Mitchell, David Neilson, Karen Alexander, Andrew Boon, Judy Boon, Erika Shankley, Justin Marshall, Helen Thyne, Keith Drew, Nikki Hutchings.

Apologies: Ian Marmion, Robyn Marmion, Ruby Annand-Jones, Phil Laroche, Rob Banfield, Robyn Delaney, Simon Ward.

The Minutes for the 2024 AGM were accepted. Moved Will Oliver, seconded Mel Jack.

Janet Fenton presented her **President's Annual Report** which reflected a busy year for our group. See attached report.

Treasurer's Report was accepted. Moved Ann Wessing, seconded Alan Goldizen. We have a current balance of \$16488.83. Most incoming funds were from membership payments and donations including donations made at our *Colour in Nature* social event, held at the Ferntree Tavern in November, 2024. Major expenses resulted from flights to Melaleuca (just under \$6000.00) and materials for working bees.

Janet handed over the Chair to Karen Alexander for election of Office Bearers for 2025/26.

President: Janet Fenton, nominated by Anne Goldizen, seconded Erika Shankley. Elected.

Vice President: Rob Banfield, nominated by Janet Fenton, seconded Ann Wessing. Elected.

Secretary: Peter Marmion, nominated by Ann Wessing, seconded Mel Jack. Elected.

Treasurer: Tony Fenton, nominated by Anne Goldizen, seconded Erika Shankley. Elected.

The following *Committee members* were elected: Geoff Fenton, Erika Shankley, David Mitchell, Chris Creese, Ann Wessing, Will Oliver, Justin Marshall, Andrew Boon.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

General Meeting

Meeting started 7.40pm.

Present: As above

Apologies: As above

Minutes of the previous meeting 14.8.2025 were accepted. Moved Will Oliver, seconded Mel Jack. Minutes of previous meetings can be viewed at:

<https://wildcaretas.org.au/admin/groups/friends-of-melaleuca-wildcare/files>

Janet extended a welcome to new members, Grace Holligan, Amber Rowlandson, Dianne Jenkins, Zoe Sellers, Anthea Goslin, Cynthia Howard, Jen Sanger.

Treasurer's Report was accepted. Moved Ann Wessing, seconded Janet Stephens.

Current balance: \$16488.83

Generous donations were received from Cathy Plowman, Steve Bennett & Dagmar Willson.

Marianne Gee was thanked for her fine work selling Friends of Melaleuca (FoM) merchandise.

Business Arising:

Museum – Five display panels are to be reprinted. The James & Hayley Baillie Foundation have offered to sponsor the cost of reprints, plus the printing of the Moorland posters. Friends of Melaleuca now has a Heritage Conservation Appeal account with National Trust to enable Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) donations for heritage projects. (Contact: Magda Choluj). *Odalisque III* will freight carpet tiles to Melaleuca in early December. Geoff & Janet have purchased the edge strip.

100 copies of the Moorland poster have been printed. Costs - postage tubes \$2.15, envelope packaging \$1.19, postage \$9.70. Discussion centred around possibly using flat envelopes rather than tubes, and cost to the customer. It was decided by the meeting to charge \$30 for the poster which includes packaging and postage.

Bird Strikes on Museum windows – Janet has had correspondence with Madi Riley who is happy for strings to be attached to the windows and also happy to wait until the March working bee 2026 for installation.

Wiles Shed – We have received feedback from Parks & Wildlife (PWS) officers Ben Storer and Annita Waghorn that Parks engineers and heritage have concerns about the lack of bracing in the original design. They feel the shed will need constant maintenance and this would be an imposition as they already have an overload of work. They suggested recognising the heritage in some other way such as interpretation. After discussion, members suggested Friends of Melaleuca could give an undertaking to PWS to carry out regular maintenance, and remind them that the heritage value of the shed has been mentioned in PWS departmental reports.

The Committee will follow up on this matter.

Another working bee will be held at Mel's home to paint the shed. Rob & Mel will advise the date.

ABC Backroads program – this program which was mooted for next March has been cancelled due to financial constraints. It may go ahead in 2027.

PWS Heritage Officers – due to weather problems these officers are yet to visit Melaleuca. Chris Creese, Ian Terry, Nikki Kingsmith and Tony, Geoff & Janet Fenton met with these officers on 4th September. Discussion took place regarding documentation of tin mining objects as, at the moment, there is no standard format utilized by PWS. Heritage Tasmania is re-writing the heritage registration for Melaleuca to include the Rallinga mine. Work on this by Nick Haygarth is well underway. Heritage Officers Anita Waghorn, Katy Ross and a PWS Ranger will visit the Melaleuca site on November 6th weather permitting. Tony will act as guide. A slight complication is that Barbara's house is locked at present.

Merchandise - Tony's book *Fleeting Hopes*, and Janet's Moorland poster will be added to the Friends of Melaleuca merchandise list on the website.

General Business:

Working bee 2026, 11 to 18 March – on September 11th Janet, Geoff and Rob met with Ranger Marty Doyle and Emmalene Maher to discuss plans for the March 2026 working bee at Melaleuca.

Rob submitted a grant application to Wildcare for track work. We have since heard [rumours?](#) that the application was successful.

Job list for working bee –

- * window in Karina's hut
- * complete the flooring in 1st camp
- * track work Clydes Hill & Mt Beattie
- * brushcutting
- * fish oiling mining equipment
- * huon pine table in Charles King memorial hut

A suggestion was made to provide LED lighting in the hut for bushwalkers in order to prevent damage by candles to the table top.

It is unlikely that Barbara Willson's home will be available for accommodation.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Plan 2016 is currently under review. FoM members Andrew, Janet, Erika, Will & Peter met on September 25th to plan our response. Peter sent a submission resulting from discussions. Wildcare also made a submission covering a range of different Wildcare groups' responses. Janet & Geoff completed the Myriad research response for FoM.

Stephen Mattingley Volunteering Tasmania award – Sandy Collin received an Enduring Commitment award on behalf of Stephen. The award was presented by the Governor of Tasmania. Will Oliver read out the citation to the meeting.

Par Avion sale – Peter reported to the meeting that the sale of Par Avion to Microflight has been completed. Customers will notice little change as all the personnel remain employed. The Par Avion terminal has been repurposed for use by the Search & Rescue helicopter team. The new Par Avion reception area and offices are now housed in temporary facilities at the site.

Lighthouse calendar – Erika spruiked the Friends of Tasman Island 2026 calendar which features work by several well known Tasmanian artists, including our own president Janet. The text has been written by Erika. Calendars are for sale on the Wildcare website for \$50.00.

Emergency Animal Disease hotline – 1800 675 888. Bird Flu Webinar put out by Birdlife is available: <https://birdlife.org.au/h5-bird-flu-avoid-record-report/>

The next meeting will be held in May 2026, date to be advised.

The meeting closed 8.20pm and a presentation was made by Janet and Geoff honoring Barbara Willson.

This was followed by a short archival film featuring Melaleuca and the Southwest in the summer of 1955/56.