

## **Friends of Deal Island Committee Meeting 7/8 February 2026 Bicheno**

**Attendees:** Stuart Dudgeon, Georgie Dudgeon, Cathie Plowman, David Butler, Tamara Terwal, Michael Comfort, Jane Davis.

**Apologies:** Cassie Strain, Jo Widdowson, Gabrielle Balon

### **Discussion**

In readiness to initiate discussion with the new Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Deal Island Manager and for updating the Volunteer Working Plan, Stuart suggested compiling a summary of tasks completed in current weed work, cultural heritage activities and future directions. This would include Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping (noting Jonathon Marsden- Smedley's work in the past). Another item to discuss with PWS would be that flying in heavy items is expensive, and as to whether there could be option of boating into East Cove beach the rehabilitation supplies, such as heavy coir logs, plus FoDI personnel and other supplies for those particular working bees.

In order to more fully achieve FoDI objectives, larger working bee groups could be beneficial, and / or the possibility of a third working bee per year. FoDI could check with PWS to see if there is any plan to have more PWS staff resources to staff assist with extra weeding. It is noted that PWS have put in more resources recently for cultural heritage / building work including the coming new roof for the museum.

Kaely Kreger (previous FoDI working bee member) has expertise in GIS and has expressed interest in assisting with some FoDI GIS work in liaison with the FoDI committee and Jonathon Mardsden-Smedley. It was discussed as to whether there was a more consistent way for FoDI working Bees to use GIS, such as, for ease of use and making maps for reports.

Tamara asked about the possibility of GIS mapping education for working bee participants.

Other discussion points to be developed with PWS regarding is increasing focus for Deal Island Caretakers on the following:

- some weed management, particularly seaweed weeding i.e. in 2026 mainly in March before seeding, but avoiding the East Cove rehabilitation area.
- being educated in the same effective weed search pattern as used by FoDI for consistency of approach.
- other opportunistic weeding / spraying (the latter if suitably qualified) but not ragwort as biological control is the current main focus.
- Shared reporting from PWS of FoDI and Caretakers' reports.

### **Fund raising**

Discussion initiated by Cathie: Is FoDI going to be involved in the Wooden Boat Festival 2027 stall / raffle? Should we have a separate FoDI raffle? What price is put on the tickets? How to

promote the raffle ticket sales etc? Cathie noted that Friends of Tasman Island had general merchandise at the Wooden Boat Festival not necessarily focused on Tasman Island and this seemed a potential way to raise funds. FoDI to look at basic cost-benefit of the merchandise.

The idea of fostering relationships with yacht clubs for potential philanthropists who love Bass strait area was discussed.

Cathie asked if FoDI could have an investment account to help accrue interest for FoDI. And perhaps aim towards philanthropist donations for this. Other discussion was: How much money do we want eg to just aim for two working bees a year? Are we allowed to do extra work on Deal Island?

A Landcare grant application was attended by Stuart and Mike and submitted by 31 January 2026. This is aiming for funding for two working bees.

Simon Olding of Full Gamut is generally willing to supply framing and printing at cost to assist FoDI fundraising, flyers, posters etc

Tas Community Fund, Wildcare, Landcare, Pennicott Foundation grant dates to be placed on a working document.

Agreement to acquit the 2025 Wildcare grant.

Discussion of whether we reach each out to Flinders Island group indigenous organisations in case they would like to be included in FoDI newsletter distribution. However PWS has a role to link with these groups.

### **FoDI Objectives**

Discussion of renewal of the objectives of FoDI.

- Promote community engagement of the values of Deal Island and the work conducted by FoDI.
- Engage with Parks and Wildlife Service to facilitate support to promote and protect the natural, cultural heritage values of Deal Island by:
  - Regular strategically scheduled FoDI Working Bees
  - Interpretation of natural and cultural heritage
- Further fundraising efforts

### **Actions:**

- Stuart will arrange a meeting in March/April 2026 with the new PWS Deal Island Manager

- Development of a summary of recent tasks completed in current weed assessment and direction.
- discuss the option of boating into East Cove beach the rehabilitation supplies, such as heavy coir logs, FoDI personnel and other supplies, as flying in these heavy items is expensive.
- For the Caretakers
  - PWS to encourage some weed work by caretakers some weed management, particularly seaspurge weeding i.e. in 2026 mainly in March before seeding, but avoiding the East Cove rehabilitation area.
  - being educated in the same effective weed search pattern as used by FoDI for consistency of approach.
  - other opportunistic weeding / spraying (the latter if suitably qualified) but not ragwort as biological control is the current main focus.
  - Shared reporting from PWS of FoDI and Caretakers' reports.
  - From January 2026 Minutes: Ask the next Caretakers to plant the seedlings in the East Cove rehabilitation zone
  - From January 2026 minutes: Before the Spring Working Bee, ask the spring Caretakers to collect small branches with seed pods of Allocasuarinas. So that the Spring Working Bee can place them in the East Cove rehabilitation zone to help with seeding and bank stabilisation.
- Communication via / with President of FoDI together with other leader of subcommittees eg weed management, fundraising, when appropriate.
- Change schedule of summer working bee in 2027 to January in order to assess the activity of the Ragwort Flea Beetle and Moth, as well as the agreed weeding / building maintenance program
- Stuart and others to acquit the Wildcare grant
- Pertinent reports to be placed for viewing on the Wildcare Website, including PWS Volunteer Management Framework, Partnership Agreement Between PWS, Working Bee reports etc.
- Mike or perhaps Cassie to contact Kaely Kreger to ask what GIS tasks she could assist, what GIS program she uses, and if any education of working bee participants in GIS could be part of that.
- FoDI working documents: trial use of use Google Docs to ensure continued access for the FoDI committee.
- Mike to send Cathie a list of the type of FoDI documents to be filed on the Wildcare Website
- New flyers for FoDI, also a poster for the Deal Island museum to include a QR code / bank details for donations. A FoDI Bookmark could also be an option
- Cathie to contact other Wildcare group (Friends of Maatsuyker, Friends of Tasman Island) regarding the possibility of the 2027 Wooden Boat Festival raffle / stall. If this

goes ahead, Georgie will organise a volunteer roster for the Wooden Boat Festival Wildcare stall/raffle. This could be included in a FoDI newsletter.

- Georgie to contact relevant+- yacht clubs and liaise regarding supplying them with FoDI promotional activities.
- Cathie to ask Phil Laroche if FoDI can have an investment account in order to try and have interest to fund FoDI activities.
- Cathie to check on the name of the TLC Ragwort program leader's name. Jane / Cathie to find out more of their weed management plan to feed back to FoDI
- Jane to ask FoMI about what merchandise sells better eg tea towels versus caps / beanies etc. Further discussion about merchandise versus focusing on a raffle or two.
- Stuart to discuss with PWS about the links with Indigenous organisations.
- Stuart to gain a copy of the latest FoDI Partnership Agreement and Volunteer Management Framework to assist with renewing these documents.
- Tamara to access fact sheets on biological controls, lifecycles etc and distribute to FoDI committee
- Jane to find out the due-by dates for grant applications.

Since last January meeting: Wildcare Grant applications are requested twice yearly, the next one being:

- **Monday 2nd March 2026** – Round 1 of 2026 grants open
- **Thursday 2nd April 2026** (midnight)– Applications close
- **Friday 1st May 2026** – Grant announcements