

Friends of Melaleuca Minutes

Thursday, 14th August 2025

Board Room, Derwent Sailing Squadron, Marieville Esplanade

Meeting started 7.10pm

Present:

Will Oliver, Janet Fenton, Geoff Fenton, Tony Fenton, David Mitchell, Erika Shankley, Rob Banfield, Mel Jack, Nicole Hutchings, Mark Devine, Andrew Boon, Judy Boon, Jannie Chin, Karen Alexander, David Neilson, Janet Stephens, Peter Marmion, Mick Statham, Helen Statham, Greg Hodge, Marianne Gee, Ann Wessing, Erin McGilvray, Chris Creese, Tony Osmond.

Apologies:

Qug McKendrick King, Barbara Willson, Ruby Annand-Jones, Robyn Marmion, Ian Marmion, Claire Marmion, Jon Bertram, Anne & Alan Goldizen, Keith Drew.

Janet gave an acknowledgement of country and welcomed new members.

Minutes of the previous meeting, 8.5.'25, were accepted. These may be viewed at

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

Treasurer's Report:

The report was presented by Tony, accepted, moved David Mitchell, seconded Mel Jack, carried.

Our net position is \$15016.14. We had several website contributions including \$500 from Charlotte Blake, granddaughter of one of the firewatchers from the 1950s.

Business Arising:

Museum panel replacement – five display panels need to be reprinted. The cost will be \$2345.00. The James & Hayley Baillie Foundation offered to sponsor this project with the condition that the money be placed in an account with deductible gift recipient status. To do this through Wildcare is unwieldy. It was suggested we affiliate with the National Trust in order to make direct donations to Friends of Melaleuca more straightforward. Janet contacted Emma Boyce to discuss this arrangement. Peter has written to the Foundation to explain the situation. David Mitchell suggested we could set up our own deductible gift recipient status and will research the process. He will report back at the next meeting.

Carpet tiles – Anne & Alan Goldizen generously purchased carpet tiles for the Museum and volunteered to lay them when they are at Melaleuca. The tiles will be transported to Melaleuca aboard *Odalisque III* in early December.

Bird Strike issue at Museum – Janet has corresponded with Madi Riley who is happy with the strings arrangement as protection against bird strikes to be installed at the March working bee 2026.

Poster of moorland panel for fundraiser – it is resolved we print 100 posters at a cost of \$355.00. Mailing tubes cost \$2.15 each. Mel offered to locate some recycled tubes. This project might also be funded retrospectively by the James & Hayley Baillie Foundation.

Wiles shed update – Rob thanked people who helped with descaling, derusting and painting of the purlins. Haymes Paint gave a generous discount. Another working bee will be held in

October. Janet has written to Parks about the heritage plan statement regarding the maintenance of the original shed at Claytons Corner and installation of the replacement shed. Still awaiting response.

Social event, Ferntree Tavern 17.7.'25 – a great success, a good venue and great photos shown. Peter wrote to thank Keith Drew for his organisation of the photos and technical support.

Back Roads program – the ABC producer Lisa Whitehead has been in touch with Peter & Janet about filming an episode at Melaleuca around the time of the 2026 working bee.

General Business:

Valé Stephen Mattingley - Friends of Melaleuca submitted a nomination for lifetime volunteering award. Awards will be announced on next month (19 Sep).

Pop-up Museum event - held 10.8.'25 in conjunction with Friends of Tasman Island and Friends of Maatsuyker Island at Geilston Bay Boat Club. Tony gave a presentation on the Whalers Point light in Port Davey.

Port Davey Marine Reserve digital information update – Andrew reported that a giant leap forward has taken place with the publishing of a high resolution map of the Reserve being placed on the PWS website along with some sections of the Visitor's Guide, but not including the biosecurity section. Andrew will write to Lucy Richardson (Parks & Wildlife) to continue the process of upgrading their website.

Mick Lawrence film – before his death, Mick suggested we could sell copies of the film he made for the Moonah Arts Centre fundraiser. His wife Robyn is supportive of this proposal. It has proved difficult to obtain copyright status. Janet will approach Bob Brown who is a friend of the composer to further this project. It was suggested that we should make a digital copy available online or on USB flash drives (rather than CDs) if we receive the go ahead.

Melaleuca Working Bee March 2026 – Janet called for project ideas. Currently the carpet tiles and strings on the Museum windows are on the list. Stephen Mattingley intended to apply for funding for trackwork on Clydes Hill and Mount Beattie. Rob Banfield offered to take over this role and a meeting with the Huon Parks & Wildlife office will be organised for September. The proposed dates for the Working Bee are 11.3.'26 ~ 18.3.'26.

Fleeting Hopes by Tony Fenton – Tony has generously offered to place his book on the Wildcare merchandise site. Friends of Melaleuca will receive 40% from sales of the book.

Wildcare training opportunities – courses in Remote First Aid and Applying Chemicals have been organised. If interested please contact Wildcare promptly as spaces are limited and the deadline for enrolment is close.

Heritage Officer visit – two Parks & Wildlife Heritage Officers (Annita Waghorn & Katy Ross) will visit Melaleuca from 22.09.'25 to 26.09.'25. Janet, Geoff and Chris will meet with the officers prior to the visit to alert them to matters of importance. Peter offered his services to escort them around the area both on foot and by boat.

Next meeting will be the AGM followed by the General Meeting, to be held on **Thursday, 23rd October 2025** at the Derwent Sailing Squadron.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm and was followed by a well-researched and entertaining talk by Tony on the Whalers Point light. It was entitled *An Unloved Little Light*. ★