

Friends of Melaleuca meeting Thursday 23.7.26

Board Room DSS Sandy Bay

Meeting commenced at 7pm.

Janet welcomed members and guests. Rob Banfield gave an acknowledgment of country.

Present: Tony Fenton, Peter Marmion, Claire Marmion, Robyn Marmion, Ian Marmion, Geoff Fenton, Janet Fenton, Ian Johnston, Rob Banfield, Mel Jack, David Mitchell, Ian Terry, Marianne Gee, Erika Shankley, Janet Thompson, Andrew Boon, Judy Boon, Chris Creese, Mark Devine, Ann Wessing, Will Oliver, guests Rosalie & Grant Finlay.

Apologies: Justin Marshall, Anne and Alan Goldizen, Dagmar Weikopf Willson

Minutes of the previous meeting, 23.4.26, were accepted. Moved David Mitchell, seconded Andrew Boon.

Treasurer's Report:

Tony pointed out some donations and also a small discrepancy which is under investigation. Report accepted, moved Mel, seconded Rob. [Discrepancy largely solved a day later, thanks Tony].

Business Arising:

Mitigation of bird strikes on Museum windows - installation of the strings on the outside of windows is booked to take place between 30 September and 3 October. A plan of the scope of work was shown to the meeting. Liaising with Marty Doyle (PWS Huonville) and Madi Riley (NRE Tas) has taken place. Volunteers for this project are Rob, Mel, Chris and Jason. The builders string to be used should last a couple of years, and then may need to be replaced.

Trackwork Clydes Hill and Mt Beattie - outstanding funds \$14565.51 will be expended at the next working bee. Wildcare and PWS have an understanding that this work is continuing. In March 2027, work on the Clydes Hill track will be finalised and further work will be undertaken on eroded track near the summit of Mt Beattie.

VDL Circumnavigation - Andrew, Mitch and Pete met to draft a letter to the Commodore of the RYCT and to the Minister of Parks addressing concerns regarding potential damage to the Marine Reserve and lack of PWS presence on the waterway during this period. This draft will be circulated amongst the Committee for refinement. It was suggested that the CEO of Wildcare be informed that these letters are being sent.

General Business:

Janet congratulated Marianne on her election to the position of Chairperson of Wildcare at the AGM in April this year.

Birds & Islands event 15 - 16 August. FOMI, FOTI and FOM are staging this event. The theme is 'Everyone is an Artist'. There is an art focus day on Saturday and exhibitions and seminars on Sunday at the Geilston Bay boat club.

OBP (NRE Tas) working bee - a working bee to rebuild the middle hide will take place weather permitting between 21 August and 4 September.

March Working Bee - the dates for the 2027 working bee at Melaleuca are 10 March to 17 March. The committee will draft a works program to be presented at the next meeting.

FOBP 2027 calendar - the calendar is now available for \$20 from Marianne.

New Wildcare regulations for donations and finances: Discussion took place regarding whether we should continue to hold our National Trust account now that these regulations have changed. It was pointed out that we have received donations through the National Trust account that would not have come our way otherwise, and as the costs are minimal a decision was made to retain the account.

Other Business:

Blueboat maintenance - the boat needs to be turned over to enable further maintenance. It was decided that since this will require considerable care and personnel, this will wait until summer.

The next meeting which will include the AGM, is scheduled for **22 October** at the DSS. Meeting closed at 7.40pm and was followed by a presentation from Grant Finlay on his research into Tasmanian aboriginal firing practices in the World Heritage area, western Tasmanian TWWHA.