

Friends of Melaleuca Minutes General Meeting 23.4.26

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

Meeting commenced 7.12pm.

Present:

Ian Terry, Tony Fenton, Mel Jack, Ann Wessing, Dagmar Willson, Janet Fenton, Geoff Fenton, Janet Stephens, Chris Creese, Mary King, Erika Shankley, David Mitchell, Justin Marshall, Jannie Chin, Nikki Hutchings, Andrew Boon, Judy Boon, Paul Schofield, Sally Schofield, Peter Marmion.

Apologies:

Dave Butler, Claire Marmion, Jon Bertram, Michael & Sally Simco, Rob Banfield, Ian Marmion, Robyn Marmion, Keith Drew, Anne & Alan Goldizen, Marianne Gee, Simon Ward, Robyn Delaney, Dave Ross.

Welcome (Janet) and acknowledgement of country (Ian Terry):

Janet welcomed new members Paul & Sally Schofield.

Minutes of previous meeting held 30.10.25 were accepted. Moved David Mitchell, seconded Karen Alexander.

Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Tony Fenton. Closing balance is \$38337.88. Accepted, moved Mel Jack, seconded Ann Wessing.

Business Arising:

Museum – five display panels were reprinted, cost funded by the James and Hayley Baillie Foundation who also sponsored printing the Moorland poster.

FoM now has a Heritage Conservation Appeal account with National Trust to enable DGR donations for heritage. (Magda Choluj contact)

Thanks to Pieter van der Woude for freighting the new carpet tiles for the museum and bringing out the old ones aboard *Odalisque*.

Big thank you to Anne & Alan Goldizen who purchased and laid the carpet tiles, and also installed the five new display panels in the museum.

Bird strikes on museum windows – installation of the strings on the outside of the windows to mitigate bird strikes was not achieved this working bee. A separate working bee dedicated to this job should be organised before the next OBP season. We will liaise with Madi Riley. Scaffolding needed to undertake the work is located in the tractor shed. Later in the year, we will organise 3 or 4 volunteers to complete the project. At the same time this work is being done, Ken Jones has asked if the blue boat can be turned over to enable work on its hull.

PWS Heritage Officers Annita Waghorn and Katy Ross visited Melaleuca and Claytons. No feedback as yet.

General Business:

Janet reported on an exciting new find of *Lomatia tasmanica*. See <https://tasmanianinquirer.com.au/>

Planned Parks & Wildlife burns in the Southwest:

Parks staff have communicated to Janet that the areas shown on maps to be burnt are a rough indication of burn areas only and it is the intention of the crew to do smaller burns within the boundaries outlined. A general discussion followed regarding the size and frequency of the burning program. Peter will invite Dr Grant Finlay as a guest speaker at our next meeting. Grant has recently written a masters thesis on Tasmanian aboriginal burning practices. Ann Wessing alert the group to the Tasmanian National Parks Association's journal No. 40 Summer 2025/26 which focuses on wildfire and fire management in western Tasmania. Ann suggested FoM should join the National Parks Association. The meeting endorsed this suggestion.

Working Bee 11 – 18th March 2026:

Janet thanked everyone involved for ensuring the great success of the working bee, despite difficulties with transport and weather. Janet particularly thanked Rob & Mel for their leadership, especially with catering. Mel read a report from Rob outlining the work undertaken.

A suggestion was made to hold the working bee earlier in March in future. Following discussion it was decided not to make a change. The 2027 working bee will begin on the first Wednesday after the long weekend in March.

Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund (TNCF) Grant:

This grant has been partly used and we have applied to Wildcare to extend the timeframe to cover the next working bee.

Issues around Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania circumnavigation:

Peter reported that there were several boats anchored in the no-anchoring zone of the Bathurst Channel. Discussion centred around the need for PWS presence on the waterway when the circumnavigation fleet is in the Port Davey/Bathurst Harbour Reserve in order to police regulations associated with this protected area. It was resolved that a letter be sent to Jason Jacobi and the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania regarding this matter. David Mitchell and Pete Marmion will liaise re penning this communication.

Andrew noted that the Mt Beattie AIS is now owned by Par Avion.

Claytons home:

It was mentioned that there is developing issue regarding excessive shading of the house and the potential need for an arborist to rectify the situation in the future.

Presentations:

A short video taken by Rob Banfield showing the track work undertaken on Clydes Hill was shown, followed by photos of the working bee in general taken by various participants. Ian Terry presented a report on the work he and conservator Nikki undertook to document the Rallinga smelter collection. Ian's comprehensive presentation concluded with recommendations for future action:

1. Liaise with PWS to formalise ownership and management responsibilities of FoM and PWS.
2. Develop interpretation plan.
3. Monitor security of the smelter building and collection. This could be a working bee activity.
4. Develop a plan to manage visitor activity at the smelter site.
5. Monitor condition of objects.
6. Keep smelter area clean.
7. Discourage handling of objects.
8. Review and limit use of fish oil, particularly in covered areas.
9. Identify and remove objects not related to the operation of the smelter.
10. Assess and mitigate potential risks e.g. asbestos.
11. Investigate linking a collection management system with other historic sites.

Meeting closed 8.55pm.

Next meeting 23.7.26 at same venue.