Friends of Melaleuca General Meeting

Tuesday 27th October 2026

Derwent Sailing Squadron, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay

Meeting commenced at 7.25pm immediately following the AGM.

Acknowledgement of country was given by Ian Marmion at the start of the AGM.

Present: David Mitchell, Anne Goldizen, Alan Goldizen, Geoff Fenton, Janet Fenton, Tony Fenton, Andrew Boon, Judy Boon, Marianne Gee, Erika Shankley, Chris Creese, Nikki Hutchings Dave Ross, Peter Marmion, Robyn Marmion, Ian Marmion, Keith Drew, Mel Jack, Richard Koch, Justin Marshall, Jannie Chin, Nell Tyson, Tony Osmond.

Guests: Richard Bennett, Susie Bennett, Lucy Bennett, Charles Bennett.

Apologies: Rob Banfield, Mark Devine, Karen Alexander, Ann Wessing.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd July 2026 were accepted, moved David Mitchell, seconded Justin. Carried. Minutes can be viewed at:

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

Treasurer's Report: Tony presented his report noting donations of $1845.00 from the gift fund, and commenting on the healthy nature of merchandise sales with particular thanks to Marianne for her work. Closing balance is $41404.82. $14565.51 is set aside for track work on Mt Beattie and Clydes Hill which will be undertaken at the March working bee. $1531.82 is allocated to a bio-security fund. The committee will discuss ways in which this funding can be deployed. It was moved by David Mitchell, seconded Justin Marshall that the report be accepted. Carried.

Business Arising:

- Mitigation of bird strikes on Museum windows – installation of the strings on the outside of the windows has been deferred until the March working bee.
- Track work will continue at the next working bee on the Clydes Hill and Mt Beattie tracks. The acquittal date for this funding is 22.1.27.
- VDL circumnavigation – correspondence between the FoM, the Royal Yacht Club and the government has taken place, and as a result, we hope to see adherence to the Marine Park regulations at the next circumnavigation in 2028. Andrew Boon has written a comprehensive errata for the Tasmanian Anchorage Guide. The errata will be included in all new sales of the Guide. Janet thanked the marine subcommittee for their efforts. A suggestion was made that some of the bio-security funding could be used in informing the circumnavigation fleet of the fragility of the environment in the Bathurst Channel.

General Business:

- OBP & NRET Tas working bee was held in late August/early September and the middle hide was rebuilt.
- Claytons signage - Rob Banfield has indicated the signage is in need of upgrading. This could be discussed at the next meeting with PWS Huonville.
- Wiles shed erection – currently this project is stalled as permission to erect the structure has been denied by PWS. Janet will discuss this matter at the next meeting with the PWS at Huonville.

- Heritage Tasmania visit to Melaleuca – this visit was postponed due to bad weather. The meeting believes it would be desirable for a knowledgeable member of our group (ie Chris Creese) to accompany the Heritage officers when the visit goes ahead.
- March working bee – the working bee will be held from 10 –17th March. Rob Banfield, Janet and Geoff will meet with PWS Huonville on December 8th to discuss the works program. Tasks to be undertaken include track work on Mt Beattie and Clydes Hill (hopefully under the supervision of Rangers Marty and Dan), roof and ramp on fire barrow platform at King's, box shed at King's, refurbish rear wall, replace window at Karina's, (Alan Goldizen has organised a replacement window), *Blueboat* maintenance, Ken Jones and Lauren will continue this work, continue documenting Rallinga Mine objects (Ian Terry & Nikki), rack King's pine logs to drier location/or construct bench seats, Willson's and Rallinga Mine maintenance (tank stand), ongoing jobs such as brushcutting, weeding, draining, fish oiling (note: objects in the smelter are not to be fish oiled), general maintenance, assist Geoff to install two new solar panels on King's roof, replace rope, wire and bolts on old white windsock lowering mechanism, replace hanging wires on life jackets meatsafe, paint *Scamp*, OBP strings on Museum windows.
- A question was asked whether there has been any notification regarding a review of the Tasmanian Western Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan. No one present had any information on this matter.
- Jannie suggested a ride on mower with trailer or a golf buggy could be useful in transporting people and materials at the Melaleuca site. The committee will discuss this suggestion and report back to the next meeting.
- Next meeting of FoM will be held in April/May 2027. Details to be advised.
- Meeting closed at 8.20pm and was followed by a wonderful presentation by adventurer and photographer Richard Bennett.