

FRIENDS OF MAATSUYKER ISLAND (WILDCARE INC.)

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2026–2030







*We care about the island. We want to know that the historic buildings are being conserved, the Aboriginal heritage is acknowledged and respected, and the island's animals, plants and marine environment are protected for future generations.*

*—Friends of Maatsuyker Island*

*Acknowledgement of Country*

*We acknowledge and pay respect to the Palawa/Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of Lutruwita Tasmania. We remember and honour their Elders, past and present, and recognise the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the continuing custodians of the rich cultural heritage of Lutruwita.*

## FRIENDS OF MAATSUYKER ISLAND (FOMI)

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### OUR MISSION

To ensure the conservation, protection and recognition of the historic, natural and Aboriginal values of Maatsuyker Island.

### OUR VISION

Maatsuyker Island is recognised locally, nationally and internationally as having unique heritage, natural and Aboriginal values where:

- Historic values and evidence of Aboriginal heritage are well conserved and protected by heritage listing.
- Natural values are healthy and free of impacts from invasive species and disease.
- These values are clearly reflected in a Maatsuyker Island Values Statement and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Management Plan.
- Volunteer programs and any visitation opportunities are small scale, well-managed and support conservation of the island's values.

**Friends of  
Maatsuyker**



**To achieve this, it is important to FOMI that we:**

- Acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of the island and support engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and communities.
- Promote community understanding and appreciation of the island's values.
- Have enthusiastic, diverse and well-informed members and supporters.
- Have a mutually respectful, professional relationship with the land manager of the island: Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS).
- Undertake volunteer work and activities that meet the workplace health and safety legislation requirements, policies and guidelines.
- Have the skills, expertise, sustained effort, and substantial input by FOMI's supporters and volunteers, that are recognised by the PWS.
- Conduct or facilitate impactful, respected, relevant research and information sharing projects.
- Are financially sustainable and our resources enable us to realise our vision.
- Have a long-term commitment to the island and effectively plan for committee succession.
- Have a strong working relationship with other Wildcare Inc. Branches.
- Engage with all relevant stakeholders to further our vision.



Golden buttons (*Cotula coronopifolia*)

*Front cover:* Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse

*Previous page:* Tea Tree (*Leptospermum scoparium*) dominates the island's landscape

## WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

**Over the last two decades FOMI has:**

- Contributed approximately \$100,000 per annum of volunteer in-kind and funds to achieve the following, in partnership with the PWS:
  - o extensive and necessary work to weatherproof and restore the lighthouse tower and fittings.
  - o substantial work to bring the island's historic quarters up to a functional standard, including the internal fitting out of houses.
  - o annual systematic weed control (since 2004), including survey, mapping and reporting, resulting in a reduction in the areas and number of four target weeds (Blackberry, Veronica (prev. Hebe) elliptica, Montbretia and Californian Thistle).
  - o annual monitoring (since 2013) of the island's short-tailed shearwater breeding population.



Common heath (*Epacris impressa*)

- o documented historic objects located on and off the island.
- o acquired and restored significant off-island historic objects.
- o supported the PWS volunteer caretakers and artists in residence programs.
- Conversations and engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal community on island values.
- Conducted 13 day-trips (2008-2019) to the island by boat to support the PWS volunteer caretaker program and to promote community connection and understanding of the island's importance.
- Continued development and sales of high-quality merchandise including the publication of a booklet and other education materials about Maatsuyker Island.
- Publicly shared the unique values of Maatsuyker Island with community through:
  - o displays and exhibitions - 10 Days on the Island, Maritime Museum, Rosny School House and Rosny Library.
  - o events - the Australian Wooden Boat Festival, Seafarers Festival and Wildcare Gathering.
  - o talks and information sharing - National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, The Royal Society of Tasmania, the Lighthouse Conference, Landcare Tasmania Conference, Wildcare Gathering, U3A, the Island Ark Symposium and 'Off Island Yarning' and 'Pop Up Museum' jointly with other Wildcare groups.



FOMI volunteers conducting weed survey



## FOMI Achievements 2021-2025

- Celebrated 20 years of FOMI with an exhibition and event at the Maritime Museum.
- Continued strong FOMI Committee, reviewed Committee structure and member engagement.
- Maintained strong and constructive working relationship with the PWS including an updated PWS Volunteer Program Plan, to include FOMI Strategic Plan priorities.
- Continued engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to better understand and protect island values.
- Delivered successful stalls at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival 2023 and 2025.
- Increased social media profile for wider community engagement.
- Jointly, with other Wildcare groups, particularly Friends of Tasman Island, held 'Off Island Yarning' and 'Pop Up Museum' events at Geilston Bay Boat Club.
- Maintained strong support from the Pennicott Foundation for the Weed Control and Shearwater Monitoring Programs.
- Commitment of ongoing sponsorship from Helicopter Resources for FOMI works on the island.
- Delivered all planned working bees, including through COVID challenges, adopting communicable illness safe procedures for ongoing application.
- Continued biannual weed control program resulting in reduced weed numbers and area of infestation of target weeds. Commissioned the Maatsuyker Island Weed Management Plan 2022-2027. Developed a relationship with the Tasmanian Herbarium to increase the knowledge of volunteers and inform the Weed Control Program.
- Continued biannual short-tailed shearwater breeding population monitoring, and purchased a specialised 'burrowscope' camera for the FOMI Shearwater Monitoring Program.
- Continued maintenance program including on the Lighthouse, internal building repair and painting of Quarters No 2 and Quarters No 3 and contribution to the clean-up and restoration of the Haulage Winch Shed and Quarters No 3 Foul Shed.
- Obtained lightstation objects including an original kerosene lamp, constructed lamp display and Haulage Winch Shed precinct display, assisted with catalogue of objects from the Haulage Winch Shed.



Shearwater survey: inspecting with a burrow scope



PWS and FOMI restoration of the Haulage Winch Shed





Day trips to the island



Replacement flooring in Quarters 2

## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2026–2030

### 1. Contribute to the conservation and protection of Maatsuyker Island's European historic heritage.

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Ensure the lightstation is restored, protected and preserved	Propose and develop a scheduled maintenance plan for the Lighthouse, in consultation with the PWS, and assist the PWS to implement it.	2026-2027
	Complete tasks on the existing Catch-up Maintenance Plan for the Lightstation.	2026-2030
	Propose and develop a new Maintenance and Conservation Plan for the other Lightstation structures in partnership with the PWS and assist the PWS to implement it. Prioritise progressive replacement of Quarters degraded roofing materials.	2026-2030
	Design and implement projects that FOMI can undertake to achieve the above.	Ongoing
Historic structures and objects are conserved and documented in a way that contributes to community awareness of the historic heritage of the island.	Maintain and add to the Historic Objects record for the island and make it publicly accessible.	2026-2028
	Develop and implement methods to make information about Maatsuyker's European history available to the public.	2026-2028
	Research and present information about European history in relation to the island.	Ongoing
	Identify and implement opportunities to conserve European objects relating to the island.	Ongoing
	Identify and implement opportunities to develop joint applications to have island lighthouses and associated structures Australian Heritage listed.	2026-2028
	Plan and hold events that celebrate the island's European history.	Ongoing



## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2026–2030

### 2. Contribute to the conservation and protection of the island's natural heritage and values.

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Ensure Maatsuyker Island has healthy natural values, free from the impacts of significant weeds, pests and diseases that could threaten the natural values.	Undertake biannual weed control program. Complete annual reporting and maintain the weed database and maps.	Annually
	Implement the Maatsuyker Island Weed Management Plan 2022-2027 (2022) to undertake on-grounds works and inform current and future work on the four target weed species, as well as extending to the surveillance and management of other weeds.	2026-2027
	Review the Maatsuyker Island Weed Management Plan 2022-2027 (2022).	2027-2028
	Work with the PWS to improve, publicise, encourage and enforce the use of biosecurity protocols for the island.	Ongoing
	Progress on-island biosecurity measures with the PWS, including signage and boot wash.	2026-2027
Support efforts to undertake scientific research where gaps are identified.	Undertake biannual shearwater monitoring to obtain accurate long-term breeding population data for the island.	Ongoing
	Identify key gaps and support efforts to conduct scientific research.	Ongoing
	Investigate the benefits and feasibility of extending focus to other islands in the Maatsuyker Island Group.	2027-2029
Increase accessibility and understanding of FOMI natural values programs.	Work with the Tasmanian Herbarium to develop Maatsuyker Island Herbarium Collection (on and off island collections).	2026-2028
	Investigate importing the Weed Control Program data to the Natural Values Atlas.	2026-2027
	Investigate the use of iNaturalist, or similar, to increase knowledge and understanding of the island's natural values.	2026-2027
	Collaborate with the PWS/Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania to improve the profile of FOMI natural values programs.	2026-2030




## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2026 –2030

### 3. Contribute to the conservation and protection of Maatsuyker Island's Aboriginal heritage.

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Increase our understanding of Maatsuyker Island's significance to Aboriginal heritage and foster greater respect for its cultural importance.	Identify and implement opportunities to ensure that evidence of Aboriginal heritage is respected, well conserved and protected by heritage listing.	Ongoing
	Research the knowledge and resources that are available to inform ourselves about the importance of Maatsuyker Island for Aboriginal heritage and consider the implications for FOMI activities and interpretation.	Ongoing
	Seek opportunities to interpret and promote Aboriginal heritage on and off island, with direction, support and collaboration from Tasmanian Aboriginal people.	Ongoing
Communication and engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people regarding Maatsuyker Island.	Involve Tasmanian Aboriginal people in FOMI activities. Ensure communication is guided by the Volunteer Program Plan.	Ongoing

### 4. Strengthen the capacity of FOMI to achieve its goals.



Priority	Actions	Time frame
FOMI has a strong support base within Tasmania, and across Australia, where members and supporters are informed and actively engaged.	Engage with caretakers, working bee participants, 'friends' members, and other supporters to promote involvement in FOMI activities.	Ongoing
	Use a variety of communication methods to inform members and supporters of FOMI activities.	Ongoing
	Ensure working bee teams include new participants, where practical.	Ongoing
	Create opportunities for members and supporters to participate in FOMI activities.	Ongoing
	Explore new and creative opportunities using digital technologies (such as focused online interactive tools) to share knowledge, interest and views of the island.	2026-2028

Australian Wooden Boat Festival



## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2026–2030

*continued from page 8*

Priority	Actions	Time frame
The FOMI Committee functions well and continues to support FOMI's work into the future.	Implement the FOMI Committee succession plan – including the progression of the leadership model with expansion of working groups.	2026-2027
	Support relevant training for current and prospective committee members.	Ongoing
	Encourage and welcome potential new committee members and/or working group participants to be involved in FOMI meetings and other opportunities.	Ongoing
	FOMI have resources to support its range of work on and off island.	Ongoing
	Continually seek the most appropriate methods to inform, involve and recognise significant sponsors.	Ongoing
	Develop and market FOMI merchandise.	Ongoing
	Produce professional-level reports about FOMI projects and outcomes to leverage funding and sponsorship.	Ongoing
FOMI engage with other stakeholders that have interests in Maatsuyker Island.	Seek to be informed, skilled and able to respond to new proposals that may impact the island.	Ongoing
	Establish and maintain relationships with stakeholders.	Ongoing



## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2026–2030


### 5. Maintain the strong relationship and partnership with Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service (the land manager).

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Progress FOMI's relationship with PWS to facilitate a joint approach to management of the island's natural and historic values.	Review FOMI-PWS Volunteer Program Plan (VPP) to ensure it is relevant and current.	Annually
	Renew FOMI-PWS VPP to ensure FOMI's ongoing on-island role.	2028-2029 (current VPP expires Sept 2029)
	At the FOMI-PWS annual meetings, discuss maintaining our joint roles and contributions to island management (include the PWS staff from various areas and levels, i.e. heritage, asset management, rangers, reserve manager).	Annually
	Lighthouse Working Group to meet at least annually to ensure planning of future lightstation works and include the current PWS caretakers where practicable.	Annually
	Engage in regular communication to ensure appropriate consultation between FOMI and the PWS rangers.	Ongoing
	Liaise with the PWS to enable logistical efficiencies.	Ongoing
	Ensure all liaison required under the VPP is fulfilled, including for working bees, and keep the PWS informed about the plans for, and results of, FOMI projects and activities on the island, including provision of reports.	Ongoing
Work in partnership with PWS to develop, implement and review plans in the care and protection of the values of the island.	Liaise with the PWS to develop a statement of values for the island.	2026-2027
	Review plans annually, engaging the PWS or external expertise as identified.	Annually
Organise and run single day management activities on Maatsuyker Island	Apply to PWS for a permit for helicopter landings on one or two days per year to undertake single day management activities on the island.	2026-2027
	Organise and run approved single day management activities on the island.	2026-2027
	Undertake an annual review of activities.	Annually



## PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2026–2030

*continued from page 10*

Priority	Actions	Time frame
Assist in the PWS Volunteer Caretaker Program	Ensure FOMI's role and partnership with the PWS is communicated to prospective and selected caretakers.	Ongoing
	Maintain FOMI's role on the caretaker selection panel and contribute to the induction program.	Ongoing
	Welcome and support caretakers and encourage them to be involved in FOMI.	Ongoing
	Provide support and information to current and prospective caretakers so that there is continuity across the program.	Ongoing
	Welcome and enable caretaker involvement in working bee activities.	Ongoing



March 2025 Working Bee Team, building maintenance, weed control, shearwater survey.



Friends of  
**Maatsuyker**



Friends of Maatsuyker Island Strategic Plan 2026–2030 prepared by  
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