

## **Presidents Report 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023 AGM Meeting 16.**

We have had a successful year and consolidated our progress with the Wetland Restoration Project.

Since the last AGM in November 2023, we have had two other Meetings and a number of working bees with Friends of Freycinet, Utas Landcare Society and group members and supporters, planted 100 new trees, slashed and sprayed most of the Project area, had seed collection and propagation workshops with Ruth Mollison in conjunction with Landcare. Two new members Robin and Antonia O'Brien.

### **VALE Michelle Menz:**

19 Jan 2023 - The very sad news arrived that Michelle Menz died in a car accident near St Helens. She was instrumental in the first attempt of gorse control and tree plantings at Seymour in early 2000.

Having moved away from Seymour she still came to our working bees with her son Kole to assist and share her knowledge. She will be missed by the Seymour community.

### **Gorse Eradication Strategy for the Seymour Wetlands Restoration:**

2 May 2023 - Donna Stanley - Regional Manager North - Parks and Wildlife Service endorsed [Vol. 2 of the SCAGI](#) - Gorse Eradication Strategy for Seymour Wetlands Restoration

### **Environmental Management Plan:**

Helen Morgan from Bushways Environmental Services – Tasmania sent us the Final Draft of the Environmental Management Plan on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July. The Plan was sent out to all for comments or further required edits if nothing further heard today this will be the last opportunity to make any changes. - [EMP FD Seymour Conservation Area 100723cr This has been forwarded to all for comment.](#)

### **Grants:**

#### Successful application:

Highways and Byways Grant \$4000 for payment of Seymour Conservation Area.

13 Jun 2023 - Marnie Wylde from Highways and Byways contacted us to see if we are interested in making a short documentary on video about our project.

Landcare LAP Grant

#### Current Grants:

Landcare x 2 to be acquitted 2024.

#### Pending Applications:

Tasmanian Community Fund Grant for spraying unit.

FRRR grant application submitted.

#### Acquitted:

16 May 2023 - Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) Application No: 35088 Strengthening Rural Communities:SV11 2021 have informed us that the final report has

been accepted, and the Seymour Community Wetland Restoration and Reclassification Project.

Unsuccessful:

Sponsorship Application to Bendigo Bank due to being in BODC Municipality.

**PWS:**

Alena Hrasky - Ranger in Charge – Freycinet National Park wrote us a great [letter of support and endorsement](#) for our future work at Seymour Conservation Area.

Parks approval to store a spray unit if purchased, through a successful TCF Tasmanian Community Fund Grant

Daniel arranged a site meeting to discuss the production of the Sector Management Plans as outlined in the Gorse Eradication Strategy and met with Nick Graham on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> July. He has applied for Fiona Everts Role.

We met with Marty Wells after our last working Bee and he informed us the Fiona Everts has changed her role in PWS and will no longer be a Ranger.

Adam Smith is also finishing in his role as acting Reserves Manager. Before he departed, he apologised for lack of progress in Seymour and explained the matter sat with Planning but had stalled due to changes in personnel.

We have still not heard from PWS regarding patchwork burns.

Neridah sent out a link of the new PWS Aboriginal cultural burning policy:

<https://parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/news-and-events/aboriginal-cultural-burning-policy-and-procedures-released>

Daniel found the link to - PWS fire management:

<https://parks.tas.gov.au/about-us/fire-management>

and the - PWS Planned burns website:

<https://parks.tas.gov.au/about-us/fire-management/planned-burns>

**Bird in Hand:**

Dam works now completed. The [Water Licence](#) allows for a maximum of 204 ML to be pumped from Doctors Creek during the winter months from 1 May to 30 Nov inclusive.

Andrew Nugent and David Quon met to and discussed the re-vegetation of the western bank of Doctors Creek

**OPTUS Tower:**

A new Optus cell phone tower has been erected north of Seymour and it should become operational in the next couple of weeks. The tower is of steel construction and is very visible against the National Park backdrop.

It is a blot in the landscape of our coastal scenery.

**Deer:**

Increased number of deer continue to be a problem with regular sightings. Ant Singline has been shooting some and we continue to report sightings on the Feral Scan App.

**Shore Birds:**

The efforts of the NE Coast Shore Bird working Group convened by Linda Overend of PWS are having little effect on contraventions of the regulations with little to no enforcement. The shore bird signs given us by Graeme Beech do not last long and with little presence of PWS staff and none by BODC there is virtually no change to the decline in the endangered shore birds.

The next meeting with PWS working group is 3 August 10 AM at Eagle St., St. Helens  
0407132 812

**Succession Planning:**

Landcare webinar run by Kim Boswell from the Forever Agenda.

<https://www.theforeveragenda.com.au/home>

It was very informative with some good ideas for ensuring the ongoing longevity of the Group.

Landcare sent me a copy of the slides presented during the webinar for those interested.

Bill Manning recently sent me the final Notice to Members of the Friends Four Mile Creek Group which has been wound up.

This is something I would like to avoid here at Seymour.