



**Maatsuyker Island – General Day Trip
Information Sheet #1
March 2019
Friends of Maatsuyker Island, Wildcare Inc.**

The Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI) run occasional boat trips to Maatsuyker Island to provide support to the Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS) Volunteer Caretakers and the island operations. Boat landings are only planned for late summer/autumn to avoid the key seal breeding period and are permitted by PWS.

DATES: As the trips are weather dependent, there are two date options (either Saturday or Sunday).

Saturday 23rd March OR Sunday 24th March 2019.

WEATHER DEPENDENT:

As the boat trip can only be undertaken if the weather is suitable, you will need to be available to go on either of the proposed dates of your selected trip. You will also need to attend a briefing and dinner the night before the trip. Therefore, commitment to each trip begins at approx. 6pm the night before. We will call or email you ~2 days prior to the trip's departure to confirm arrangements. If the weather is not suitable on either of the days of your selected trip, it will be postponed until the following autumn.

COST: \$650 per person (including fully guided trip, boat charter, accommodation & dinner the night beforehand). The cost includes a \$30 non-refundable booking fee. Full payment is to be made upon booking. The day trip is fully organised and guided by experienced volunteers and costs are kept to a minimum. 100% of funds raised go directly to the care and protection of the cultural, natural and historic values of Maatsuyker Island.

SIZE OF GROUP: The day trip group includes one experienced FOMI volunteer guide and 11 trip participants. On the boat, we will have the guidance and assistance of the skipper and his crew. On island, we will also be guided by the two PWS Volunteer Caretakers who are undertaking a 6-month volunteer stint on the island.

BOAT DEPARTURE: Depart 5.30am from Southport jetty and return to Southport approx. 7 – 7.30pm. The boat trip is up to 3.5 to 4 hours each way with a few hours on-island, conditions permitting.

BOAT CHARTER AND LANDING: We charter the boat 'Velocity', with "Southern Ocean Adventures" operated by Dave Wyatt. This is a comfortable boat with forward bridge. We leave the Southport jetty to make our way round the South Coast with views of Precipitous Bluff, Iron Bound Ranges, Louisa Bay, Dewitt and Flat Witch Islands as we near our destination - Maatsuyker Island. The scenery is spectacular, making the boat trip alone a fantastic experience and excellent value. Conditions allowing, we will go ashore by dinghy and have a few hours on Maatsuyker Island to visit the PWS volunteer caretakers, tour the historic lightstation and buildings including the lighthouse, and have a picnic lunch.

CATERING DURING DAY TRIP: Self-catering during the day of the boat trip (i.e. breakfast, lunch, snacks, drink). Tea & coffee will be provided on the boat and on the island. There is plenty of drinking water available on the island.

ACCOMMODATION & PRE-TRIP DINNER: All Day Trip Participants are booked into the Far South Wilderness Lodge (http://www.farsouthwilderness.com.au/wilderness_lodge) the night before (cost included) where you will share dinner with your FOMI guide and fellow travellers (one-course dinner cost included - please let us know about any dietary requirements; BYO drinks for dinner). During the evening, there will be important briefings about island biosecurity and safety issues.

ACCOMMODATION FOLLOWING THE DAY-TRIP: We have made a provisional booking at the Far South Wilderness Lodge for the night following the boat trip. Usually a number of the trip participants choose to stay at the accommodation for the 2nd night as the day of the boat trip is a long and tiring day and the evening is a great way to unwind with the team after have the adventurous trip to Maatsuyker. This 2nd night is not included in the cost of the trip. Please indicate on the registration form below whether you would like to take up this option. The cost of this 2nd night is \$50 per person.

TRANSPORT TO/FROM ACCOMMODATION & SOUTHPORT JETTY: Participants are responsible for their own transport to and from the accommodation (Far South Wilderness Lodge), and to and from our boat departure point at Southport jetty. To enable any carpooling arrangements amongst the group, if you are happy for your email address to be shared with other participants, please tick the box on the registration form (see below).

MAATSUYKER ISLAND BOOKLET: FOMI produce a full-colour booklet that provides interesting information on the history and natural values of Maatsuyker Island. The booklet is available to purchase for \$10 and is a very useful resource to read before going to the island. Please tick the box on the Payment Form if you are interested in purchasing a booklet. This will be mailed to you.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:

Please note that payments are processed 7 days before the trip. The amount of \$620 (total cost minus non-refundable booking fee) will only be reimbursed if the trip is cancelled by FOMI due to a bad weather forecast. In these circumstances, if your day trip is cancelled by FOMI, the \$30 non-refundable booking fee is transferable to a future trip.

Please note, the trip cost is non-refundable once the trip is underway (i.e. once on the boat) even if, for any reason, the group is unable to land on Maatsuyker Island.

Please note that you will not be reimbursed if you pull out at the last minute. If you cancel within 7 days of the proposed trip date, you will need to find a replacement person to take your place. FOMI need to have a full boat-load to make the trip viable. The boat trips are organised by volunteers and we find it difficult to find replacements if people cancel at the last minute. If there are compassionate grounds for cancelling, we will do our best to assist in finding a replacement for you.

Please note that we have been given conditional approval by the Parks and Wildlife Service to land on Maatsuyker Island. However, we cannot guarantee landing on the island, as this depends on the weather conditions and seals in the landing area. Maatsuyker Island is part of the South West National Park so each participant needs to have a **valid Tasmanian Parks pass** for entry. *We now have one-day PWS passes that can be purchased from the FOMI guide for \$12 per person.*

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS OF PARTICIPANTS:

The boat trip can sometimes be a bit rough so you need to be robust enough to cope with a bumpy ride over the waves. You must be physically fit and have full mobility. Participants must be able to clamber into and out of a dinghy and walk 6 km return from the boat landing site. There is no wharf or jetty. ***The landing is onto rocks in a rocky gulch that is slippery. There is added difficulty if there is a swell coming into the gulch. There will be a guide to assist you with landing onshore. There is a 500 m very steep climb out of the gulch. The first 50 m of the climb is extremely steep – this part of the climb has a chain fitted into the rock to assist with your climb (i.e. to use when going up and down).*** The climbing can be made more difficult and much more slippery with high winds and/or rain. Once up the steep 500 m section, the track is a relatively

flat walk along a vehicle track to the lightstation. FOMI need to be assured that you are capable of undertaking the day trip before your place on the trip is confirmed.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Maatsuyker Island is amazingly pristine. It has few introduced weeds and no introduced animals. We must ensure this continues by adhering to strict environmental standards.

Quarantine/Environmental Procedures Prior to Day Trip:

- **SOIL FUNGI** (*Phytophthora*). Please ensure all footwear is soaked (for at least 10 minutes in neat bleach) and scrubbed clean (especially the soles) so as not to carry soil fungi. In addition, a boot wash will be required (provided by your FOMI guide) prior to going on board the boat.
- **PLANT SEEDS**. Polar fleece, clothing pockets, daypacks, socks and shoes readily transport seeds. Please check all your clothing for plant seeds. Velcro fastenings on clothes and shoes are notorious seed traps. If possible, avoid clothes with Velcro tabs – PLEASE check for seeds.
- **CRITTERS**. Daypacks provide the greatest risk for transporting insects or other animals (e.g. mice!). Please ensure that your pack is not carrying any unwanted critters! Packs are to be checked prior to going on board the boat.
- **FOOD STORAGE**. Make sure your lunch and snacks are in sealed plastic (e.g. Tupperware) containers and that, prior to the trip, your food has not been stored in areas that are accessible to rodents and invertebrates. Ensure that any fresh fruit or vegies are clean.
- Dress in clothes that are not bright and avoid wearing AFTERSHAVE/PERFUME as it has been demonstrated to disturb seals.

Pre-trip quarantine check:

The FOMI guide will undertake a quarantine check of all your clothing and gear the night before the trip as well as on board the boat. This is to double check for seeds, dirt, insects etc.

Onshore Maatsuyker Island:

You will be landing in a seal haul-out area (the 'Gulch'). When conditions are suitable for boat landings the majority of seals are typically at sea. However, do not linger here once you land. Stay on the tracks/road and follow the instructions of your FOMI guide and the island PWS Volunteer Caretakers. Your FOMI guide will provide a more detailed briefing the night before the trip on matters related to safety, quarantine and the heritage values to observe while on the trip.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF DAY TRIP:

Sea Sickness: The sea conditions and the movement of the boat can cause some people sea sickness or mild discomfort. The boat charter operators provide great support to our day trippers to ensure a great boat trip. If you are susceptible to travel sickness, use your normal strategies.

Boat transfers: Transfer from the boat to the dinghy and from the dinghy to the rocky landing is potentially hazardous. Risks include spraining/breaking limbs, falling into the cold water, being squashed (e.g. between the dinghy and the rocks). Follow the instruction of the boat operators and your FOMI guide.

Track/Road: On Maatsuyker Island, the uneven tracks and the ruts in the road can easily cause twisted/sprained ankles etc. Please be careful and aware of these hazards.

Cliffs: Maatsuyker Island is mainly surrounded by steep, coastal cliffs. Keep well away from cliff edges and follow the instructions of your FOMI guide and the PWS Volunteer Caretakers.

INSURANCE

As with any activity, insurance issues arise. This trip is an official Wildcare Inc. event and Wildcare has public liability insurance. You will need to be registered as a Wildcare member (go to <http://wildcareas.org.au/>). **NB: If you join Wildcare first and then get your Parks Pass, you will get a members discount.** Dave Wyatt (captain of the *Velocity*) is insured for liability resulting from operator negligence and passenger liability whilst onboard the *Velocity* and during dinghy transfer to/from shore.

INFORMATION: email wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com or phone Marina on 0409 659 202 for more information or if you wish to register a place. To confirm your booking, please complete the **registration form** below and confirm that you have read and understood the requirements about **fitness level** and **biosecurity protocols** while on Maatsuyker Island, and complete the **invoice payment form**. Once bookings are confirmed, additional information on how to prepare for the trip (e.g. what to bring and what to wear) will be provided to participants to ensure all day trippers have the best experience.

FOMI acknowledge and thank:

- All funds raised by the FOMI day trips go directly to the work of FOMI in the care and protection of the cultural, natural and historic values of Maatsuyker Island.
- FOMI acknowledge its partnership with the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and thank the PWS Volunteer Caretakers for their support and assistance in ensuring a rewarding and successful day trip for visitors to the island.
- FOMI acknowledge the support of Dave Wyatt, *Velocity* for his dedication over the last decade in providing transport and support for the FOMI day trips.
- FOMI acknowledge Far South Wilderness for their ongoing support of the FOMI day trips.

Maatsuyker Island Day Trip Registration Form

Trip: 23rd or 24th March 2019

Name:	D.O.B.:	
Address:		
Phone Numbers:	Hm:	Mob:
Email address:		
Emergency Contact Person:		Relationship to you:
Emergency Contact Person Phone Numbers:	Hm:	Mob:
Emergency Contact Person's address:		
Do you have a condition which requires medication and/or may result in an emergency situation; e.g. asthma, allergy		
Current Wildcare membership number:		
Briefly outline your relevant experience regarding the required fitness level (see Information Sheet above) e.g. list bush walks undertaken including dates:		
<i>Please answer 'yes' or 'no' in the following boxes:</i>		
Confirm that you have read, understood and meet the fitness level requirements		
Confirm that you have read and understood the biosecurity protocol requirements		
Confirm that you have read and understood the potential hazards of the Day Trip		
Payment Invoice Attached		
I am happy for my email address to be shared with other boat trip participants (see information re transport and car-pooling)		

Please return this Registration Form along with completed the Tax Invoice Payment Form to wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com

Please speak to the FOMI Leader prior to the trip if you have any concerns about the trip of if there are any health matters to discuss.