

# PULU KEELING NATIONAL PARK COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (PKNPCMC)

**Meeting Minutes Wednesday 2 August 2023**

**4:30pm - 5:55pm IOGTA Training Room**

**6:30pm - 7:50pm Island Brunch Cafe**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Azima Bat (Mak Ayub)	Parks elected member	
Ratma Anthoney (Nek Umar)	Shire elected member	
Isa Minkom (Pak Adi)	Shire elected member	
Jamil Ibram (Pak Qoid)	Parks elected member	
Thomas Battcher (Pak Tama)	Parks elected member	
Jan Young	Shire Councillor representative	
<b>Observers</b>		
Trish Flores (Chair)	Chief Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	
Siddiq Juljali (minutes)	Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	
<b>Apologies</b>		
Riadi Feyrel (Nek Nazif)	Shire elected member	
Azlah Mihan (Pak Azriel)	Parks elected member	
Zabidi Abedin	Parks elected member	
<b>Special guests</b>		
Scott Whiting	Turtle research scientist	
Andrea Whiting	Biologist	

## AGENDA

<b>No.</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>General business - Apologies</b>
	<b>4:33pm - IOGTA Training Room</b>  The meeting commenced at 4:33pm in the IOGTA Training Room. Trish introduced Scott and Andrea Whiting who gave an update to the committee on the IOT grant research project on turtle health, diet, growth, tagging and satellite tracking. See attached preliminary findings (Appendix A).

	Apologies from Nek Nazif, Azlah and Zabidi. TF explained that the Park Manager position is vacant at the moment. The acting Park Manager is based on Norfolk Island and sends his apology for not dialling in to the meeting as there is a four-hour time difference.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Adoption of minutes from previous meeting on 27.07.22 and review actions from meeting</b>
	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting 27.07.22 had been emailed around and members had been asked to make any changes. No comments had been received. There were no minutes from the 17.11.2022 meeting as this was the interview session with the PKNP Management Plan Review team (Anna, Geoff and Terry from Natural Decisions). Report pending but will be shared with members at the next meeting.</p> <p>TF gave an update on the outstanding actions from the previous meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. SJ to organise an oral history interview with Nek Nazif</b></li> </ol> <p>Pending - SJ to conduct an interview when Nek Nazif is not busy in 2024.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2. Parks to purchase a whiteboard for the front of HI Office for PKNP permits</b></li> </ol> <p>Completed. Whiteboard is ready at the front of HI Office for fishers to write down their intended date to go to Pulu Keeling for recreational uses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3. Review procedures for visitor access, boating, recreational fishing and scuba diving</b></li> </ol> <p>In progress. Team will discuss as a group by the next meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4. Follow up with Cr Young about volunteer work</b></li> </ol> <p>Completed. Cr Young happy to continue with the volunteer work.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Cocos Keeling Islands Marine Park update</b>
	<p>TF gave an update on the Cocos Keeling Islands Marine Park. Parks are trying to amalgamate with Australian Marine Parks (AMP) and be seen as Cocos Keeling Islands Marine Park that also manages Pulu Keeling National Park. TF also added that Parks have advertised for two new positions and Parks' role is going to extend out into the Marine Park.</p> <p>TF wanted to know what the committee thinks on the whole concept of trying to be the one entity that looks after the environment on Cocos. The committee agreed that it would be a great idea. To help communicate the message to the community, Parks will organise new uniform to include both the Pulu Keeling logo and the AMP logo.</p> <p>TF also explained that Parks will be working closely with the Marine Park grantees. TF added that everyone has the same objective of looking after Cocos, its marine environment and the plants and animals. TF also mentioned that Mike Misso has put out a flyer in The Atoll Newsletter to invite community members to put in submissions on the current Marine Park Management Plan.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Staffing update</b>
	TF commented that Parks has done the interviews for the two new positions of APS 4 - Senior Ranger and APS 5 - NRM Technical Officer. The positions are still pending police checks, but Parks has offered the jobs to the

	<p>successful candidates.</p> <p>TF asked the committee - What roles or duties do they see the two new officers doing in the marine space to better reflect what the community wants?</p> <p>JI added that he wants to see the younger generation more involved like what Christmas Island is doing with the Junior Ranger programs at school and giving them a pathway to hopefully get into this line of work. TF commented that she has put in a bid to get the Junior Ranger program happening on Cocos, but it is unfunded at the moment. Cr Young added that it would be good to get the community engaged in the Marine Park grant programs because the education and contribution through research goes hand-in-hand. Nek Umar also added that the community has to see an outcome and follow through with the plan. There has been a lot of things happening on island that has stopped abruptly and didn't reach the expectation.</p> <p>TF formally congratulated IM on the new APS 5 - NRM Technical Officer position. TF added that Parks have room for community engagement, Junior Ranger programs, education on The Rip at Direction Island and having two officers there for a couple of hours on Thursday and Saturday for a safety talk and work more in the water retrieving ghost nets and be seen more in the marine space.</p> <p>JI added that there is a big ghost net at Pulu Pandan and because the water is too shallow, Volunteer Marine Rescue can't get across to it.</p> <p>TF gave an update on the Park manager's position that Kerrie was in. The position has been advertised and will hopefully be filled within the next six months.</p> <p><b>Action: Address/retrieve ghost net at Pulu Pandan.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Committee to think about some roles/duties that is achievable and something that the community would like to see happen within the marine space for the two new positions.</b></p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Update on PKNP lagoon project</b>
	<p>TF updated the committee on the PKNP lagoon project through the University of New South Wales (UNSW). The final report had been received with only some minor changes needed. TF explained that there would be two advantages of opening the lagoon, one being it reinstates the tidal flushing, reduces the risk of stagnation, better for water quality, regulates the salinity and nutrient flushing. The other advantage would be a good community and stakeholder gesture to show respect for traditional values.</p> <p>There were three disadvantages explained in the report prepared by UNSW. The first reason is that the environment is very sensitive ecologically. There are the practical issues - the remoteness, inaccessibility, logistical complexities and the third reason is because of sediment accumulation and wave action, it would be difficult to keep the lagoon open. The engineer's recommendation is that opening at the old entrance or a new site is deemed not to be feasible because of those reasons and it may or may not open naturally depending on prevailing conditions caused by significant cyclone events.</p> <p>Nek Umar asked what will have the most impact on the species that rely on the lagoon if Parks leaves the lagoon in its current state or if Parks decide to open up the lagoon. There was a long discussion on this.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Parks Australia works since November 2022</b>
	<p>SJ gave a presentation on the works that Parks has achieved since November 2022.</p> <p><b>December 2022 PKNP Trip</b> - Rat trapping around camp area, CBBR survey, Lesser frigate ground counts,</p>

	<p>Masked booby ground counts and Macao paper wasp surveillance was done on this trip. The first wasp was detected on this trip. Parks have this trip documented in a field trip report.</p> <p><b>January 2023 PKNP Trip</b> - PKNP Open Day, Invertebrate sampling with Karl Vernes, wasp surveillance and cultural site inspection was done on this trip. TF added that the headstones of the three graves at PK is not in the best condition.</p> <p>TF asked the committee if we can change the current wood headstones to a marble headstone? IM commented that a replacement wooden headstone could easily be done on island for the time being. If Parks is looking for something that will last, the marble headstone is the best option.</p> <p><b>March &amp; May PKNP Trip</b> - Wasp surveillance and treatment was conducted on this trip where there was two massive spent nests found in the mangroves. In May, Parks went back again to PK and didn't find a single wasp.</p> <p><b>Blue-tailed skinks (BTS)</b> - Yellow crazy ant (YCA) counts followed by subsequent baiting on Pulu Blan to reduce the numbers of YCA was done in the last couple of months. Parks also did a week of rat trapping on Pulu Blan and Pulu Blan Madar. TF and other stakeholders attended a planning workshop at Taronga to look at the future of the BTS over the next 10 years.</p> <p><b>Horsburgh Island CBBR survey</b> - This is the first CBBR survey done at Horsburgh Island since 2019. The tracks had become really overgrown so Parks had to cut new/similar tracks two weeks prior to the survey.</p> <p><b>Action: Cr Young to get quotes for marble headstones at PK.</b></p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Other business - PKNPCMC Members Q&amp;A</b>
	<p>TF asked the committee if there was any other business.</p> <p>Jl asked why Parks translocated the buff banded rail to the Southern atoll, is it because they were close to extinction? TF explained that the rail that we have here is not found anywhere else in the world. They are their own genetic sub-species and Parks was worried that if there was a cyclone or a disease outbreak at PK, they would become extinct.</p> <p>No other business was raised.</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>
	<p>The next meeting was scheduled for September-November when the Management Plan Audit team is on island to meet with the committee regarding the performance indicators in the current Management Plan.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 5:55pm followed by prayer break and dinner at Island Brunch Café.</p>
	<b>ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>SJ to organise an oral history interview with Nek Nazif</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Review procedures for visitor access, boating, recreational fishing and scuba diving</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Address/retrieve ghost net at Pulu Pandan</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Committee to think about some roles/duties that is achievable and something that the community would like to see happen within the marine space for the two new positions</b>

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