

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

**Meeting Minutes Wednesday 11 May 2022**

**4:40pm - 6:05pm HI Council Chambers**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Azima Bat (Mak Ayub)	Parks elected member	██████████
Aindil Minkom (Pak Sofiya)	Shire councillor	██████████
Azlah Mihan (Pak Azriel) until 5:20pm	Parks elected member	██████████
Isa Minkom (Pak Adi)	Shire elected member	██████████
Zabidi Abedin	Parks elected member	██████████
Riadi Feyrel (Nek Nazif)	Shire elected member	██████████
Thomas Battcher (Pak Tama)	Parks elected member	██████████
Kerrie Bennison	Park Manager, Pulu Keeling National Park	██████████
Haji Badlu (Nek Siti) only for presentation of certificate from DNP	Former PKNPCMC Member	██████████
Wezen Rasa (Pak Alfin) only for presentation of certificate from DNP	Former PKNPCMC Member	██████████
<b>Observers</b>		
Trish Flores	A/g Chief Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	██████████
Siddiq Juljali (minutes)	Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	██████████
Jody Swirepik	Director of National Parks	██████████
<b>Apologies</b>		
David McKinney	Parks elected member	██████████
Ratma Anthoney (Nek Umar)	Shire elected member	██████████
Jamil Ibram (Pak Qoid)	Shire councillor/elected member	██████████

**AGENDA**

<b>No.</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>General business - Apologies and introduction to Director of National Parks, Dr Jody Swirepik and committee members. Presentation of certificates to long serving committee members.</b>
	<p><b>4:40pm - 6:05pm Home Island Council Chambers</b></p> <p>Meeting opened at 4:42pm. Apologies from Dave McKinney, Nek Umar and Jamil Ibram. Larissa Powell has now left Cocos, so she has stepped down from the committee, leaving one vacant spot. Parks ran an EOI in</p>

	<p>the Atoll for the vacancy and JI expressed his interest, so we welcome JI back as a general committee member. TF introduced the Director of National Parks, Dr Jody Swirepik to the PKNPCMC and past members of the committee. TF acknowledged and recognised the long serving members of the committee (Pak Alfin, Haji Badlu, Nek Nazif and Nek Umar - absent). To show how grateful Parks were for taking the time to attend the meetings and offer historical insights over the years., Jody presented certificates to Pak Alfin, Haji Badlu and Nek Nazif.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Adoption of minutes from previous meeting 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and review actions from meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 had been emailed to the committee members and members had been asked to make any changes if necessary. No changes were received.</p> <p>TF gave an update on the actions from the previous meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Approach new members and ask to do a profile for the Atoll.</u></b></p> <p>SJ has approached IM, ZA and AM regarding the new members profile for the atoll. TF explained that Aindil is currently sitting in as the Shire representative (as Jamil had stepped down as Council representative), but it will go up for a vote in the next council meeting. Aindil added that it depends on what the Council decides to do but he is happy to continue if no-one wants to volunteer.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Parks to do an update in the Atoll regarding new members' profile.</b></p> <p><b><u>Present certificates for the long serving members of the committee.</u></b></p> <p>Completed. The DNP, Dr Jody Swirepik presented certificates to the long serving members of the committee at the start of the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Revisit issue of getting fishing permit process automated.</u></b></p> <p>TF added that this issue has not progressed yet. Initial talks were had several years ago with our Communications Team but nothing further was done. TF will again try to progress this item.</p> <p><b><u>Approach CMC about getting PKNP fish catch data returns included in their fish reporting papers or getting invited to a CMC meeting to float the idea.</u></b></p> <p>IM mentioned that JI was going to follow it up at the next CMC meeting. TF explained to the committee that CMC ask what people are catching on a reporting form. Parks would like to include a small section for the North Keeling fish catch data.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Address by the DNP to the committee</b></p> <p>The DNP, JS addressed the committee and explained her role.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>PKNP Fishing permits</b></p> <p>TF explained what the PKNP fishing permit process used to be when the Park was established in 1995 to now. Since 2019, people have come into the Parks office more frequently late on Friday afternoon to ask for a fishing permit for the weekend. We trialed a 3 month permit and found it to be burdensome because</p>

	<p>the 3 month permit all expired on different dates. We trialled a 6 month permit starting last year, issued from November - May and although it was easier to manage administratively, because it starts and ends on the same date, we didn't receive a lot of fish catch data back.</p> <p>TF asked the committee - Do we continue with the 6 months permit? How do we solve the issue?</p> <p>TB asked what would be easier for Parks. TF commented that if we extend it to 12 months, then there's a longer period for us to catch up with people for the fish catch data. IM added that he doesn't like the idea of 12 months permit if we decide to extend it, he prefers to stay with the 6 months permit. Azlah added that he prefers the weekend permit so we can track who goes out on the weekend and catch up with them when they are back.</p> <p>Aindil commented that the issue is not the length of the permit, it's the fact that we don't get the fish catch data back after each trip. Aindil added that he would like to see an app or something online to make it easier for people that have phones. TB suggested that instead of doing the 6 months permit during the doldrums (Nov - May), do the opposite and have the weekend permit during the doldrums so we know who goes up to North Keeling and can track them afterwards for the fish catch data. There was a group discussion about this issue and TF suggested the committee vote on both options at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Approach CMC again about PKNP fish catch data and have a vote at the next meeting</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Contact IT team in Canberra regarding getting fish catch data automated online - app on phones or website.</b></p>
5	<p><b>Summary of PKNP activities since last meeting</b></p>
	<p>TF gave an update on Parks works since the last meeting.</p> <p><b>Fishing permits</b> - 6 months fixed date marine access permit (recreational fishing) which starts November 01 and expires May 01.</p> <p>This is about trying to improve visitor access to the Park.</p> <p><b>PKNP Open Day</b> - This year, the PKNP Open Day didn't go ahead because there was a fuel shortage on Cocos. If Parks get enough interest, it will be at the end of the year during the doldrums.</p> <p><b>PKNP Trips</b> - TF updated on the works on North Keeling. TF added that we have a rigorous WHS procedure which limits the risks involved in taking the school students up to the Park.</p> <p><b>Collaboration with the Shire</b> - We have commenced a collaborative deed with the Shire to support the Shire's environmental staff (Razali and Thomas). TB commented that the recent visit from the cat experts was very valuable and the knowledge that they were passing on was helpful.</p> <p><b>Lagoon project</b> - TF updated the committee on the lagoon project. The aim of the project is to get a better understanding on the lagoon, so we have contracted the University of NSW for expert external advice. The University are looking at the changes in the lagoon and doing some water sampling using data loggers to help us understand what's happening now that the lagoon is closed. There was a quick discussion on a small amount of saltwater and bubbles that was flowing underground from the ocean into the lagoon on the south-western side of the island.</p>

	<p>Aindil asked about the opening of the lagoon. KB commented that Parks are trying to get a better understanding on the lagoon dynamics, so we get an idea on what the options are moving forward.</p> <p><b><u>Siddiq’s training trip</u></b> - SJ presented on his Ranger Ready trip to Kakadu National Park.</p> <p><b><u>Blue-tailed skink (BTS) works update</u></b> - TF updated on the blue-tailed skink work on Pulu Blan &amp; Pulu Blan Madar. Aindil asked what the BTS feed on and TF explained that they eat insects like termites and ants. IM asked how we mark the BTS and TF explained the method of toe clipping.</p> <p><b><u>Summary of works in 2022</u></b> - TF gave a summary of the works Parks completed this year and also the upcoming works for the second half of the year. KB added that the current PKNP Management Plan expires in 2025 and two years before the plan finishes, Parks will do a technical audit to look back at the plan and see what we can improve on and whether we have we done what we’re supposed to do. KB also commented that the Marine Parks planning team will coordinate the audit, and likely that consultants will visit to get community input into the current plan and what the new plan will look like.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Other business - PKNPCMC members</b>
	<p>TF asked the committee if they have anything to raise while Jody is here. Aindil asked about the RFBB harvest proposal. TF commented that Parks are trying to stay as distant as we can but also supportive.</p> <p>TF previously had a meeting with Kelli Small (former CEO of Shire CKI) and Haji Adam about the harvest proposal and Haji Adam asked for the Shire to progress it. Kelli wasn’t sure how much the community wanted a legal harvest as no-one had approached Kelli about it. If there was interest from the Community and Councillors, the Council would decide what the next step was.</p> <p>Jody added that whilst Parks can help the community, Parks are separate from the decision-making team in the Department. The process will involve finding a body who can submit the proposal and then managing what was said in the Harvest Plan.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 6:05pm for prayer break.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>
	<p>The next meeting was scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> July when the new Shire CEO is on island. Parks will present to the Shire and have a committee meeting after the presentation.</p>
	<b>ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Parks to do an update in the Atoll regarding new members’ profile.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Jamil/Isa to approach Cocos Marine Care again about PKNP fish catch data reporting. and have a vote at the next meeting on the time period for fishing permits.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Contact IT team in Canberra regarding getting fish catch data automated online - app on phones or website.</b>