

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

**Meeting Minutes Wednesday 7 February 2024**

**4:30pm IOGTA Training Room**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Jamil Ibram (Pak Qoid)	Parks elected member	██████████
Jan Young	Shire elected member	██████████
Azlah Mihan	Parks elected member	██████████
Azah Badlu (Nek Izara)	Shire Councillor representative	██████████
Shakirin Keegan (Pak Mus)	Shire elected member	
<b>Observers</b>		
Trish Flores (Chair)	Chief Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	██████████
Siddiq Juljali	Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	██████████
Isa Minkom (minutes)	Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	██████████
Razali Zainiel	Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	
<b>Apologies</b>		
Azima Bat (Mak Ayub)	Parks elected member	██████████
Thomas Battcher (Pak Tama)	Parks elected member	██████████
Amy MacDonald	Shire elected member	██████████
Zabidi Abedin		██████████
<b>Special guests</b>		
Derek Ball	Park Manager	██████████ ██████████

**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. TF opened the meeting and welcomed committees to the first meeting of 2024. TF advised of apologies received from Pak Tama (Thomas Battcher), Mak Ayub (Azima Bat) whom are off island and Amy MacDonald due to covid. TF also advised that Jan Young is a late attendance due to other meeting commitments on WI. TF advised of committee vacancies that have been filled after EOI's that had been advertised in The Atoll newsletters and facebook page. TF introduced

	<p>newest members in attendance, Azah Badlu who is the new Shire Council representative, and Shakirin Keegan. TF introduced Derek Ball to committees as the new Park Manager, replacing Kerrie Bennison. Derek also introduced himself and gave committees a brief career background. TF also invited committees to give a brief background of themselves for Derek's benefit.</p> <p>TF gave background on the process of the appointments of new members as a result of 3 vacancies and how the appointment of committees are prescribed in the PKNP Lease Agreement. TF advised the new nominations will go before Council for endorsement.</p>
2.0	<p><b>Adoption of minutes from previous meeting on 2/08/2023 and review actions from meeting</b></p>
	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting were distributed along with the agenda and members had been asked to make any changes.</p> <p>Jl moved and IM seconded the motion to receive the Minutes. No comments made from committees.</p> <p>TF gave an update on the outstanding actions from the previous meeting.</p> <p><b>1. SJ to organise an oral history interview with Nek Nazif</b></p> <p>TF advised Nek Nazif has been really busy to conduct the interviews and SJ confirmed that he has approached Nek Nazif numerous times but was told that he was busy.</p> <p><b>2. Review procedures for visitor access for PKNP</b></p> <p>Completed. The various strategies for visitor behaviour is now captured in the current PKNP Permit conditions.</p> <p><b>3. Address and retrieve ghost nets near Pulu Pandan</b></p> <p>Completed. Reporting of ghost nets will be something Parks will start responding to now that we are managing the Marine Park as well. Jamil asked regarding reporting ghost nets, beacons or FADs that are in wharf areas as they are not in the Marine Park.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Isa to liaise with CKI Port and get clarification to find out what approach they want to take with nets that are not in the marine park.</p> <p><b>4. Committees to think about roles/duties that might be achievable for the new marine parks positions in the marine space</b></p> <p>2 new staff has meant there is some capacity, although still limited with 4 staff, to do something in the marine parks space which the community would like to see. Junior Ranger is one that has previously been identified and engagements with researchers. TF invited committees to suggest anything they'd like to see us do in the marine park space that we can investigate.</p> <p>Azah advised that he would bring something forward to the team if he thinks of something in future. No further comments from committees.</p> <p><b>5. Proposed new headstones for PKNP gravesite</b></p> <p>A quote of \$5258.00 has been received for 6 marble headstones for Parks to consider purchasing to replace</p>

	<p>the currently old timber ones. The quote also has a caveat included noting that because of its size there are risks of the headstones breaking in transit. However after discussions with Derek and Jan, it was decided that it would be easier if we had a local to craft up hardwood ones that will be much easier to access and also transport.</p> <p>Committees agreed that hardwood will be the best option as transporting them to the gravesites will be much easier.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Parks team will look into who will be available to craft the headstone.</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>PKNP Management Plan Update</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Evaluation review report</b></p> <p>TF explained how the Management Plan is a 10-year plan and will be expiring in 2025 and as part of this process, the plan had to be evaluated. Parks Australia engaged independent auditors (Natural Decisions) last year which worked with stakeholders to audit our performance indicators against the plan.</p> <p>TF also shared a summary of the report to the committees. Trish explained the evaluation process included three lines of evidence. The auditors met with local stakeholders, interviewed various external stakeholders (eg researchers we work with) as part of their audit to gauge how the management plan was performing and also looking at documentation evidence.</p> <p>TF explained how the report has been compiled with firstly using evaluation guideline (traffic light system), second paragraph explained their acknowledgement of how difficult it is to perform some duties because of access to the park, limited budget and staff. Lastly a summary of some areas of concern which TF went through them individually.</p> <p>The major areas of concern was with respect to illegal visitor access to the park. A limited budget has meant that we're not able to do adequate surveillance to keep illegal visitors out of the park and there is a high biosecurity risk to the values of the park. We cannot check every single boat that accesses the park to make sure they don't have rats/wasps on board. Another area of concern has also included risks of invasive species (eg wasps) that is not supposed to be there yet turns up there because our biosecurity can't stop that happening.</p> <p>TF also went through the performance indicators. 9 of which has been performed good, 8 – good with some concern, 6 had significant concerns that we weren't addressing them – with the major ones explained earlier in regards to visitor access, biosecurity and risk of invasive species establishing.</p> <p>The report has also given us 27 recommendations, which TF has made available for committees to view. One auditor recommendations was that because the performance indicators weren't really well written in the plan, the next plan should have indicators that are measurable. The report also highly commended how dedicated the team was in meeting these responsibilities and TF thanked SJ for his commitment in meeting these requirements. The report also added that they were also struggling to find any negative comments from all the interviews which has showed we're well respected in the community and the scientific community in terms of managing the park.</p> <p>TF also guided the committees in the values that have been set out in the plan. The values sets out the policies and actions on how to meet the criteria. TF went through summarising these criteria with nothing alarming to note for the committees.</p> <p>Jamil asked regarding the illegal visitor access section and whether we will be looking to improve our presence at the park. TF responded that it will be looked into but unsure of the ramifications should we do so and will require further thinking around that action. We also have ABF who does compliance in all of Australia's</p> </li> </ul>

	<p>Marine Parks and they would act on our behalf. Jamil also commented that we have a good relationship with the community now and reverting back to our old approach will be detrimental to all the hard work that we have done thus far. TF agreed that we are committed to continue the good relationship and education and consultation will be the best approach. TF also added that we would really need to think about the ramifications if we were to change our attitude towards compliance.</p> <p>SJ also thanked Trish for her hard work for the last 10 years.</p> <p>DB added that CINP also went through a similar process where they have significantly more money and a lot more staff and even then struggled to meet some performances and commended the work CKINP has done. A copy of the full report is made available for committees should they wish to go through it. No further comments received from the committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>2025-2035 Management Plan process</b></p> <p>DB: A MP is a great tool to have for both CI and CKI parks, which will now also include a Marine Parks plan, to guide us in terms of how we act in managing these places. The downside is that it is a complicated process of actually thinking through what we would like to do in 10 years. With the current plan expiring in February 2025 best to get started now, especially with the inclusion of the marine park.</p> <p>DB is suggesting that we delay the preparation for this plan until next year which will give us time to bed down the marine park plan, clear people’s minds and then think about the PKNP. DB also explained the process with some legal requirements that needs to be completed and then bring back to the committee to commence consultation process and drafting up a new management plan and feedback process.</p> <p>The most important note is that with the current management plan expiring, it can carry on to be in effect until a new one is adopted. Operationally nothing will change until the new plan is in place which we are looking to complete by the end of next year.</p> <p>TF also added that as a committee they will be involved in the whole process as it is stipulated in the lease agreement that Parks has to engage the committee to help us prepare the management plan.</p> </li> </ul>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Cocos Keeling Islands Marine Park update</b></p>
	<p>IM gave an update on the Cocos Keeling Islands Marine Park, which is also Parks Australia. Parks staff have been joining researchers in their fieldwork as a result from the AMP Grant.</p> <p>IM gave updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>Caulerpa monitoring by Jo Buckee, who is currently on island for her Caulerpa monitoring (staff have gone out with her and found it very useful).</p> </li> <li> <p>Importance of seagrass – University of Adelaide</p> </li> <li> <p>Mapping and assessing inshore habitats – JCU</p> </li> <li> <p>Turtle monitoring by Scott Whiting also on island for a planned 6 month to continue turtle monitoring/research</p> </li> <li> <p>Habitat and Human Value Mapping – Sea Country Solutions (SCS)</p> </li> <li> <p>Seagrass restoration by Sea Country Solutions also on island and in completion stages of the sea grass cage trials</p> </li> <li> <p>Open-water monitoring (BRUVS) by UWA. On island in April for wet/dry training with CMC &amp; Parks. The BRUVS are currently sitting at the Freightshop and awaiting delivery on the next Toll freighter</p> </li> <li> <p>Shark depredation by UWA on island at the end of Feb for the shark deterrent device trial</p> </li> </ul>

	<p>We are in the midway point of the grants and one important findings which is connected to a few of the projects was the increase in Lyngbia algae, fibro papilloma tumours in turtles &amp; loss of seagrass which are perhaps symptoms of a possibly bigger issue – poor water quality.</p> <p>Parks team had a brainstorming session earlier in the day to think of practical approaches and is now currently working together with DEWR to come up with a water quality monitoring plan.</p> <p>TF also explained that Parks will continue to work 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.</p> <p>A long discussion was held by the committees regarding any noticeable changes in water quality in recent years and possible sources of pollution. Some thoughts included reclaimed land from building material and rubbles dumped out the front of the foreshore. Jellyfish also seemed to have disappeared when seagrass disappeared. Some noticed change in water movement due to Rumah Baru and the tides.</p> <p>Jan Young joined the meeting.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Update on PKNP projects</b>
	<p><b>November 2023 PKNP Trip</b> – SJ gave a presentation on the works that Parks has achieved during their 7 day field trip in November 2023. Another trip was scheduled in January with University of New England researchers for a Pisonia invertebrate survey and to assess threats to the forest. Staff were unable to complete the trip due to the unfavourable weather.</p> <p>Annual CBBR survey was completed and compared counts from previous years. Initial observations show plenty of rails.</p> <p>After capturing what was possibly a rat on camera around 2 years ago, rat trapping continued around the camp with no positive IDs of rats.</p> <p>Jess Williams and Margarita Goumas from the DNP Science team and Ted Pederson also joined the trip. He has with expertise in acoustic recording and was there for rail and Red footed booby birds.</p> <p>Other important works carried out during the trip included Pisonia health assessments, drone surveys for lesser frigates, masked booby birds and red-footed booby birds, and downloading sand temperature loggers for nesting turtles.</p> <p>SJ also gave the committees updates on the blue tailed skinks monitoring with a new method of monitoring being introduced and applied for the first time in the most recent survey done. Monitoring continues to be completed every month where possible and with the YCA counts accompanying every 3 months.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>PKNP Staffing Update</b>
	Nil
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Other business - PKNPCMC Members Q&amp;A</b>

	<p>AB asked if Parks were still able to give injured and orphaned red footed booby birds to the community to care for. TF said we were waiting for some internal approvals, but yes, we can if the birds were likely to die if left in the Park.</p> <p>AB asked if there was anything alarming with the red footed booby birds numbers? TF said nothing alarming and last survey we used drones to count nests, which is an easier way forward for the surveys.</p> <p>JY asked if there were any birds breeding on the other islands? TF said no seabirds had been observed breeding elsewhere.</p> <p>Jl: Asked what the next Taronga visit was for? DB explained about the research to determine whether Listers gecko would interbreed with the Mourning gecko. Initial trials indicate there wouldn't be any risk of this happening.</p> <p>SK: Voiced concerns about illegal dumping of household waste into the lagoon as a result of the new Shire's waste management rules. Focus needs to be on education.</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>
	Schedule to coincide with DB's next Cocos visit - TBA
	<b>ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING</b>
<b>1</b>	The Parks team will look into who will be available to craft the headstone.
<b>2</b>	Isa to liaise with CKI Port and get clarification to find out what approach they want to take with nets that are not in the marine park.