

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

**Meeting Minutes Wednesday 20 November 2024**

**4:30pm - 6:00pm IOGTA Training Room 6:30pm - 8:00pm Sweet As Makan**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Azima Bat (Mak Ayub)	Parks elected member	(08) 9162 7530
Amy McDonald	Shire elected member	(08) 9162 6547
Jamil Ibram (Pak Qoid)	Parks elected member	(08) 9162 7536
Thomas Battcher (Pak Tama)	Parks elected member	(08) 9162 7566
Jan Young	Parks elected member	(08) 9162 6744
Shakirin Keegan (Pak Mus)	Shire elected member	(08) 9162 7602
Azlah Mihan (Pak Azriel)	Parks elected member	(08) 9162 7521
<b>Observers</b>		
Trish Flores (Chair)	Chief Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	(08) 9162 7602
Siddiq Juljali (minutes)	Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	(08) 9162 7602
Isa Minkom	Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	(08) 9162 7602
Razali Zainiel	Senior Ranger, Pulu Keeling National Park	(08) 9162 7602
<b>Apologies</b>		
Azah Badlu (Nek Izara)	Shire Councillor representative	(08) 9162 7546
Zabidi Abedin	Parks elected member	(08) 9162 7508
<b>Special guests</b>		
Dr Derek Ball	Parks Manager	(08) 9164 8700

**AGENDA**

<b>No.</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>General business - Apologies &amp; Introductions including our Park Manager Dr Derek Ball</b>
	<b>4:36pm - IOGTA Training Room</b>
	The meeting commenced at 4:36pm in the IOGTA Training Room. Trish opened the meeting and advised that

	<p>Jan Young and Azlah will be coming late to the meeting. Trish also acknowledged Mak Ayub for being the longest serving community member on the committee. She has been on this committee for 11 years. TF reintroduced Dr Derek Ball who is here to meet with the committee and stakeholders.</p> <p>Apologies from Azah (Nek Izara) and Zabidi.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Adoption of minutes from previous meeting on 15/05/2024 and review actions from meeting</b>
	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting were adopted by the committee, by circulation after the last 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 interview Nek Sue about PKNP by next PKNPCMC meeting.</b></li> </ol> <p>SJ commented that the interview hasn't progressed. SJ to interview Nek Sue by the end of the year.</p> <p><b>Action: SJ to interview Nek Sue about PKNP by the end of 2024.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2. IM to follow up with Shane regarding the ghost nets/FADs retrieval by next PKNPCMC meeting.</b></li> </ol> <p>IM has sent three emails to Shane, no response yet. IM to catch up in person when Shane is available.</p> <p><b>Action: IM to catch up in person when Shane is available regarding ghost nets/FADs retrieval.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3. Pak Tama to ask Nek Azzahra about making wooden headstones for PKNP gravesite and Mak Ayub to ask school about engraving the names for the headstones. Parks to supply materials.</b></li> </ol> <p>Pak Tama has asked Nek Azzahra about the wooden headstones. At the time, he was happy to do it. He is currently off island and would need some recovery time when he's back on Cocos after his eye procedure. Pak Tama has agreed to approach Nek Yazid to make the wooden headstones. Mak Ayub has asked Peter Wicks if he is happy to engrave the names for the three headstones - he is happy to do it for free.</p> <p><b>Action: Pak Tama to approach Nek Yazid about the wooden headstones. Parks to order materials and Peter Wicks to engrave the headstones by the end of 2024.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4. Parks to touch base with Paula regarding her research on the bees at Cocos.</b></li> </ol> <p>TF introduced herself to Paula. Parks to reach out to Paula if her expertise is needed for future projects. Completed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>5. Review fishing permit system internally</b></li> </ol> <p>TF reached out to the media team in Canberra to get the permit system automated online. Media team answered - it is not going to happen anytime soon. Parks to continue with the same approach. Completed.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>PKNP staffing update</b>
	<p>TF commented that there will be two positions advertised this week on APS Jobs. One will be the Senior Ranger position which RZ is acting in now and the other position will be called Park Operations Team Leader</p>

	<p>which IM is currently filling in. The two positions will be permanent, but housing won't be provided.</p> <p>TF also mentioned that Ardie Kerba has been working with Parks for over a year ½ on a casual basis and will continue in the next year for 2 days a week (not every week).</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>HPAI (Bird flu) update</b>
	<p>Derek gave an update on HPAI. TF asked Thomas if the Home Island incinerator is functioning? Thomas answered 'No'. Derek mentioned that Toll has given Parks permission to use the portable incinerator on Christmas Island but is also looking at purchasing our own for Christmas and Cocos. Derek to contact Don from Toll regarding portable incinerator use on Cocos.</p> <p><b>Action: Derek to contact Don from Toll regarding portable incinerator use on Cocos and to investigate purchasing our own incinerator.</b></p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Cocos Keeling Islands Marine Park update</b>
	<p>IM gave an update on the Marine Park grants. IM commented that Mike Rasheed and the Operation Lumut Rescue team are on island to install four 25m x 25m seagrass enclosures (two on West Island, one on Home Island and one at Pulu Pandan). At the moment, IM mentioned that the plan is to keep the turtles out of the enclosures.</p> <p>TF also added that Parks has been working with the school and some of the grantees to set up a Marine Rangers Pilot Program for the 3-6 class on West Island. Hopefully it can be rolled out next year for the classes on Home Island.</p> <p>TF also updated on some compliance issues in the Marine Park over the last six months. These include a number of reports of spearfishing in the RIP and cooking a robber crab on the barbeque at Direction Island.</p> <p>TF also commented on the runway upgrade. Parks has not seen any environmental monitoring plans, therefore Parks is not endorsing any of the environmental monitoring that they are doing because Parks has not seen or given any information on it. Parks has requested it, but Defense has decided not to share that information with Parks.</p> <p>Derek gave an update on the Marine Park. Mike, Allyn, Sarah and the Hobart team are taking a step back on managing the Marine Park from Hobart and Derek and the Cocos team to manage the Marine Park locally.</p> <p>Derek commented on water quality issues in the lagoon. Some of these include the loss of seagrass and potentially an increase in lyngbya algae in the lagoon. Derek mentioned that he does not see these as the problems, these are the symptoms of the problems and what the potential problem is poor water quality in some way shape or form. It might be nutrients, pollutants, herbicides, heavy metals etc, but what Parks are currently doing is working with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to help and offer advice on ways in which we can understand the water quality in the lagoon.</p> <p>IM mentioned that the Rangers removed a fish aggregating device (FAD) this morning at Ujung Waru. Thank you to Thomas and the Shire team for the removal of the FAD from the beach. IM also added that there was a serial number on the FAD and the numbers have been forwarded to Tangaroa Blue.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Arrangement for the new 10-year Management Plan (2025-2035)</b>

8.0	<b>Merging the two committees (CKI Marine Park and PKNP)</b>
	<p>TF commented that there was a lot of submissions for the Cocos Marine Park Management Plan from public comments and it looks like it will be going to the Minister early next year.</p> <p>Derek updated on the PKNP Management Plan and explained to the committee how the process goes. Derek added that Parks has been in talks with the Shire about joining the CKI Marine Park and PKNP community management committees together. TF commented that current members won't leave the committee, there will just be more people and there's a redundancy if some members have to work or has other commitments.</p> <p>TF reiterated that the role of this committee is to advise on the preparation of the management plan and that was stipulated in the lease in 1995.</p>
7.0	<b>PKNP Park lease</b>
	<p>Derek commented that Frank Mills (Shire CEO) contacted him recently and asked about the renegotiation of a lease over PKNP. Derek to have a chat with Frank about what the Shire have in mind over the lease and keen to hear some input from the Shire.</p>
9.0	<b>Update on PKNP fieldwork - Recent field trip October 2024</b>
	<p>TF gave an update on the recent field trip in October. TF showed the committee some photos and videos of the fieldtrip. In the past year, there has been a lot of erosion, especially on the south-eastern side of the island. There were no wasp sightings and no incidences of bird flu on this trip.</p> <p>Jl asked whether the committee can see the results of where the birds with the trackers end up going? Trish said "Yes, Parks can get that information."</p>
10.0	<b>Other business</b>
	<p>Jl asked about the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) visit and if the monitoring is going to be on-going or a one-off thing? Derek commented that there will be an investigation over the next 12 months to see what the particular problems might be in the lagoon. There will also be a monitoring program going forward and that would look at the water quality, but also looking at the ongoing condition of seagrass, bleaching of corals, crown of thorns starfish etc. TF added that the DWER visit is the initial start of gathering information over the next year, then everyone can plan on how to monitor it.</p> <p>Derek also commented that for the next meeting, Parks would know a lot more about water quality and can present some of the findings by then.</p> <p>TF asked the committee - Is there anything that you want to discuss at the next meeting? Jl said he wants to see the results for the bird trackers and the water quality findings.</p> <p><b>Action: Committee members to write down what they want to discuss at the next PKNP CMC meeting.</b></p> <p>SK asked if the committee could visit the Park. TF answered "Sure, we'll try and visit or camp one night next year before May."</p>

	<p><b>Action: Committee trip in Jan-May 2025.</b></p> <p>Amy asked if Parks can share the fish catch data findings from PKNP? TF replied “Yes, we can update the fish catch data findings and share it with the committee.”</p> <p><b>Action: Update fish catch data findings from PKNP and share with the committee.</b></p>
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>
	<p>The next meeting was scheduled for the new year, possibly in February when the Director of National Parks is on Cocos.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 6:02pm.</p>
	<b>ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>SJ to interview Nek Sue about PKNP by the end of 2024.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>IM to catch up in person when Shane is available regarding ghost nets/FADs retrieval.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Pak Tama to approach Nek Yazid about the wooden headstones. Parks to order materials and Peter Wicks to engrave the headstones by the end of 2024.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Derek to contact Don from Toll regarding portable incinerator use on Cocos and to investigate purchasing our own incinerator.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Committee members to write down what they want to discuss at the next PKNP CMC meeting.</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Committee trip in Jan-May 2025.</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Update fish catch data findings from PKNP and share with the committee.</b>