



Friends of Pallister's Reserve Inc.

Pallister's Reserve is a 254 ha wetland reserve on Masons Road, Orford,
owned by Trust for Nature, & managed by the Friends of Pallister's Reserve Inc.
Established January 1990

July
2026



Next Meeting: Sunday, July 26, 2026

10am: General Meeting

Noon: Lunch

12:30pm: Discussion, working bee

General Meeting, 10am July 26

Member Input Sought: *Following up on Cancelling Incorporation*

Led by Julia Schlapp –our Chair – the interim committee of The Friends is preparing to submit to Consumer Affairs an application to cancel the incorporated status of the volunteer group.

Along with this submission there are a number of other issues that need to be resolved according to our new arrangement where members register as independent volunteers with Trust for Nature.

Emily Dillon, Senior Manager of TfN Conservation Reserves plans to visit Pallister's on July 26 for further discussions on outstanding questions. Possibly accompanying Emily will be the TfN Scientific Officer to discuss on-going management *modus operandi* as well as setting up a work program for the remainder of 2026.

Prior to Emily's arrival on the 26th, an open meeting with members is scheduled to seek a preliminary consensus on several aspects. **This meeting will begin at the Reserve at 10am.**

One concern is the disbursement of existing assets, required to be detailed in the cancellation application. These assets include over \$30,000 held in the bank accounts of the incorporated Friends.

Possible options include:

- Deposit funds in a new bank account of the new unincorporated Friends. It appears that this account would need to be under the name of specific member(s).
- With the agreement of TfN, open an account using the TfN ABN. TfN volunteers at Snape Reserve near Dimboola have such an arrangement, enabling them to retain sole control of the funds and, at the same time, also derive GST benefits by virtue of their association with TfN.
- Transfer the funds to TfN, to be held in a designated Pallister's account. How this would work in practice needs to be resolved.
- Transfer funds to other groups with similar Conservation objectives.

A second objective is to assess how many members would, at least in principle, consider signing a volunteer's agreement with

TfN. As a registered volunteer, would you be willing also to participate in Pallister's working bees?

The strength our volunteer resources is important for determining our management capabilities with TfN.

Details of the volunteer contract with TfN remain to be resolved. Members should not sign an agreement they are uncomfortable with.

Please share your thoughts at the July 26 meeting.

If attending is inconvenient for you, please send comments to

pallisters_newsletter@proton.me.



Feral Control

At a subcommittee meeting on July 6 Lisette Mill reported on her fox and cat control measures:

- Five adult foxes were killed using Canid pest ejectors (CPE). One ejector had to be moved due to black rat repeatedly taking the bait. Rats were not seen in 2025.
- A feather lure was installed to distract kangaroos and wallabies from CPE bait.
- Three foxes were observed at a hotspot near the revegetated fenced enclosure on the Hocking block. Foxes access the area using kangaroo trails.
- Fox control measures are not being undertaken by neighbours in the area.
- Happily, no cats were caught on camera for the period.

July Working Bee Tasks

- Mow
- Woolshed maintenance.
- Read bores.
- Collect plant signs for recycling.
- Weeding: Bridal creeper, Italian arum, Coast wattle, Amaryllis belladonna, thistle, ...

Pallisters Reserve lies in the traditional Country of the Gunditjmarra and Eastern Maar peoples, who never ceded their sovereignty of the Land. We are indebted for their past and ongoing custodianship.

Meetings are held at the Reserve; usually every fourth Sunday except July and December.

Co-leaders: Julia Schlapp 0427 778 265 & Anthony Leddin 0408 333 046 Sec./Treasurer: Trevor Kennedy 5565 8692;

Minute Sec.: Nick Glover; Newsletter Editor: Ross Hicks (pallisters_newsletter@proton.me).

nc No. A0033814P

ABN 360 787 792

<http://www.apswarnambool.org.au/pallisters/>

<http://www.facebook.com/pallisters>

The Road to Myndarra



On the south side of Orford, just before the turnoff to Pallister's, drivers are impressed by an outsized sign pointing the way to "Myndarra". What destination would command such an imposing sign? Exclusive up-market spa? Buddhist retreat?

No. Simply another south-west sheep farm. Albeit invitingly well set-up and-maintained.

Pallister's member Traff Morgan-Payler farmed in the area and relates that for decades the turn-off to Myndarra was indicated by a small nondescript sign attached to an old gum tree growing on the verge of the Hamilton – Port Fairy Road. The tree was a magnificent specimen; the sign – not.

Yet the day came when the sign abruptly vanished. Along with the gum. The way Traff tells it, Shire engineers had determined that the tree was either too close to the highway, in risk of suddenly falling, or ...? For whatever reason – without consulting the locals – Shire workers had removed the tree.

Orford locals complained; but the tree was gone. Forever.

The imposing replacement sign stands as the Shire's – apologetic, yet sardonic, response.

As can be seen, it is overdue for a refresh.



Hamilton Field Naturalists visit to Pallister's Reserve,
August 1994
(Photo by Rod Bird)



Fungi photos by Nick Glover
Pallister's Reserve, June 2026

Links to On-line Resources

- [Management Plans](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Bird Surveys](#)
- [Camera Trap Videos](#)
- [Koalas](#)
- [Canopy](#)
- [Powerpoint Presentations](#)