

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

# FOCIS

## NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

### Dates to remember

*General meeting: Saturday 14 November 2015*

*1.30 pm Churchill Island Visitors Centre.*

*Working Bee: Saturday 21st November,*

*8.00-10.00 am.*

*The Speaker for our November general meeting will be senior researcher at the Phillip Island Nature Parks, Dr Duncan Sutherland. Duncan will be giving us a detailed update on the Eastern Barred Bandicoots which were released on Churchill Island in mid-August.*

### Letter from our new President

Dear members of FOCIS.



I am honored to serve as FOCIS president for the forthcoming year and give thanks to Peter Paul for serving as president in the last year. In the past, I agreed with Stella Axarlis' view that the president should live locally but as a part time resident I will do my best to be available for FOCIS as often as I can. I want to encourage our historical and archival achievements. One goal is to initiate research for a history of Churchill Island from 1976, the era of public ownership. The MAV conference in little over a year will, I hope, bring more recognition to CI as an active and developing museum.

I recently visited Coal Creek and was given a trial of their tablet guide. This includes descriptions of some points of interest, photographs and short videos of characters describing life in historical times. Whilst the level of visitors at Churchill Island would exclude loaning tablets, we could develop a downloadable app with content to be an alternative to a guide. The Penguin Parade already offers one. I have been talking to Christine about possible

content and further suggestions are welcome. We are hoping to have material translated into a number of languages for international visitors.

I am also pleased to hear that we have some new members and volunteers. I look forward to meeting you soon.

*David Maunder*

### The Churchill Island cafe

The Churchill Island cafe is now being run by PINP, with Zoe Love still the manager, and other familiar faces of the waiter staff still there too. Come along and enjoy the new menu with the same great view! Don't forget to bring your signed FOCIS card to claim your discount at the cafe.





## FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY INC

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CHURCHILL ISLAND VISITORS CENTRE, 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015, 1.30 P.M.

1. PRESENT: David Maunders (chair); Ruth O'Dea; Tom O'Dea; Jeff Cole; Christine Grayden; Gaye Cleeland; Irene McKell; Lee Tierney; Terry Holman; Linda Patterson; John Eddy; Marian Pattinson; Jane Westworth; Peter Brookes; Graeme Clausen; Edith Johnson; Margaret Geppert; Jenni Wills; Kate Wills; Patsy Hunt; Maurice Schinkel.

2. APOLOGIES: Sue & Roger Hollingworth; Rod & Margaret Simkiss; Coral Bourke; Peter & Christine Fensham; Robyn Holman; Jan & Ian Jonas; Cliff and Janene Dobson; Hagen Geppert; Peter Paul; Donald & Helen Sandy; Rev Susan Pearse; Graham Paterson.

3. WELCOME: David Maunders welcomed everyone and explained that since Peter Paul (President) was unable to attend, David as Vice President would be chairing the meeting until the election of office bearers. David gave the acknowledgement:

We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in our community today.

4. PINP Operations Manager's report: Given by Operations Manager Catherine Basterfield

Q: We have had a letter from a member who had forgotten his membership card and was therefore unable to be admitted to CI. He asked if a membership list could be kept at the desk for staff to refer to at such times.

A: Catherine said that was fine and to send her the list for her to pass on to staff. Tom will attend to this.

Q: Now that foxes are almost eradicated, what is the plan for rabbits, which have increased?

A: A fox strategy is being worked on for the whole of the Bass Coast Shire, including PINP land. Foxes have been a priority because of their negative effect on wildlife. Catherine will let us know the time line involved with the fox strategy.

Q: What is the role of the PINP in monitoring the Eastern Barred Bandicoots which have been released on Churchill Island?

A: PINP has a full time person on monitoring – Anthony – and PINP research staff are supervising him.

Q: Is there a strategy to remove feral cats?

A: Feral cats are a big problem, due to housing and domestic cats being in the mix. Cats are not declared vermin. The only legal way of controlling them is through shooting and trapping. Bass Coast Shire Council is working towards introducing controls of domestic cats.

Q: What is PINP involvement in the planned Friends of Scenic Estate Conservation Reserve?

A: PINP staff have been meeting quarterly with BCSC staff. PINP will be supportive of any Friends group that is formed.

Q: When will the new Visitor Centre signage be in place?

A: Now that the CI Conservation Management Plan has been completed, staff are reviewing the signage to make sure it is compatible with CI CMP, then get onto it asap.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS General Meeting held 9.5.2015 Terry Holman/Gaye Cleeland Carried.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS Annual General Meeting held 1<sup>6th</sup> August 2014 Jeff Cole/Irene McKell Carried.

#### ANNUAL REPORTS:

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: David gave the report in Peter Paul's absence:

I am pleased to report on behalf of Peter Paul the achievements of FOCIS for the past year. General meetings have hosted a range of interesting speakers: Mike Cleeland on climate change, Anita Brady on the Lovell Chen Conservation Management Plan and our own Christine Grayden on Harry Jenkins. We also contributed a display on Harry Jenkins for the Community Day in March.

This year saw Rebecca Sanders submit her doctoral thesis on Churchill Island. Tom, Ruth and I attended her final presentation at Melbourne University and look forward to reading the final version after examination is complete.

I wish to recognise the contributions of individual members and to thank them. Tom O'Dea our treasurer and membership secretary, has made progress towards including us on the Register of Cultural Organisations, to allow tax deductions. Christine Grayden, our secretary and curator, has added to our museum collection, contributed to historical talks on community radio and helped to achieve the location of the 2016 Museums conference on Phillip Island. I also want to recognise her part in the Archival Survival Award to the PIDHS.

I also recognise the contribution of Margaret Geppert and Jenni Wills in cataloging photographs and Jeff Cole in cataloging the tool collection. Thanks are also due to all those who contributed to working bees, garden work and acting as guides. Members of the committee have been prompt and diligent in responding to issues by email between meetings.

Inevitably, we have had some disappointments. Visitor centre signage, reported as ready to go at the last AGM, is still awaited. The time line for the museum is longer than many of us would wish. I hope we will make progress on these in the forthcoming year.

I am also pleased to announce that we recently discovered a short 1977 film on Churchill Island in the archives of ACMI. They have agreed to us having a copy which we hope to show at our next meeting.

Finally, I wish to thank Matthew Jackson and the PINP for their support of FOCIS aspirations.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Attached.

Tom O'Dea, treasurer, went through the report pointing out significant areas. There have been 94 copies of Pat's book sold this year, with a total of 481 sold so far. Membership continues to fall. All ideas for increasing membership would be most welcome by the committee. Tom asked that members please renew by end of June.

"That the Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2015 be adopted" Tom O'Dea/Graeme Clausen Carried.

9. MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Under Rule 3.7 of our Constitution, the Executive Committee needs to submit a recommendation to the members at the AGM concerning the annual subscriptions.

"After due consideration of the state of the Society's finances, the Executive Committee has concluded that there should be no change to the annual subscriptions for the 2015/2016 financial year and recommends that:

1. The rate for Family Memberships will be \$25.00 if payment is by cheque, money order or cash and \$26.00 if payment is made online.
2. The rate for Adult Memberships will be \$15.00 if payment is by cheque, money order or cash and \$15.70 if payment is made online.
3. The rate for Concession Memberships will be \$10.00 if payment is by cheque, money order or cash and \$10.55 if payment is made online.
4. The due date for payment of the annual subscription will be 30 June 2015."

Tom O'Dea/Jeff Cole Carried.

10. Authority to operate bank accounts. "This meeting authorises the President, Secretary and Treasurer, with any two of three to sign, to operate the society's bank accounts." Tom O'Dea/Pauline Taylor. Carried.

11. SECRETARY'S REPORT – CORRESPONDENCE

Inwards:

Peter Fensham re John Swan's death.

Carroll and Amy Schulz re support for application of tax deductibility for donations.

Dorothy and Ken Fargher notifying us of their resignation after many years of membership.

Peter Fensham re the suggestion that a membership list be kept at the VC reception.

Knox Historical Society re their forthcoming dinner.

The Penguin newsletter.

Outwards:

Letter to Dorothy and Ken Fargher thanking them for their past membership.

## 12. CURATOR'S REPORT

In the last three months the following has been undertaken:

- \* Costumes changed on mannequins, costumes laundered.
- \* Working bee: thanks to David, Tom, Ruth, Graham, Linda.
- \* Zoe Sergeant, curator and Emma Fellowes-Cooke, Education Officer from Coal Creek community park and museum, visited and returned the two c. 1900 oil paintings of CI which Zoe had cleaned.
- \* Revised collections policy in line with new Museums Aus Vic template
- \* David Graham – ranger/gardener during the 1990s – has returned to be the gardener Tue, Wed, Thur.
- \* Farm demonstrator Mark Asling has left.
- \* Amess House is to get a few new windows, which will be constructed by a heritage builder.
- \* Several rotten weatherboards on Amess House have been replaced.
- \* Jeff Cole and I have been cataloguing the old tools from Amess Barn.
- \* Simon Eddy has been updating the Victorian Collections data base.
- \* I attended the funeral of Esther Gassman, long-term members, and John Swan, who was on the original Victorian Conservation Trust which purchased Churchill Island.
- \* Planning continues for the Mus Aus Vic state conference to be held on Phillip Island/Churchill Island 7–9 Oct 2016. Volunteers will be needed, e.g. cloak room, walking signage, costumed guides, etc. The Thursday evening event will be held at CI VC.
- \* I had my annual review with Ops Mngr Catherine Basterfield.
- \* I checked the furniture for borers. The kitchen table and various objects identified with borers have been treated by the Tuesday volunteers.
- \* Margaret Geppert and Jenni Wills continue to archive the photo collection.
- \* There is a chance that the blue wagon can finally go under cover, as Pedro's shed has been emptied and it could fit in there. Margaret discovered a photo of the wagon in use c.1900 in the photo collection, and that can be used as interpretation signage.
- \* The Heritage Act is being reviewed. Dave, gardener, and I attended a workshop on this and I have submitted comments to PINP.
- \* The Lillydale & Dis Historical Society have sent us a lot of information on George White, implement maker, to go with the double mouldboard plough we have in our collection. Jeff has done conservation work on the plough and it is displayed outside the public toilets on Fiddler's Green.
- \* The Phillip Island & District Historical Society Inc has agreed that CI would be the best place for Sr Margaret Campbell's musical clock. It is quite old and will replace the grandfather's clock removed by the National Trust.

Q: Will the old glass be replaced in the new windows, as the glass itself is very old and integral to the house?

A: Christine will investigate if this is possible.

## 13. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

John Eddy took the chair for the election of office bearers.

President: David Maunders, nominated by Tom O'Dea, seconded by Terry Holman. Elected unopposed.

# FOCIS

Vice President: Terry Holman, nominated by Christine Grayden, seconded by Gaye Cleeland. Elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Tom O’Dea, nominated by Terry Holman, seconded by Christine Grayden. Elected unopposed.

Membership Secretary: Tom O’Dea, nominated by Terry Holman, seconded by Christine Grayden. Elected unopposed.

Secretary: Christine Grayden, nominated by John Eddy, seconded by Tom O’Dea. Elected unopposed.

Newsletter Editor: Jeffery Cole, nominated by Christine Grayden, seconded by Gaye Cleeland. Elected unopposed.

Phillip Island & District Historical Society Inc representative: Graeme Clauscen, nominated Christine Grayden, seconded David Maunders. Elected unopposed.

Friends of Koalas representative: Irene McKell: nominated by David Maunders, seconded Christine Grayden. Elected unopposed.

Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc rep: Pauline Taylor, nominated by Jane Westworth, seconded Christine Grayden. Elected unopposed.

David Maunders took the chair, thanking members as follows:

I am honoured to serve as FOCIS president for the forthcoming year. In the past, I agreed with Stella Axarlis' view that the president should live locally but as a part time resident I will do my best to be available for FOCIS as often as I can. I want to encourage our historical and archival achievements. One goal is to initiate research for a history of Churchill Island from 1976, the era of public ownership. The MAV conference in little over a year will, I hope, bring more recognition to CI as an active and developing museum.

### 13. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

“That Tom Caulfield be re-appointed as auditor for the financial year ending 30 June 2015” Tom O’Dea/Peter Brookes Carried.

### 14. GENERAL BUSINESS

Tom reported on the progress of our application to be listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations. Our last submission to the dept resulted in a request from them for a list of items we would spend money on from our Public Fund, and advertising policy, selection process for any awards made from the PF. These have been completed and submitted, and we are awaiting the dept’s response.

15. The meeting was followed by a talk by Patsy Hunt, president of the Friends of Koalas, on the koalas of Phillip Island and the Koala Conservation Centre.

Meeting closed 3.15 p.m.

The next General Meeting will be held at the Churchill Island Visitor Centre on Saturday 14 November at 1.30 p.m.

### Your new Executive Committee for 2015-16

**President: David Maunders.**

**Vice President: Terry Holman**

**Secretary: Christine Grayden**

**Membership Secretary: Tom O’Dea**

**Treasurer: Tom O’Dea**

**Editor: Jeff Cole**

**Representative of the Phillip Island & District Historical Society**

**Graeme Clauscen**

**Representative of the Friends of Koalas Society**

**Irene McKell**

**Representative of the Phillip Island Conservation Society**

**Pauline Taylor.**

## Treasurer's Report for the Year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

### 1. Summary of Results for 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

1. We finished the year ending 30 June 2015 with a surplus of \$2,051.10.
2. Total net assets grew by 0.88% from \$23,597.53 to \$23,805.18.
3. 94 copies of Pat Baird's book were sold during the last financial year. 1,000 copies were printed; a total of 481 have now been sold; 519 copies are held in inventory.
4. Membership numbers declined by 9.2%, from 184 paying memberships to 167 paying memberships.
5. We achieved our income budget with actual income of \$7,108 against a budget of \$5,600.
6. Donations from the public were higher than expected.
7. Expenses were within budget with actual expenses of \$5,057 against a budget of \$5,500.
8. The cost of publishing the newsletter, *FOCIS News*, has been going down in recent years. Approximately half the members currently receive the newsletter by email in accordance with their stated preferences.

### 2. Unaudited Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 30 June 2015

Account	30/06/2012 Balance	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/06/2015 Balance	Difference (last 12 months)
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<u>Cash and Bank Accounts</u>					
CBA Cash Management Call Acct	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ANZ Cheque Account	\$773.85	\$1,016.57	\$2,242.22	\$126.65	-\$2,115.57
ANZ Savings Account	\$19,119.44	\$16,254.21	\$5,242.56	\$8,082.86	\$2,840.30
PayPal Account	\$387.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70.29	\$70.29
President's Advance	\$382.49	\$359.89	\$359.89	\$0.00	-\$359.89
Curator's Advance	\$47.38	\$11.91	\$221.98	\$66.47	-\$155.51
RACV Investment Options 01 (Closed)	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 02 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 03 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$31,815.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 04 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 05 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	-\$12,000.00
RACV Investment Options 06 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,279.86	\$0.00	-\$33,279.86
RACV Investment Options 07 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 08 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,469.47	\$12,469.47
RACV Investment Options 10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,581.87	\$34,581.87
Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$50,710.26</b>	<b>\$49,458.49</b>	<b>\$53,346.51</b>	<b>\$55,397.61</b>	<b>\$2,051.10</b>

## FOCIS - Treasurer's Report for the Year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Account	30/06/2012 Balance	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/06/2015 Balance	Difference (last 12 months)
<u>Other Assets</u>					
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Books	\$0.00	\$4,469.76	\$3,530.88	\$2,989.44	-\$541.44
TOTAL Other Assets	\$0.00	\$4,569.76	\$3,530.88	\$2,989.44	-\$541.44
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$50,710.26</b>	<b>\$54,028.25</b>	<b>\$56,877.39</b>	<b>\$58,387.05</b>	<b>\$1,509.66</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
<u>Other Liabilities</u>					
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Museum Reserve	\$30,000.00	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	34,581.87	\$1,302.01
TOTAL Other Liabilities	\$30,000.00	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	34,581.87	\$1,302.01
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$31,815.91</b>	<b>\$33,279.86</b>	<b>\$34,581.87</b>	<b>\$1,302.01</b>
<b>NETT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$20,710.26</b>	<b>\$22,212.34</b>	<b>\$23,597.53</b>	<b>\$23,805.18</b>	<b>\$207.65</b>

### 3. Unaudited statement of income and expenses as at 30 June 2015

Category	1/07/2011- 30/06/2012	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	1/07/2014- 30/06/2015
<b>INCOME</b>				
Interest Income	\$868.93	\$2,300.68	\$1,752.30	\$1,911.78
Subscriptions Income	\$5,598.35	\$4,053.55	\$3,243.75	\$3,270.90
Sundry Income	\$80.00	\$0.22	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Book Sales	\$0.00	\$1,671.50	\$1,247.05	\$694.35
Movable Cultural Heritage - Donations from Members	\$875.00	\$295.10	\$387.05	\$420.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Public Donations	\$131.80	\$315.00	\$452.60	\$810.95
Movable Cultural Heritage - Grants Received	\$13,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$1,980.00	\$13,000.00
Other Movable Cultural Heritage Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$20,554.08</b>	<b>\$34,636.05</b>	<b>\$9,062.75</b>	<b>\$20,107.98</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Administration - Financial Services	\$89.40	\$110.41	\$99.51	\$112.44
Administration - Government Fees	\$134.40	\$43.90	\$126.60	\$213.50
Administration - Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administration - Membership Admin.	\$50.40	\$878.53	\$738.09	\$458.98
Administration - General Office Expenses	\$191.26	\$325.13	\$947.07	\$505.30
Administration - Post Office Fees	\$21.50	\$23.00	\$25.00	\$32.00
Administration - Taxes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administration - Other Admin. Expenses	\$0.00	\$31.20	\$0.00	\$50.53
Movable Cultural Heritage - Acquisitions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$255.01
Movable Cultural Heritage - Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$132.88

Registration Number: A0021907W ABN: 78667051020 PO Box 852, COWES VIC 3922



Category	1/07/2011- 30/06/2012	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	1/07/2014- 30/06/2015
Movable Cultural Heritage - Archiving	\$81.01	\$133.07	\$7.70	\$24.30
Movable Cultural Heritage - Book Publishing	\$0.00	\$5,783.17	\$9.00	\$18.35
Movable Cultural Heritage - Cataloguing	\$105.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.70
Movable Cultural Heritage - Communications	\$167.36	\$93.45	\$35.55	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Curating	\$13,000.00	\$26,660.00	\$200.00	\$13,000.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Educating the Public	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Exhibitions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Networking	\$249.17	\$193.00	\$601.00	\$326.65
Movable Cultural Heritage - Newsletter Publishing	\$1,998.04	\$1,264.42	\$1,059.78	\$783.48
Movable Cultural Heritage - Presentation	\$32.68	\$87.50	\$0.00	\$194.10
Movable Cultural Heritage - Preservation	\$125.11	\$83.54	\$1,254.93	\$13.38
Movable Cultural Heritage - Research	\$0.00	\$77.50	\$16.50	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Restoration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Video Publishing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,744.28
Movable Cultural Heritage - Web Site Publishing	\$54.00	\$0.00	\$54.00	\$66.00
Other Promotional Activities for Movable Cultural Heritage Items	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$16,299.66</b>	<b>\$35,787.82</b>	<b>\$5,274.73</b>	<b>\$18,056.88</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$4,254.42</b>	<b>-\$1,151.77</b>	<b>\$3,788.02</b>	<b>\$2,051.10</b>

#### 4. Membership Report as at 30 June 2015

Category	30/06/2011	30/06/2012	30/06/2013	30/06/2014	30/06/2015	Increase or Decrease (last 12 months)
TOTAL Paying Memberships	229	211	198	184	167	-17
TOTAL Non-Paying Memberships	15	16	17	17	17	0
Unfinancial (Lapsed) Memberships	0	0	0	22	43	21

#### 5. Mortgages, Charges and Securities

There are no mortgages, charges or securities affecting any of the Society's assets.

Churchill Island now has a miniature pig - Dolly - who is a great hit with many visitors, being very affectionate and intelligent. Our animals volunteer Louise has taught Dolly to sit, stand up and shake trotters. Louise also takes Dolly for walks, much to the delight of visitors. You can visit Dolly in her pen with her friend the sheep, next to the old shearing stand shed. Photo shows Dolly with Louise.



## NATURE PARKS REPORT

The Nature Parks had a very successful financial year with substantial achievements in both tourism and conservation. These outcomes can only be achieved with a team of dedicated staff and volunteers and the Nature Parks thank FOCIS for their substantial contribution.

During the year, we continued to focus on effectively balancing our environmental, commercial and social responsibilities. I am pleased to report the achievement of an operating surplus of \$2.4M (to be reinvested into conservation and major projects) and a record 1,261,882 visitors for 2014-15.

### Tourism highlights:

- This was a record year with a total of 1,261,882 visitors across all attractions - an increase of 3.1% compared to last year.
- This number was made up of 58% international and 42% domestic visitors and the increase is primarily attributed to the intrastate and Asian markets as well as major events.

Growing success in the China market. The Nature Parks has been servicing and investing in the China market for over 17 years. We continued to maintain our own full-time, in-market agent representation (including Online, PR and media agencies) based in Shanghai. We expanded our presence in Beijing and broadened our Shanghai operations to include Guangzhou.

- Launch of the new 'Wild Ocean Eco Boat Tour' that traveling from Cowes to Australia's largest seal colony at Seal Rocks. Delivered in partnership with local operator 'Wildlife Coast Cruises', this unique tour experience has attracted a very positive response from visitors and the tourism industry.
- We embarked on a substantial capital investment program with two major projects. The first will re-invigorate the Nobbies Centre with the opening of a cinematic Antarctic Ocean experience in partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature. The second will provide an innovative "bunker" viewing experience at the Penguin Parade and re-develop the Penguins Plus premium viewing area. These projects are well underway and the new experiences will be launched later in 2015.

### Environment and general highlights:

- The completion of the 'South and North Coast Key Area Plan'. This plan provides a strategic vision for Phillip Island's coastline that will cater for a range of key user groups and ensure that the coastline's environmental and cultural values are enhanced and protected. The Nature Parks is committed towards the implementation of this plan with the community and our key stakeholders. In the coming year, a 'Foreshore Master Plan' for Cape Woolamai will be prepared.
- Ongoing peer recognition – we won the '2015 Australian Coastal Award' in the category of 'Planning and Management' for the restoration of the Summerland Peninsula. The same project was also a finalist and given a 'Special Commendation' in the United Nations 'World Environment Day Awards' held in June 2015.
- Continuing progress on important research projects. We were proud to partner with Victoria University and the Penguin Foundation to win a \$250,000 grant from Google in its 'Google Impact Challenge' Australia. This funding will allow for the further development of a unique oil cleaning method using magnetic iron particles to remove oil from wildlife, addressing the global need for a safer, faster, more environmentally friendly, humane and portable oil cleaning technology.

- Completing the 'Churchill Island Conservation Management Plan'. This was a key action in the 'Churchill Island Key Area Plan' finalised in 2013.
- Spending an impressive total of 3,938 staff hours on extensive environmental works and weed management across the portfolio.
- Maintaining strong commitment to our vision of making Phillip Island 'fox free' continued. Our dedicated fox eradication rangers and specialised dogs relentlessly protected Phillip Island wildlife with over 1,727km patrolled in search of any remaining foxes.
- Undertaking the penguin population census. Our research team reported that 30,000 breeding penguins live within the Summerland Peninsula.
- Celebrating the second anniversary of the launch of Victoria's first National Surfing Reserve in March 2013. The Phillip Island National Surfing Reserve Community Working Group celebrated its second anniversary with a community surfing challenge event held in April 2015.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and assistance.

**Catherine Basterfield**  
Operations Manager

## Cataloguing and Archiving

Thanks to our FOCIS volunteers, cataloguing and archiving have been proceeding apace. Jeff Cole has been helping Christine with the hard copy cataloguing of all the old tools from Amess Barn. Christine's son Simon has been updating the online cataloguing on the [victoriancollections.net.au](http://victoriancollections.net.au) website. Visit the collection there. If you can add any information on any of the pieces on our site, feel free to contact Christine: [cgrayden@waterfront.net.au](mailto:cgrayden@waterfront.net.au) Margaret Geppert and Jenny Wills have been archiving our large photograph collection into archival pockets and folders, having first sorted them into categories. Thanks to all the volunteers for this huge amount of work!



*Margaret Geppert with some of the photo collection*

*The cataloguers have been catalogued! Jeff and Simon hard at work.*



# FOCIS

## The Museums Australia Victoria (MAV) state conference

*will be held on Phillip Island and Churchill Island on 7-9 October 2016. The main part of the program will be held in the Cultural and Heritage Centres, Cowes. The dinner on Thursday evening will be held on Churchill Island. FOCIS will be involved on Friday afternoon, when delegates have the chance to tour local attractions, including Churchill Island. All guides are welcome to help on the afternoon of 9 October 2016! About 250 delegates are expected from throughout Victoria, and also from other states. MAV, PINP, Destination Phillip Island and Bass Coast Shire Council are all working together to make next year's conference one to remember!*



The Friends of Churchill Island Society  
Newsletter

If undelivered return to FOCIS  
PO Box 852. Cowes, 3022

Postage  
Paid  
Cowes  
3922

Surface  
Mail

Number 129 October 2015

# FOCIS

Friends of Churchill Island Newsletter

ABN 78 667 051 020 Inc. No. A 00219007W