

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

# FOCIS

## NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

### Dates to remember:

*Meetings for the rest of the year:*

*Saturdays August 20 (AGM) Note change of date; November 12.*

*1.30, Churchill Island Visitors Centre*

*Working Bees: October 1, 8.00 am to 12.00*

*November 19, 8.00 am to 10.00am.*

*The Speakers for our general meetings will be*

*Victorian Conservation Trust DVD*

*in August;*

*David Maunders on Grant's diary*

*in November.*

## Tax Deducibility for Donations

Over the past few years the committee/s have been working toward obtaining tax deductibility for donations to our heritage fund and we have finally been successful thanks in large respect to our treasurer Tom O' Dea

The FOCIS Churchill Island Heritage Fund has been accepted onto the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO).

This means that the Fund has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as a Donor Gift Recipient (DGR) Fund and donations to the Fund of \$2 or more will therefore be tax-deductible.

The purpose of the Fund is to help the Society address its principal purpose which is:

**The promotion of the moveable cultural heritage of Churchill Island.**

You can make a donation by:

1. Paying Online.

2. Paying by Cheque/Money Order.

3. Direct Deposit into the Society's bank account.

A Tax Receipt will be issued for each donation. To make a donation, please visit this web page: <http://focis.org.au/wp/donations/>

We've identified a number of projects where money donated to the Heritage Fund could be used. These include:

1. Preserving the Lace Collection.

2. Preserving the Document Collection.

3. Rebinding of Amess Hymn/Prayer Book.

4. Display of Aboriginal Tools and Fishing Implements.

5. Tools Display.

6. Display of Handwritten Letters.

7. Conservation of Historic Farm Machinery.

Members of the Society and members of the public are encouraged to donate to the Fund. Please get in touch if you have any ideas or suggestions about raising money for the Fund and how the money in the Fund could be used.

Tom O'Dea, Treasurer

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

Proposed sign for the new FOCIS donations box in the Amess house.

The box will have 2 DL holders - one for information/membership brochure and the other for tax deductible donations.

# Donations



Please help us to continue our work in preserving and enhancing the unique historical significance of Churchill Island

You can make a donation by placing your notes and coins in the slot below.

If you are an Australian Resident and your donation is \$2 or more in Australian dollars, you can make a tax-deductible donation by using one of the donation envelopes. Please print your name and address on the envelope flap, tear off the flap and place it inside the envelope with your donation so we can send you a Tax Receipt.

## NATURE PARKS REPORT

The Nature Parks had a very successful financial year to date with substantial growth in visitor numbers across all sites from both domestic and international markets. This includes a 5% (5,676) increase in visitors to Churchill Island driven largely by Churchill Island events, RACV partnership promotions and an increase in international visitor numbers (predominantly from China). This fantastic result can only be delivered with the efforts of the Nature Parks fantastic staff and volunteers and we thank all of the Churchill Island volunteers particularly for their efforts.

This has been a year of great change and significant achievement for the Nature Parks in both Tourism and Conservation milestones. We are delighted to receive a funding announcement for the Penguin Parade facility component of the Summerland's Master Plan. The Victorian State Government has committed \$48.2m to the project and the Nature Parks will contribute \$10m of our own funding to achieve the new vision. This project will result in the development of a new Visitor Centre Facility at the Penguin Parade that is outside penguin habitat and caters for the current visitor market needs. The Summerland's Master Plan is expected to have a significant impact on the visitor economy to Phillip Island and the Bass Coast Shire and will also achieve some substantial conservation gains for the area. For more information about this project please see the Summerland Peninsula Master Plan at [www.penguins.org.au/about/corporate-affairs/publications/](http://www.penguins.org.au/about/corporate-affairs/publications/).

Other tourism highlights include:

- Record visitor numbers across all sites.
- Penguins Plus / underground viewing new product launch in November 2015.
- Antarctic Journey at the Nobbies Centre opening in December 2015.
- First year of operations for the new 'Wild Ocean Eco Boat Tour' which is being delivered in partnership with Wildlife Coast Cruises.

### Environment and general highlights:

The Nature Parks in partnership with Zoos Victoria and the Victorian State Government released eastern barred bandicoots onto Churchill Island in August 2015. This was a pilot program to test the animals resilience and potentially pave the way for future releases in fox controlled areas. The latest statistics from the Nature Parks Research team shows that the population on Churchill Island is thriving and that current pouch young are the third generation of bandicoots since the release.

August 2015 is another significant month for conservation on Phillip Island as it was the month of the last fox sighting, scat, scent or track detected by our fox control team or reported by any member of the community. We hope that this trend can continue and we will soon be able to declare Phillip Island a fox free island! This is the result of a long term financial commitment by consecutive Nature Parks Boards, financial contributions by the Penguin Foundation and the cooperation of our local community and key stakeholders.

Significant planning work continues with the development of the Cape Woolamai Coastal Reserves Master Plan, which progresses the ideas raised in the Nature Parks South and North Coast Key Area Plan. The Wetland and Woodland Key Area Plans also commenced recently, which covers a broad area of land including the Koala Conservation Centre, Oswin Roberts Reserve, Ventnor Koala Reserve, Rhyll wetland and Fishers wetland. The Summerland's Peninsula Tracks and Trails Master Plan has also commenced to resolve a long term walking strategy for the peninsula.

The Fishers wetland walking trail will be modified in the coming months to divert path users away from the road and into the fringes of the wetland. This will provide a better walking experience and will be complimented by a new bird hide structure for viewing. The road crossing and other elements to this track are also being considered at the same time.

The Nature Parks are currently reviewing our volunteer management program and have appointed Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) to conduct this review for us. We are looking for improvements on how we recruit, induct, manage, reward and develop our volunteers. The volunteers at Churchill Island play an enormous part in the success of the Churchill Island operation will have an opportunity to have input into the review process either through online surveys, phone discussion or a face to face morning tea which was conducted on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. The results of the review and any proposed changes to the way we manage our volunteers will be communicated in July/August 2016.

The Nature Parks other Research and Conservation programs continue and we will report on these in detail at the end of financial year.

**Catherine Basterfield**  
**Operations Manager**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I do not have a personal report having been away for a month and missing the last meeting. We have significant achievements, particularly the achievement of tax deduction status thanks to the persistent efforts of Tom O'Dea. Also congratulations are due to Rebecca Sanders for the successful completion of her thesis a copy of which has been presented to FOCIS. Rebecca's guided tour at the last meeting was very enlightening. I am shortly meeting Matthew Jackson to discuss the FOCIS plan and will report on this at the next meeting.

David



FOCIS President.

## Treasurer's Report for the 10 Months Ending 30 April 2016

### 1. Summary of Results as at 30 April 2016

#### 1.1 Assets and Liabilities

Fund	30/06/2012 Balance	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/06/2015 Balance	30/04/2016 Balance	Difference (last 10 months)
<u>The Operating Fund</u>						
Assets	\$50,710	\$54,028	\$56,877	\$58,391	\$60,303	\$1,913
Liabilities	-\$30,000	-\$31,816	-\$33,280	-\$34,582	-\$35,705	-\$1,123
NETT ASSETS	\$20,710	\$22,212	\$23,597	\$23,809	\$24,598	\$789
<u>The Heritage Fund</u>						
Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NETT ASSETS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,710</b>	<b>\$22,212</b>	<b>\$23,597</b>	<b>\$23,809</b>	<b>\$24,598</b>	<b>\$789</b>

#### 1.2 Income and Expenses

Fund	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	1/07/2014- 30/06/2015	1/07/2015- 30/04/2016	Difference (last 10 months)
<u>The Operating Fund</u>					
Income	\$34,636	\$9,063	\$20,111	\$18,299	-\$1,812
Expenses	-\$35,788	-\$5,275	-\$18,057	-\$16,386	\$1,671
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	<b>-\$1,152</b>	\$3,788	\$2,054	\$1,913	<b>-\$141</b>
<u>The Heritage Fund</u>					
Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$1,152</b>	<b>\$3,788</b>	<b>\$2,054</b>	<b>\$1,913</b>	<b>-\$141</b>



The latest volunteer to help Christine with the paperwork arriving for duty in the office.

She actually advertised for a Secretary bird but only Andrew (the Peacock) applied.

## The Operating Fund as at 30 April 2016

### 2.1 Operating Fund - Assets and Liabilities as at 30 April 2016

Account	30/06/2012 Balance	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/06/2015 Balance	30/04/2016 Balance	Difference (last 10 months)
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Bank Accounts	\$20,280.39	\$17,270.78	\$7,484.78	\$8,283.27	\$8,727.83	\$444.56
Investments	\$30,000.00	\$31,815.91	\$45,279.86	\$47,051.34	\$48,586.08	\$1,534.74
Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Books	\$0.00	\$4,469.76	\$3,530.88	\$2,989.44	\$2,989.44	\$0.00
Other Assets	\$429.87	\$471.80	\$581.87	\$66.47	\$0.00	-\$66.47
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$50,710.26</b>	<b>\$54,028.25</b>	<b>\$56,877.39</b>	<b>\$58,390.52</b>	<b>\$60,303.35</b>	<b>\$1,912.83</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Museum Reserve	\$30,000.00	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	34,581.87	\$35,705.27	\$1,123.40
Other Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<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>\$35,705.27</b>	<b>\$1,123.40</b>
<b>NETT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$20,710.26</b>	<b>\$22,212.34</b>	<b>\$23,597.53</b>	<b>\$23,808.65</b>	<b>\$24,598.08</b>	<b>\$789.43</b>

### 2.2 Operating Fund - Income and Expenses as at 30 April 2016

Category	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	1/07/2014- 30/06/2015	1/07/2015- 30/04/2016	Difference (last 10 months)
<b>INCOME</b>					
Interest Income	\$2,300.68	\$1,752.30	\$1,915.25	\$1,625.99	-\$289.26
Subscriptions Income	\$4,053.55	\$3,243.75	\$3,270.90	\$2,444.70	-\$826.20
Book Sales	\$1,671.50	\$1,247.05	\$694.35	\$0.00	-\$694.35
Donations	\$610.10	\$839.65	\$1,230.95	\$1,228.25	-\$2.70
Grants Received	\$26,000.00	\$1,980.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$0.00
Other Income	\$0.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$34,636.05</b>	<b>\$9,062.75</b>	<b>\$20,111.45</b>	<b>\$18,298.94</b>	<b>-\$1,812.51</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Administration	\$1,412.17	\$1,936.27	\$1,372.75	\$1,943.70	\$570.95
Promoting Moveable Cultural Heritage	\$34,375.65	\$3,338.46	\$16,684.13	\$14,417.41	-\$2,266.72
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$35,787.82</b>	<b>\$5,274.73</b>	<b>\$18,056.88</b>	<b>\$16,386.11</b>	<b>-\$1,670.77</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-\$1,151.77</b>	<b>\$3,788.02</b>	<b>\$2,054.57</b>	<b>\$1,912.83</b>	<b>-\$141.74</b>

## 3 Membership Report as at 30 April 2016

Category	30/06/2012	30/06/2013	30/06/2014	30/06/2015	30/04/2016	Increase or Decrease (last 10 months)
TOTAL Paying Memberships	211	198	184	167	182	15
TOTAL Non-Paying Memberships	16	17	17	17	17	0

## FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND GENERAL MEETING – 14.5.2016, CHURCHILL ISLAND VISITOR CENTRE

PRESENT: Terry Holman (chair), Christine Grayden, Tom O’Dea, Ruth O’Dea, Pauline Taylor, Sue Chambers, Bruce Chambers, Jeff Cole, Margaret Geppert, Lee Tierney, Irene McKell, Edith Johnson, Rebecca Sanders, Anne Balfe, Linda Patterson, Matt Ingham, Liz Eddie, Graeme Clausen, Robyn Holman

APOLOGIES: Sue & Roger Hollingworth, Kay Williams, Rev Susan Pearse, Roslyn Greenhill, Rod & Margaret Simkiss, Inge Royce, David Maunders, Anne Davie, Peter & Ann Jelly.

WELCOME: Terry Holman welcomed everyone and explained that as president David Maunders is overseas, Terry will be chairing the meeting.

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 Island people living in our community today.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, Dr Rebecca Sanders led a “Walk and Talk” around the CI historic precinct. 20 members and friends attended.

MINUTES of the previous meeting held 14.11.2015 (no GM in Feb due to strategy planning day) Ruth O’Dea/Pauline Taylor Carried.

MATTERS arising: PINP Open Day 6.3.16 – thanks to volunteers Tom and Ruth O’Dea and Linda Patterson. Three new members joined. Linda was very busy with children’s activities. Ruth helped her. Christine’s display on Samuel Amess was not very busy due to its siting on a back wall. PINP report will appear in next newsletter.

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT: Tom reported that after over four years of trying, FOCIS has finally received tax deductibility status and is on the Register of Cultural Organisations. We have a Public Fund called the FOCIS Churchill Island Heritage Fund which is used only for tax deductible donations for the principal purpose which is the “movable cultural heritage of Churchill Island”. In this account, income is donations and interest and expenses is money spent on the principal purpose. ATO requires that we publicise our status to members and the public. We also have three ‘Responsible Persons’ for the fund. We are offering three means of donating to the fund: online via Paypal; direct deposit into the society’s a/c; print off form and send cheque or money order. Donors are unable to specify what their donation is for, but can express a preference. Donors are not able to get any material benefit in return for their donation. Tom will issue correct tax receipts and submit a six monthly summary report of the fund’s activity to the Arts Office. Tom stated that in future an abbreviated form of the Treasurer’s report will be presented at general meetings, and a full report at Annual General Meetings. We have gained 15 members since June 2015, and have gone from 167 then to 182 now. Treasurer’s report Tom O’Dea/Edith Johnson carried.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Australian Taxation Office informing us that our fund is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient and we can now take tax deductible donations.

From Sally O’Neill, PINP, re the community recognition project to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PINP. Asking for a list of ‘top five’ members.

Catherine Basterfield re CI visitor centre signage.

Ruth O'Dea with two designs for new donations box for Amess House

Hayley Smith, executive assistant PINP re Memorandum of Understanding between FOCIS and PINP from some years ago. The document cannot be found.

Wilfred Dungan (donor to the collection) thanking Christine for the great day he and his grand daughter Charlotte had on CI.

Helena and Rafa Careaga offering photos of CI to PINP. Directed to Roland Pick, communications officer.

Information re Victorian Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

Letter from the PI 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations Planning Committee asking us to think about an event we could host for 2018. (C/ee thought a picnic in February might be appropriate)

Museums Australia magazine, Autumn 2016

Insite magazine, May-July 2016 on Philanthropy.

Christine Grayden/Jeff Cole Carried.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:** There has been a change of **working bee** date from September 10 to **October 1**, due to the Mus Aus Vic conference being on Churchill Island and Phillip Island 5-7 October. We will start on the house and cottages at 8 a.m. Depending on numbers we can break for morning tea then continue by cleaning the farm machinery til lunch time. **ALL HANDS ON DECK REQUIRED!!** Please come along if you possibly can. Even half an hour of your time will help. Sally O'Neill, PINP, has asked for the 'top five' FOCIS members from the past 20 years as part of the Community Recognition project to celebrate 20 years of the existence of the PINP. C/ee decided on: Terry Holman; Ian and Jan Jonas; Keith and Ron Hocking

**CHANGE OF AGM DATE:** The **AGM** which was to be held on August 13 will now be held on **August 20**. The date needed to be changed due to key people being away on Aug 13.

Regarding Honorary Membership, the c/ee can make a recommendation to the AGM. This will be discussed at the August c/ee meeting. A suggestion was made that donor Wilfred Dungan be made an Honorary Member.

The FOCIS Donations box in the drawing room of Amess House needs replacing due to wear and tear and dangerous design. The c/ee is investigating options.

**PRESENTATION** by Dr Rebecca Sanders of a copy of her thesis: "A History of Churchill Island: Settlement, Land Use and the Making of a Heritage Site." In presenting her thesis to FOCIS, Rebecca read the dedication she has written in the front page of the thesis:

"To the Friends of Churchill Island Society, past, present and future. Many thanks for your friendship and support. I could not have finished without you. The errors that remain (and there are likely to be some!) are all my own fault. I hope that this is of some use, even if I don't really solve the mystery of the location of the 1801 garden. May you forever "Preserve that which is precious". Rebecca, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016." Appreciation for all of Rebecca's work, and for her gift of the thesis, was carried with acclamation.

Meeting closed 3.45 p.m.

Next meeting Saturday August 20 2016, 1.30 p.m. Churchill Island Visitor Centre.

## CURATORS REPORT

Volunteer Jeff Cole and I will soon commence making a display of the Wilfred Dungan collection of wood cutting/splitting tools in the Blacksmith's shop area.

Another volunteer, Peter, will be making a display of the remaining old tools in Amess Barn. Mr Dungan also donated \$500 to FOCIS to pay for materials for the Blacksmith's shop display.

We are still waiting on the conditions report for all the buildings in the historic precinct. Unfortunately one of the partners involved has been ill and both have been involved in a serious car accident.

The Samuel Amess display for Open Day has become a resource book for education staff and our volunteer guides. (copy shown) I put in about three months work on this. Copies of the resource book are available for loan from Christine for interested people.

The carriage of the cannon was painted by Boz, one of the cleaner/maintenance men, and looks a lot better.

CI Key Area Plan stage 1 Conference and function centre: David and I met with Terroir, the architects, and asked for temporary exhibition space within the complex.

I am currently undertaking a stocktake of all of the contents in Amess House and Rogers Cottages. This has not been done since 2011.

The second draft of the CI Visitor Centre historic information signage is currently being reviewed.

Former CI head ranger, Scott Campbell, visited and went through the old farm machinery catalogues with me and helped with information about many of the objects.

I attended a Mus Aus Vic all day workshop on children 0-6 years in museums, titled "It's a Kids' Thing" It was a most worthwhile day. I have typed up my notes which are available by email for anyone interested. The notes have been forwarded to the education team and BCSC who can forward them on to historical societies in Bass Coast.

# FOCIS



PRIOR TO THE MAY MEETING, Dr Rebecca Sanders led a “Walk and Talk” around the CI historic precinct. 20 members and friends attended and enjoyed the many interesting facts enunciated by Rebecca.



The Friends of Churchill Island Society  
Newsletter

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Friends of Churchill Island Newsletter

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