

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

FOCIS

NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. NO. A 002 19007W

Dates to remember:

*General Meetings: 12/5/18;
AGM, 18/8/18; 10/11/18.*

*Working bees:
13/10/18 & 8/12/18*

(house and cottages 8-10)

Speaker for May meeting:

*Speaker for the May meeting is
Dr Rebecca Sanders.*



Well the picnic may have been blown out, but the turn up of our volunteers, in costume, was not to be wasted.

Registration Number: A0021907W

ABN: 78667051020

PO Box 852, COWES VIC 3922



Presidents report

I have strong hopes that the initiatives that we started last year will be completed this year. The Historic Farm Machinery project begins with the building of a larger shed and concrete floor and technical plans have been started. We have raised funds for the signage (thanks largely to our generous benefactor, Wilf Dungan) so I hope to see the full display by the end of the year.

Our sub-committee did much planning for the Old Fashioned Picnic but the weather intervened and just about blew everyone off the island. Thanks also for much setting up work done by the farm staff. Another attempt may be made later in the year.

With the appointment of Kate Adams as Visitor Experience Manager but with special responsibility for Churchill Island, we are working towards a program of special events planned up to a year ahead. I believe the garden may make a stronger contribution. I look forward to continued consultation between Kate and FOCIS. We met in January with Trevor, John Evans and Ben Driscoll, newly appointed operations manager to discuss budget and issues for the next financial year. We argued strongly for the

Restoration work on the historic precinct should be concluded soon and a program of maintenance will follow.

Those of our members who are guides and farm and garden volunteers will have increased benefits (such as admission to other PINP sites) and guides may have some refreshed uniforms. Digital signing in and streamlined lunch orders are all the result of Rachael Ferguson's (Volunteer Coordinator) work last year.

Working bees continue and dates are included in this newsletter. I look forward to meeting many members in the forthcoming year.



Manders

OBITUARY

Our long-term FOCIS member, past FOCIS secretary, past Phillip Island & District Historical Society representative on the FOCIS committee, and past long-term Churchill Island guide Cherry Mcfee died aged 93 on 26.1.18 with family by her side. Cherry was a wealth of information on Phillip Island and Churchill Island, having spent much of her life on Phillip Island. Her father, Stan McFee Snr, was a friend of Harry Jenkins, and also drove Harry's cattle across at low tide on a tea tree corduroy track from Churchill Island to Boys Home Rd in Newhaven, then on to their destination, before either the Phillip Island bridge (1939) or Churchill Island bridge (1959) were built. Cherry loved history and gardening, so it was natural that she would love Churchill Island. Cherry will be sadly missed.



FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 10-02-2018

1. Welcome & Acknowledgement
2. Present: David Maunders (chair), Christine Grayden, Tom O'Dea, Ruth O'Dea, Graeme Clausen, Terry Holman, Pauline Taylor, Irene McKell, Lee Tierney, Di Scukovic, Peter Jelly, Sue Chambers, Bruce Chambers, Carolyn Allman.
3. Apologies: Rev Susan Pearse, Sue & Roger Hollingworth, Ray Addicoat, Anne Davie, Robyn Holman, Peter Brookes, Ann Jelly.
4. Report on PINP and Churchill Island activities – to be presented at May general meeting.
5. Minutes of last meeting 11.11.17 Terry Holman/Ruth O'Dea *Carried.*
5. Matters arising from last meeting;
 - a) Farm machinery display extension of shed: to president's report
 - b) Pat Baird's books: More sales outlets to be approached. Special offer NOW ENDED for members 4 for \$20 + postage.
 - c) 150th Old time picnic was cancelled due to atrocious weather. (*edit: Rather sad seeing that so much planning had taken place. But the volunteers turned up in costume and some pics were taken in the house. Thanks to Christine for the organisation and PINP OHS officer Katie and Trevor for formulating a safety plan for the event.*)
 - d) PINP Open Day Sunday March 4. All venues open free to BCS residents. Just need to show evidence of residency (e.g. bill, rates notice). Christine to give a talk on Harry Jenkins at 11 a.m. David to be on FOCIS table. Linda Patterson, with Christine's help, to do children's activities.
6. President's report – David Maunders:

David reported on his recent meeting with Kate Adams Visitor Experience Manager, new Operations Manager Ben Driscoll, Trevor and Assistant OM John Evans:

 - a) The technical drawings are currently being done for the extension of one of the two sheds housing the historic farm machinery. PINP will build the shed before November, which is the acquittal date for the Bass Coast Shire Community Grant which FOCIS received.
 - b) Full time Horticultural Officer: Kate Wills, CI's HO, is currently on leave so discussion on this is in abeyance.
 - c) Curator's position. Christine finishes at end June 2018. The current financial arrangement for this position was discussed this morning by the c/ee and they are not happy with this arrangement to continue. The secretary will write to the CEO outlining our concerns. FOCIS is still absolutely committed to CI having a curator.
 - d) Wiring in Amess Barn: plans for this to be discussed between Christine, Jeff Cole and Trevor. To be covered in the routine maintenance funding.
 - e) UV filters on windows in Amess House and Rogers Cottage to counter damage from light to be done after the current round of restoration is finished and Period Building Conservation make their report including recommendations for further restoration and maintenance of restored areas.
 - f) David is anticipating ongoing meetings with Kate Adams rather than CEO. Kate is now in charge of CI.
 - g) David explained the new management structure within PINP.
 - h) Kate intends to prepare an overall events plan for CI giving all events for the year to come..

7. Treasurer's/Membership Secretary's Report – Tom O'Dea

Tom reported that we have had an increase in net assets of 6%. The crowdfunding for the historic farm machinery display exceeded the target but is still open. We have a term deposit due of \$27,343.62 which is earmarked for museum design in the future. We will reinvest for 6 month term deposit. We also have \$8,000 due on 7.6.18, which Tom will reinvest at the best terms available at the time.

Book sales of late have been 132 copies, including 100 to PINP. So far we have sold 613 out of 1000 printed at an average price of \$7.04 so we have cleared our costs. We will earn \$490 on our investment in the book if we sell them all at \$5 per copy wholesale and \$12.95 retail, as per PINP.

The \$19,000 worth of grants is the curator's grant of \$14,000 and the extension of the shed \$5000.

The Heritage Fund contains \$5476.61.

Donations comprise donations box, general tax decuctible donations and \$1,100 for farm machinery signage (now \$2,100) crowdfunding.

Membership: not many new members. Tom reminded members that the new membership rates voted on at the last AGM will come into effect in mid-year. Per household charge rather than per person, as our expenses are per household. \$30 family household; \$20 single (non-concession) household; \$15 concession household.

8. Curator's Report – Christine

1. MAP Reaccreditation documents are due in on Monday 5 March. I have been working hard on updating and finishing all of the required documents which consist of Collection, interpretation policies, disaster plan, preventative conservation plan, business plan 2015-16; action plan 2016-17 and forward plan 2017-18. There are also various appendices and ancillary documents with each plan and policy. Kate Adams, the new PINP Visitor Experience Manager, has been reading each and making helpful suggestions, which I did not have in 2013 and which is making a big difference to the process.

2. We now have new Rack It storage shelves in the Volunteers hut replacing one set of bunk beds that are no longer used. I can now shelve everything that has been kicking around the hut on top of beds and other furniture. We have the MAP inspection on Wednesday 28 March, and everything needs to be archived and labelled by then. (*inspection went well*)

3. I have had several meetings with the PINP Volunteer Co-ordinator Rachael Ferguson with regard to volunteers' roles on CI and costumes for Visitor Experience Volunteers (formerly guides). It is probable that PINP will reimburse VEV's for any costume costs, but their costumes then belong to PINP.

4. We had a great FOCIS working bee on Saturday 9th December when we did a huge and thorough clean of Amess House and Rogers Cottages. Thanks to everyone who pitched in.

5. The Period Conservation Building team have been doing restoration work on some of the buildings, including rebuilding three windows with rot in them from the drawing room and kitchen in Amess House. This involved me in packing up all the objects, then unpacking them again when they had finished, so the house didn't look the best for a few days! The team are to return to do more, including restoring the steps down to the half cellar so that the public can access it again, but we don't have a date yet.

6. The MAV magazine editor, Roisin O'Dwyer contacted me to see if I could write an article for the forthcoming edition of Insite Magazine on "Unusual occupations in museums", featuring the farm demonstrators. Trevor, Toby and Peter agreed to be interviewed and with PINP Communications manager Rolli Pick's help, I managed to write an article that everyone was happy with. That edition will be out in the next month or so

9. Correspondence

Inwards: From Sarah Hudson PI & SR Advertiser re crowd funding campaign

RACV: investment almost due to reinvest - \$37,936.61

Email received on 18.9.17 which I replied to and sent around as an email to c/ee but hasn't been discussed in c/ee meeting re: group membership.

Outwards: To Sarah Hudson, informing her that we have generous donors and that the project is in its early stages and not appropriate to do an article yet.

10. General Business

a) Long-term guide and FOCIS secretary Cherry Mc Fee died on 26.1.18. Christine will write an obituary for the newsletter and put a post on the FOCIS FB page.

"That FOCIS acknowledges the passing of long-term member, secretary and Churchill Island guide Cherry McFee, and recognises the enormous amount of work she did for Churchill Island and FOCIS. That we approach PINP and ask if a tree of a suitable species can be planted at an appropriate location in memory of Cherry, and that FOCIS fund a plaque for the tree with wording to be agreed with PINP." Christine Grayden/Irene McKell. *Carried.*

11. Speaker: Christine Grayden showed a DVD titled "Island Voices", which has oral history excerpts about Phillip Island and San Remo, originally part of a project between the Phillip Island & District Historical Society and local radio station 3MFM. The full project won the Museums Australia Victoria Volunteer Museums award three years ago. Cherry starts the DVD talking about her Phillip Island childhood between the two World Wars. Members showed their appreciation at the end with acclamation.

12. Meeting closed 3 p.m.

Next meeting: Saturday 12.5.2018, 1.30 p.m., function room, Churchill Island Visitors Centre
The full text of all of the talks can be found on the historical society's website: pidhs.org.au under Talks and Essays. The talks included two parts on the history of Churchill Island, written and presented by Christine.

New Subscriptions Rates from 1 July 2018

This article is a reminder about the new membership rates which will take effect from 1 July 2018.

Decisions Taken at the 2017 AGM

At the Annual General Meeting held on 19 August 2017, the Society decided:

1. That the membership subscriptions be set **per Household** instead of **per Person** in order to make the system fairer.
2. That there should be 3 types of membership subscriptions:
 - a. **Family Household.** A Family Household is defined as a household consisting of two or more adults without any children, or two or more adults with any number of children under 15. This is the equivalent of a Family Membership, or a Dual Adult Household Membership, or a Triple Adult Household Membership under the current membership categories.
 - b. **Single Adult Household.** A Single Adult Household is defined as a household consisting of a single adult who is not eligible for any concessions. This is the equivalent of a Single Adult Household under the current membership categories.

- a. **Concession Household.** A Concession Household is defined as a household consisting of one or more adults where all members of the household are eligible for a concession. This is the equivalent of a Single Concession Household, a Dual Concession Household, or a Triple Concession Household under the current membership categories. If the household includes a person who is not eligible for a Concession membership, the membership will be treated as a Family Household Membership.
2. That the membership subscription rates as from 1 July 2018 should be set as follows:
 - a. **Family Household** rate = \$30.00 per year, regardless of the number of adults and children living at the same address.
 - b. **Single Adult Household** rate = \$20.00 per year (for a single non-concession adult).
 - c. **Concession Household** rate = \$15.00 per year, regardless of the number of eligible adults living at the same address.
3. That membership subscription rates should be the same regardless of what payment method the member chooses to use.
4. That membership subscription rates should be the same regardless of the member's preferences for receiving communications from the Society.

The aim is to make the subscription rates fairer, not to raise extra money. The new rates will be per household instead of per person because the Society's costs are per household.

Please note that the annual cost of providing membership services to a household is about \$17.00. These membership services include conducting the AGM and other general meetings, publishing the newsletter each quarter, publishing the web site, printing and distribution of membership cards, sending out membership renewals and reminders, etc.

Impact of These Changes

These changes will have the following impact:

- If you currently have a **Family Membership**, you will be asked to pay **\$5 more** each year. Instead of paying \$25.00 per year for your Family Membership, you will now be paying \$30.00 per year for a **Family Household**. You will be making a positive contribution of about \$13 per year towards the Society's Heritage activities (\$30 annual membership less the cost to the Society of about \$17 per year). This still offers very good value for money because you will be paying \$30 each year but the value of your membership is conservatively estimated to be in the range \$42 to \$70 per year.
- If you currently have a **Single Adult Membership**, you will be asked to pay **\$5 more** each year. Instead of paying \$15.00 per year for your Adult Membership, you will now be paying \$20.00 per year for a **Single Adult Household**. Instead of getting a subsidy of about \$2 each year, you will be making a positive contribution of about \$3 per year towards the Society's Heritage activities (\$20 annual membership less the cost to the Society of about \$17 per year). This also offers very good value for money because you will be paying \$20 each year but the value of your membership is conservatively estimated to be in the range \$23 to \$34 per year.
- If you currently have a **Dual Adult Membership**, you will be asked to pay the **same amount** of \$30 each year. Instead of paying \$15 per person you will be paying \$30 for a Family Household. You will be making a positive contribution of about \$13 per year towards the Society's Heritage activities (\$30 annual membership less the cost to the Society of about \$17 per year). This still offers very good value for money because you will be paying \$30 each year but the value of your membership is conservatively estimated to be in the range \$36 to \$59 per year.
- If you currently have a **Single Concession Membership**, you will be asked to pay **\$5 more** each year. Instead of paying \$10.00 per year for your Concession Membership, you will now be paying \$15.00 per year for a **Concession Household**. Instead of getting a subsidy of about \$7 each year, your subsidy will be reduced to about \$2 per year (\$15 annual membership but the cost to the Society is about \$17 per year). This still offers very good value for money because you will be paying \$15 each year but the value of your membership is conservatively estimated to be in the range \$19 to \$28 per year.



- If you currently have a **Dual Concession Membership**, you will be asked to pay **\$5 less**. Instead of paying \$20.00 per year (\$10.00 for each of the 2 Concession members), you will now be paying \$15.00 per year for a **Concession Household**. You will be receiving a subsidy of about \$2 per year (\$15 annual membership but the cost to the Society is about \$17 per year). This also offers very good value for money because you will be paying \$15 each year but the value of your membership is conservatively estimated to be in the range \$28 to \$45 per year.
- If you currently have a household with a **Family Membership and 1 Concession Member**, you will be asked to pay **\$5 less**. Instead of paying \$35.00 per year (\$25.00 for the Family membership plus \$10.00 for the Concession member), you will now be paying \$30.00 per year for a **Family Household**.
- If you currently have a household with **3 Concession Members**, you will be asked to pay **\$15 less**. Instead of paying \$30.00 per year (\$10.00 for each of the 3 Concession members), you will now be paying \$15.00 per year for a **Concession Household**.

Membership Benefits

The current membership benefits will remain:

1. Unlimited entry to Churchill Island during operating hours plus discount for special events.
2. 25% off entry fees to Phillip Island Nature Parks attractions.
3. 20% off purchases in Phillip Island Nature Parks Gift Shops.
4. 10% off at the cafes – Churchill Island, Penguin Parade & Koala Conservation Centre only (excluding liquor).
5. Regular issues of the FOCIS Newsletter which will be sent to you by email or post in accordance with your preferences.

Membership Value

Even though **some** members are being asked to pay more, FOCIS membership still offers good value for money for **all members**.

For example:

1. The value of a Family Household Membership is conservatively estimated to be in the range \$42 to \$70 per year. The current membership subscription is \$25.00 per year and the new rate is \$30.00 per year so even when the rate is increased, the members in this type of household will still receive value for money.
2. The value of a Single Concession Household Membership is conservatively estimated to be in the range \$19 to \$28 per year. The current membership subscription is \$10.00 per year and the new rate is \$15.00 per year so even when the rate is increased, members in this type of household will still receive value for money.

What Will Happen Next

1. New memberships which take effect from 1 July 2018 will be subject to the new rates.
 2. When you receive your membership renewal notices in early June 2018, the new membership rates will be applied.
- If you currently have a household with a **Family Membership and 1 Concession Member**, you will be asked to pay **\$5 less**. Instead of paying \$35.00 per year (\$25.00 for the Family membership plus \$10.00 for the Concession member), you will now be paying \$30.00 per year for a **Family Household**.
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Tom O'Dea, Treasurer

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With the Picnic ruined by the weather it seemed a shame to waste all the effort the volunteers had gone to to dress for the occasion.

The lady of the house took tea in the parlour served by the maid.
It was rather fun to have the opportunity to make the house 'live' for a time.
Many photographs were taken.

Taking tea in the parlour

with Rebecca and Linda



A JOURNEY FROM MELBOURNE TO PHILLIP ISLAND 1869 - BY RAY TOVELL

An illustrated talk given by Christine Grayden at the November 2017 FOCIS general meeting.



cattle grazing, Elwood

(continued from issue 138)

“Two bob dropped to the ground of the toll keeper opposite the Grammar School and saved delay, and although St Kilda Rd was only a single track, and rutty, we had at least begun to settle as we passed through the gate and started off for Mooney’s Hotel to water our horses, as an equally thirsty gent in the boot uttered protestations.”

“Bill refused to permit the thirsty gent to escape from his compartment confinement and at Dickens Street, Elwood; he was restricted to a flask of water from the East Brighton Creek, known as Elwood Swamp.

This was an introduction to what we were to encounter further on along the journey. “Plunging through mush and slush along the main road with offal, waste meat and drain from the old slaughter house harbor, and many unscriptural maledictions by Bill on his horses, we crossed a little creek, the only opposite one by the sea, and where four or five houses of Elwood stood before us, amongst them “Elwood House”, the old home of the late Hon J G Dogherty, some twenty acres or more surround it, and are now largely contributory to the little township.”

“Our journey to Brighton Beach was uneventful after we got the signal of ‘cease firing’ and were permitted to cross at the Elwood butts, the Rifle Range of the early days; and although St Kilda Street was imperfectly constructed, we duly arrived safely, and I doubt to the satisfaction of our sweating and tired team, it being the end of their section of the journey, to be picked up again on the return trip. Foxalls Hotel (the Royal Terminus) was only a small one. The blacks were on one of their wandering trips from the Mordialloc Reserve and were fairly numerous.

“ ‘All aboard’ and the next section to Mordialloc had begun. There were no houses practically, until Mordialloc was reached except for two inns. I observed some time ago a correspondent writing about the destruction of the ti-tree, but never was there any between Brighton and the Retreat Hotel; the ti-tree there was planted later. The track through the sand was negotiated by the skill of “Old Bill” in handling his team, and he cursed frequently – the overlapping boughs caused no little concern, and frequently snakes basking in the hot sand did not quite agree with the necessity of our horses holding the narrow track. The coastline now and then was different, but we kept fairly close to the sea.

“We stopped at the first turn-off to drink our thirsty horses from a spring on the cliff, of which there are two, and a cupful was equally accepted by ourselves. As we rested, Bill told us of a swamp close handy, and loading our muzzle guns, we waded through the bordering reeds. My hand swept back at a large tiger snake as we lay stretched between two divided tussocks; the separation haunts me still! We left the wild ducks alone, although in future times, I subsequently shot many a duck and snipe in the swamp, which is now covered with houses. The blacks gave great trouble and stole the horses, so Mr Ebden built a high stockade to lock the horses up at night. Balcombe Road is named after the late Mr Balcome who held quite a large area in this locality, which he sued for his stock travelling along the Mornington Peninsula.

(To be continued)

AUTUMN 2018

FOCIS



photos:
**John
Clark.**



The Friends of Churchill Island Society
Newsletter

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