

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

FOCIS

NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

Dates to remember:

Working bees:

Sat 11 May 8am – 10am – Spring Clean

Sat 8 June 8am – 10am – Spring Clean

Sat 31 Aug 10am - 12 – Mach shed

Sat 9 Nov 8am – 10am – Spring Clean

General Meeting

**Saturday, 11th May 2019 1.30 p.m.,
function room, Churchill Island Visitors Centre.
Speaker will be Mike Cleeland on “The Geology
of Western Port and Churchill Island”**

also 10-8-2019 and 9-11-2019.

The new Machinery Shed extension



For those who have not visited recently the developing new display space for our collection of farm machinery means that the rather untidy and hard to see jumble of machines in the original space will be given a spruce up and informative signage. Access to and around the equipment is part of the plan, There is some work to be done yet as the photo shows but when finished it will make a big difference.

Presidents report

At our last meeting, I reported that the schedule for the building of the new historic farm machinery shed was not clear. Building has now commenced but the final plans were not as we expected with the structure smaller and not aligned with the shearing shed. I have been confused about the access path which appeared to include steps though I am assured by Kate Evans that all disability access requirements will be complied with.

I had a meeting with Melissa (curator) and we arranged the first of a series of FOCIS/curator/management meetings to look at the development of the historic precinct. We are keen to get the museum back on the agenda and to find a role for Pedro's shed. We may need a crowd funding project to provide a shelter for the large wagon which may not fit into the new structure.

Sadly, the entrance turnstile still does not function. However, it is gratifying to see the finalisation of the Rogers Cottages footings at last.



Manders



The front of house has had a makeover

The signage is easier for visitors to access, the reception counter has moved and the retail space looks quite different.

In the car park paddock a long post and rail fence is being built, and a part of it seems to have found its way into the reception space, and a saddle, harness, a stock whip and a venerable hat give a barn feel to the area.

And if you think that hat looks familiar.....



Trevor, the farm manager has spent a long time getting it to look that good.....

FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 09-02-2019

1. Welcome & Acknowledgement
2. Present: David Maunders (chair), Christine Grayden, Tom O'Dea, Terry Holman, John Eddy, Sue Hollingworth, Roger Hollingworth, Jan Fleming, Di Scukovic,
3. Apologies: Jeff Cole, Pauline Taylor, Irene McKell, Kay Williams, Richard & Margaret Farrell, Kay Setches, Wilf Dungan, Anne Davie, Robyn Holman, Ann Jelly, Peter Jelly, Sue & Bruce Chambers, Graeme Clausen.

4. Phillip Island Nature Parks report on Churchill Island activities – read by Christine for Kate Adams:

Heritage Internships

- We have two internship students working on heritage related projects with Melissa over the coming months.
- Samantha Mather will be assisting with collections management tasks from April and is currently volunteering as well.
- Natalia Antigueira will be undertaking a research project from February onwards.
- Both internships are for 120 hours and in partnership with Deakin University.

Branding roll out

- The marketing team are looking to roll out the new brand and Churchill Island is the first site they're focusing on.
- This will include replacing wayfinding, welcome and regulatory signage and will support the development of a consistent style for use across all sites and coastal reserves.
- This process will begin soon and be completed by 30 June 2019.

Machinery shed

- Construction of the machinery is due to be completed by mid- February.
- Melissa and Ailsa have commenced work on the content development for signage for the machinery and layout for machinery placement with input from Christine.
- A meeting is scheduled for 19 February to discuss the interpretation with FOCIS as well as other items.

CI Playground

- the construction of the playground is planned to commence in early 2020.

PINP Community Open Day

Flyer

10.30-11.30am - CI activities are sheep shearing, working dogs, old fashioned games, and face painting. Visitor Experience Volunteers in costume.

5. Minutes of last meeting 17.11.18 Ruth O'Dea/Roger Hollingworth *Carried.*

6. Matters arising from last meeting:

a) Farm machinery display extension of shed - to President's report

b) A copy of Pat Baird's book *Churchill Island: History and Her Story* has been given to each of the PINP board members. It is currently on sale 4 for \$20.

7. President's report: (See P2)

8. Treasurer's/Membership Secretary's Report - Tom O'Dea

Tom reported that the Bass Coast Shire Council community grant amount of \$5,000 is being held at call and will be transferred to PINP to help pay for the shed extension soon.

\$2,100 from our crowdfunding campaign is available to assist with the cost of the signage to be displayed with the farm machinery. (PINP's Ailsa Batey and their graphic designer will compile the signage with information from Melissa. Christine and hopefully Jeff can assist with this.)

The FOCIS donations box located in Amess House drawing room has yielded \$784.65 in the last 12 months. (Thanks to Ruth for regularly emptying the box)

Memberships fell by 18. Total number of members is now 259.

Reports moved Tom O'Dea/Terry Holman *Carried.*

9. Curator's Report – read by Christine for Melissa Hayes.

The Machinery Shed construction is now well underway and Ailsa from PINP and I have been selecting machinery to display and preparing the interpretation information, with valuable input from Christine. I am also looking at some of the beautiful photographs from the working horse festivals to use to show the machinery in operation.

I am reviewing the cleaning schedule for the heritage buildings and objects created by Christine for the MAP Accreditation. This is to ensure that everything is cleaned on a rotation. FOCIS Working Bees are an important part of this schedule especially for those big jobs where "many hands to make light work".

We are welcoming two intern students this year, Natalia Antiqueira and Samantha Mather. Natalia is from Brazil, has a background in Anthropology, Sociology and Cultural Studies and is doing her Masters in Cultural Heritage at Deakin University. She has worked in the film industry, is a writer and will embark on a research project at Churchill Island over February and March. Samantha lives locally and has started as a Visitor Experience Officer to get to know Churchill Island and will do her formal internship next semester.

10. Correspondence

Inwards:

Irene McKell – serious health problems in her family means she is not available until further notice.

From Kate Adams confirming disabled access in farm machinery shed extension
From Rachael Ferguson re Child Protection Code of Conduct
Melissa Hayes, notification of meeting with FOCIS Tues 19 Feb 3-4 p.m.
Therese Hutchin PINP re updating Visitor Centre door displays re FOCIS
Sally O'Neill re PINP Open Day Sunday March 3.
From Linda Patterson agreeing to do old time chores on Open Day for children
Ruth O'Dea re comment from her cousin John on lack of explanatory signage for farm machinery
Melissa Hayes, several emails re plans for machinery shed extension
Rachael Ferguson re Aboriginal aspects of Visitor Experience role.
Lee Tierney re training requirements for volunteers being excessive

Outwards:

To Kate Adams: letter of support for more hours for curator.
To Sally O'Neill, organiser of PINP Open Day letting her know Linda Patterson and I will be there for old fashioned chores in Roger's Cottage.
To Kate Adams from David Maunders x 2 re apparent lack of disabled access in farm machinery shed.
David to Therese Hutchin re update of FOCIS VC door displays with suggestions of images from FB page.
To Linda Patterson asking her if she is happy to do old time chores with children for Open Day. (she is, Linda and Christine will be there if approved by organisers)
To Melissa Hayes, then Ruth O'Dea re intention to include description and use of machinery in signage.
David responses to Melissa Hayes various emails on plans for farm machinery shed extension

11. General Business

a) Working bees: The dates for FOCIS working bees for 2019 will be discussed with Melissa as soon as possible and members notified through the March newsletter. FOCIS working bees are now more necessary than ever since the house and cottages due to changed volunteer cleaning arrangements.

The necessity for risk assessments for working bees was raised. Christine will ask Rachael for a copy of PINP's template for this and will make sure an assessment is done for each working bee.

b) The issue of lack of signage of the farm machinery generally was raised. The only signage intended is for the machines in the two sheds (including the one currently being extended). Should Pedro's shed also become capable of displaying some of the historic farm machinery, signage may well be appropriate in there too. PINP is in the process of standardising all the signage across the parks with the new branding.

c) A member asked how successful glamping has been on Churchill Island. Christine will find out and report at next meeting.

12. Christine Grayden gave a Power Point talk on "Cr Samuel Amess: His Life and Times".

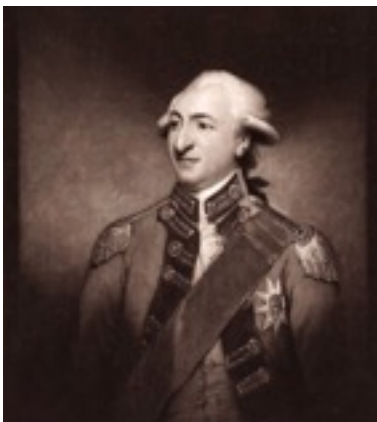
13. Meeting Closed followed by afternoon tea

A short History of Sliding Keels

Those of you familiar with the model of the Lady Nelson at Churchill Island will no doubt be familiar with the triple 'sliding keels' she sports. The earliest record of these devices, now known as 'dagger boards', is from China in the year 475. This evidence came from the discovery of a clay model of a junk from that time period, found in a burial cave.

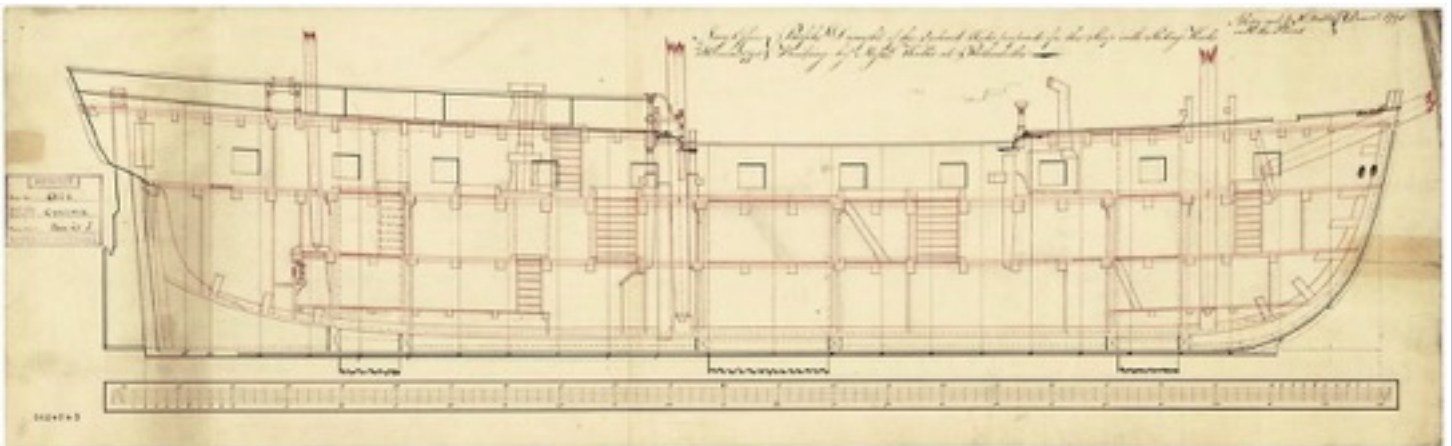


In the 1500's in Brazil there is mention of a 'fairly sophisticated' log raft with them but putting a board down between two logs may not be a formal example. And similar arrangements have been informally documented from India.

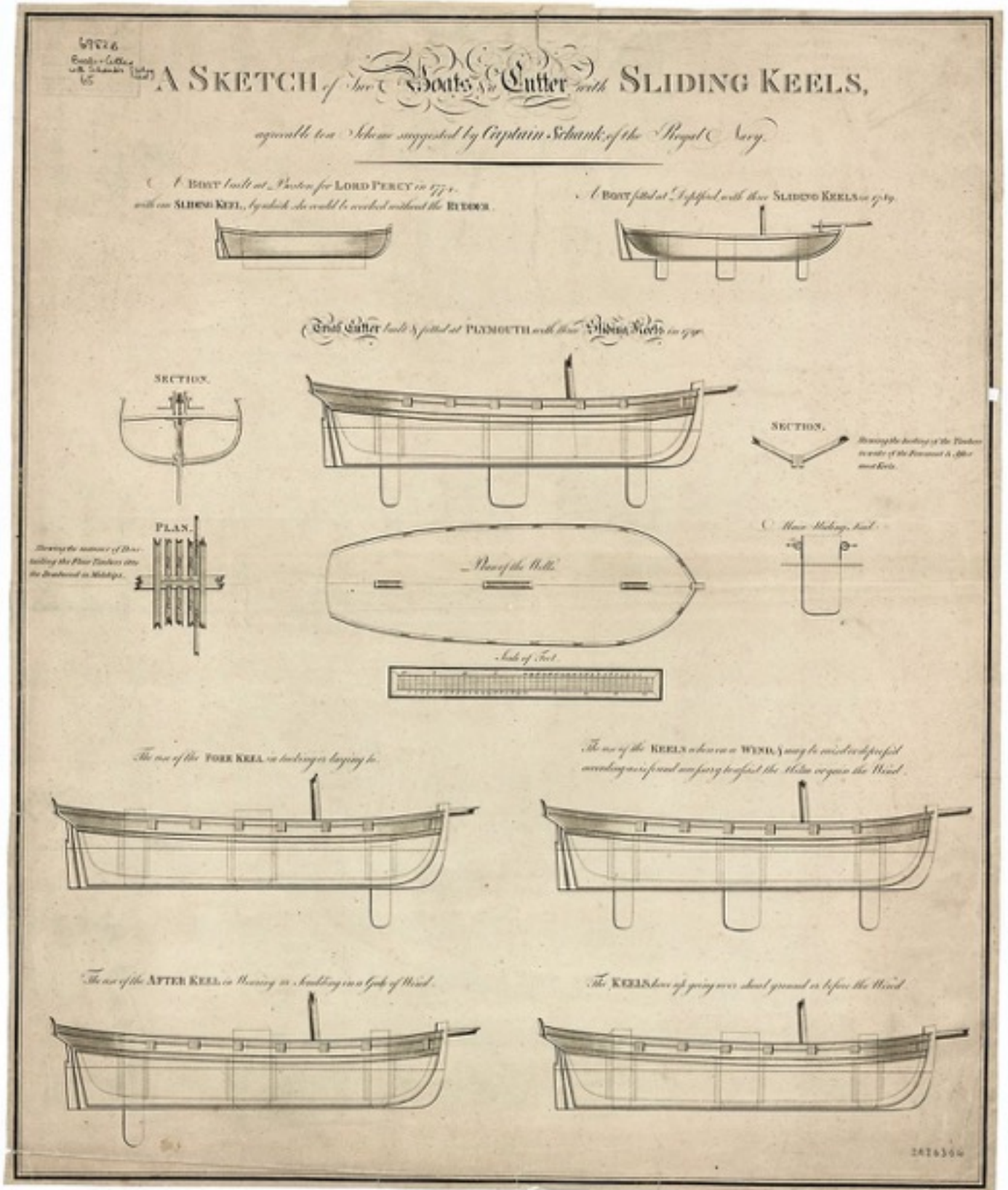


There was a patent issued in the early 1800's. But Schank, credited one Lord Percy, a British officer in the American war of Independence, invented as a way of sailing vessels in shallow and restricted waters without losing way, but note the long Chinese use previously. Hugh Percy, 2nd Duke of Northumberland, was Schank's patron. James Grant also mentioned Percy in his journals.

In 1796 HMS Cynthia, with 3 'sliding keels' was launched as a 16 gun Sloop. Designed to be a 'surface sailer' and accurately manoeuvrable in shallows and rivers.



We come now to the Lady Nelson, built with a fore and aft rig (like a yacht) but changed for her voyage to Australia to a square rig. This is a quite beautiful drawing and a master wooden shipwright would have no trouble building a ship from these plans.



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Around 1820 The Whital and Wilkins families, farmers, began building boats with these keels along a tributary to the Delaware river in America to carry their produce to market. The boats got bigger and bigger and evolved into the standard river trading vessel of the area, and were still being built to about 1900 by the same families.

On any weekend many of the fleets of small sailing dinghies you will see on our bays and lakes have 'sliding keels', called centreboards these days, to keep them upright and on course.

Jeff Cole and friends from the WB forum

Captain John Schank, 1740 - 1823



The Friends of Churchill Island Society
Newsletter

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Number 143

Autumn 2019

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