



FOCIS

newsletter

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

SPRING 2005

MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE

The meeting scheduled for November 26th
HAS BEEN CANCELLED

NEW DATE IS SAT DECEMBER 3rd 1:00pm-4:00pm

A CALL TO ALL MEMBERS!!!

IBIS DAM PLANTING DAY 2nd October 2005

11.00 a.m. 1.00 p.m.

Picnic lunch provided.

All Members are invited to come and help with the planting. Bring gardening gloves and wear sturdy footwear. Tools will be provided. We will be having a picnic after the planting and this will be a great opportunity for FOCIS Members to spend some social time together.

Please let Jill know if you are coming (5672 5235) so we have some idea of the numbers for catering.

Extract from Minutes of

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004/2005 - held on 23rd July 2005 at Churchill Island Information Centre,

PRESENT: Keith Hocking, Laurin Dent, Cherry McFee, Neil Gladman, Fred Allen, Lee Tierney, Tonia Luther, Yvonne Robson, Nancy Brain, Irene Measom, Irene McKell, Christine Grayden, Celia Hendriks, Eric Graae, Jill Fitzroy-Kelly.

APOLOGIES: Pat Baird, Chesterman Chalmers, Mary Mitchell, Sue & Bruce Chambers, Sue & Roger Hollingworth, Ann Penaluna, Jocelyn Bradley, Maureen Symmonds, Joy Gladman, Anne Davie

ANNUAL REPORT: PRESIDENT: Moved Neil Gladman / Keith Hocking.

The President said that he would not be seeking re-election as President and thanked the Committee and Members for their support during what had been a very difficult term in office

TREASURERS' REPORT: Moved Neil Gladman/Tonia Luther.

The Treasurer set him apologies for not being able to attend the Meeting. The Secretary circulated copies of the Treasurers' Report to all present.

Total funds at Bank were \$31,350.69

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Moved Jill Fitzroy-Kelly / Lee Tierney

The Hon. Secretary thanked all those who had helped her over the last twelve months. It had been a very busy one and she appreciated the willingness of both FOCIS Members and PINP Staff (both indoor and outdoor) to assist her in so many ways.

As Membership Secretary she said that memberships stood



at 593 as at 30/06/2005. The new changes to membership entitlements had been well received and to date approximately 230 were in for the 2005/2006 year.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS & ORDINARY MEMBERS:

- a. **President** Ann Penaluna
- b. **Vice-President** Neil Gladman
- c. **Treasurer** - Roger Hollingworth
- d. **Sec/Memb. Sec.** Jill Fitzroy-Kelly

Ordinary Committee Members:

Fred Allen, Chesterman Chalmers, Joy Gladman, Laurin Martin, Jocelyn Bradley, Keith Hocking, Sue Chambers, Bruce Chambers, Irene McKell F.O.K., Cherry McFee P.I.H.S., Christine Grayden P.I.C.S.

On taking the Chair to conduct the election, Keith Hocking thanked Neil for the work he had done as President.

GUEST SPEAKER.

Ranger Neville Johnson gave a very brief report on what had been happening around C.I. and introduced Ben Clark the new Farm Manager. Ben detailed his background, being an artisan blacksmith who was brought up on a Clydesdale raising property in Tasmania. He was looking forward to the pre-planning for next years Working Horse Festival and felt he had much he could contribute to making it a real farming festival. He was also about to start the planning for the building of the Blacksmiths Workshop, and said he would welcome practical help from Members of FOCIS when it came to building it. He added that he looked forward to getting to meet people and was always ready to exchange ideas on the way C.I. should develop.





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On 3rd December, 2005, from 1:00pm- 4:00pm, at Churchill Island your executive invites all members to decide our vision (what we aspire to), our mission (how we'll get there) and our objectives (measures of success). We will have an outstanding Australian Facilitator to walk us on our way towards our decisions.

An exciting and perhaps different future for our Society! Let's look again at our who, why, when and what. More activity and more inclusion for all members!

Some thoughts for consideration-

Improving our island heritage working farm: The best heritage working farm in Victoria:

Caring for..... Sustaining.... Show-casing.... Continuing.... Restoring.... Building.... Supporting..... Walking and cycling tracks..... Heritage animals..... Family attractions..... Peaceful ambience, Tranquility, Beauty Demonstrating history..... Sharing..... Partnering with....

And so on, or none of the above!

The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. wishes to ensure that the enjoyment, beauty, tranquility and excitement of our heritage island farm, its historic precinct; gardens and surrounds are maintained and improved so that future generations can experience and value their history. Love to see you there!

Ann Penaluna, President.



Stella Axarlis AM, facilitator for Dec 3rd meeting

From teacher to internationally acclaimed opera singer, managing director and community advocate Stella Axarlis abandoned her career in 1990 to assume responsibility for the struggling family-owned engineering company in Dandenong. Under her leadership the company became a model for its size and industry and the only small business, in manufacturing, to win an Australian Quality Award.

Stella consults with organisations that are undertaking significant cultural change and transformation programs, is recognised as a strong advocate for business excellence and presents nationally and internationally on issues of business excellence, management, organisational culture and education and training.

Among her Board positions she is currently Deputy Chair of the Australian National Training Authority Board, Chair of the National Training Quality Council and member of the Australian Universities Quality Agency Board.

Stella Axarlis holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (Melbourne University). She has been appointed in 1998 a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of her contribution to training, business and children with disabilities, in 2002 she was recognised in Victoria's Awards for Excellence in Multicultural Affairs and in 2003 she received a Centenary Medal.



Extract from General Meeting

Held on Saturday 23rd July 2005 following the A.G.M. Sub-Committees:

- a. Newsletter - Neil Gladman, Keith Hocking, Laurin Martin.
- b. W.H. Festival Committee - Jill Fitzroy-Kelly, Keith Hocking, Laurin Martin.
- c. Building Works Committee - Fred Allen, Keith Hocking.
- d. Open Garden Weekend Committee - Christine Grayden.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Cherry McFee reported that she and Sally O'Neill had catalogued and photographed the articles in the Historic Precinct.

Fred Allen queried what paperwork was there for FOCIS Volunteers to cover them for OH&S considerations when they were working at C.I. The Secretary said that registration forms were compulsory for the Working Horse festival, and a record was kept of both guides and gardeners. She would follow up with PINP about other activities such as tree planting and buildings.

Keith Hocking said that once again some Members had been expressing opinions which they attributed to FOCIS when, in fact, it was their own opinion. He reminded Members not to use FOCIS's name in this manner.

It was agreed that the Newsletter needed reviewing and updating with more photos and interesting stories. Newsletter Committee said they would follow up on this.

It was generally felt that the W. H. Festival was moving too far away from the original idea. Less loud music and more country style music would be appreciated by many people who had attended from the feedback Members have received. This to be taken up with PINP by W.H. Festival Committee.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Mark Merryfull, PINP's very new Revegetation Officer (in the job 2 weeks) was introduced at the meeting. Mark detailed a little of his background, has a Diploma of Natural Resource Management and had recently worked for the Banyule Council. He said that he was still finding his way around and had not had time to do any forward planning but that he would welcome suggestions and help from FOCIS in working out what the future requirements were for both C.I. and other PINP properties. One of the projects planned is revegetation around the "Ibis Dam" and he asked for volunteers. It was agreed that FOCIS would advise it's members when a date was settled and advertise the project in the Newsletter. It was envisaged that it would take place in the Spring, either September or early October. He also said that he was a qualified Nurseryman and would like to build up a stock of plants indigenous to C.I. (especially the Moonas) and would be glad of volunteers to help with seed gathering etc. but that was in the future, as he was still coming to grips with the newly created position which had no precedent to follow. He thanked FOCIS for inviting him to speak and said that he was always available if any one wanted to take up any matters with him.

The Acting Chairman thanked Mark for coming and said that it had been a good opportunity for members to meet him and Ben Clark the other new staff member, as he felt we would be doing a lot of business together in the near future.

Next Meeting will be held on Saturday 3rd December 2005, Education Room, Churchill Island Visitors Centre at 1.00 p.m. All Members are invited to attend.



VOLUNTEER GUIDE REPORT

Mary Mitchell reports: Driving through Fisher's Wetland at the entrance to Churchill Island recently, I came upon a ranger with his gun raised and realized he was part of the war being waged against foxes and rabbits. During that morning a lady came to the homestead saying she had a fright on her way to the island. She saw a man with a gun and was reminded of the Port Arthur massacre and wondered if she was safe. I was able to reassure her. The Nature Park has been asked to put an appropriate sign at the gate when these campaigns are happening as we need to welcome visitors, not scare them away!

One day while on duty, two very interested gentlemen came in and we talked at some length. We got around to discussing how farm houses in the early days were slow at getting running water, electricity or hot water services. Our discussion concluded that any spare money went on farm machinery, more stock or fencing etc., the priority of the house came last. One man then asked where I had lived as a child and as soon as I told him it was on a farm near a particular little town in the southern Riverina, he asked if I knew a certain family and my mouth dropped open as they had lived on the farm next door to us. (A descendant of this family lived next door to our visitor in Murrumbena.)

They sheared their sheep in our woolshed and helped clean out a large dam which emptied during the 1940's drought. They worked with my father using two teams of horses and the old fashioned scoops the men walked behind and when they were filled full of mud, carted up and over the dam banks, then upended using the wooden handles of the scoop. As a small girl I was most impressed and can still see it clearly. It recalled some long forgotten memories for me and helps explain my passion for Churchill Island.

The same types of scoops were used here on the island to make dams or clean them out and there is reference to them in a FOCIS newsletter dated 25/1/1992.

Our very handsome peacocks are looking their best now, with last year's young males growing those fabulous tail feathers. When one is fanned out, cameras click and it seems not long ago when the youngsters looked like leggy adolescents. The Guinea Fowl are plump and healthy and is it just because it is Spring they can be so very noisy?

Churchill Island **IS** a magic place!



CHUCHILL ISLAND FARM REPORT

The island has undergone a few changes in the last 6 weeks starting with me I guess. I am the new farm coordinator, my name is Ben Clark and my background is in working horses and blacksmithing having grown up on a Clydesdale stud in Tasmania.

The next is our new agriculture officer Meredith Manteit. Meredith will be looking after the agriculture trainees who are part of a new course being offered by the Park. It is also her role to liaise with the volunteer groups and help out with pasture and farm planning. The island is just starting to come alive with the recent rain and now with some sun every thing has started to happen.

The sheep started lambing on the 14 of August and we have 18 to date and more to come All the cows are fine and with the pasture growth they will be in good shape for the months to come. The horses have started back into some work and are going well, planting a pea and oat crop in one of the paddocks.



I have new harness arriving soon for the girls which will allow us to do more, and more importantly is safer for the horses and public.

The gardens and homestead are just starting to get a clean up for spring and will be ready to bloom very soon. Lisa and I are looking forward to having every thing spic and span for the Garden Lover's Festival in November, which will be our first event for the summer.

Investigations are under way for the building of a blacksmiths shop between Amess barn and the shearing shed. I am very keen for the members of FOCIS to be involved in this project. Plans will be drawn and submitted to heritage Victoria ASAP, with the aim to have it up and running by the Working Horse Festival 2006.

I would like to thank the members of FOCIS for their warm welcome and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Ben Clark



BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP

Preliminary planning has started to design and build the Ron Hocking Memorial Blacksmith's Workshop (working title). All you builders and tradies (or just enthusiastic amateurs) out there, we will be calling on you for help as FOCIS will be involved in the actual construction. The Building Works Committee will be organizing "working bees" for later in the year. It is hoped it can be completed in time for next year's Working Horse Festival (April 15th/16th 2006).



CHURCHILL ISLAND OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND

November 12th/13th 2005

FOCIS will again have an information tent at the Open Garden Weekend. Committee Member Christine Grayden has kindly undertaken to act as Convenor.

A photographic display of Churchill Island's history and work done by FOCIS Volunteers will be featured. If you have any material or are willing to assist Christine over that weekend, please ring her on 5956 8501 or contact her by e-mail cgrayden@waterfront.net.au.

We will also be getting in touch with Members who expressed an interest in gardening. Lisa Burrell PINP Head Gardener is currently working out a planting/tidying up program to have the gardens ready by November.

★ UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS

Members are reminded that the Financial Year for FOCIS Memberships now runs 1st July 2005 to 30th June 2006. If your Newsletter carries a red star/dot on the cover it means you are not financial at the time of posting.

This is your only reminder as the Summer Newsletter will only be sent to financial members.

GETTING MEMBERS INVOLVED.

For some months Committee Members have been discussing ways in which we can have more interaction between Members.

Committee Member Fred Allen has put forward some suggestions and we would like some feedback from Members.

These suggestions include:

Adopting a more interesting General Meeting format which includes keynote speakers on topics relating to conservation issues, island and marine ecology, the history of Churchill Island, family histories etc.

Introduction of an incentive program which recognises the value and work of FOCIS volunteers.

Finding ways to attract back local volunteers who are no longer contributing.

Identify tasks and implement programs for volunteers.

Special feature articles in Newsletter.

Do you know of someone who would make an interesting guest speaker? Do you have something of interest to tell us? Do you have an idea of ways to get Members involved? Suggestions for some social gatherings?

If you do, please attend the December 3 meeting which will be a think tank on our future or speak to a Committee Member or put it in writing to Jill Fitzroy-Kelly (P.O.Box 852 COWES 3922 or e-mail jillfk@dcsi.net.au)

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

123 YOUR BUNCH OF DATES **456**

2nd October 2005 Ibis Dam planting day

12th and 13th November Garden Lovers Festival

3rd December 2005 FOCIS general meeting

28th January 2006 FOCIS general meeting

25th March 2006 FOCIS general meeting

27th May 2006 FOCIS general meeting

A.G.M. date to be decided.



FOCIS COMMITTEE 2005-2006

President: Ann Penaluna (03)5956 9302

E-mail penaluna@waterfront.net.au

Vice President: Neil Gladman (03)5956 6050

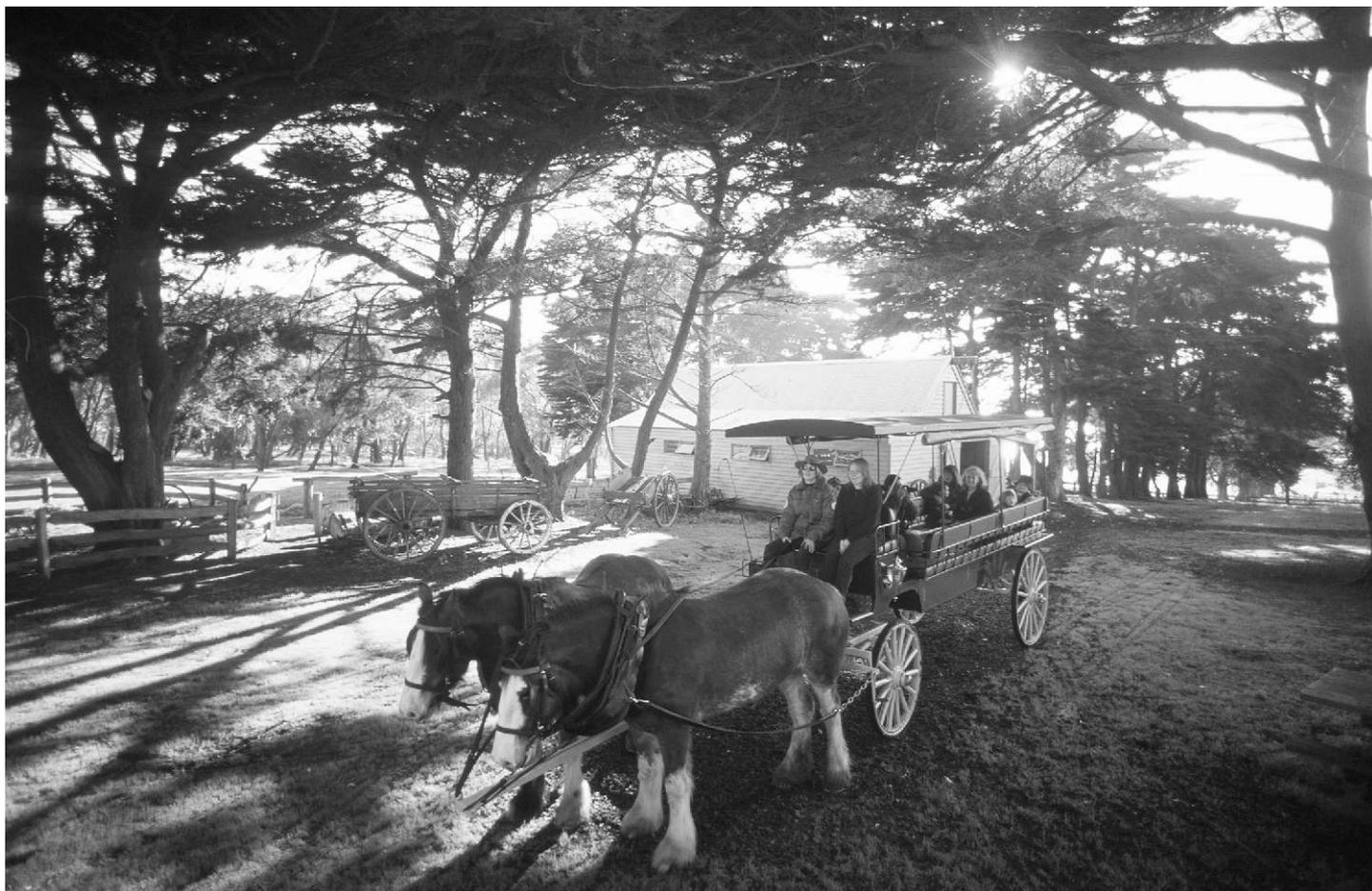
E-mail gladman@waterfront.net.au

Treasurer: and Public Officer: Roger Hollingworth

E-mail roger.m.hollingworth@bigpond.com

General and Membership Secretary: Jill Fitzroy-Kelly

(03)5672 5235 E-mail jillfk@dcsi.net.au





**The Dawning of the
WORKING HORSE
FESTIVAL 2004**



**A PORTRAIT OF
CHURCHILL
ISLAND
AS IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN.**



PHOTO'S BY SAM BENNETT. COMPILED BY KEITH HOCKING.

FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY INC.

To: Secretary FOCIS, PO Box 852 COWES 3922, Vic. Aust.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please Enrol/Renew a FOCIS Membership for

Name

YEAR

Address Postcode

Phone: Home Business

Email

Membership is from 1st July 2005 to 30th June 2006 **ADULT** \$15 **FAMILY** \$25 **CONCESSION** \$10

Family - 2 Adults & 2 Children under 14 years. Concession - Australian Pensions Card No.

Able to volunteer **In the Garden** **As a Guide** **Doing Restoration**

I understand that a current FOCIS membership entitles me to:-

Visit Churchill Island any time during opening hours plus discount for special events.

Visit **Penguin Parade** and **Koala Conservation Centre**

during opening hours 2 times a year for ongoing members and 1 times a year for new members,
10% discount for accompanying visitors, 10% discount on food and souvenirs.

Participate in Churchill Island Projects.

N.B. Membership card is not transferable. Identification may be requested at any time.

If elected as a FOCIS member, I agree to abide by the Society's Rules as laid down in its Constitution.



Friends of Churchill Island Society Newsletter

If undelivered return to: FOCIS, PO Box 852, COWES 3922

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SPRING 2005



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