



FOCIS

newsletter

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

Number 122 SUMMER 2013

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER: HISTORY DISCOUNTED

DATES TO REMEMBER

GENERAL MEETINGS

2014

Saturday 8 February

Saturday 10 May

Saturday 16 August
(AGM)

Saturday 8 November

1.30 pm Meeting Room
Churchill Island Visitors'
Centre

Please submit copy for the
next newsletter by
15 February 2014

We are on the web. See this issue in
colour

www.friendsofchurchillisland.org.au

President@

Secretary@

Membership@

Treasurer@

friendsofchurchillisland.org.au



Copies of **Churchill Island: History and Her Story**, by Pat Baird will be on sale over the Christmas period online only from our website at \$9.95 plus p&p which is normally \$4.50. Our history makes an excellent Christmas present and contains some wonderful illustrations. Merry Christmas to all our members. Order from our website:

www.friendsofchurchillisland.org.au

MANNIQUINS DRESSED FOR SUMMER



Cheryl Stratford, who made the replica costumes worn by our mannequins in Amess House, has dressed them for summer. Christine and Sandra Kanis helped dress the models and welcomed Sam our new male mannequin, perhaps somewhat formally dressed for summer working on King Sam's farm. Never mind, he will soon learn. Pictures show Sam arriving by car, Christine showing him the house and Cheryl and Sandra with the models (below).



URGENT NOTICE: we need more volunteers to work in the garden and assist Greg Ryan. Please contact Christine on 5956 8501 or e: cgrayden@waterfront.net.au if you can give a few hours..

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Stella Axarlis AM

Thank you to the Executive and all members who attended our 9 November meeting. It was an excellent meeting and we were privileged to experience the presentation of Rebecca Saunders who has now completed her PhD on the History of Churchill Island.

Dr. Rosalind Jessop represented the Phillip Island Nature Parks CEO, Matthew Jackson and provided us with a comprehensive report on the last two months, which you will be able to read in this Newsletter. As the Environment Manager she answered several questions from our members, for which we were very appreciative.

The most pressing issue for us is the Churchill Island Key Area Plan. Tract Consultants led by Mark Reilly, Masters of Landscape Architecture Melbourne (University) have undertaken this work. There has however been a delay and the report will finally be received, by the Board, at the 28 November meeting. After the Board approves the report for circulation, there will be a period of community consultation and I urge you to participate. The main focus of the afternoon however was to approve the changes to our constitution which were necessary to comply with

new government regulations.

We are extremely grateful to Tom O'Dea who has made an enormous contribution to making the necessary changes and to Ruth O'Dea, Christine Grayden, David Maunders and all who gave Tom feedback to complete the work needed.

It was gratifying to note that, after such an extensive period of consultation and deliberations, the motion was carried unanimously and the revised Constitution was approved.

Congratulations to our Curator, Christine Grayden, who is outstanding and volunteers many hours outside her dedicated time and with her volunteers and the Phillip Island Natures Parks staff support did sterling work to present Churchill Island for re accreditation. Thank you all.

The next meeting will be on the 8 February so I hope, as the weather should finally improve, as many of you as possible will attend.

As this is the last report before the New Year I would like, on behalf of the Executive and myself, to wish you wonderful season's greetings and a happy, healthy and successful 2014.

With my very best wishes,

Stella

CURATOR'S REPORT

Christine Grayden

Volunteer Brad is restoring the old Sunshine Mackay stationary baler that is used during the Easter Festival. Volunteer Jeff has finished his conservation work on the 1920s seed drill and is now working on the dairy delivery wagon. On behalf of PINP I put in an Expression of Interest to have the Museums Australia Victoria state conference on Phillip Island in April 2015. We await the outcome. I have commenced rewriting the Visitor Centre display to fit it onto six double sided banners to replace the current display which is too large for the area available. Our replica costume maker Cheryl Stratford and student Sandra came last Friday to change the two lady mannequins in the Amess House dining room into summer costumes from their winter ones. Cheryl has also donated a male mannequin who is suitably attired. They are much photographed.

Warren Joel is arriving next Thursday to revalue the National Trust objects currently on loan. This is part of rewriting the agreement between PINP and NT, which

is now over 10 years old and needs revision. Two extra p/t staff have been employed on CI to clean the toilets twice per day during the week and do other jobs as needed around CI. They will be helping to put the historic farm machinery up off the ground and onto pavers in the next month. We had our museum reaccreditation inspection in August and are awaiting the final report. Greg the gardener continues to make a difference to the garden, but is **desperately in need of volunteers to help**.

Finally, a working bee will be held in the house and cottages on Saturday Nov 30 from 8 - 10 a.m. Contact Christine 5956 8501 or

e: cgrayden@waterfront.net.au if you can come and help.

PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARK REPORT

Matthew Jackson, CEO and Rosalind Jessop, Environment Manager

Our Annual report was approved and a summary published in all local papers a great year for both conservation and tourism. Visitors Numbers to all parks year to date are 243,215 as against 234,661 same time for 2012.

- Awards: the Nature Parks was successful in winning the Coastal award for saving the Summerland Peninsula with the park winning this key award 2 years in a row. The park was also a winner at the Banksia Environmental Foundation awards in partnership with Victoria University for the 'magic wand' treatment for oiled seabirds. PINP has the best record for winning Banksia awards over the past 25 years of Banksia history winning in 2002, 2011, 2013 and the Gold Banksia also in 2002. PINP was also a finalist in the Premier's awards for saving the Summerland Peninsula.
- Koala Conservation Centre now has a 37.5kw solar system installed, which will generate up to half the power needed there. Our Next solar focus will be at the Environment, Education and Research pods.
- Our Boat experience tour tender process is now complete and a preferred tender is going to the board next week.
- Churchill Island Key Area Plan is now going to the board in November with community consultation to follow.
- Following the Churchill Island plan will be the South and North Coast beaches Key Area Plan and this will hopefully commence before Christmas.
- The Ian Potter foundation has granted \$192,000 towards the parks fox eradication strategy.
- A proposal has been submitted to RACV to fund the Flynns beach boardwalk upgrade.
- Summerland internal roads will now be transferred to the Nature Parks by Bass Coast Shire Council (excluding the south coast road) and a new gate will be installed (the same design as existing gate) and opening and closing times will remain the same as currently in place.

CULTURAL TOURISM SUMMIT

PINP hosted the Cultural Tourism Victoria summit at the Nobbies on Friday 15 November, where PINP CEO Matthew Jackson was one of the keynote speakers. CI curator Christine Grayden attended. The summit theme was "Cultural Tourism: Driving Destination Development", and speakers covered such topics as developing iconic art museum buildings, statistical update on tourism in Victoria, maximising cultural assets to share destination stories, technology and cultural tourism: delivering authentic experiences, and attracting and servicing Chinese visitors.

Christine found the day to be a good mix of inspirational ideas and examples of practical application, and was grateful to PINP for enabling her to attend.



Photo: Dr Jacqueline Healy, President of Cultural Tourism Victoria, with PINP CEO Matthew Jackson at the summit.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD ON November 9, 2013 at 1.30pm.

1. Welcome: President Stella welcomed members and acknowledged the indigenous people past and present. Stella also welcomed Terry Holman, past president and Life Member, to the meeting.

2. Present: Stella Axarlis, Christine Grayden, Tom & Ruth O'Dea, Gaye Cleeland, David Maunders, Ann Jelly, Peter Jelly, E Rebecca Sanders, Margaret Geppert, Kay Williams, Pauline Taylor, Edith Johnson, John Eddy

3. Apologies: Lee Tierney, Rod and Margaret Simkiss, Maureen & Michael Barden, Wilma Carter, Margaret Caf-fyn (Stott), Coral Bourke, Anne Penaluna, Peter and Glenys Paul, Dorothy and Ken Fargher, Peter Brookes, Graeme Clausen, Susan Pearse, Hagen Geppert, Roger and Sue Hollingworth, Anne Davie, Bill Williams, Robyn Holman.

4. CEO Matt Jackson's report delivered by Dr Roz Jes-sop, Environment Manager.

Annual report completed and a summary published in local papers. Numbers 243,215 so far this financial year as against 234,661 same time for 2012, so around 10k up which is great. Awards: Coastal award for Summer land - winner, 2 years in a row . Banksia winner along with Victoria University for the 'magic wand' treatment for oiled seabirds. PINP has the best record for winning Banksia awards in 25 years. PINP also finalist in Premier's awards for Summer lands.

5. Previous minutes 10.8.13. David Maunders/Ruth O'Dea *carried*.

6. Matters Arising:

Report from Tom O'Dea (Membership secretary) on Member Preferences initiative: Received only 88 replies, although there was a default position for members with email to not reply if they were happy to receive items by email and for those without email to continue receiving mail by post. 91% of those with email opted for emailed notifications, newsletters, etc. Now 123 members will receive emails and 67 by post. Has been costing us \$2400 p/a for printing/postage/stationery, we will now save approximately \$1500 p/a. Previously cost us \$13 per member, should now cost \$4.60 per member. Re-nwal notices sent by email can still be paid by cheque or money order. No need to pay online if don't want to. i.e. payment options are unchanged regardless of how the membership application is communicated to members.

Tom explained background to the changes to the FOCIS constitution in order to comply with the new Act, and

the need to simplify our principal purpose in order to re-apply for tax deductible donation status. Necessary changes have previously been circu-lated to all members. Stella thanked Tom and Ruth for all of the work on the constitution.

"That this meeting adopts the Proposed Rules which have been published on the Society's web site and summarised in a document sent to all members". Moved Stella Axarlis/ 2nd Ann Jelly. *Carried unanimously.*

Christine and Tom now need to submit form and supporting documents. Consumer Affairs Victoria will get back to us if they are not satisfied, in which case we will have to change our constitution according to their direction. Once approval has been given we will proceed to resubmit our appli-cation for tax deductibility.

Pavers under farm machinery - to be done in the next month.

7. President's Report:

Stella stated that she may not be able to continue as president after the next AGM due to health problems and distance, although she acknowledged she had been able to be a conduit between FOCIS and the PINP Board. The CI Key Area Plan may contain some contentious items but was strongly for heritage. She regretted difficulties with space for the display but due to heavy losses with CI in the past, retail was necessary. She is highly committed to a museum for CI but the island still needs to generate revenue. Stella urged all mem-bers to attend the Key Area Plan community in-formation session and have input. She was ex-tremely pleased when the Environment Minister Ryan Smith drove to Phillip Island for a recent PINP board meeting to thank Stella for her 10 years of service. The board is working very well and is a cohesive unit, plus good leadership being shown by Matt Jackson, CEO and the other man-agers.

8. Treasurer's/Membership Report: See attached. Tom will transfer the costs of the pavers to go under the historic farm machinery from Curator's Expenses into a separate category.

9. Curator's report: See page 2

MINUTES (continued)

10. General Business:

Members agreed that a letter of thanks be sent from president Stella to Bob Baird thanking him for his generous donation of Pat's books.

Members also agreed that a letter of thanks be sent from Stella to Cheryl Stratford thanking her for the wonderful costumes she supplies for display at Amess House, which add so much to visitors' experience.

David stated that Greg the gardener had done a lot of clearing in the homestead garden and the flag-pole to the east is now visible again. David will put an article in the newsletter asking for garden volunteers.

11. Speaker:

PhD candidate E Rebecca Sanders gave a talk on the significance of the 1801 garden planted on Churchill Island. The historical record would indicate that the event was not that significant, even though it is used in the significance statements for Churchill Island on the National Trust and Heritage Victoria registers. The real significance of Churchill Island is that it demonstrates that there are many different ways in which settlement occurs.

Meeting closed 3.45 p.m.

12. Next General Meeting: Saturday February 8th , 2014, at 1.30 pm, CI Visitors' Centre Meeting room.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the 4 Months Ending 31 October 2013

Assets & Liabilities as at 31 Oct 2013

Account	31/10/2013 Balance
ASSETS	
<u>Cash and Bank Accounts</u>	
CBA Cash Management Call Acct	\$0.00
ANZ Cheque Account	\$542.98
ANZ Savings Account	\$17,168.85
PayPal Account	\$0.00
President's Advance	\$359.89
Curator's Advance	\$357.11
RACV Investment Options 01	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 02	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 03	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 04 ³	\$32,541.66
Cash	\$0.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$50,970.49
<u>Other Assets</u>	
Accounts Receivable	\$40.00 ⁵
Books	\$4,389.12 ⁶
TOTAL Other Assets	\$4,429.12
TOTAL ASSETS	\$55,399.61
LIABILITIES	
<u>Other Liabilities</u>	
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Museum Reserve ⁷	\$32,541.66
TOTAL Other Liabilities	\$32,541.66
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$32,541.66
NETT ASSETS	\$22,857.95

Income & Expenses as at 31 Oct 2013

Category	1/07/2013- 31/10/2013 (4 months)
INCOME	
Book Sales	\$121.80 ¹
Donations from Members	\$237.05
Donations from the Public	\$39.85
Grants Received	\$1,500.00 ²
Interest Income	\$840.39
Subscriptions Income	\$1,770.00
Sundry Income	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,509.09
EXPENSES	
Advertising	\$0.00
AGM Expenses	\$0.00
Book Costs	\$0.00
Curator's Expenses	\$1,309.00 ⁴
Financial Services Expenses	\$17.54
FOCIS Newsletter	\$751.84
Government Fees	\$51.40
Grants Paid	\$0.00
General Office Expenses	\$837.76
Post Office Fees	\$0.00
Subscriptions Paid	\$0.00
Taxes	\$0.00
Web Site Expenses	\$54.00 ⁸
Sundry Expenses	\$35.55
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,057.09
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$1,452.00

¹ 10 copies of Pat Baird's book sold to Turn the Page Bookstore and 4 copies sold by FOCIS.

² Grant received from Bass Coast Shire Council for recording the CI working horses on DVD in Easter 2014.

³ \$31,815.91 was invested with RACV Finance for 6 months with a maturity date of 20 Aug 2013. The principal plus interest (\$32,541.66) has been re-invested with RACV Finance for a further 6 months at 4.50% interest with a maturity date of 20 Feb 2014.

⁴ This is mainly for the purchase of 150 concrete pavers for \$1,101.40 to help with the protection of historic farm machinery.

⁵ Amount owing from PINP.

⁶ This is the value of the 762 copies of Pat Baird's book held in inventory and available for sale.

⁷ This is the \$30,000 (plus interest) that has been earmarked for use when the museum is built (minutes of General Meeting held 12 Sep 2009).

⁸ Renewal of domain name registration for 2 years - 12 Sep 2013 to 11 Sep 2015.

BUDGET POSITION as at 31 October 2013

Category	Budget for 1/07/2013 to 30/06/2014	Actuals for 1/07/2013 to 31/10/2013 (4 months)	Progress Against Budget
INCOME			
Book Sales	\$400	\$122	30%
Donations from Members	\$500	\$237	47%
Donations from the Public	\$300	\$40	13%
Interest Income	\$2,000	\$840	42%
Subscriptions Income	\$3,800	\$1,770	47%
Sundry Income	\$50	\$0	N/A
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,050	\$3,009	43%
EXPENSES			
Advertising	\$0	\$0	N/A
AGM Expenses	\$120	\$0	N/A
Book Costs	\$0	\$0	N/A
Curator's Expenses ⁹	\$1,200	\$1,309	109%
Financial Services Expenses ¹⁰	\$130	\$18	13%
FOCIS Newsletter ¹¹	\$1,600	\$752	47%
Government Fees ¹²	\$150	\$51	34%
General Office Expenses ¹³	\$1,500	\$838	56%
Post Office Fees ¹⁴	\$25	\$0	N/A
Subscriptions Paid ¹⁵	\$150	\$0	N/A
Taxes	\$0	\$0	N/A
Web Site Expenses	\$60	\$54	90%
Sundry Expenses	\$500	\$36	7%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,435	\$3,057	56%
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$1,615	-\$48	-3%

⁹ This includes travel expenses for the Curator's assistant.

¹⁰ Auditor's fee + PayPal transaction fees.

¹¹ Postage & printing.

¹² Filing fees for annual statement plus filing fee for approval of new Constitution.

¹³ General postage, stationery and printing.

¹⁴ Rental of PO Box.

¹⁵ Membership of Museums Australia & South Eastern Historical Association.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT as at 31 October

Category	30/06/2011	30/06/2012	30/06/2013	31/10/2013	Increase or Decrease (last 4 months)
Family Memberships	114	125	110	73	-37
Individual Memberships					
Adult Memberships		28	28	21	-7
Concession Memberships		58	60	80	20
TOTAL Individual Memberships	115	86	88	101	13
TOTAL Paying Memberships	229	211	198	174	-24
Number of Life Memberships	6	7	7	7	0
Number of Associate Memberships	9	9	10	10	0
Number of Honorary Memberships	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Other Memberships	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Non-Paying Memberships	15	16	17	17	0
New Memberships	0	9	14	8	-6
Renewals	0	202	184	166	-18
Overdue Memberships	0	0	0	0	0
Unfinancial (Lapsed) Memberships	0	0	0	25	25

THE MEMBER PREFERENCES INITIATIVE

Tom O'Dea, Membership Secretary

The Member Preferences initiative has been a great success with a large number of members willing to accept items by email.

Members were invited to nominate their preferences for receiving communications from the Society by email or post in each of these 4 categories:

1. Documents about Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings.
2. Membership renewals and reminders.
3. Other correspondence.
4. The FOCIS Newsletter.

We sent a total of 93 letters and 113 emails to members and we received 88 replies. If a member did not respond, then the following assumptions were applied:

- If the member has given us an email address, then email for everything is assumed.
- If the member has not given us an email address, then everything has to be sent by post.
- A number of members who had not previously given us an email address have now done so. We now have 73% of members with email addresses.

Based on the members' explicit or implicit preferences, we have a high level of acceptance for email (about 91% of members with email addresses). For example, we have 190 members eligible to receive the newsletter. 123 members will be receiving the news-

letter by email and 67 by post. This represents a significant reduction in costs. This is 65% by email and 35% by post. The numbers for the 3 other types of communications are very similar.

We spend about \$2,400 per year on printing, postage and stationery. This is mainly for the printing and posting of the Newsletter, sending out renewals and reminders and sending out membership cards. Since we will now be sending about 65% of items by email, this means that we can expect to save about \$1,500 per year.

In fact, it costs us almost \$13 per membership per year in printing, postage and stationery. Since the concession membership rate is currently \$10 per year, this situation is not sustainable. However, the cost of printing, postage and stationery per membership per year for all types of membership will now be about \$4.60 instead of \$13. This will help keep the membership subscriptions at the current levels.

Two important points to remember:

There is no change to methods of payment. You can still choose to pay your membership subscription by cheque, money or online regardless of whether you have chosen to receive membership renewals and reminders by email or by post.

You can change your mind at any time. If you find that you would rather receive a particular type of communication from the Society by email rather than post or vice versa, please contact the Membership Secretary and ask for your preferences to be changed.

REVALUATION OF NATIONAL TRUST OBJECTS

Photo: Warren Joel valuation consultant (grandson of Leonard Joel) inspects the beautiful Davenport (on Thursday 14 November) in the Amess House drawing room as part of the revaluation of all of the 170 National Trust objects on loan to the Philip Island Nature Parks. The revaluation is the first step in revision of the 12 year old agreement between PINP and the National Trust.



Buff Banded Rails Sighted



Christine sighted a pair of Buff Banded Rails on Fishers Wetlands on 13 November.

NEXT GENERAL

MEETING

Saturday 8 February

1.30 pm Meeting Room,

Visitors' Centre

Garden Volunteers

wanted: See page 1.



The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. Newsletter
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Number 122 SUMMER 2013



The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

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