



FOCIS

newsletter

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

Number 115 AUTUMN 2012

FORTHCOMING FOCIS EVENTS

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Please submit copy for
the next newsletter by

1 June 2012

Contact us:

By post—

PO Box 852,
COWES, 3922.

We are on the web. See this
issue in colour

www.friendsofchurchillisland.org.au

President@

Secretary@

Membership@

Treasurer@

Editor@

friendsofchurchillisland.org.au

Saturday 4 March 2012

Community Day

Local Members are invited to come free to all PINP attractions. On Churchill Island, FOCIS will have an information table set up with other community groups on Fiddler's Green and Christine will give two "show & tell" curator's sessions in Amess House dining room. (Mrs. Brown's knitting see article on p. 2)

Saturday/Sunday 7-8 April Easter Fun Festival

FOCIS will run a puppet decorating tent over the two days and also provide information about the society. **Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts.** Please email or phone Christine. cgrayden@waterfront.net.au or 0400 900 612.

Saturday 28 April

Collections Workshop

Bass Coast Shire Council will be sponsoring a Collections Workshop to be run by Euan McGillivray on Sat 28 April, 10 am - 3.30 p.m. at Heritage Centre, Thompson Ave, Cowes. Morning session: Trash or Treasure; Afternoon session: Don't let it rot away. **Those interested in attending should let Christine know by mid April.**

Saturday 5 May 8.00 am

Outdoor machinery working bee. Volunteers needed to help keep our collection from rotting away.

DATES TO REMEMBER

NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE

1 June 2012

GENERAL MEETINGS 2012

Saturday 12 May

Saturday 11 August (AGM)

Saturday 10 November

1.30 pm Meeting Room Churchill Island

Visitors' Centre

WORKING BEES FOR 2012

Saturday 5 May (outside)

Saturday 15 September (house)

Saturday 24 November (house)

8-10 am: *Coffee provided.*



Mrs Brown' knitting—see p.2 Photo Christine

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Stella Axarlis AM

Our meeting on the 11 February was an excellent meeting particularly as Christine provided us with the catalogue of the "lace collection" and exhibited wonderful pieces for us to admire. Thank you to all the members who attended. The meetings allow us not only to be informed on all major issues of Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) and particularly Churchill Island but to also to listen to some very impressive speakers. I really urge you to attend the meetings when possible and participate in the discussions.

Christine Grayden has been an outstanding curator and we must all be grateful for her contribution. Matthew Jackson has informed me that he

will be making the recommendation to the PINP Board to support Christine for a further year. Thank you Christine!

My sincere thanks also to Danene Jones PINP's Communications Executive who presented us with the PINP Report.

I also wish to acknowledge the entire Executive who continue to promote FOCIS and its Operations.

Please support FOCIS at the Community Open Day on 4 March and take the opportunity to attend as many events as possible.

Thank you and best wishes,

Stella

CURATOR'S REPORT

Christine Grayden

1. Janet Amess Lace Collection. All pieces have now been basically catalogued. There are 96 catalogue sheets in all. Pat Baird and I are going to NGV next Wednesday to take the collection to fabric curator Daniel Leong. He has seen the collection when it was in Pat's care but has since worked a lot with lace and now knows more about it. I have contacted the donor Unity Mary Bright who at 90 still lives in an independent living unit in Buderim Retirement Village. The manager of the village is most co-operative and now has the donations form to help her fill out. Then the collection will officially belong to the Phillip Island Nature Park.
2. We finally have a donations/

loans form, based partly on those used by the Phillip Island & District Historical Society. I have a backlog of donated and on loan items to use the form with once I have the contacts.

3. On Wednesday I attended a workshop on "Due Diligence with museum paperwork" run by the Registrars' Association of Australia. Registrars are the people who deal with all the acquisitions, loans and deaccessioning in museums and art galleries, but of course I'm "IT" on Churchill Island. It was a very useful workshop and alerted me to some of the problems I will face as I try and sort out the gaps in the paperwork here.



4. I have started on cataloguing the farm machinery. Since some items are missing since the previous stocktake in 2002 and other items have appeared, I have decided to start from scratch and just catalogue what is there. I have photographed all items to go with their catalogue sheets. To be reaccredited, all farm machinery items related to Churchill and Phillip Island must be under cover.

FROM THE COLLECTION: MRS. BROWN'S KNITTING

Christine Grayden

In 2002 Mrs A Cattell donated several knitted items to the National Trust to be displayed at Churchill Island. The exceptional knitting had been done by

her mother, Mrs L J Brown, and came with the following information:

"Knitting hand done by Mrs L J Brown. Born 16th June 1913 Regent Victoria, died 26th August 1983 Wonthaggi Hospital. (cont. on p.3)

PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARK REPORT

Danene Jones (Matthew Jackson is taking leave)

Visitation:

The Nature Park has had a strong summer of visitation - against the grain at other tourism attractions across Victoria which were down in visitor numbers.

- December visits for the Nature Parks are up by 4 721 persons (5%)
- January visits for the Nature Park is up by 5 205 persons (5%)
- In the year to date, visits across all the Nature Parks are up 13 809 persons (3%)
- Year to date visits to Churchill Island are up 2 000 persons (3%) but were slightly down over summer.

Events:

Phillip Island Nature Parks will once again be holding a 'Community Open Day' allowing free entry to all of the Nature Parks' attractions, as well as an opportunity to meet staff and volunteers and learn more about the unique heritage and wildlife of the area. The day will be held on Sunday, March 4.

This year's Easter Fun Festival on April 7 and 8 is set for a boost with a visit from popular ABC characters the *Bananas in Pyjamas* and *Dirtgirl*. In addition, the usual favourites will once again be on-hand -the Punch 'n' Judy show, face painting, education activities and a visit by the Easter Bunny on Sunday. The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra is confirmed

for a concert on the island in February 2013. Such a high calibre event is immensely exciting for the region and for Churchill Island.

Planning

The Nature Parks' Strategic Management Plan 2012-17 has been approved by the minister. The plan will be officially launched in March or April and represents an exciting framework for the Nature Parks in the next five years. Churchill Island features in the plan as part of a Key Area Plan that will investigate the potential for a museum-standard exhibition space.

Consultation for the Environment Management Plan 2012-17 is underway. 'Drop-in Days' will be held on February 17 and 18 at the Chisholm Education Centre (next door to the visitor centre at the Koala Conserva-

tion Centre). The 'Drop-in Days' are an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the planning. Thank you to those who have already participated in the process.

Filming

Thank you to David Maunders who assisted recently with a Channel 10



David with Jennifer Adams and crew film crew for the travel show *Places We Go*. Feedback from the crew was that they had a lovely time at Churchill Island and were impressed by its heritage, beauty and activities on offer. We hope that David's interview will make the final cut and we will keep all posted on when it is due to go to air.

(Cont from p.2) My earliest recollection of knitting is asking my mother to teach me to knit. I was three or four and I am now 63 years old (in 2002). My mother put her knitting in all the Country Shows as well as the Royal Melbourne Show. Mum's knitting never won anything less than first prize and mostly Champion.

I remember one time her knitting was disqualified as "machine knitted". The whole family was at the show and were up in arms. We all went to the judges and complained, my grandparents were there as well that year. Mum and Dad explained that Mum had never 'machine

knitted' in her life. They (the judges) asked Mum if she had wool and needles with her and Dad said, and I quote, "Always!". They then asked her to knit the pattern in front of them. She did and was awarded overall champion.

Mum could never buy knitting needles fine enough for her baby clothes knitting, so my father made them out of bicycle spokes with wax ends. In later years my mother did test knitting for Patons to correct the patterns be-

fore they went to print. I cannot remember my mother going anywhere without her knitting. She knitted in the car, on the train or the tram. Every spare minute was spent knitting."

Samples of Mrs Brown's knitting, including a piece in progress on bicycle spoke needles, can be viewed close-up at the "Curator's Show and Tell" in the dining room of Amess House during the Phillip Island Nature Park Open Day, Sunday March 4th, along with several other treasures from the collection.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 11th, 2011 AT 1.30 PM.

Present: As per attendance book

Apologies: As per attendance book. Plus Matt Jackson, CEO PINP; Trevor Haywood, Farm Manager, Churchill Island; Nicoletta Giurgiu, marketing PINP.

1. Welcome: President Stella Axarlis welcomed all members.
2. Minutes from previous General Meeting 12 November 2011 David Maunders/Ruth O'Dea *Carried*
3. Matters arising from previous General Meeting: Agenda items
4. Report from Danene Jones, communications, Phillip Island Nature Park (standing in for Matt Jackson) While numbers were slightly down compared with last summer, they still showed a 3% increase so far for the year - i.e. an extra 2,000 visitors. However most visitors over summer just attended the Penguin Parade.

Open Day Sunday March 4 - opportunity for locals to get to know PINP staff and attractions better. Also featuring community groups this year on CI. Easter Family Festival, CI: April 7th & 8th will feature Bananas in Pyjamas and Dirt Girl from the ABC, Easter eggs, etc.

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra is booked for Feb 2013 to CI. Sponsorship from Schweppes.

Strategic Management Plan has been signed off by Minister Ryan Smith. Environment Management Plan and other management plans for next 5 years, process has begun which will include public information sessions.

CI: looking at quality of museum and interpretation.

Currently redeveloping www.penguins.org.au website, which will increase the profile of the parks.

Danene thanked FOCIS c/ee member David Maunders, guide, for participating in filming on CI for a Channel 10 travel show. The crew visited all three parks, but spent the most time on CI.

Danene told us that her maternal grandparents Bill & Olive Hughes were FOCIS volunteers years ago.

6. President's Report: Stella Axarlis

Stella reminded everyone of the Open Day and asked Christine to explain how FOCIS could participate. Christine suggested we have an information table set up with the other community groups on Fiddler's Green and that she also do two "show & tell" curator's sessions in Amess House dining room. Stella ran through the draft program starting with Welcome to Country at 10 a.m. and official opening on CI. There will also be a Welcome to Country before the Penguin Parade. She listed various other activities which will run through the day.

Stella also reported that the current term of Board members expires in September and positions will be advertised if anyone is interested in applying.

5. Treasurer's Report - Tom O'Dea:

a) Tom O'Dea presented the Treasurer's Report. See attached. Tom O'Dea/Roger Hollingworth *carried*.

b) Discussion re: transfer of \$30,000 earmarked for concept plan for CI museum to RACV Finance 6 month term deposit @ 6.3% "That FOCIS transfer \$30,000 to a 6 month term deposit account with RACV Finance." Tom O'Dea/David Maunders *carried*.

Tom reported that the change of Bank accounts from Commonwealth Bank to ANZ has been finalised and we should get cheque/deposit book and security tokens next week.

6. Membership Report - Tom O'Dea:

We have 127 family memberships; 29 adult m'ships and 53 concession m'ships.

Discussion took place regarding our current policy of a "family" = 2 adults and 2 children; not fair on families with more than two children.

"That we accept a family membership as 2 adults and a nominated number of children under 15 from the same address" Tom O'Dea/Stella Axarlis *Carried*

Further discussion took place about creating a student category for older children.

"That we create a category of "pensioner/senior/full time student/apprentice" Tom O'Dea/Pat Baird. *Carried*.

7. Secretary's Report - Christine Grayden:

Inwards Correspondence:

Rebecca Sanders, apologies and explaining that her close relationship with FOCIS is having to be dealt with in her thesis

Museums Australia Victoria: annual program of events.

Museums Australia Victoria: membership renewal received

Bass Coast Shire Council: inviting members to a Collections Workshop, Sat 28 April, Heritage Centre, Cowes, 10-3.30: Morning and Afternoon Sessions. **Members who wish to attend please let Christine know by mid April so she can give numbers to BCSC.**

Museums Australia Victoria - Insite Magazine.

MINUTES (continued)

Museums Australia magazine.

Christine reported that a Border Collie pup, Billie, has been purchased to be trained to give working dog demonstrations by about 12 months' time to replace Tonka who is 11 years old. According to the Dept of Primary Industry guidelines, the dogs' compound has been concreted to make cleaning easier and the dogs also have a grass run 6x6m.

We have a **working bee for the outside machinery coming up on Saturday 5 May**. More information will be in the next newsletter.

8. FOCIS CURATOR'S REPORT - See elsewhere in this newsletter.

Stella asked that it be put on record that Christine is doing a fantastic job as Curator.

9. General Business:

1. Pat's Book - members decided to wait til grant application result in June. Meanwhile Tom will investigate the possibility of turning the book into an E-book for sale on, e.g. Amazon or iBooks. Important to keep the layout and illustrations.



Jess Bloore, farm worker/presenter on Churchill Island holding new recruit "Billie", three month old Border Collie, who is in training to do the sheepdog demonstration in about twelve months' time.

CI cafe. Stella urged Ann and the lady affected to write to Matt Jackson, CEO, as the cafe is leased out and operated independently of PINP.

10. Next meeting: **Saturday May 12, 2012, at the C.I. Visitors' Centre at 1.30 p.m.**

2. Open Day March 4 - need two people on table to give out FOCIS newsletter and membership applications. Can tell people what FOCIS does and about curator. **Two volunteers needed 10 am-12 noon.**

3. Easter Festival on CI. This is a good opportunity for FOCIS to join in. Suggested a hand puppet decorating tent on Fiddler's Green opposite the puppet show. Gold coin donation. Parent stays with child. Will need tables and chairs. Extra newsletters to give out. Christine to send Tom an email to forward on to members to try and get volunteers. **Two hour slots on roster to be filled for both days. Volunteers needed.**

4. Ann Jelly reported on a complaint passed on to her about the poor service and quality of food/drinks at the

RESEARCH OBJECTIVITY

Rebecca Sanders

Rebecca is now completing her PhD on Churchill Island sponsored by PINP and the University of Melbourne. The article below shares some of the challenges that she experienced in keeping her research objective.

Firstly, no research is ever truly objective, but one of things that researchers can do to help readers (including examiners) make informed decisions about their work is to tell them about any influences that might have impacted on their research. In the academic world this practice is de rigueur. By academic standards, the extent of my interaction with groups like FOCIS, or with my sponsors, PINP, has been fairly unusual, as was brought home to me at my most recent progress report in December. Since I work fairly closely with my stakeholders, including of

course FOCIS, one of the things my introduction will do is tell my audience how my relationships with them have affected my thesis. This interaction has actually exerted a more powerful effect on the thesis than you might imagine. One of the biggest influences on the thesis is a list that PINP, FOCIS, my supervisors at the University of Melbourne and I drew up, which suggested/directed the subjects my thesis should cover. The list was fairly broad, but since it was compiled only a week into my PhD, on topics I was unfamiliar with, it was not something I could greatly contribute to. I did manage to make a couple of suggestions that were accepted, but mostly I just listened. As a result, the thesis is not entirely of my own making, although it has been left to me as to how I dealt with each subject. One of the items that made it onto the list was finding

the location of the 1801 garden (which was included as a sub-clause). The effect of my pouring over maps at the National Library looking for an X (which in fact turned out to be a rectangle when I found it) was a new appreciation for the unstable nature of geography and, latter on, the contingent and tenuous nature of settlement. I am certain that the FOCIS representatives who asked if finding the location of "Grant's Garden" might form part of the thesis thought it a small request at the time, but its effects have proved far reaching. The end result was an entire chapter devoted to the ways in which Churchill Island was lost, found and serially reconfigured during the first half of the nineteenth century, and a refutation of the Victorian Conservation Trust's branding of the Churchill Island as a starting
(Cont. on p.6)

Treasurer's Report for the General Meeting 12 November 2011

Tom O'Dea

Assets & Liabilities as at 31 Jan 2012

Account	31/01/2012 Balance
ASSETS	
<u>Cash and Bank Accounts</u>	
CBA Cash Management Call Account	\$48,849.11
ANZ Cheque Account	\$0.00
ANZ Savings Account	\$0.00
PayPal Account	\$0.00
President's Advance	\$382.49
Curator's Advance	\$406.22
Cash	\$0.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$49,637.82
<u>Other Assets</u>	
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
TOTAL Other Assets	\$0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$49,637.82
LIABILITIES	
<u>Other Liabilities</u>	
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Museum Reserve*	\$30,000.00
TOTAL Other Liabilities	\$30,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$30,000.00
NETT ASSETS	\$19,637.82

Income & Expenses as at 31 Jan 2012

Category	1/07/2011- 31/01/2012 (7 months)
INCOME	
Donations Received	\$597.55
Grants Received	\$13,000.00
Interest Income	\$624.70
Subscriptions Income	\$3,941.55
Sundry Income	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$18,163.80
EXPENSES	
AGM Expenses	\$47.51
Curator's Expenses	\$93.78
Financial Services Expenses	\$74.70
FOCIS Newsletter	\$1,131.84
Government Fees	\$134.40
Grants Paid	\$13,000.00
General Office Expenses	\$214.64
Subscriptions Paid	\$121.00
Sundry Expenses	\$109.95
Web Site Expenses	\$54.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,981.82
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$3,181.98

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

Report continued on p.7.

(From p.5) place in the settlement process (I believe dead end or false start would be more accurate). It's funny where certain lines of inquiry lead. I seriously doubt my thesis would have headed down that path if I had just determined the subjects for myself, which would have been a shame, since my supervisors and I loved the direction the chapter ended up taking.

There is also the question of real and perceived conflict of interest. Other than the list above, I believe it has been less a case of people putting pressure on me to write in a certain way, or include particular things, than my own perceptions that they might, and my natural desire to please everyone! This might all sound pretty silly, but when there is

money, not to mention relationships with friendly staff/ friends groups etc, these urges can be pretty overwhelming, especially if you're fairly young and inexperienced (which I still, sigh, am). One example of this is my efforts to describe Churchill Island's historical characters. This was something PINP had suggested they were hoping the thesis might help them with. My early drafts were all composed in a narrative style because I thought that was the best way to achieve this end. Unfortunately, it's a problematic approach for an academic thesis, and one that I eventually scrapped- although I have tried to keep the character details in there. As a result, I now need to tell the examiners why this extra information (surplus to argument) is being included, otherwise they will simply presume I'm a terrible editor and strongly suggest I cut things

out before they are willing to pass my thesis (yes, they have the power to do so). In addition to all of that is the effect of people providing me with their informed opinions on Churchill Island's history. This has also influenced my research. Some of these opinions suggested avenues of inquiry additional to those laid out in the initial list, and I have responded by including some extra questions in the thesis. Things like examining the evidence for who was the first resident on Churchill Island, and was farming important, fit under this heading, as does the extra interest that the 1801 garden seemed to elicit, at least at the beginning of my PhD. Writing about these effects is somewhat complicated, in part because it is now over four years (Cont. on p.8)

Treasurer's Report (continued)

Budget Position as at 31 Jan 2012

Category	Budget for 1/07/2011- 30/06/2012 (12 months)	Actuals for 1/07/2011- 31/01/2012 (7 months)	Progress Against Budget
INCOME			
Donations Received	\$600	\$598	100%
Interest Income	\$1,100	\$625	57%
Subscriptions Income	\$5,000	\$3,942	79%
Sundry Income	\$100	\$0	0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,800	\$5,165	76%
EXPENSES			
Advertising	\$150	\$0	0%
AGM Expenses	\$0	\$48	N/A
Curator's Expenses	\$0	\$94	N/A
Financial Services Expenses	\$100	\$75	75%
FOCIS Newsletter	\$1,650	\$1,132	69%
Government Fees	\$0	\$134	N/A
General Office Expenses	\$1,750	\$215	12%
Subscriptions Paid	\$150	\$121	81%
Sundry Expenses	\$500	\$110	22%
Web Site Expenses	\$60	\$54	90%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,360	\$1,983	45%
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$2,440	\$3,182	130%

Membership Report as at 31 Jan 2012

Category	30/06/2011	31/01/2012	Increase or Decrease
Family Memberships	114	127	13
Adult Memberships		29	
Concession Memberships		53	
TOTAL Individual Memberships	115	82	-33
TOTAL Paying Memberships	229	209	-20
Number of Life Memberships	6	6	0
Number of Associate Memberships	9	9	0
Number of Honorary Memberships	0	0	0
Number of Other Memberships	0	0	0
TOTAL Non-Paying Memberships	15	15	0
New Memberships	0	10	10
Renewals	0	199	199
Overdue Memberships	0	0	0
Unfinancial (Lapsed) Memberships	0	30	30

(From p.6) since I began the thesis and people's opinions have changed over time- including mine. Interestingly, my first meeting with Mark Mantiet, Fred and Jill Allen suggested that this might prove to be the case, as they informed me that the cannon that had once been presumed to have been from the Shenandoah, was in fact nothing of the sort. Shattering long held beliefs is exciting in a university environment- it's the whole point of academic study really. Out in the community, it's very different, and people can be far more emotionally involved in holding certain beliefs, or even feel embarrassed that they once did so. So, on the one hand the example of the cannon gives me hope that the people with whom I have had so much contact will be willing to look at a different take on their history. On the other is that

desire to please, which I referred to above, which has often made the process of telling people about my revisions of their beloved history pretty uncomfortable. To those of you who have listened to, or indeed argued with me about some of these revisions over the past four years, I am deeply indebted to you. This has meant that the thesis and some of its findings won't be all that much of a surprise when it is finally finished.

If anyone has any questions about any of the issues raised in this article, or would like to make a comment, please feel free to email me at

e.sanders@student.unimelb.edu.au.

DATES TO REMEMBER

GENERAL MEETINGS

2012

Saturday 12 May

Saturday 11 August (AGM)

Saturday 10 November

1.30 pm Meeting Room

Churchill Island Visitors'

Centre



The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. Newsletter

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

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