



# FOCIS

## newsletter

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

Number 116 WINTER 2012

### FOCIS FUTURE EVENTS

#### *Inside this issue:*

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#### **1. AGM SPEAKER**

Arnis Heislars will speak about his time as a government employee and when his family holidayed on Churchill Island soon after it was purchased by the State, and on the changes he has seen over the years.

#### **2. MSO CONCERT**

Not strictly a FOCIS initiative, but Stella Axarlis (President) has been directly involved with the running schedule of the event and will act as MC. The date is 2 February 2013 so put it in the diary and join us there. We will let you know when tickets are available.

#### **3. PUTTING OUR COLLECTION ONLINE**

Christine and David are attending a seminar about a free online cataloguing system sponsored by Museums Australia Victoria which will meet our requirements, satisfy MAP, and also put our collection online.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

##### NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE

20 August 2012

##### GENERAL MEETINGS 2012

Saturday 11 August (AGM)

Saturday 10 November

1.30 pm Meeting Room Churchill Island

Visitors' Centre

##### WORKING BEES FOR 2012

Saturday 15 September (house)

Saturday 24 November (house)

8-10 am: *Coffee provided.*

Contact us:

By post—

PO Box 852,  
COWES, 3922.

Vic 3922

We are on the web. See this  
issue in colour

[www.friendsofchurchillisland.org.au](http://www.friendsofchurchillisland.org.au)

President@

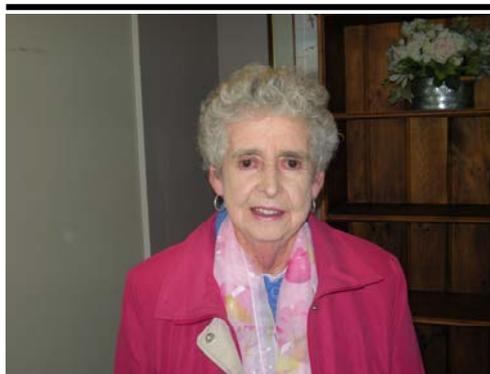
Secretary@

Membership@

Treasurer@

Editor@

[friendsofchurchillisland.org.au](http://friendsofchurchillisland.org.au)



Cherry McPhee spoke to the last meeting about her childhood on Phillip Island which included driving the trap to school.

Please submit copy for the next  
newsletter by 20 August 2012

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Stella Axarlis AM

On behalf of the Executive Committee I wish to thank all members who attended the 12 May General Meeting. It was an excellent meeting particularly our Key Note Speaker Cherry McFee. Cherry was charming, informative and most entertaining in recounting her life on Phillip Island as a child. Matthew Jackson CEO of Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) presented us with an excellent update of General Business of PINP. We are grateful for his continued support to fund a Curator for another year.

Churchill Island has certainly featured lately displaying its' wonderful beauty and historical significance. The PINP Community Open Day began at Churchill Island with a moving "Welcome to Country" by Caroline Briggs and Steve Parker. The visit of the Governor The Hon. Alex Chernov AC and Mrs Elizabeth Chernov, although short impressed them greatly. The Bass Coast Heritage Group Tour was hosted by FOCIS. Our thanks go to Christine Grayden who was present at all these events. Her presentations during the Open Day were most impressive and she continued with her excellent guiding of the Governor and Mrs. Chernov around Churchill Island. Thank you also to John Eddy, Pat Baird and

David Maunders for their support during these events.

At the August Annual General Meeting (AGM), as per our Constitution, the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary must be spilled. Although Tom O'Dea, Christine Grayden, David Maunders and I will seek re appointment sadly Pat Baird in her position as Vice President will not seek reappointment. Pat Baird has not only served as Vice President of the Friends of Churchill Island Society as a member of Community Advisory Committee of PINP but is the author of Churchill Island History and Her Story, as well as two Visitors' Guidebooks (commissioned by PINP) and has had a twenty year involvement in both the history and environment of Churchill Island. Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for her outstanding contribution.

My personal thank you to the Executive Committee members this past year for their outstanding contribution to FOCIS and to all the FOCIS volunteers who support Churchill Island, especially Ruth O'Dea for her support.

We look forward to meeting as many members as possible at the AGM on 11 August 2012. Please attend.

With my very best wishes, Stella

## CURATOR'S REPORT

### Christine Grayden

1. I have been mostly engaged in cataloguing the farm machinery collection. I am also working on a document to put to the nature park board asking that the most valuable pieces be displayed under cover in an enclosed shed with attractive interpretation. This will not only ensure correct management of the collection, and increase our chances of reaccreditation with Museums Australia Victoria, but will provide an under cover and interesting display to encourage visitors to stay longer and gain more from their visit.

2. As part of the PINP Open Day on Sunday March 4 I did two "show and tell" sessions with five items from the collection: grape crushers, Samuel Amess branding iron, Mrs Brown's knitting, the silk Maltese lace fichu from the lace collection, and the pair

of hand-shaped page holders from the morning room. I had about 15 people per session, which were held in the dining room. Everyone seemed to enjoy the sessions.

3. On Saturday April 28, the Governor Alex Chernov and Mrs Elizabeth Chernov visited Churchill Island. They mingled with the public at the farmers' market, then came up to Amess House where I met them at the cannon and asked them if they had a cannon in the gardens of Government House, which they do not. We then went into the dining room, where I told them of the various uses of the room over the years, then the morning room, where Mrs Chernov could relate to the story of Mrs



Governor Chernov at CI

Amess sitting and dealing with her correspondence there. Mr Chernov told me that they also have a morning room at Government House, which is used to officially greet visitors.

Unfortunately they were running late, so we had to hurry through the

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## CURATOR'S REPORT (continued)

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rest of the rooms, the cottages and adjacent gardens (which they both admired) before group photos were taken in the herb garden. The party then went to the meeting room at the visitors' centre, where they had high tea with invited representatives from various Phillip Island volunteer groups. Prior to their arrival at the house I had removed two pieces from the Janet Amess Lace Collection to show the Chernovs if the opportunity arose. I was carrying them in a bag in my sling (I have a broken wrist). I was able to show Mrs Chernov the camisole and a collar over tea and she was delighted.

Although their visit was short they were obviously enchanted and left declaring that they would make a return visit of over half a day.

4. Also on that Saturday was a museums workshop run by BCSC. The speaker was museum consultant Euan Mc Gillivray. The morning session was on significance, especially regarding what to collect. The afternoon session was called "Don't let it rot away", which is pertinent to Churchill Island's farm machinery

collection. It was very worthwhile, and thanks go to BCSC for funding the event.

5. As part of reaccreditation we are meant to have the collection catalogued in hard copy and be some way towards also having it on a computer system. On Thursday June 14 I will be attending a free workshop at the museum in Carlton on "Victoria's Collections", a free online cataloguing system sponsored by Museums Australia Victoria. I believe this system will meet our requirements, satisfy MAP, and also put our collection online which the nature park is keen to do. David is also attending.

6. I took the lace up to the Lace Group of the Embroiderers' Guild in Malvern. Three very experienced lace experts there ran their magnifiers over every single piece and were able to tell me whether they had been machine, bobbin, needle, crochet or chemical-made. In some cases they were able to give me dates and locations, and for some of the cut out pieces they could tell me from what sort of garment they had been cut. All

of this information is now on the catalogue sheets. This follows a trip to the NGV with the lace which was also useful, but not as thorough. All of this information was freely given.

7. My volunteers Irene Measom and Margaret Geppart continue to be a great help to me on the first Thursday of every month. Anyone else who wishes to help out will be most welcome.

8. Last Saturday, nine of us did a big brush down of most of the farm machinery collection. Dust is a big enemy of all collections, so I was very grateful for the help of Margaret, Hagen, John, Tom, Ruth, Janet, Maureen and Peter. A great team! See page 7.

9. Finally I will be spending next Thursday in the Phillip Island museum with archaeologists from AAV and traditional owners from the Bunurong and Boonwerung. It is compulsory to register all aboriginal objects in your collection with AAV now, and next Thursday I will learn the process at the museum for when it is our turn. We don't have a big collection. But it still has to be registered.

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## PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARK REPORT

**Matthew Jackson, CEO**

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Firstly, may I take this opportunity to again thank FOCIS for its contribution towards the protection and preservation of Churchill Island, and the significant volunteer contribution by your many members to assist the Nature Parks to protect and maintain Churchill Island.

I am pleased to update members that YTD visitor numbers in comparison to last year to the Nature Parks in general, continue to be up by 4,500 visitors. The recent Easter "Family Fun Festival" was again a great success with over

6,000 visitors over the 2 days. Clearly this event is a great success and continues to raise the profile of Churchill Island.

The Nature Parks is currently in the process of finalising its budget for 2012-2013 period and I am delighted to inform FOCIS that I will be recommending further support to FOCIS of \$13K to fund a further 12 months of the Curator role. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate Christine Grayden who has done an exceptional job over the past 12

months in archiving and itemising our asset collection.

The Nature Parks Draft Environment Plan 2012-2017 is now out for a five week public submission period from the 7th May until the 10th of June 2012. There has been over 170 individuals involved in the first drafts development including FOCIS representation.

I encourage FOCIS to provide a submission towards this significant plan that will guide the Nature Parks environmental outcomes for the next five year period. (continued on p. 5).

# MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 12, 2012 AT 1.30 PM.

Present: As per attendance book

Apologies: As per attendance book.

1. Welcome: President Stella Axarlis welcomed all members.
2. Minutes from previous General Meeting 11 February 2012  
David Maunders/Pat Baird Carried
3. Matters arising from previous General Meeting: see after CEO's report
4. Report from Matt Jackson, CEO, Phillip Island Nature Park

Thanks to FOCIS volunteers. Visitation for the parks is up 4,500 from same time last year. CI a bit down. Easter festival had 6,000 over two days. PINP to fund another year for CI curator, \$13,000. Rebuilding of penguins.org continuing with a strong emphasis on conservation and CI. Environment Management Plan for next 5 years out for public comment. Strategic Plan signed off by minister in Feb. Developing a master plan for Summerlands. Seeking \$40m+ government funding for new Penguin Parade building. Review of PINP Key Areas - CI is one - being a 'helicopter view'.

MSO will perform at CI on 2 Feb 2013. 3,500 capacity. BYO seating. Ministers and Governor to be invited. Stella is working with marketing team on this and other events; e.g. Australia Day, "On the Green", "Serenade at Sunset", "Der Fledermaus" in March. PINP has won the Coastal Awards for Excellence, environment section for fox free PI.

Held 'Living with Wildlife' forum, which will be an annual event. PINP will count wallaby numbers. Need for brochure with regulations and wildlife rescue information.

Shearwater rescue \$30,000 funding. 496 birds rescued from roads. After a sponsor for this program.

Dog attack on penguins at Shelly Beach - 27 dead, + 2 water rats. DSE investigating. Incident emphasises need to keep dogs under control.

3. Matters arising:

FOCIS contribution to Open Day: Christine held two curator's 'show and tell sessions' which were enjoyed by 15 people per session. Next year we need to have an information table on Fiddler's Green with the other community groups. Stella said there is a need to involve more FOCIS members, especially younger ones, on these days. Improve FOCIS presence on PINP website.

Pat's book: Tom reported on his investigations re having History and Her Story as an e-book. Most e-books are sold through I Books and Amazon. Paperwork is complicated. Can

get a publisher/agent to do this for approx \$100 for each outlet. Tom suggested that FOCIS sign contract with agent, pay costs, take profit from sales until costs are covered, then profits go to Pat. Put links to the e book on FOCIS and PINP web sites. c/ee agreed on sale price of \$9.99. Outlet and agent take 20% each. Pat would still like a hard copy and is to get Asian quotes.

"That we sign contract to sell Pat's book as an e book with Amazon and I Books". David Maunders/Marje Brophy carried.

6. President's Report: Stella Axarlis

Stella congratulated Matt Jackson for improving the culture and practice of PINP. This has been cost effective, as staff can input more efficiently if less stressed. HR manager working very hard. The Community Advisory Committee is very positive about the changes.

Stella also mentioned that we will need a Vice President for next year, as Pat is not standing again. All positions are available, but Tom, David and Christine are happy to stand again. Other c/ee members needed.

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

a) Tom O'Dea presented the Treasurer's Report. See attached.

b) "That the accrued interest of the term deposit remain with the reserve." Ann Jelly/Maureen Barden carried.

c) Tom reported that the change of Bank accounts from Commonwealth Bank to ANZ has been finalised.

8. Membership Report - Tom O'Dea: see attached.

We have a total of 210 memberships

9. Secretary's Report - Christine Grayden:

Inwards Correspondence:

Dept of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport, 21.3 2012, acknowledging our application for tax deductible donations, and that the process may take 6 months.

Public Records Office Vic: notifying us that we have been unsuccessful with our grant application.

Bass Coast Shire re: collections workshop, Sat April 28th, Cowes : 'Trash or Treasure' and 'Don't let it rot

## MINUTES (continued)

away'.

Sally O'Neill, PINP, thanking us for our participation in the Open Day

The Penguin - PI Conservation Soc newsletter, First Quarter, March 2012

Museums Australia magazine Autumn 2012.

1. On Easter Saturday, April 6, FOCIS had a calico puppet decorating table at the Easter Family Festival. We started with forty puppets at \$2 each, which was a little below cost, and had run out by 2 p.m., by which time the crowds had thinned anyway. Thanks to Anne Balfe, Pat Baird and David Maunders who helped during the day. Other FOCIS members dropped by which was also nice. We only got one new member from the exercise, which was a bit disappointing, but we obviously provided a good service to the families who were happy with the puppets. David has a lovely photo of two of our customers for the newsletter.

2. Yesterday FOCIS hosted the BCS Heritage Group tour. 32 people joined in, which made it one of the most successful tours for many years. We started at



Churchill Island with morning tea, then the DVD on the island's history, a talk about the house, tours through the house with Pat, David and



me as guides, then free time to wander around. We had lunch at the Newhaven Information Centre. The people on the bus then had a tour of Newhaven, with a short history of St Paul's Boys' Home included. We all met up at the Vietnam Veterans' Museum, where we had a talk by a guide, watched the sound and light show, then wandered around this extensive museum. We departed at 3.30 p.m. It was a very full but rewarding day. Our thanks go to BCSC for funding the bus, lunch and entry to the Vietnam Vets and to PINP for allowing our guests free entry onto Churchill Island.

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

11. General Business:

Tom described Ruth O'Dea's idea of having the membership card double as a badge by having m'ship details on one side and name label on the other. Members thought this was a good idea. Tom and Ruth will tweak it for forthcoming mail out of membership renewals.

12. Next meeting: Saturday 11 Aug 2012 - AGM at the C.I. Visitors' Centre at 1.30 p.m.

## NATURE PARK REPORT (continued from p.3.)

The Nature Parks is currently finalising the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) event to be held on the 2nd February 2013 at Churchill Island. The Chair of FOCIS has been directly involved with the running schedule of the event. The Nature Parks will also be running an additional event during the late January period 2013 to maximise use of the infrastructure that will be set up at Churchill Island for the MSO event. This event will be a family themed music event similar to the "On the Green" event held annually in the Yarra Valley. This will encompass high level music performances that are tailored to a family theme and also children's games and all the usual Churchill Island daily activities. Management will keep FOCIS informed over the next six months for both

events. The Nature Parks web site [www.penguins.org.au](http://www.penguins.org.au) is currently being redesigned and a new site will be launched in August/September 2012. There will be a significant allocation of space for community updates and Churchill Island and FOCIS information.

Our Environment team recently won the Victorian Environmental Coastal award for Excellence for our Fox eradication program. This is a great achievement that builds on our recent win at the prestigious Banksia Environmental awards in November 2011 for the same project.

I look forward to working directly with FOCIS over the next 12 months.

# Treasurer's Report for the General Meeting 12 May 2012

Tom O'Dea

## Income & Expenses as at 30 Apr 2012

Category	1/07/2011- 30/04/2012 (10 months)
<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations from Members	\$515.00
Donations from the Public	\$113.45
Grants Received	\$13,000.00
Interest Income	\$784.75
Subscriptions Income	\$3,966.55
Sundry Income	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$18,379.75</b>

## EXPENSES

AGM Expenses	\$47.51
Curator's Expenses	\$93.78
Financial Services Expenses	\$74.70
FOCIS Newsletter	\$1,647.56
Government Fees	\$134.40
Grants Paid	\$13,000.00
General Office Expenses	\$250.64
Post Office Fees	\$21.50
Subscriptions Paid	\$121.00
Sundry Expenses	\$109.95
Taxes	\$0.00
Web Site Expenses	\$54.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$15,555.04</b>

**SURPLUS (DEFICIT) \$2,824.71**

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## EXPENSES

AGM Expenses	\$47.51
Curator's Expenses	\$93.78
Financial Services Ex- penses	\$74.70
FOCIS Newsletter	\$1,647.56
Government Fees	\$134.40
Grants Paid	\$13,000.00
General Office Expenses	\$250.64
Post Office Fees	\$21.50
Subscriptions Paid	\$121.00
Sundry Expenses	\$109.95
Taxes	\$0.00
Web Site Expenses	\$54.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$15,555.04</b>

**SURPLUS (DEFICIT) \$2,824.71**

## Budget Position as at 30 Apr 2012

Category	Budget for 1/07/2011- 30/06/2012 (12 months)	Actuals for 1/07/2011- 30/04/2012 (10 months)	Progress Against Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations Received	\$600	\$628	105%
Interest Income	\$1,100	\$785	71%
Subscriptions Income	\$5,000	\$3,967	79%
Sundry Income	\$100	\$0	0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$6,800</b>	<b>\$5,379</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
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	\$1,648	100%
Government Fees	\$0	\$134	N/A
General Office Expenses	\$1,725	\$251	15%
Post Office Fees	\$25	\$22	86%
Subscriptions Paid	\$150	\$121	81%
Sundry Expenses	\$500	\$110	22%
Taxes	\$0	\$0	N/A
Web Site Expenses	\$60	\$54	90%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,360</b>	<b>\$2,555</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$2,440</b>	<b>\$2,824</b>	<b>116%</b>

## Treasurer's Report (continued)

### Membership Report as at 30 Apr 2012

Category	30/06/2011	30/04/2012	Increase or Decrease
Family Memberships	114	128	14
Individual Memberships			
Adult Memberships		29	
Concession Memberships		53	
TOTAL Individual Memberships	115	82	-33
Unknown Membership Type	0	0	0
TOTAL Paying Memberships	229	210	-19
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	200	200
Overdue Memberships	0	0	0

### Tom and Ruth maintaining historic equipment



### Easter Working Horses



## PARTING GIFT

Terry and Maureen Simmonds, long serving FOCIS members, have decided to relocate. Before leaving us they formally donated the Jardiniere which is displayed in the Amess House Drawing Room.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### GENERAL MEETINGS

2012

Saturday 11 August (AGM)

Saturday 10 November

1.30 pm Meeting Room

Churchill Island Visitors'

Centre



The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. Newsletter  
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Number 116 WINTER 2012



The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

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