



FOCIS

newsletter

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

No.124 WINTER 2014

FOCIS NEWS

Our 2014 Annual General Meeting approaches and our long serving President, Stella Axarlis AM has indicated that she will not stand for another term. Stella has achieved much for FOCIS and members will be sorry to see her leave. She has been a constant advocate for the Island as a member of the Nature Park Board and will be strongly missed.

The newsletter editor has now completed four years and has decided that he would like a break. A new editor is urgently required.

APOLOGY.

In the last newsletter some errors occurred in relation to Mathew Jackson's report. It should be noted that that \$192,000 was received from the Ian Potter foundation towards the entire 5 year Fox strategy which included the purchase of the dogs. Also the 34,000 figure was in reference to annual visitation in 2003, not building capacity or design. We apologize for these errors.

EARLY FORD CLUB

Members of the Early Ford V 8 Club and a range of their cars, visited Phillip Island in April. Many of them were very interested in the Amess House and spent some time looking around.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Stella Axarlis, AM

Dear Members,

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your President in the last few years. During this time I was supported by an excellent Executive Committee who I hope will re nominate for the next year and I say thank you for their excellent support. I would also like to acknowledge the CEO of the Phillip Island Nature Parks, Matthew Jackson and his team for their outstanding contribution in all the years I have been President.

In Matthew's report you will read about the exciting future projects and in particular the next stage of work on Churchill Island. Further the support I have received from the Board and Matthew to secure a Curator has been most welcoming and continues in the next year.

It is time however for renewal and the changing of the guard so to this end, I wish to inform you that, I will not be standing for reelection. I thank all the members for their continued support of FOCIS and particularly those who attend all our meetings and contribute to our success, So I say adieu and send you all my very best wishes, Stella

CURATOR'S REPORT

Christine Grayden

1. Pavers have been put under machinery and mulch spread around.
2. Mannequins in Amess House dining room have had their costumes changed thanks to Cheryl Stratford, costume maker.
3. My former student helper, Sandra Kanis, is no longer able to attend. I have had the co-ordinator of the Deakin University heritage/museum studies course send out an email to all students asking if anyone wants to help, but no luck so far.
4. Two new farm workers have started: Matt and Mark.
5. We have had several new garden and house volunteers start and others leave.
6. A sprinkler system has been placed throughout the garden, except for the herb garden. This is as per our garden management plan, and will make a huge difference to the appearance of the garden during the summer.

7. Had a good working bee on farm machinery in March. Thanks to everyone who came along and pitched in to help.

This project was made possible by a \$1500 grant from Bass Coast Shire Council. We should have the finished DVD by the August AGM.

11. I have completed draft signage - text and images - on banners for the CI Visitors Centre. Now waiting on Kinsley the graphic artist to put the signage together. Hopefully it will be done by September.

12. Ed Garratt has donated Ted Jenkins' shark fishing reel.

13. I have been asked by the Museum Accreditation Program manager to be on the inspection team for Coal Creek's accreditation application. That takes place in June.

14. Margaret Madge, direct descendent of Samuel and Jane Amess, has donated a cup, saucer and plate set hand-painted by their youngest child Mary. The cup is signed MA 1909 and the set is on display in the kitchen. Margaret also donated a christening gown used by five generations of the Amess family, which is currently in storage with the

lace collection. An Amess family tree has also been donated.

15. Our farm machinery conservation volunteer, Jeff Cole, continues to work his way through our machinery collection, having recently rust-proofed and painted three mouldboard ploughs.

8. I attended the Museum Australia Victoria annual state conference in April. I have notes available if anyone is interested. I can mail them or email them.

9. We are still waiting to hear if we are going to host the MAV conference for 2016.

10. I spent Easter



Saturday as gopher for videographer Paul Cooper as he filmed the working horses and working horse people from the Heritage Draft Horse Club. Paul is in the process of editing the footage now and a potato digger. Some of the pieces now have signage.

16. Pat Jeffery continues to clean the house with the help of new volunteer Paola, and me when necessary. Thanks to Pat and Paola.

17. I recently gave a talk on CI to Corinella Probus and to the Phillip Island & District Historical Society.



Photos: Jason Bryant

PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARK REPORT

Matthew Jackson, Chief Executive Officer

Firstly, thank you to FOCIS and the volunteers for your ongoing support of the Nature Parks and specifically Churchill Island. Overall Park numbers year to date are up an estimated 20,000 in comparison to

last year with the recent Easter peak period performing very well across all attractions. This is a very pleasing result with forecasted visitation results for the end of the financial year are anticipated to be record tourism results for the Nature Parks.

In March this year, there was an announcement held at the Nobbies Centre relating to two new tourism initiatives by the Nature Parks. In attendance were many key stakeholders and community members

including the Hon. Ryan Smith, Minister for the Environment and Climate Change and the Hon. Louise Asher, Minister for Tourism and Events.

The first announcement made by Minister Asher was the proposed scenic boat tours of the Summerland Peninsula, a joint partnership with the Nature Parks and local operator Wildlife Coast Cruises. This new product will include daily guided boat tours of the Summerland Peninsula, including a visit to the Seal colony. This tour will be launched in December 2014 and will depart from Cowes daily. The second announcement made by Minister Smith was a new attraction to be located in the basement of the Nobbies Centre, also a joint partnership with the Nature Parks and the World Wide Fund For Nature Australia (WWF). The theme of the attraction will be an immersive journey to Antarctica, demonstrating Phillip Island as the Gateway to Antarctica and using key an immersive journey to Antarctica, demonstrating Phillip Island as

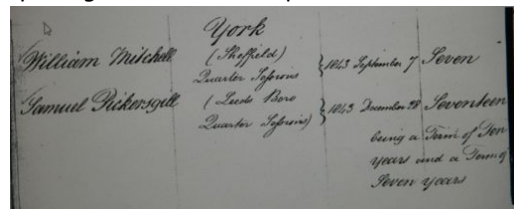
the Gateway species to tell the story including Whales, Seals, and Penguins. This attraction will launch in December 2015. Now that the Churchill Island Key Area Plan has been completed, the next stage is to undertake a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) as a priority and this is scheduled to be completed in the forthcoming 2014/15 Nature Parks budget. Thank you again to FOCIS for providing input into the Churchill Island Key Area Plan and I look forward to involving FOCIS into the development of the CMP. I can confirm that the Nature Parks are once more recommending to the Nature Parks Board to again fund the Curator's role, and this will be confirmed at the end of May. Thanks once more to Christine Grayden for her efforts in the Curator role and the progress that has been made to date. Thank you again for your ongoing support of Churchill Island and I look forward to working with FOCIS over the next 12 months.

SAMUEL PICKERSGILL THE CONVICT

Christine Grayden

Recent research by Pickersgill family historians has uncovered a convict register entry for a Samuel Pickersgill. Newspaper reports of the time corroborate the register entry, saying that Samuel and an offsider broke into a Chapel with the aim of raiding the poor box, only to find it empty. They then removed and stole two brass taps. Some days later they were apprehended while trying to sell the taps. Samuel Pickersgill received seventeen years transportation to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) as a sentence. Apparently, he

escaped after five years, and was given up on by the government some years later.



Samuel Pickersgill's entry in a convict register. 1843, Dec 28. Seventeen years being a term of Ten years and a Term of seven years transportation to Van Diemen's Land.

Meanwhile he had made his way to Port Phillip under a false name. He did not reclaim his actual name until returning from a trip to England in the late 1950s. His status as an escaped convict may explain why he never attempted to buy Churchill Island, as he knew John Rogers had a prior claim to it and any fight over the purchase would have ended in court - the last thing Samuel Pickersgill would have risked. Instead he purchased property at San Remo, which was not subject to any challenges.



Samuel Pickersgill as an older man with one of his daughters, Catherine, and Catherine's daughter.

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL
MEETING HELD AT CHURCHILL
ISLAND MEETING ROOM,
10.5.2014, 1.30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Stella Axarlis (President);
Christine Grayden (Secretary); David
Maunder (newsletter editor); Ann and Peter
Jelly; Peter Brookes; Graeme Clauscen;
Terry Holman (life member), Linda
Patterson; Marianne Cassar.

APOLOGIES: Pauline Taylor (PICS); Gaye
Cleeland (PIDHS); Robyn Holman. Ruth O'Dea
(Vice President); Tom O'Dea (Treasurer);
Irene McKell (FOK); Sue and Roger
Hollingworth; Ted & Sue Bryant; Coral
Bourke; Wilma Carter; Sharon Smart; Rod &
Margaret Simkiss; Kay Williams

WELCOME: The President welcomed
members, Life Member Terry Holman, and
Linda Patterson and Marianne Cassar who
have not attended previously.
Acknowledgement of the Boonwurrung people
was given.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
8th February 2014 Anne Jelly/Graeme
Clauscen *carried.*

PINP CEO's report: read by the President in
Matthew Jackson's absence:

**Matthew Jackson Report to FOCIS 10
May 2014**

SEE PAGE 3.

MATTERS ARISING from previous minutes

a) Turn the Page bookshop, Phillip Island
Nature Parks and FOCIS are all selling Pat's
books.

b) MAV state conference - i) should know in
a few weeks if PI has the conference for
2015.

ii) Christine attended this year's conference
in Warrnambool and has notes to lend or
send.

c) Filming of working horses and working
horse people on Easter Sat. Paul Cooper,
videographer, attended and Christine
supported him with filming from 8 a.m. to 2
p.m. He filmed interviews with the working

horse people and the horses operating various types of machinery. He is now working on the first edit and will create a secure Youtube link so that FOCIS c/ee and working horse people can view and make suggestions before the final edit. We hope to have a copy of the finished DVD to show at the conclusion of the AGM, and then have them for sale.

d) Bass Coast Shire Heritage Group meeting Wed 30 April. Christine attended this meeting and reported for FOCIS. Seven groups plus Jenny Churchill from BCSC present. Next group meeting will be at Cowes on Tuesday July 29, hosted by Phillip Island & District Historical Society. All FOCIS members welcome to attend and hear what is happening in the district. A bus tour of WWI memorials will be arranged for end of year, funded by BCSC.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

See attached. Treasurer/membership secretary overseas.

Terry Holman/David Maunders: That the Treasurer's report be accepted. *Carried.*

CURATOR'S REPORT:

See Page 2.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Working bee dates: House or garden: Sat 13.9.2014 and Sat 15.11.2014, both 8-10 a.m. August 16 meeting will be the AGM. We plan to have the working horse DVD to show after the meeting.

SPEAKER:

The speaker who had been arranged was unable to attend at the last minute. Instead, Christine showed some Churchill Island photos from a CD of scanned photos recently

sent by the Historic Places section of the Dept of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria. Meeting closed 2.40 p.m. Next meeting Sat 16 August 2014, 1.30 p.m. Churchill Island meeting room. (AGM)

Treasurer's Report for the 10 Months Ending 30 April 2014

Assets & Liabilities as at 30 Apr 2014		Income & Expenses as at 30 Apr 2014	
Account	30/04/2014 Balance	Category	1/07/2013- 30/04/2014 (10 months)
ASSETS		INCOME	
<u>Cash and Bank Accounts</u>		Book Sales	\$505.05 ¹
CBA Cash Management Call Acct (Closed)	\$0.00	Donations from Members	\$257.05
ANZ Cheque Account	\$201.96	Donations from the Public	\$452.60
ANZ Savings Account	\$5,222.90	Grants Received	\$1,500.00 ²
PayPal Account	\$0.00	Interest Income	\$1,732.64
President's Advance	\$359.89	Subscriptions Income	\$1,971.50
Curator's Advance	\$221.98	Sundry Income	\$480.00
RACV Investment Options 01 (Closed)	\$0.00	TOTAL INCOME	\$6,898.84
RACV Investment Options 02 (Closed)	\$0.00	EXPENSES	
RACV Investment Options 03 (Closed)	\$0.00	Advertising	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 04 (Closed)	\$0.00	AGM Expenses	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 05 ³	\$12,000.00	Book Costs	\$9.00
RACV Investment Options 06 ⁴	\$33,279.86	Curator's Expenses	\$477.73
Cash	\$0.00	Employment of Curator	\$0.00 ⁵
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$51,286.59	Financial Services Expenses	\$25.02
<u>Other Assets</u>		FOCIS Newsletter	\$1,059.78
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	Government Fees	\$126.60
Books	\$4,106.88 ⁶	Churchill Island Improvements	\$1,101.40 ⁷
TOTAL Other Assets	\$4,106.88	General Office Expenses	\$1,655.66
TOTAL ASSETS	\$55,393.47	Post Office Fees	\$25.00
LIABILITIES		Subscriptions Paid	\$121.00
<u>Other Liabilities</u>		Taxes	\$0.00
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	Web Site Expenses	\$54.00 ⁸
Museum Reserve ⁹	\$33,279.86	Sundry Expenses	\$515.55
TOTAL Other Liabilities	\$33,279.86	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,170.74
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$33,279.86	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$1,728.10
NETT ASSETS	\$22,113.61		

¹ 50 copies of Pat Baird's book have been sold to Turn the Page Bookstore and 13 copies have been sold by FOCIS.

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

³ \$12,000.00 was invested with RACV Finance for 6 months at 3.90% with a maturity date of 17 Aug 2014.

⁴ \$33,279.86 was invested with RACV Finance for 6 months at 3.90% with a maturity date of 20 Aug 2014.

⁵ Payment was made in the previous financial year.

⁶ This is the value of the 713 copies of Pat Baird's book held in inventory and available for sale.

⁷ This is for the purchase of 150 concrete pavers for \$1,101.40 to help with the protection of historic farm machinery.

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

⁹ 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).

Membership Report as at 30 Apr 2014

Category	30/06/2011	30/06/2012	30/06/2013	30/04/2014	Increase or Decrease (last 10 months)
Family Memberships	114	125	110	77	-33
Individual Memberships					
Adult Memberships		28	28	23	-5
Concession Memberships		58	60	82	22
TOTAL Individual Memberships	115	86	88	105	17
TOTAL Paying Memberships	229	211	198	182	-16
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	14	0
Renewals	0	202	184	168	-16
Overdue Memberships	0	0	0	0	0

Budget Position as at 30 Apr 2014

Category	Budget for 1/07/2013 to 30/06/2014	Actuals for 1/07/2013 to 30/04/2014 (10 months)	Progress Against Budget
INCOME			
Book Sales	\$400	\$505	126%
Donations from Members	\$500	\$257	51%
Donations from the Public	\$300	\$453	151%
Interest Income	\$2,000	\$1,733	87%
Subscriptions Income	\$3,800	\$1,972	52%
Sundry Income	\$50	\$480 ¹⁰	960%
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,050	\$5,399	77%
EXPENSES			
Advertising	\$0	\$0	N/A
AGM Expenses	\$120	\$0	0%
Book Costs	\$0	\$9 ¹¹	N/A
Curator's Expenses ¹²	\$1,200	\$478	40%
Financial Services Expenses ¹³	\$130	\$25	19%
FOCIS Newsletter ¹⁴	\$1,600	\$1,060	66%
Government Fees ¹⁵	\$150	\$127	84%
General Office Expenses ¹⁶	\$1,500	\$1,656	110%
Post Office Fees ¹⁷	\$25	\$25	100%
Subscriptions Paid ¹⁸	\$150	\$121	81%
Taxes	\$0	\$0	N/A
Web Site Expenses	\$60	\$54	90%
Sundry Expenses	\$500	\$516 ¹⁹	103%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,435	\$4,069	75%
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$1,615	\$1,330	82%

¹⁰ Payment received from Bass Coast Shire Council for Christine to attend the Museums Australia Victoria Conference.

¹¹ Cost of postage for books sold online.

¹² This includes travel expenses for the Curator's Assistant.

¹³ Auditor's fee + PayPal transaction fees.

¹⁴ Postage & printing.

¹⁵ Filing fees for annual statement plus filing fee for approval of new Constitution.

¹⁶ General postage, stationery and printing, including production and distribution of membership cards.

¹⁷ Rental of PO Box.

¹⁸ Membership of Museums Australia & South Eastern Historical Association.

¹⁹ Includes expenses for Christine to attend the Museums Australia Victoria Conference.

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Meetings: SATURDAY 16 AUGUST
AGM SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER 1.30
Meeting Room Churchill Island**

**Working Bees: SATURDAYS 13
SEPTEMBER and 15 NOVEMBER**

8-10 AM



Photo: Jason Bryant



The Friends of Churchill Island
Society Inc Newsletter

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