

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

FOCIS

NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

Dates to remember

*General meeting: Saturday 8 November 2014
1.30 pm Churchill Island Visitors Centre.
Working Bee: Saturday 15 November, 2014
8 am to 10am. Contact Christine 5956 8501.*

G'day.

*As you can see there's been a few style changes and a new editor. Things aren't entirely settled yet and I'm not completely on top of the process. But I hope you like the direction it's going.
ED.*

Letter from our new President



Dear members of FOCIS.

I am delighted to forward the Presidents letter to you highlighting some of the wonderful work that has been undertaken by FOCIS at Churchill Island. The recent DVD on the working horses is a welcome addition to the promotion of Churchill Island. Over the past few years I have worked closely with the CEO of the Nature Park Matt Jackson and I am delighted to be able to renew our relationship on behalf of FOCIS. I need to thank Stella for her work as past president. I am well aware that Matt is a very strong supporter of FOCIS and is appreciative of the work that we do. Christine's work as a curator is and has been outstanding. We are fortunate to have a person undertaking this role with much pride and diligence. Churchill Island is a special place and I have often referred to it as the jewel in the crown on Phillip Island. I have been fortunate over a long period of time to have organised events and attended events at CI and I look forward to having input with you all about the future of Churchill Island. Finally may I congratulate all members on their appointments and without your efforts FOCIS would not be able to achieve what it has. Enjoy Spring and may a little bit of sunshine come your way.

Kind Regards

Peter Paul.



FOCIS WORKING BEE

FOCIS held a successful working bee in Amess House and the Rogers Cottage dormitory garden, even though we were only a crew of six. Thanks to Lee, Graeme, David, Marianne, Linda and Christine. We have a BIG spring clean working bee scheduled for Saturday November 8 a.m. till 10 a.m. We need to be early so that we are out of the house and cottages by the time the island opens at 10 a.m., otherwise there are occupational health and safety issues with our equipment being in the public's way. Yummy morning tea to follow. Please put the date in your diary and help if you can!

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FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY INC

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE NEWHAVEN INFORMATION CENTRE, 16TH AUGUST 2014, 1.30 P.M.

1. PRESENT: Ruth O'Dea (chair); Tom O'Dea; Christine Grayden; Gaye Cleeland; David Maunders; Irene McKell; Rebecca Sanders; Ann and Peter Jelly; Lee Tierney; Gillian Armstrong; Terry Holman; Linda Patterson; John Eddy; Graham Paterson; Marian M Pattinson; Peter Paul (later Glenyce Paul); Sue Chambers; Bruce Chambers.
2. APOLOGIES: Stella Axarlis (President); Sue & Roger Hollingworth; Rod & Margaret Simkiss; John & Robyn Boldiston; Coral Bourke; Inge Royce; Peter Fensham; Ted & Sue Bryant; Christine Tompkins; Marianne Cassar; Pauline Taylor; Robyn Holman; Matthew Jackson, CEO, Phillip Island Nature Parks.
3. WELCOME: Ruth O'Dea welcomed everyone and explained that since Stella was unwell, Ruth as Vice President would be chairing the meeting until the election of office bearers.
4. PINP CEO's report: read by Christine in Matthew's absence. (See elsewhere in this newsletter)
5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS General Meeting held 10.5.2014 Terry Holman/David Maunders *Carried.*
6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS Annual General Meeting held 10th August 2013 Irene McKell/Bruce Chambers *Carried.*
7. MATTERS ARISING from previous General Meeting:
 1. Museums Australia Victoria conference will not take place in 2015. It will now be bi-annual. Phillip Island may host some time in Sep-Nov 2016. An inspection of venues will take place on Thursday Sep 25.
 2. Working horse DVD is almost complete. A second edit will be shown after today's meeting. Suggestions for improvements are welcome.
 3. Bass Coast Heritage Group met at Cowes on Tuesday July 29 and decided to continue to meet several times a year regardless of whether we continue to get BCSC

funding. Reports of most of the heritage groups in Bass Coast were given and matters of mutual interest discussed.

4. CI Visitor Centre signage is waiting for the graphic artist to be available to proceed to the next stage. All text and images ready to go.

5. Working bees: Saturdays 13.9.14 and 15.11.14 both at 8-10 a.m. in house, cottages, or you may wish to work in the garden.

ANNUAL REPORTS:

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: No report available due to Stella being unwell.

9. 9. TREASURER'S REPORT/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Attached.

Tom O'Dea presented the report which showed the society's overall position as financially good, but membership decreasing with many renewals outstanding. Reminder letters will go out at the beginning of September. Tom then explained the situation with our attempts to get tax deductibility status for donations to the society. Account categories have already been put into place to satisfy requirements, but some constitutional changes are needed. Tom will write an article for the next newsletter and the matter of whether we continue to pursue this will be dealt with by members at the November 8 FOCIS General Meeting.

"That the Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2014 be adopted" Tom O'Dea/Terry Holman *Carried.*

10. SECRETARY'S REPORT - CORRESPONDENCE Inwards:

29.6.2014: Attorney General's department re: ROCO - our application put on hold.

22.7.2014: Email from BCSC Lee-Anne Harmer re: outstanding community grant acquittal.

27.7.2014: Letter from Mary Mitchell (Life member) wishing us well for the AGM and saying how she misses CI and all its workers.

31.7.2014: Chris Lewis email re: Bush Cares Major Day Out.

6.8.2014: Matthew Jackson re need to change venue for FOCIS AGM.

Insite Magazine May-June 2014

Smiths Beach Association Winter 2014

RACV Royalauto July 2014

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PICS "The Penguin" June 2014

Outwards:

2.5.2014 From Tom O'Dea, Treasurer to ROCCO re issues they identified as problems with out application and how we might address these.

22.7.2014 to Lee-Anne Harmer, BCSC, explaining reasons for delay in acquitting grant.

Correspondence accepted David Maunders/John Eddy
Carried.

11. CURATOR'S REPORT (See elsewhere in this newsletter)

12. MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Under Rule 3.7 of our Constitution, the Executive Committee needs to submit a recommendation to the members at the AGM concerning the annual subscriptions.

"After due consideration of the state of the Society's finances, the Executive Committee has concluded that there should be no change to the annual subscriptions for the 2015/2016 financial year and recommends that:

1. The rate for Family Memberships will be \$25.00 if payment is by cheque, money order or cash and \$26.00 if payment is made online.
2. The rate for Adult Memberships will be \$15.00 if payment is by cheque, money order or cash and \$15.70 if payment is made online.
3. The rate for Concession Memberships will be \$10.00 if payment is by cheque, money order or cash and \$10.55 if payment is made online.
4. The due date for payment of the annual subscription will be 30 June 2015."

Tom O'Dea/David Maunders *Carried.*

13. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Ann Jelly took the chair for the election of office bearers.

President: Peter Paul, nominated by Tom O'Dea, seconded by Ruth O'Dea. Elected unopposed.

Vice President: David Maunder, nominated by Christine Grayden, seconded by John Eddy. Elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Tom O'Dea, nominated by Ruth O'Dea, seconded by Christine Grayden. Elected unopposed.

Membership Secretary: Tom O'Dea, nominated by Ruth O'Dea, seconded by Christine Grayden. Elected unopposed.

Secretary: Christine Grayden, nominated by John Eddy, seconded by Gaye Cleeland. Elected unopposed.

Newsletter Editor: Jeffery Cole, nominated by Christine Grayden, seconded by Ruth O'Dea. Elected unopposed.

Phillip Island & District Historical Society Inc representative: Gaye Cleeland, nominated Cherry McFee, seconded Ruth O'Dea. Elected unopposed.

Friends of Koalas representative: Irene McKell: nominated Gaye Cleeland, seconded Christine Grayden. Elected unopposed.

Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc rep: Jane Westworth, nominated by Christine Grayden, seconded Ruth O'Dea. Elected unopposed.

Peter Paul took the chair.

5. 14. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

"That Tom Caulfield be re-appointed as auditor for the financial year ending 30 June 2015" Tom O'Dea/John Eddy *Carried.*

Tom reported that Tom Caulfield only charges \$60 each time that he audits the society's books.

15. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Rebecca Sanders, PhD candidate, reported that she is three-four weeks off submitting her thesis.

2. Peter Paul reported that the first meeting of Phillip Island's 150th celebrations committee was held yesterday. He envisages CI will play an important role in the celebrations. The committee will meet bi-monthly and then monthly as 2018 draws closer. It is good to have planning already underway.

3. Jeff Cole, new newsletter editor, gave the gathering some information on his background in the printing and advertising industries, and his plans for the newsletter. Feedback and contributions will be welcome.

4. David Maunders stated he was glad to have matched Peter and Ann Jellys' time as newsletter editor, and that he fully supports Jeff in his plans to change the style of the newsletter.

5. Ann Jelly asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to retiring president Stella Axarlis, who so ably led the society in her term as president and was an excellent conduit between FOCIS and the Phillip Island Nature Parks Board.

6. Lee Tierney suggested that a flyer advertising FOCIS could be inserted into copies of Pat's book. Turn the Page bookshop to be asked if this is possible. Lee also suggested that a display advert be placed in the Advertiser.

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7. Rebecca asked how many Cape Barren Geese were on Churchill Island now. Christine replied that counts were done every two years for CI and Phillip Island and the next count would be 2015. There were 100 counted on CI in Nov 2013.

The meeting was followed by a showing of the 2nd edit of "Working Horses on Churchill Island", filmed by Paul Cooper on Easter Saturday 2014. Members were delighted with the video and made several specific suggestions for improvement. Paul will finish editing in the coming week

and will provide FOCIS with five copies of DVDs and also present the video in other formats on a USB stick. The video was made with a \$1500 community grant from Bass Coast Shire Council.

Meeting closed 2.45 p.m.

The next General Meeting will be held at the Churchill Island Visitor Centre on Saturday 8 November at 1.30 p.m. Speaker: Mike Cleeland will update us on climate change.

Curator's Report, August 2014

We have had the following donations since the May meeting:

Cup, plate and saucer hand-painted by Margaret Amess, well known china painter and youngest child of Alderman Samuel and Amess and Jane.

Christening gown worn by five generations of the Amess family. (on display today)

Amess family tree 1750-2012 and several family photos (on display today)

Photo album from 1939-40 and 1959, donated by Arthur Evans.

First prize ribbon for Mrs Lavinia Brown's knitting, which is on display in Amess House nursery. (Mrs Brown's knitting has now been officially donated)

Grain grinder, brand Smith from Bendigo, donated by Errol Bradford of Ventnor who got it from well-known local racehorse breeder and trainer Cefn Price, who used it to grind his horses' feed.

"Silver leaves" gift card sent from Harry Jenkins to his aunt during the Boer War.

Other jobs:

Interviewed Arthur Evans (aged 96) a second time to get more detail on the Jenkins era of CI.

I was on the Accreditation inspection panel for Coal Creek Community Park and Museum - a most worthwhile experience.

Volunteer Jeff Cole is gradually cataloguing larger items of tools he is discovering stored in Amess

Barn and intends to set up a series of themed displays using the items.

Volunteer Margaret Geppert has started on the sorting and archiving of our large photograph collection. I am liaising with Museums Australia Victoria on PINP hosting the MAV state conference in 2016.

I Met with Bass Coast Heritage Group to report on FOCIS activities.

I wrote the draft of the CI Conservation Management Plan project description which is now being finalised.

I have assembled all relevant documentation for the consultants to use for the CI CMP once they have been appointed.

Christine Grayden

Know your Anvil

In the Blacksmiths shop you'll find one of these.



CEO's Report

Dear FOCIS members

This past financial year had significant achievements for the Nature Parks. I would like to acknowledge the great work done by all of our wonderful staff and volunteers and particularly FOCIS.

I would like to acknowledge Stella Axarlis for her commitment to the role as President of FOCIS over many years and her ongoing commitment towards enhancing and maximising the relationship and opportunities between FOCIS and the Nature Parks. Thank you Stella and I look forward to working with the new President to continue this partnership.

During the year, we continued to focus on effectively balancing our environmental, commercial and social responsibilities. The Nature Parks is a not-for-profit business, but it is important that it generates a sufficient surplus to ensure that adequate financial provisions are made and investments are undertaken to both protect the environment and achieve adequate visitor levels

I am pleased to report the achievement of an operating surplus of \$1.97M (to be reinvested into conservation and major projects) and a record 1,224,057 visitors for 2013-14.

Tourism highlights:

- This was a record year with a total of 1,224,057 visitors across all attractions - an increase of 3.8% compared to last year.
- This number was made up of 56% international and 44% domestic visitors and the increase is primarily attributed to the intrastate and Asian markets as well as major events.
- The Nature Parks experienced a 9.3% increase at the Penguin Parade due to substantial international market growth. We had a 3.8% decline in visitors to the Koala Conservation Centre due to strong competition in this segment with Churchill Island decreasing by 4.7%, primarily reflecting the major events held in the previous year not held again.
- A total of 88,363 '3 Parks Pass' tickets were sold. This pass incorporates entry into all of the Nature Parks' paid attractions and assists in increasing the length of stay on Phillip Island, benefiting the Nature Parks, the community and local traders.
- Revenue increased by 13.5% and overall yield by 7.5%. This excellent result, together with a continual focus on cost management, allowed the Nature Parks to post a strong operating surplus for reinvestment into its portfolio.
- **Environment and general highlights:**
- The Nature Parks, in conjunction with Victoria University, won the inaugural 'Business and Not-for-Profits - In Collaboration' category of the Banksia Environmental Foundation Awards for Environmental Excellence for the development of a revolutionary process of treating oiled seabirds. This award makes the Nature Parks the most successful Australian organisation in the Banksia Environmental Foundation Award's 25 year history, winning in 2002, 2011 and 2013, including the prestigious 'Gold Banksia Award' in 2002.
- The Nature Parks and Bass Coast Shire Council signed a new Memorandum of Understanding in April 2014.
- A highlight for the year was the completion of the Churchill Island Key Area Plan. This plan provides a strategic vision for Churchill Island that will maximise its potential, cater for a range of key user groups, and ensure that Churchill Island's existing environmental and cultural values are upheld. The Nature Parks has committed an initial capital investment of \$2.5M towards the implementation of this plan. We are now completing the Conservation Management Plan that will guide the implementation of the Key Area Plan proposed stages.
- Over 800 staff hours were spent on extensive environmental works at Cape Woolamai.
- Nature Parks rangers conducted repairs and upgrades to over 8,000 metres of walking tracks at Churchill Island, Rhyll and Oswin Roberts Reserve to benefit recreational users of these key areas.
- The Nature Parks continued to be Phillip Island's largest employer and maintained a strong focus on the learning and professional development of our staff.

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- Our vision for and commitment to making Phillip Island “fox free” continued with the implementation of the fox eradication strategy. This included the introduction of two fox scent dogs to assist rangers in fox eradication efforts.
- This year, our commitment to reduce waste to landfill was challenged by an increase in visitors. Despite this, we are proud to report an 8% reduction in waste produced.
- Through the introduction of a 35 kilowatt solar system at the Koala Conservation Centre in October, we have recorded a 42% reduction in electricity over the ‘baseline year’ of 2010-11 and a 35% usage reduction from 2012-13.
- Over the year our rangers spent 3,688 hours on weed control with work focused on restoring habitat at 16 individual sites throughout the Nature Parks.
- Over 68,000 indigenous seedlings (including over 60,000 from our nursery) were planted.
- The fourth annual Community Open Day saw a record number of Bass Coast Shire residents with over 2,000 attending the Nature Parks’ venues and activities held throughout the day.
- The second annual ‘Biyadin’ Indigenous festival was held in November. The event celebrates short-tailed shearwaters and Indigenous culture on Phillip Island.
- The Nature Parks has again funded the Curators Role at Churchill Island with a \$13,000 donation.
- In March 2014, the Victorian Government and the Board announced two major new tourism developments at the Nature Parks:
- A partnership between the Nature Parks and the World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF) will see the development of a state-of-the-art multimedia ‘Antarctic Journey’ interpretive display at the Nobbies Centre at a total cost of \$3M. This world class attraction is scheduled to open in December 2015.
- An eco boat tour from Cowes to Seal Rocks and around the Summerland Peninsula will be introduced by the Nature Parks in partnership with local operator Wildlife Coast Cruises. The new boat tours will commence operations in December 2014.

Thank you again for your support and ongoing assistance towards making Churchill Island a must see destination and I look forward to working with FOCIS over the new 12 months.

Matthew Jackson, 15.8.2014.



Pat, a new volunteer guide has taken dressing for the era to a new height, and attracted lots of attention. Pictured with David Maunders, our Vice President.

Your new Executive Committee for 2014-15

President: Peter Paul.

Vice President: David Maunders

Secretary: Christine Grayden

Membership Secretary: Tom O’Dea

Treasurer: Tom O’Dea

Editor: Jeff Cole

Representative of the Phillip Island & District
Historical Society

Gaye Cleeland

Representative of the Friends of Koalas Society
Irene McKell

Representative of the Phillip Island
Conservation Society
Jane Westworth.

Treasurer's Report for the Year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

1. Summary of Results for 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

We finished the year ending 30 June 2014 with a surplus of \$3,788.02. However, we received a grant of \$1,500 from the Bass Coast Shire Council towards the production of a recording of the CI working horses on DVD in Easter 2014 and we've not yet received an invoice from the production company. If this invoice was paid in the year ending 30 June 2014, the surplus would have been \$2,288.02. This compares favourably with the result for the year ending 30 June 2013 where we had a deficit of \$1,151.77 but this deficit was due to the costs incurred in publishing Pat Baird's book.

Total net assets grew by 6.2% from \$22,212.34 to \$23,597.53, an increase of \$1,385.19.

163 copies of Pat Baird's book were sold during the last financial year. 1,000 copies were printed; a total of 387 have now been sold; 613 copies are held in inventory.

Membership numbers declined by 7%, from 198 paying memberships to 184 paying memberships.

2. Unaudited Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 30 June 2014

Account	30/06/2012 Balance	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	Difference (last 12 months)
ASSETS				
<u>Cash and Bank Accounts</u>				
ANZ Cheque Account	\$773.85	\$1,016.57	\$2,242.22	\$1,225.65
ANZ Savings Account	\$19,119.44	\$16,254.21	\$5,242.56	-\$11,011.65
PayPal Account	\$387.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
President's Advance	\$382.49	\$359.89	\$359.89	\$0.00
Curator's Advance	\$47.38	\$11.91	\$221.98	\$210.07
RACV Investment Options 01 (Closed)	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 02 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 03 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$31,815.91	\$0.00	-\$31,815.91
RACV Investment Options 04 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
RACV Investment Options 06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,279.86	\$33,279.86
Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$50,710.26	\$49,458.49	\$53,346.51	\$3,888.02
<u>Other Assets</u>				
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	-\$100.00
Books	\$0.00	\$4,469.76	\$3,530.88	-\$938.88
TOTAL Other Assets	\$0.00	\$4,569.76	\$3,530.88	-\$1,038.88
TOTAL ASSETS	\$50,710.26	\$54,028.25	\$56,877.39	\$2,849.14
LIABILITIES				
<u>Other Liabilities</u>				
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Museum Reserve	\$30,000.00	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	\$1,463.95
TOTAL Other Liabilities	\$30,000.00	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	\$1,463.95
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$30,000.00	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	\$1,463.95
NETT ASSETS	\$20,710.26	\$22,212.34	\$23,597.53	\$1,385.19

FOCIS - Treasurer's Report for the Year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

3. Unaudited Statement of Income & Expenses as at 30 June 2014

NOTE: This statement presents the income and expenses using a revised chart of accounts in order to provide a better picture of how the Society's funds are being used to support the Society's principal purpose which is **the promotion of the moveable cultural heritage of Churchill Island.**

Category	1/07/2011- 30/06/2012	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	Difference (last 12 months)
INCOME				
Interest Income	\$868.93	\$2,300.68	\$1,752.30	-\$548.38
Subscriptions Income	\$5,598.35	\$4,053.55	\$3,243.75	-\$809.80
Sundry Income	\$80.00	\$0.22	\$0.00	-\$0.22
Movable Cultural Heritage - Book Sales	\$0.00	\$1,671.50	\$1,247.05	-\$424.45
Movable Cultural Heritage - Donations from Members	\$875.00	\$295.10	\$387.05	\$91.95
Movable Cultural Heritage - Public Donations	\$131.80	\$315.00	\$452.60	\$137.60
Movable Cultural Heritage - Grants Received	\$13,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$1,980.00	-\$24,020.00
Other Movable Cultural Heritage Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,554.08	\$34,636.05	\$9,062.75	-\$25,573.30
EXPENSES				
Administration - Financial Services	\$89.40	\$110.41	\$99.51	-\$10.90
Administration - Government Fees	\$134.40	\$43.90	\$126.60	\$82.70
Administration - Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administration - Membership Admin.	\$50.40	\$878.53	\$738.09	-\$140.44
Administration - General Office Expenses	\$191.26	\$325.13	\$947.07	\$621.94
Administration - Post Office Fees	\$21.50	\$23.00	\$25.00	\$2.00
Administration - Taxes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administration - Other Admin. Expenses	\$0.00	\$31.20	\$0.00	-\$31.20
Movable Cultural Heritage - Acquisitions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Archiving	\$81.01	\$133.07	\$7.70	-\$125.37
Movable Cultural Heritage - Book Publishing	\$0.00	\$5,783.17	\$9.00	-\$5,774.17
Movable Cultural Heritage - Cataloguing	\$105.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Communications	\$167.36	\$93.45	\$35.55	-\$57.90
Movable Cultural Heritage - Curating	\$13,000.00	\$26,660.00	\$200.00	-\$26,460.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Educating the Public	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Exhibitions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Networking	\$249.17	\$193.00	\$601.00	\$408.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Newsletter Publishing	\$1,998.04	\$1,264.42	\$1,059.78	-\$204.64
Movable Cultural Heritage - Presentation	\$32.68	\$87.50	\$0.00	-\$87.50
Movable Cultural Heritage - Preservation	\$125.11	\$83.54	\$1,254.93	\$1,171.39
Movable Cultural Heritage - Research	\$0.00	\$77.50	\$16.50	-\$61.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Restoration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Video Publishing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Web Site Publishing	\$54.00	\$0.00	\$54.00	\$54.00
Other Promotional Activities for Movable Cultural Heritage Items	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,299.66	\$35,787.82	\$5,274.73	-\$30,513.09
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$4,254.42	-\$1,151.77	\$3,788.02	\$4,939.79

Status Update on Application for DGR Status

Tom O'Dea, Treasurer 22 August 2014

1. What has been done?

We have submitted an application to the Commonwealth Arts Office for the FOCIS Churchill Island Heritage Fund to be listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations.

2. Why are we doing this?

We are doing this so that we can offer tax deductibility for donations to FOCIS.

3. What do we need to do to offer Tax Deductibility?

In order to offer tax deductibility for donations, an organisation must be endorsed by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) as a Donor Gift Recipient (DGR) organisation or have a Public Fund which is endorsed as a DGR Fund.

4. Is there an alternative approach?

No. An application for a fund to be listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations is the only option open to us.

There is a plain English guide published by the ATO which explains what you need to do to get DGR status. This is called *GiftPack*. The *GiftPack* document tells us what types of organisations and activities meet the ATO requirements before DGR status can be granted. There is a long list of DGR categories including Public Hospital, Public Ambulance Service, Public University, TAFE, Australian Disaster Relief Fund, Animal Welfare Charity, Public Museum, Public Library, Public Art Gallery, Public Fund on the Register of Cultural Organisations. In our case, there are only 2 relevant categories:

1. Public Museum.
2. Public Fund on the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO).

The museum category does not apply because "Friends of" organisations are specifically excluded. That just leaves us with a public fund listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations.

This is why we established the FOCIS Churchill Island Heritage Fund and we submitted an application to the Arts Office for that Fund to be listed on the Register. (Please note that the Fund exists on paper only and has not yet been activated.)

5. Is DGR status the same as being a charity?

No. In order to be able to offer tax deductibility for donations, an organisation has to be endorsed by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) as a Donor Gift Recipient (DGR) organisation or you need to have a Fund which is endorsed as a DGR Fund.

This is not the same as being a charity. The ATO changed the rules and the terminology for tax deductibility for donations some years ago. You can't legitimately claim a tax deduction for a donation to a charity – you can only claim a tax deduction for a donation to a DGR organisation or a DGR Fund.

The key point to remember is that just because you are a charity doesn't mean you can offer tax deductibility for donations. You need to have DGR status to do that.

6. What is the current situation re our application?

Our first application was submitted on 15 Nov 2011 and we received a rejection letter about 9 months later on 10 Sep 2012. The key issue was with the "Principal Purpose" requirement:

"On the basis of the Association's application, it appears that its objects are diverse including assisting the Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) with maintenance, restoration and preservation of collections of historical interest at Churchill Island. This is a much broader definition of 'culture' than the ROCO guidelines currently allow."

In order to address this issue we changed the Society's Constitution so that we had a very simple, clear statement of the Society's Principal Purpose:

"The principal purpose of the Society is:
The promotion of the moveable cultural heritage of Churchill Island."

This wording was chosen very carefully for the reasons discussed below.

The Register of Cultural Organisations is administered by the Commonwealth Arts Office. There is a separate document called the *ROCO Guide* which explains the rules for gaining approval.

The *ROCO Guide* lists 13 types of activities which are acceptable as "cultural activities". These include Music, Performing Arts, Radio and Television but the only relevant category in our case is "movable cultural heritage".

The *ROCO Guide* also says that:

"For entry on the Register the 'principal purpose' of your organisation must be the **promotion** of one or more cultural activities."

This is why we have said that the principal purpose of the Society is:

The **promotion** of the **moveable cultural heritage** of Churchill Island.

This is not the same as being a charity. The ATO changed the rules and the terminology for tax deductibility for donations some years ago. You can't legitimately claim a tax deduction for a donation to a charity – you can only claim a tax deduction for a donation to a DGR organisation or a DGR Fund.

The key point to remember is that just because you are a charity doesn't mean you can offer tax deductibility for donations. You need to have DGR status to do that

7. What is the current situation re our application?

Our first application was submitted on 15 Nov 2011 and we received a rejection letter about 9 months later on 10 Sep 2012. The key issue was with the "Principal Purpose" requirement:

"On the basis of the Association's application, it appears that its objects are diverse including assisting the Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) with maintenance, restoration and preservation of collections of historical interest at Churchill Island.

This is a much broader definition of 'culture' than the ROCO guidelines currently allow."

In order to address this issue we changed the Society's Constitution so that we had a very simple, clear statement of the Society's Principal Purpose:

"The principal purpose of the Society is: The promotion of the moveable cultural heritage of Churchill Island."

This wording was chosen very carefully for the reasons discussed below.

The Register of Cultural Organisations is administered by the Commonwealth Arts Office. There is a separate document called the *ROCO Guide* which explains the rules for gaining approval.

The *ROCO Guide* lists 13 types of activities which are acceptable as "cultural activities". These include Music, Performing Arts, Radio and Television but the only relevant category in our case is "movable cultural heritage".

The *ROCO Guide* also says that:

"For entry on the Register the 'principal purpose' of your organisation must be the **promotion** of one or more cultural activities."

This is why we have said that the principal purpose of the Society is:

The **promotion** of the **moveable cultural heritage** of Churchill Island.

This change to the Constitution was made at the same time we made a number of other changes in order to comply with the new Act, the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

The revised Constitution was approved by Consumer Affairs Victoria in January 2014.

We then submitted a new application to the Arts Office on 10 February 2014.

We received a letter from the Arts Office dated 4 April 2014 telling us that our application had been rejected.

In this latest letter, it would seem as though the Principal Purpose requirement has been met but the issue now is with the **activities** of the Society:

"After reviewing the information provided on the Association's activities as well as an examination of the accounts provided it appears that the purpose of the Association is focused on infrastructure and environmental matters which would not be deemed to be promoting 'moveable cultural heritage'."

There is also an issue with Rules 8.6(a) and 8.10. These rules are about sponsorship payments. These rules are not that important and were only included to provide future flexibility. We can remove these.

8. What are the issues?

In summary, the letter has identified 3 issues concerning our application for the Society's public fund to be listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations:

1. From the information provided about the Society's activities it appears that the purpose of the Association is focused on infrastructure and environmental matters which would not be deemed to be promoting 'moveable cultural heritage'.
2. From an examination of the accounts provided it appears that the purpose of the Association is focused on infrastructure and environmental matters which would not be deemed to be promoting 'moveable cultural heritage'.
3. Under the Society's Constitution (clauses 8.6(a) and 8.10), it appears that the Society intends to act as a conduit by providing sponsorship payments to other organisations and this is contrary to subsection 30-130(2) of the Act.

9. What needs to be done?

We've already revised our chart of accounts so that the accounts more accurately reflect the types of activities the Society currently undertakes in promoting the moveable cultural heritage of Churchill Island.

We also need to update our Constitution:

1. We need to consider updating Rule 1.5 (Operational Aims and Objectives) in the Society's Constitution to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Society and Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP). PINP is responsible for infrastructure and environmental matters. The Society works closely with PINP and discussions do take place between the Society and PINP from time to time on infrastructure and environmental matters but the Society does not do any of the work – the work is
 1. performed by PINP staff. The tasks performed by members of the Society are concerned with promoting the moveable cultural heritage of Churchill Island. These activities include Archiving, Book Publishing, Cataloguing, Curating, Exhibitions, Newsletter Publishing, Presentation, Preservation, Restoration, Video Publishing, Web Site Publishing.
2. We need to consider updating Rule 1.6 (Support for PINP) in the Society's Constitution to clearly identify those activities which are performed by PINP and those which are performed by the Society.
3. We need to update Rule 8.6 (Payments from the Public Fund) and Rule 8.10 (Selection Process for Payments from the Public Fund) in the Society's Constitution to make it clear that payments from the fund will only be made to individuals. We need to do this to comply with the ROCO requirements.

10. What should we do next?

1. Discuss the situation at the next General Meeting on Saturday 8 November 2014.
2. Decide whether this initiative is worth pursuing.
3. If we decide to proceed, discuss and agree an action plan.



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EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN MUSEUMS

On 11th September I attended a day about Education Programs in Museums at the Ian Potter centre, Federation Square, put on by Museums Australia Victoria as part of their professional development service. Both Rebecca and Cara from the PINP Education team came with me, and we all got a great deal of benefit from the day. We started with five speakers in the first two and a half hours – Gina Panebianco, head of education at the National Gallery of Victoria; Christine Healey, Education Manager at Heide Museum of Modern Art; Kathryn Hendy-Ekers, Curriculum Manager – Visual Arts, Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority; Peter Hoban, team leader, Sovereign Hill education; and Eleanor Whitworth from Culture Victoria.

Gina told us about the extent of the NGV's huge education program and of the research that demonstrates the enormous advantages to children who do art education: "The more art education a child received the more impact on their individual success in life". Christine introduced us to Visual Thinking Strategies, with the three main focus questions: "What is going on in this picture?" (or other piece of art work/museum collection item), "What do you see that makes you say that?" and "What more can we find?"

Kathryn explained the complexities of the curriculum process for us. Peter had one strong message about education programs in art galleries and museums: "If it looks like school, and smells like school...run like hell!" Why would students come to your place if they can just stay at school and do the same work? Eleanor told us a great example of groups of 4-6 students with a tablet per group creating their own film about items or history within a gallery or museum – in this case, Barwon Park.

After lunch we attended a series of workshops where participants became students as well as discussing the processes. These were most worthwhile and put the theory into practice for us. Overall, a most useful day.

Christine Grayden.

A letter from Churchill Island

written by Marjorie Amess.

Saturday, 9 March, 1907

Dear Patience,-

I am choosing Churchill Island for the subject on which I am going to write. Grandfather bought Churchill Island in 1872. Now it belongs to my father, and is situated in Westernport Bay, near Phillip Island. It is one mile in breadth across the widest part, four miles in circumference, and two miles in length.

We are the only people living here, except the manager, who has rooms not far from the house. The house and orchard are surrounded by large pine trees, some of which are as high as 80ft. There are 150 acres, these being divided into nine paddocks.

We go in for grazing in a small way. Each of the paddocks contains at least two or more waterholes. We have four landing-stages and three boats. We always spend three months down here at Christmas time, when going for picnics we have a number of friends staying with us. We have a jolly time and having impromptu dances, which are very amusing, especially for the onlookers.

We have a large cannon in the orchard, which belonged to the American war-ship Shenandoah, and was given to my grand father by a friend. There is also a large flag pole in the front paddock, which is about 50ft. high, and on special occasions we hoist the flags. The house contains seven rooms, and there are two bedrooms away from the house, called the "barracks," which are the bachelors' quarters. We have a large bell, which belonged to the Kerangie*, and on New Year's Eve we ring it, to bring in the new year.

When we came down here for the holidays the grass very fresh and green, but now it is dry, and the grass seeds are a very great nuisance. The only misfortune is that the beach is not sandy.

Right round there is nothing but large rocks, except in some places where there are small pebbles and broken shells. Sea-bathing is one of our favourite pastimes, We have four bathing-boxes, but unfortunately we can only bathe at certain times, as the water goes out for about a mile and leaves nothing but mud flats. We sit down in the garden under the pines and have afternoon, tea, where we always seem to get cool breezes, even on the hottest days. -

Your sincere friend,-
Marjorie.

* Wrecked Cape Everard Feb. 1897

Contributor: Gaye Cleeland. Source, Trove

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Stop the press

Late news about the proposed MAV conference for 2016, hopefully coming to your island.

The director of Museums Aus. Vic. Laura Miles was here with the office manager Caroline Deighton and events manager Bridget Forbes on PI and CI on Thursday 25th September to meet with Bass Coast Shire and PINP staff re the MAV conference in September 2016. We hope to have a result soon. Christine Grayden was their escort for the day.



from left Laura, Bridget and Caroline



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