

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

# FOCIS

## NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

### Dates to remember

*General meeting: Saturday 14 February 2015*

*1.30 pm Churchill Island Visitors Centre.*

*Phillip Island Nature Parks Open Day*

*March 1st, 2015. Come along and help show*

*Churchill island off to the visitors.*

*Lovell Chen, Churchill Island Conservation Management Plan consultants will be reporting on the CMP at the next FOCIS meeting in February. The CMP will be basically finished by then.*



## CHURCHILL ISLAND VOLUNTEER'S OUTING

We all gathered at Churchill Island before 8.30 as instructed. Pat had put together morning tea to take with us. We boarded the coach and after a comfort stop in Tooradin, arrived at Hastings for morning tea. Three committee members from the Hastings museum had opened up for us and we had some interesting exchanges with them. The picture of the Amess barn in its earlier location was not available due to some reorganisation. Pat's morning tea included scones and jam with a cream sponge and chocolate cake, though nobody had room for the last one. (contd. 2)



After tea we set off on the ten-minute journey to the Cerberus Naval Base. The driver knew the way and was confused when the sign-posted entrance was sealed off with a new fence. We finally found the way in through the enhanced security and parked by the museum. Toni Munday, the curator, welcomed us and took us into the sandwich lunch. During lunch, she did an investigation for Hildegard about her father-in-law's naval career in World War II. He had been a naval gunner on a merchant ship.

After lunch, we saw a march past of fairly new naval recruits who, in the obvious opinion of their NCO, needed more practice in marching. Toni then conducted us around the museum. One of their prize possessions is the flag captured in New Guinea in 1914 when an Australian Naval Force captured the German Governor. The first Australian casualties of the war were suffered here. They also have a large portrait of Commander Dacre Smyth, (Commander of Naval Forces in Victoria) who was the author of a letter in our archives about the cannon restoration in 1978.

After leaving Cerberus, we drove a short distance to Tyabb and spend some time wandering around the Packing Shed Antiques complex, which contains an enormous shed and several separate businesses in the same area. We boarded with our prized purchases and headed back to Churchill Island. The rain set in on the way home but everyone had a pleasant day.

*David*

Researcher: Gaye Cleeland. Editing & Footnotes: Jeff Cole, Ruth O'Dea

Sources: Trove, The Australasian Saturday 7 April 1888

## AN ISLAND FARM

By 'BRUNI'\*

It will probably be news to most of the readers of The Australasian to learn that the land first cultivated in Victoria was not at Portland Bay, when the Messrs. Henty formed their permanent settlement at that place, but on an islet in Westernport Bay, where, as early as 1801, Captain Grant, of H.M.S. Lady Nelson, planted a number of cereals, fruits, and vegetables. He was greatly taken with the beauty of the isle, and thus the old discoverer speaks of it:- " Indeed, I was anxious to mark my predilection for the spot on account of its beautiful situation, insomuch that I scarcely know of a place I should sooner call mine than this little island."

(contd 8)

## Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc Minutes of General Meeting held Nov 8, 2014 at 1.30 p.m.

1. **Welcome:** President Peter Paul welcomed members to the meeting.

2. **Present:** Peter Paul, Tom & Ruth O'Dea, Gaye Cleeland, David Maunders, Ann Jelly, Peter Jelly, Anne Davie, Mike Cleeland (speaker) Sue and Roger Hollingworth, Jane Westworth, Jeff Cole, Nerrida Melsmith, Maryanne Pattison.

3. **Apologies:** Christine Grayden, Irene McKell

Ruth O'Dea volunteered to take the minutes in Christine's absence.

4. Ruth O'Dea read acting CEO Damian Prendergast's report.

- Overall visitation numbers for the first three months of the financial year exceeded budget by 4.7% (9,241). The Penguin Parade visitation numbers were 5.0% ahead of budget, and Churchill Island and KCC were both marginally ahead of budget. The trend towards more international visitation and less domestic visitation continues.

- The average number of penguins crossing the Penguin Parade in September (877) is higher than at the same time last year (647).

- All major projects are our continuing focus. (Nobbies, Boat tours, Penguins Plus and South and North Coast Key Area Plan).

- South and North Key Area Plan community consultation stage 2 was completed and went extremely well. The board has now adopted the plan at the October Board meeting. The Nature Parks is now formulating a prioritised list of the output and future recommendations for implementation.

- The Annual Report 2013-14 has been tabled in Parliament and approved for distribution.

- The Penguin Foundation was successful at the Google Impact Challenge with a grant of \$250,000 towards development of Magnetic Particle Technology. Management will now work with Victoria University to develop a detailed works schedule to achieve the project.

- Churchill Island Conservation Management Plan consultants have been appointed (Lovell Chen). They are currently reviewing the consultation process and are looking to begin towards the middle of this month (November). The

Nature Parks will be setting up consultation session this week.

- The new boat has arrived and it is anticipated that the official launch will be early December. (This is the new operation between Wildlife Cost Cruises and the Nature Parks)

5. Previous minutes 16.8.14. David Maunders/Jeff Cole carried.

6. Matters Arising:

6.1. MAV State Conference – no discussion.

6.2. Working Horses video. After discussing several options such as: putting a link on FOCIS Website to YouTube and Vimeo, producing copies for MAV conference in October 2016, giving copies to local schools, seeing if PINP would sell copies it was decided that the Webmaster would set up links on the Website and some copies would be made to give to interested parties.

6.3. Working bee on Sat 15 November was postponed due to Christine's unavailability due to illness.

6.4. Tax deductibility Status. Tom O'Dea summarised the report from the last Newsletter and, after discussion the meeting decided to continue working towards DGR status. Moved David Maunders Seconded Jeff Cole carried.

6.5. Card of thanks to Stella Axarlis – no discussion.

6.6. FOCIS flyer in Pat's book – carried over.

7. Treasurer's Report: Tom handed out copies of his report and explained that assets had declined since last report due to FOCIS receiving a grant from Bass Coast Council last year to produce Working Horses video but not billed and paid until last quarter. The Treasurer pointed out that we are using a set of new categories for reporting income and expenses. We've done this because we have to address a number of issues arising from the letter we received from the Arts Office, Canberra rejecting our application for our Donations Fund to be listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO). One of those

# FOCIS

issues was the presentation of our accounts. We therefore decided to revise our chart of accounts so that the accounts more accurately reflect the types of activities the Society currently undertakes in promoting the movable cultural heritage of Churchill Island. Income and expenditure against budget is in line with expectations. Membership has declined by a further 18% from last year. There was discussion about addressing this, especially as there are not enough volunteers. Jeff Cole suggested that we should try to recruit new members at the Open Day on 1 March 2015. He asked for volunteers to attend on this day. Motion that the Treasurer's Report be adopted – Tom O'Dea/ Ann Jelly carried.

8. Curator's Report: None owing to Christine's illness.

9. Correspondence: No discussion.

10. General Business:

10.1. Meeting Dates and Working Bee dates for 2015. The General Meetings will be held on the second Saturday of February, May and November and Annual General Meeting on the third Saturday in August. That is 14 February, 9 May, 15 August and 14 November. The Working Bees will be on the last Saturdays of March, May, September and November, that is 28 March, 30 May, 26 September and 28 November.

10.2. PINP Open Day on 1 March 2015. Jeff Cole called for volunteers to help.

10.3.15 Historical talks on 3MFM in 2015 – noted.

10.4. Speakers for 2015. Suggestions were:

- Someone from an organisation such as Heritage Gardens.
- Rebecca Saunders once she has finished her thesis.
- Nick Day. He paints birds and lives at Coronet Bay. (contact through his parents 56780587)

- Vic Mabilia, bridge builder. (56787238)

10.5. Meeting agreed that holding a Garden Party at CI as part of the Phillip Island sesquicentenary celebrations was a good idea and should be pursued.

11. Mike Cleeland gave an informative talk about the scientific data relating to Climate Change. The presentation included the following sets of data:

- CO<sub>2</sub> content of the air at Cape Grim Tasmania (consider the Earth's best-mixed air)
- Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> changes over the geological time scale
- Geological event known as the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (55 million years ago)
- Global temperature since 1860
- Satellite data since 1955
- Global temperature trends adjusted for The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), volcanic activity and the Solar cycle
- Temperature trends over the past 10,000 years
- Temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere compared with the Southern Hemisphere
- Corrected global temperature allowing for the relatively few temperature measuring sites in the Arctic and Antarctic regions
- Ocean heat content trends
- Trends in average cyclone energy
- Sunspot cycle and Solar Irradiance
- Cooling effects of aerosols and soot
- CFC's in the atmosphere

12. Mike asked that members provide before and after photos of mangroves moving in if they have any such photos.

Meeting closed 3.45 p.m. and followed by afternoon tea.

**14. Next General Meeting: Saturday February 14th, 2015, at 1.30 pm, CI Visitors' Centre Meeting room.**

## Your 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 Conservation Society: Jane Westworth.

## Treasurers report as at 31 October 2014

### Assets and Liabilities as at 31 October 2014

Account	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	31/10/2014 Balance	Difference (last 4 months)
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<u>Cash and Bank Accounts</u>				
CBA Cash Management Call Acct	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ANZ Cheque Account	\$1,016.57	\$2,242.22	\$886.23	-\$1,355.99
ANZ Savings Account	\$16,254.21	\$5,242.56	\$6,448.27	\$1,205.71
PayPal Account	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
President's Advance	\$359.89	\$359.89	\$0.00	-\$359.89
Curator's Advance	\$11.91	\$221.98	\$338.92	\$116.94
RACV Investment Options 01 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 02 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 03 (Closed)	\$31,815.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 04 (Closed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RACV Investment Options 05	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	-\$12,000.00
RACV Investment Options 06	\$0.00	\$33,279.86	\$0.00	-\$33,279.86
RACV Investment Options 07	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,232.07	\$12,232.07
RACV Investment Options 08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,923.48	\$33,923.48
Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$49,458.49</b>	<b>\$53,346.51</b>	<b>\$53,828.97</b>	<b>\$482.46</b>
<u>Other Assets</u>				
Accounts Receivable	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Books	\$4,469.76	\$3,530.88	\$3,484.80	-\$46.08
<b>TOTAL Other Assets</b>	<b>\$4,569.76</b>	<b>\$3,530.88</b>	<b>\$3,484.80</b>	<b>-\$46.08</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$54,028.25</b>	<b>\$56,877.39</b>	<b>\$57,313.77</b>	<b>\$436.38</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<u>Other Liabilities</u>				
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Museum Reserve	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	\$33,923.48	\$643.62
<b>TOTAL Other Liabilities</b>	<b>\$31,815.91</b>	<b>\$33,279.86</b>	<b>\$33,923.48</b>	<b>\$643.62</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$31,815.91</b>	<b>\$33,279.86</b>	<b>\$33,923.48</b>	<b>\$643.62</b>
<b>NETT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$22,212.34</b>	<b>\$23,597.53</b>	<b>\$23,390.29</b>	<b>-\$207.24</b>

Registration Number: A0021907W ABN: 78667051020 PO Box 852, COWES VIC 3922

## Income and Expenses as at 31 October 2014

Category	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	1/07/2014- 31/10/2014 (4 months)	Difference (last 4 months)
<b>INCOME</b>				
Interest Income	\$2,300.68	\$1,752.30	\$931.40	-\$820.90
Subscriptions Income	\$4,053.55	\$3,243.75	\$1,704.55	-\$1,539.20
Sundry Income	\$0.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Book Sales	\$1,671.50	\$1,247.05	\$79.35	-\$1,167.70
Movable Cultural Heritage - Donations from Members	\$295.10	\$387.05	\$215.00	-\$172.05
Movable Cultural Heritage - Public Donations	\$315.00	\$452.60	\$0.00	-\$452.60
Movable Cultural Heritage - Grants Received	\$26,000.00	\$1,980.00	\$13,000.00	\$11,020.00
Other Movable Cultural Heritage Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$34,636.05</b>	<b>\$9,062.75</b>	<b>\$15,930.30</b>	<b>\$6,867.55</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Administration - Financial Services	\$110.41	\$99.51	\$23.29	-\$76.22
Administration - Government Fees	\$43.90	\$126.60	\$53.00	-\$73.60
Administration - Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administration - Membership Admin.	\$878.53	\$738.09	\$0.00	-\$738.09
Administration - General Office Expenses	\$325.13	\$947.07	\$108.69	-\$838.38
Administration - Post Office Fees	\$23.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	-\$25.00
Administration - Taxes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administration - Other Admin. Expenses	\$31.20	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Acquisitions	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	-\$100.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$79.73	\$79.73
Movable Cultural Heritage - Archiving	\$133.07	\$7.70	\$20.40	\$12.70
Movable Cultural Heritage - Book Publishing	\$5,783.17	\$9.00	\$6.20	-\$2.80
Movable Cultural Heritage - Cataloguing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22.70	\$22.70
Movable Cultural Heritage - Communications	\$93.45	\$35.55	\$0.00	-\$35.55
Movable Cultural Heritage - Curating	\$26,660.00	\$200.00	\$13,000.00	\$12,800.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Educating the Public	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Exhibitions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Networking	\$193.00	\$601.00	\$158.81	-\$442.19
Movable Cultural Heritage - Newsletter Publishing	\$1,264.42	\$1,059.78	\$167.12	-\$892.66
Movable Cultural Heritage - Presentation	\$87.50	\$0.00	\$19.95	\$19.95
Movable Cultural Heritage - Preservation	\$83.54	\$1,254.93	\$0.00	-\$1,254.93
Movable Cultural Heritage - Research	\$77.50	\$16.50	\$0.00	-\$16.50
Movable Cultural Heritage - Restoration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Video Publishing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,662.95	\$1,662.95
Movable Cultural Heritage - Web Site Publishing	\$0.00	\$54.00	\$0.00	-\$54.00
Other Promotional Activities for Movable Cultural Heritage Items	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$35,787.82</b>	<b>\$5,274.73</b>	<b>\$15,447.84</b>	<b>\$10,173.11</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-\$1,151.77</b>	<b>\$3,788.02</b>	<b>\$482.46</b>	<b>-\$3,305.56</b>



Pat, a new volunteer guide has taken dressing for the era to a new height, and attracted lots of attention. She has acquired her own costumes on line.



old hay rake

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## Curators report

Recently we had donated a large number of Working Horse Festival photos from Gerda Moed who came into the possession of many framed and unframed images by photographer Ian Crosbie, taken in 2005 and 2006. All of the photos have been catalogued and two of the large framed photos - one showing a ten horse team and the other a six horse team - are now on display in Roger's Cottage kitchen. On the subject of photos, thanks go to FOCIS volunteer Margaret Geppert who has been wading through the large CI photo collection, sorting hundreds of loose photos in preparation for them to be archived into the correct type of photo albums.

The Clydesdale horse sculpture near the Visitors' Centre has had special treatment with a product called Organoil Tung Oil combined with Citrus Turpene. FOCIS volunteer Jeff Cole and I thoroughly soaked the horse in the oil and kept it wrapped up for a week. This will have to be an annual treatment, requested by the sculptor. The 'garden seat' is also in need of treatment. I will liaise with the makers, Newhaven College, to treat and repaint the seat with the art students next year.

As part of an oral history project co-ordinated by the Phillip Island & District Historical Society Inc for radio 3MFM, I recorded two talks on the residents of Churchill Island. The talks will be broadcast next year.

The consultants Lovell Chen are currently undertaking a Conservation Management Plan for Churchill Island, as recommended in the Key Area Plan. Included in the CMP is the historic buildings (including half cellar), collection items, an archaeological survey (not including Aboriginal times), and recommendations for where to put any further built structures on CI. The CMP will be at draft stage for our meeting in February when Lovell Chen will report to our meeting, to which the public will be invited.

FOCIS volunteer David Maunders and I recently undertook refresher training in the Victorian Collections online cataloguing program. We will continue to put more CI items onto the VC site so that everyone can see what we have in our collection.

*Cheers, Christine.*

## AN ISLAND FARM Contd.

In the month of April, 1801, Captain Grant caused a piece of land to be cleared and prepared for the seed, but here a difficulty arose. They had on board neither spade nor hoe, but an old coal-shovel was found, which, as the soil was of a very free loamy description, answered well enough. The seeds planted were given to Captain Grant by Mr. John Churchill, of Dawlish, and Captain Grant named the island after him. In the December following Captain Grant again visited the island, when he found the wheat nearly ripe and about 6ft high. The onions had gone to seed, but the potatoes had all most entirely disappeared.

Churchill Island, I have been told, was taken up as a selection, and was bought by Mr. Samuel Amess well on for a score of years ago. It was then in a very neglected state, the fencing being of the worst description, and the improvements of the most indifferent character. Since it came into Mr. Amess's possession the old log fences have been cleared away, and substantial post and rail fences erected in their stead. Many trees have been planted for shelter, for the west wind comes over the narrow neck in Phillip Island with great force. So bitter is its breath that few foreign trees save the *Pinus Insignis* can withstand it. A comfortable rural villa has been built, with ample accommodation for any number of visitors, and that accommodation is often severely tested, for Mr Amess loves to have his friends with him.

Though so long known as a city man Mr. Amess has a liking for stock breeding, and he has on his island farm for many years past owned the only herd of West Highland cattle in Victoria. The only cattle of this breed other than those on Churchill Island that I know of in Australia are the three Highland cattle, one bull and two cows, purchased about eighteen months ago in Melbourne by Mr. Godfrey Mackinnon, and now kept on his Riverine estate. Having heard of the West Highlanders, and of some experiments Mr. Amess has made in crossing them with other breeds, I was anxious to see the result, and an opportunity occurring, I started from Melbourne on a very hot morning last week, bound for Churchill island.

On the arrival of the morning train at Frankston, I found two coaches waiting at the station to convey passengers to Hastings. The drive across is a very uninteresting one, the country being poorly-grassed land,

mostly quite unfit for agriculture. I noticed, however, that where the orchards were attended to, the trees had a very healthy appearance. The railway from Frankston to Hastings is within sight of the road for the greater part of the way, and to judge by what could be seen from the coach, it will soon be completed. Hastings is a very small place, and as the terminus of the railway will be at a much prettier spot a few miles further down the bay, it is not likely to be greatly enlarged by being brought into railway communication with the metropolis. The smart little steamer \*\*Vixen was at the pier end, and soon we were on our way to the open bay. At Cowes, which does not seem to have grown much the last half-dozen years, we landed the most of our passengers. Our next place of call was Rhyll, which is certainly the prettiest place I have seen on Phillip Island.

A fine high bank of moderate-sized hills shelter it from the cold west wind, and it possesses the great advantage of having an excellent harbour, where the steamer can come alongside the pier in all weathers. Again we steamed on, and about six miles further eastward we came abreast of Churchill Island. Captain Clarke hoisted a flag and blew the steam whistle as a signal that he had a passenger on board, but no boat put out, and I was taken on to that most melancholy of all settlements, Newhaven. It was evident my arrival was not expected, and I made a mental resolve never again to put a letter in a pillar-box. From Newhaven I had the hottest walk I ever undertook, and on reaching the point opposite the island I heard a cooe from the shore fully half a mile back. I had to retrace my steps, and in a state of utter collapse was carried across the shallow water by the boatman and dropped into the boat.

\*\* wrecked off cowes 1917

## AN ISLAND FARM Contd.

Seen from the bay Churchill Island gives one the idea that it is as good as it is good looking, and on landing my first action was to look at the soil. I found it even better than I expected. It is of a loamy nature, and looks more like brown \*Rappee Snuff than anything else. The pasture on the way up to the house was as close as velvet-pile and almost as fine. I have seen no grass land like it save in Tasmanian fields in the Midland district or what I remember of the pastures on the South Downs.

Not a tussock or patch of rough grass was to be seen, but everywhere that shorty close carpet of velvet verdure. There had been more rain over the bay than we have had in Melbourne, and there was consequently a fine spring in the grass. Under the shade of a magnificent *Pinus Insignia* I found Mr. Amess, and from him I received a warm welcome, together with something to assuage the pangs of the Sahara-like thirst I had brought with me.

\*Rappee Snuff, coarse ground from dark tobacco

(To be contd. next issue)

“**Bruni**” was Mr George Brown, Born in Tasmania in 1835, and became the well known rural correspondent of *The Australasian*” and an authority on stock and plant breeding. He took the name Bruni in honour of his boyhood home.  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/139685155?searchTerm=bruni&searchLimits=l-title=460>



Ian Jonas arranging the usual picnic for a few fans on the lawn at Churchill Island. He and Jan have been volunteering their time and effort to the welfare of the Islands animals for many years

# FOCIS

## A Volunteer activity

### One of CI's volunteers making wood shavings

Actually he's using a spokeshave making a wagon wheel spoke as part of the Wheel wrights display just inside the door of the Amess Barn. Many of the tools being used are a century old themselves.



The Friends of Churchill Island Society  
Newsletter

If undelivered return to FOCIS  
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# FOCIS

Friends of Churchill Island Newsletter

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