

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

FOCIS

NEWSLETTER

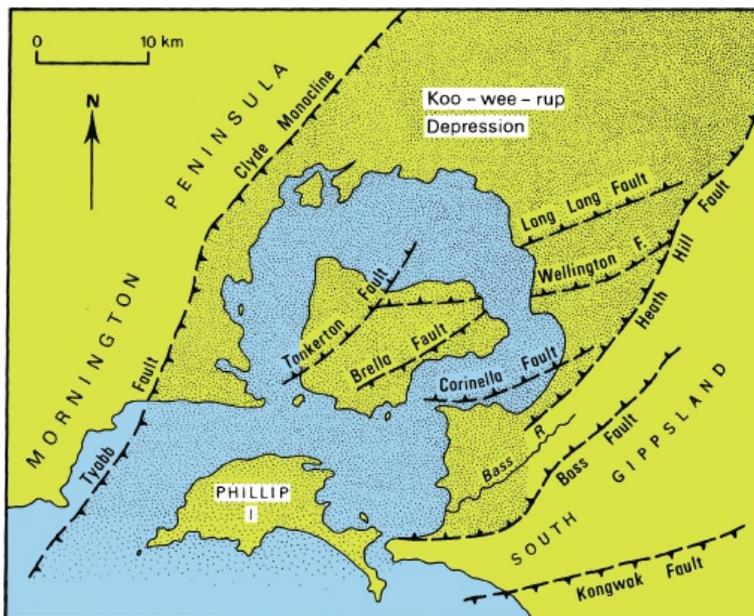
ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

Dates to remember

Saturday May 9 General Meeting, 1.30 p.m.
Churchill Island Visitors' Centre
Saturday May 16, 8 am - 10 am: Working bee
house and contents
Saturday August 15, Annual General Meeting,
1.30 p.m. Churchill Island Visitors' Centre

Saturday November 14 General Meeting, 1.30
p.m. Churchill Island Visitors' Centre
Saturday November 21, 8 am - 10 am: Working bee
house and contents
Enquiries all dates: Christine Grayden 5956
8501 e: cgrayden@waterfront.net.au

Some amateur notes on the volcanic origins and geology of Churchill Islands neighborhood



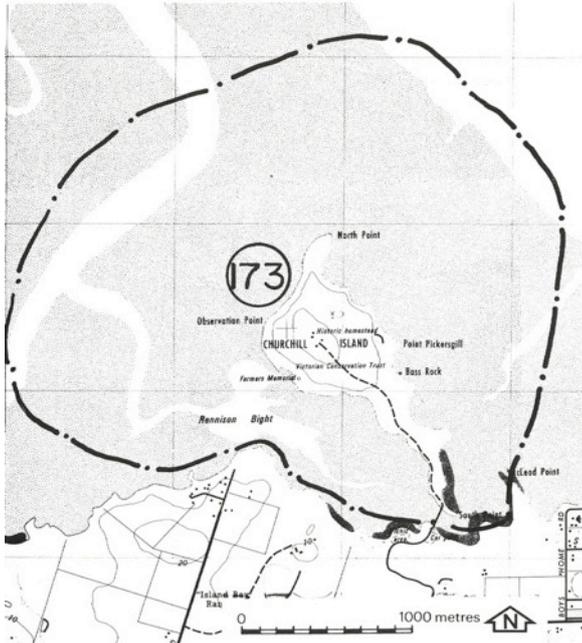
Being notes from observations and resources most of which are referenced.

If you have been on the island at low tide and looked at our 'beach' you will notice the volcanic nature, loose basalt lava rock and gravel, over volcanic tuff and on the Philip Island side mud and clay interspersed by a few volcanic outcrops and ridges. A restricted area of mangroves (*Avicennia marina*) grow near south point. In a letter from 1907 published in the December edition a mention is made of a 'beach', at present the only candidate seems to be a clearer tuff slope just to the north of the present transmission lines under an eroding cliff.

There are 7 active faults that effect the bay areas.

"The most recent earthquake to occur in Victoria was just this week, on Wednesday 18th March, 2009, and measured 4.5 on the Richter scale. It followed a similar-sized earthquake in the same area on March 6th. The epicentre (the point of origin of the earthquake) for both quakes was near Korumburra in the state's south-east, within the region identified as having the highest earthquake hazard levels in Victoria."
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/discovery-centre-news/2009-archive/earthquakes/>

Looking at the map of fault lines you'll find that Churchill Island is part of the Koo Wee Rup depression, a slumped basalt plain overlaid with eroded materials with a few volcanic outcrops. Because of the surrounding intertidal flats which break the effects of the waves there are only 3 active cliffs, that is still eroding, but there are indications of higher water levels in the past.



To quote from Parks Victoria technical series No 78: “Churchill Island, adjacent to the MNP, is an embayed hilly island of weathered Older Volcanics, basalt and tuff (Bird 1993). The shallow strait between Churchill Island and Newhaven is basalt overlain by mudflats (Bird 1993). Low bluffs and promontories of weathered basalt and tuff occur along the shore to the south of Churchill Island, and at Chambers, Pleasant and Long Points (Bird 1993). The silty-clay mudflats of the MNP are mainly reworked sediment derived from Phillip Island and the South Gippsland Highlands 5000 years ago (Harris et al. 1979).” Which is far better than I could have explained it.

Pages 55, 56 and 57 are maps (Fig. 31,32,33) if you have net access and illustrate the extensive shallows and limited channel access considering the situation before the first bridge was built.

The present formation of Westernport is quite recent, 6,000 years or so.

Ed.

References: This publication, available on line as a PDF at http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/545516/PV_TS78_complete.pdf is full of useful and clearly presented information suitable for the layman and interested observer. Plenty of photo's and maps a few of which I have used here. Other links: link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-1-4020-8639-7_238
http://vro.depi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/maps.nsf/pages/wport_sig_s173?Opendocument

**FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY (FOCIS) INC
 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 14TH FEBRUARY 2015
 1.30 P.M. CHURCHILL ISLAND VISITORS CENTRE**

1. Present: Ruth O’Dea (chair); Tom O’Dea; Christine Grayden; Jeff Cole; Irene McKell; Di Spencer; Roger Hollingworth; Graham Paterson; Ross Lloyd; Lee Tierney; Linda Patterson; Graeme Clausen; John Eddy; Peter Brookes; Sue Chambers; Bruce Chambers; Rebecca Sanders; Pauline Taylor; Edith Johnson.
2. Apologies: Rev Susan Pearse; Peter Paul; David Maunders; Jane Westworth; Gaye Cleeland; Coral Burke; Carolyn & David Van Dort; Christine Tompkins; Jan & Ian Jonas; Rod & Margaret Simkiss; Linda Dendle; Anne Davie; Sue Hollingworth; Peter & Ann Jelly.
3. Welcome: Ruth O’Dea, sitting in the chair for Peter Paul (apology), welcomed everyone.
4. FOCIS member Graham Paterson made the presentation of a book: Lt. Grant’s journal of his travels commanding the *Lady Nelson*. The book is the facsimile of the original printed version of Grant’s journal. Members thanked Graham with acclamation.
5. Speaker: Anita Brady, Churchill Island Conservation Management Plan Project Manager from Lovell Chen, gave a presentation on the CMP, outlining all of the policies, strategies and heritage criteria involved. Anita used a Power Point of historical and contemporary photographs and maps to illustrate her talk. Ruth gave the vote of thanks and presented Anita with a small gift from members.

6. Presentation on PINP and Churchill Island activities – written report from the CEO.

May I first take this opportunity to thank FOCIS for all of its great support in 2014. We look forward to a positive 2015 with a number of large and exciting projects underway.

Visitation

We had a very positive Christmas period with peak capacity being achieved at the Penguin Parade. YTD visitation is up 11,570 or 3.3% on budget and up 22,894 or 3.1% compared to last year. We are still seeing a steady decline in the domestic market in comparison to last year, however international visitation remains robust.

EcoBoat Tours

The Nature Parks has launched the new 47 seat EcoBoat tours to Seal Rocks and Summerland Peninsula that leaves from Cowes. The boat tours are an exciting new addition to the parks and an excellent complement to our existing wildlife experiences.

Nobbies redevelopment

Work is continuing on the Nobbies redevelopment to establish an exciting cobranded permanent exhibition with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The exhibition will focus on the Southern Ocean and Antarctica. The project includes an upgrade to the inside of the Nobbies visitor centre and the exhibition is due to open December 2015.

Penguin Plus Upgrade

Work is continuing with our upgrade to the existing Penguins Plus product at the Penguin Parade. The area will be closed after Easter and will be reopened in December 2015 with a new and exciting offering including seeing Penguins crossing the beach at eye level from an underground experience.

New Minister

Following the state government election in November 2014, and the resulting change of government, we now have a new Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water. The Hon. Lisa Neville MP will be presiding over the portfolio. There have also been changes to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) which is now called the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The new Minister for Tourism and Major Events is the Hon. John Eren MP.

South and North Coast Key Area Plan

Implementation of the South and North Coast Key Area Plan will begin in the 2015-16 Budget. The Key Area Plan is a high level strategic framework looking at the long-term management of public land along the northern and southern coastlines of Phillip Island.

A summary of the South and North Coast Key Area Plan can be found on the www.penguins.org.au site under Local Community/Management Plan or at the following link: <http://bit.ly/1zxTX9N>

Churchill Island Conservation Management Plan

We have continued to work with Lovell Chen consultants towards developing a Conservation Management Plan for Churchill Island. This is an action from the recently completed Churchill Island Key Area Plan completed in 2014. May I thank Christine Grayden who has been liaising with Lovell Chen during the development.

Lovell Chen will be presenting to FOCIS at the forthcoming meeting a brief summary of findings to date on behalf of the Nature Parks.

Thanks you again for your ongoing support and I look forward to working with FOCIS over the next 12 months.



7. Minutes from the previous meeting held Saturday 8th November 2014. Graeme Clauscen/Pauline Taylor *carried*.

8. Matter arising – nil

9. Treasurer's/Membership secretary's report.

Tom pointed out that we have two 6 month term deposits with RACV due at 3.6% interest. Ruth said that the c/ee should be able to invest at the best rates available without going to the general meeting. To be put to May general meeting in time for August term due.

PINP has ordered another 80 of Pat Baird's books in the last few weeks, though have not yet paid for them, so the books are selling well. Approx half the stock sold now.

Membership has fallen again, now down to 161.

Although an audit is not required by our constitution, it has been done. The books have been passed as accurate by the auditor.

10. Tom then outlined the process up until this point in our application to be listed on ROCO. Members now need to approve the constitutional changes which will then go to Consumer Affairs Victoria. Tom has put together a substantial Supporting Statement, which, along with the updated constitution, will be submitted again to Canberra.

The following resolution was moved as a Special Resolution: "That this meeting adopts the proposed changes to the Society's Constitution as described in the document sent to members dated 21 January 2015." Tom O'Dea/Jeff Cole *Carried unanimously*.

11. Curator's Report

- a) I have been kept quite busy with consultants for the Churchill Island Conservation Management Plan – Adam, the general buildings and collection person inspected with me twice; Sarah, the archaeologist three times and Rohan, the farm machinery specialist once. I have met twice with Anita. I have also been supplying the various consultants with information, photos, files, etc.
- b) The CI volunteers and I did occupational health and safety training with PINP OHS co-ordinator Peter Sterck. I had been asking for this to happen since I started 4 years ago, so it was good to finally have it done.
- c) We have had several donations:
 - A number of old tools, including a set of hand shears
 - 2 oil paintings, believed to have been done by one of the Amess family around 1900, of views of Churchill Island
 - A supper cloth hand-embroidered by Margaret Amess, youngest child of Samuel and Jane
 - A damask dining tablecloth which Margaret Amess used in her mansion, Tynefield.



d) Tom did a huge amount of work on the substantial Supporting Statement to accompany our application for inclusion on the register, and I was able to help him with that.

e) I have put all 250 of the lace collection photos onto a USB stick in catalogue order in preparation for David Maunder to load the lace collection information and photos onto the Victorian Collections website. He has already loaded some of our tool collection, which Jeff Cole has helped me catalogue.

g) I clean the objects in the house every two months or so.

h) I am negotiating with the National Trust curator responsible for their collection objects in Amess House regarding a new agreement. More about that next meeting.

i) Unfortunately I damaged my knee before Christmas and have had to have seven of my working days off, but I will gradually make up the days between now and the end of the financial year.

11. Correspondence: Inwards:

Matthew Jackson CEO PINP report to FOCIS meeting, 13.2.2015

Monthly Royalauto magazines

Smiths Beachcomber association newsletter

"The Penguin" newsletter; Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc.

Regional Library Service.

To Heritage Draught Horse Club seeking their postal address for forwarding of DVDs.

Outwards:

DVDs and letters to all 10 schools in Bass Coast Shire and one to the West Gippsland Regional Library Service.

To Heritage Draught Horse Club seeking their postal address for forwarding of DVDs.

To Anita Brady, Lovell Chen, re arrangements for FOCIS GM 14.2.2015.

Tom O'Dea: proposed revisions to constitution to all members

12. General Business:

a) PINP Open Day will be held on Sunday March 1st. Christine will be putting up a 'mini exhibition' re Harry Jenkins, and having some children's olden days activities. Volunteers needed. Tom and Ruth volunteered to attend a FOCIS table all day to endeavour to get more members. Linda Patterson will assist with children's activities. Di Spencer can 'guard' the display table. Pauline Taylor will get a lift with Di and be generally available for the day.

b) Rebecca Sanders, PhD candidate, announced that her submission date for her thesis is 31.3.2015. She will be having a completion seminar and will let us know the date. All welcome. Most likely at Melb Univ, Parkville.

Meeting closed 3.23 p.m., followed by afternoon tea.

FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY INC

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 14.2.2015, starting 11.30 a.m.

APOLOGIES: Peter Paul, David Maunders, Gaye Cleeland, Jane Westworth

PRESENT: Christine Grayden, Tom O'Dea, Jeff Cole, Irene McKell

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: None available

MATTERS ARISING from previous Agenda:

Working bee dates: have to be the third Sat of month as fourth Sat clashes with a regular meeting for Christine. March 21; May 16; Nov 21

Speakers for meetings: Heritage Gardens; Patsy – PI koalas; PINP Wildlife hospital; Rebecca thesis

FOCIS sandwich board from Roger's Cottage: Tom to investigate focus.org email/website address and let Christine know. If available, have CC signs put them onto bottom of boards. Otherwise, use full address. Once the board is completed, Christine will buy a brochure holder and Jeff will attach it and rig up a weighted cord to stop brochures blowing out.

ROCO application. Supporting Statement process revealed errors on website which Tom has corrected.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Tom reported that we have a couple of new members, but that the downward trend of membership renewals continues. In July we had 184 members and now we have 161. Christine volunteered to update the Facebook page, as well as Tom. Hopefully that might help.

PINP Open Day – Sunday 1st March, 10 am – 2 pm. Christine will have a display of collection items and text dealing with Harry Jenkins, CI owner 1936-63. David and John Eddy will help set up 9-10. Tom and Ruth will be on FOCIS/vols table for the day and help pack up 2 pm. Linda Patterson will be on children's activities table. Di Spencer and Pauline Taylor will help generally.

Jeff Cole will be demonstrating wheelwrighting and will promote FOCIS there. Tom will email Christine a membership form offering 16 months for price of 12. Christine will get them printed at PI Printers.

Christine will send Peter a get well card from members.

Jeff asked if the type sizes in the newsletter were suitable. All agreed that they are.

Tom informed us that the audit of the FOCIS books has been completed by Tom Caulfield and everything is satisfactory.

Irene thanked members who 'pitched in'.

Meeting closed 12.50 p.m.

Next meeting: Sat May 9, 11.30 a.m.

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 december 2014

Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2014

Account	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	31/12/2014 Balance	Difference (last 6 months)
ASSETS				
<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	\$61.31	-\$2,180.91
ANZ Savings Account	\$16,254.21	\$5,242.56	\$7,474.67	\$2,232.11
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	\$313.72	\$91.74
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
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$49,458.49	\$53,346.51	\$54,005.25	\$658.74
<u>Other Assets</u>				
Accounts Receivable	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Books	\$4,469.76	\$3,530.88	\$3,450.24	-\$80.64
TOTAL Other Assets	\$4,569.76	\$3,530.88	\$3,450.24	-\$80.64
TOTAL ASSETS	\$54,028.25	\$56,877.39	\$57,455.49	\$578.10
LIABILITIES				
<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
TOTAL Other Liabilities	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	\$33,923.48	\$643.62
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	\$33,923.48	\$643.62
NETT ASSETS	\$22,212.34	\$23,597.53	\$23,532.01	-\$65.52

Income and Expenses as at 31 December 2014

Category	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	1/07/2014- 31/12/2014 (6 months)	Difference (last 6 months)
INCOME				
Interest Income	\$2,300.68	\$1,752.30	\$957.80	-\$794.50
Subscriptions Income	\$4,053.55	\$3,243.75	\$1,913.55	-\$1,330.20
Sundry Income	\$0.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movable Cultural Heritage - Book Sales	\$1,671.50	\$1,247.05	\$134.35	-\$1,112.70
Movable Cultural Heritage - Donations from Members	\$295.10	\$387.05	\$215.00	-\$172.05
Movable Cultural Heritage - Public Donations	\$315.00	\$452.60	\$406.40	-\$46.20
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
TOTAL INCOME	\$34,636.05	\$9,062.75	\$16,627.10	\$7,564.35
EXPENSES				
Administration - Financial Services	\$110.41	\$99.51	\$26.97	-\$72.54
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	\$268.21	-\$678.86
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	\$132.88	\$132.88
Movable Cultural Heritage - Archiving	\$133.07	\$7.70	\$20.40	\$12.70
Movable Cultural Heritage - Book Publishing	\$5,783.17	\$9.00	\$18.35	\$9.35
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	\$171.76	-\$429.24
Movable Cultural Heritage - Newsletter Publishing	\$1,264.42	\$1,059.78	\$364.86	-\$694.92
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	\$1,744.28	\$1,744.28
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
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$35,787.82	\$5,274.73	\$15,968.36	\$10,693.63
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$1,151.77	\$3,788.02	\$658.74	-\$3,129.28



Linda Patterson at the butter churn during the Parks Open Day. The activity was a great hit with children and many visitors had a hand in the actual production of butter in the old way.



Rebecca with her mother and father and partner, Owen

Rebecca's Final Tutorial.

On Monday 9 March, Rebecca Sanders gave her final presentation at Melbourne University prior to submitting her thesis on the history of Churchill Island for examination. Ruth and Tom O'Dea and David Maunders from FOCIS were present as well as members of her family, academics and fellow students.

Rebecca focused on her research journey, the process of investigation over the last eight years. Her project was sponsored by the Phillip Island Nature Park and the University, and she outlined the differing expectations of the major players as well as those of families of historical players and FOCIS. The outcome has been a revision of some of the stories about Churchill Island. We no longer list the island as the first farm or first crop sown in Victoria; we do not know the origin of the cannon but it almost certainly did not come from the *Shenandoah*; we have a little more understanding of how the Rogers and Pickersgills were involved with the island at the same time; we have a clearer picture of the island as a hobby farm.

Rebecca concluded her presentation saying that she hoped to maintain an ongoing connection with Churchill Island. I am sure FOCIS will agree with that and look forward to exploring ways in which that might happen. In the meantime, we await the outcome of the academic process before we can read the thesis in full.

David Maunders.

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

Sources: Trove, The Australasian Saturday 7 April 1888

AN ISLAND FARM

By 'BRUNI'* (part 2)

My first excursion was through the extensive garden and plantation, and here I gained an idea of the fertility of the soil and the excellence of the climate. There was no fruit save on the apple trees, but on every hand there was a wealth of verdure. Round the house the ground was fairly strewn with the passion fruit, which here grows with a luxuriance I have never seen equalled. Strawberries, raspberries, and gooseberries produce abundance of the finest fruit. The fig is as prolific; the apple trees, I could see, were loaded; it was the same with the walnut and the mulberry, while a fine olive was fairly loaded with good-sized berries. The camellias might almost be called trees. They were nine feet high, full of buds, and the glossy dark leaves spoke of perfect health. Tall as they are. Mr. Amess told me he had to top the loftiest as he thought they were running up too high.

Encircling the flower garden was a very pretty dwarf hedge trimmed to perfection. As the plant was unknown to me, I inquired its name and found it was the ironwood or *lignum vitae* Of Phillip Island. It is admirably suited to the purpose of a dwarf hedge being of close growth, and having a very pretty foliage. On this verandah was a large creeper, which, at first, I took for the *Zichia Molly*, but found it was a plant growing only on Churchill Island and a small portion of Phillip Island close by. It is a fine creeper having a good foliage and very handsome clusters of pink flowers. In the plantation close by we found several specimens of this plant growing wild; it is, however, not easily cultivated. Outside the plantation I saw a specimen of the mountain ti-tree, which is also, I believe, peculiar to the island. It is a tree of considerable size, attaining at times a height of about 30ft, with a diameter of nearly 2ft. The wood is extremely hard, and the grain greatly contorted. It will not split, consequently it was spared the axe of the first settlers. It is owing to this defect, from a bushman's point of view, that so many fine specimens of this tree are left on the island. The leaf is like the paper-bark ti tree of Westernport Bay, and the blossom is like a small bottle-brush.

In one of the fields I found the little herd of West Highland cattle. Anyone who has seen the pictures in the Public Library would recognise them at once. There is no mistaking the type; once seen they can be forever after recognised. In colour they are pure blacks and reddish yellow-about half of each. The originals of this herd were imported by Mr. Amess about 12 years ago. They were from one of the finest herds in the Isle of Skye, and were bred by a cousin of the late Mr. Robert M'Dougall of Arundel. The imported cattle consisted of one bull and two cows, all black. I learned from Mr. Amess that the colours of the pure cattle are pure black and yellow, and that each colour will breed the other, but that they are never mixed, nor is a pure beast ever marked with white. I had many a good look at these bonny little beasts, and the more I looked at them the more I liked them. Though not lengthy they are as square as a box. They have a magnificent arch to the rib, and are remarkably deep. They are not taking cattle as two year olds, but afterwards improve greatly in appearance. They all carry a most fashionable bang on their foreheads, and their coats are about twice as heavy as the most mossy-coated shorthorn in the west. The male calves are seldom reared, the farm being of limited extent, but occasionally a steer has been kept. One that was slaughtered some little time ago was estimated by the local butcher to weigh 500lb., and, to his astonishment, it turned the scale at 750lb., and the beast was under three years old.

The heifers are regularly milked, and though the quantity given is not to be compared with that of the Ayshires or Alderneys, it is extremely rich. Crosses have been tried with Ayshires and Brittannies, and both have succeeded well. The best milker on the island for quantity and quality is a cross with the West Highland bull and a pure Brittany cow. She is a handsome, well grown heifer, showing the prepotency of the older and purer breed, but with white hairs showing in her coat, and with a white tip to her tail. The cross with the Ayrshire also bears a great resemblance to the Highland cattle.

Indeed, in some instances, a careless observer would fail to note any difference between the pure bred and the cross, so pronounced is the type of the West Highlanders. The herd at present numbers about 30 head, all told. There is a little flock of 70 sheep on the island, consisting of merinoes, Southdowns, their crosses, and a cross with Leicesters and merinoes. The Southdowns looked remarkably well; but the cross preferred by Mr. Amess is that of the merino and Leicester. I would like to see the experiment of keeping a flock of pure Southdowns fairly carried out. I fancy with the short sweet pastures of the island they would give a mutton that could not be surpassed. Near the house are some extensive piggeries, in which I found a few fairly good Berkshire sows, but the boar was certainly not what he ought to be on such a place as Churchill Island. He is not a favourite with Mr. Amess, and I fancy some disparaging remarks I made about him will have the effect of shortening his career. The poultry yard is a splendid one, and to judge by the fine, healthy appearance of the fowls, a poultry farm here would be a great success.

It is difficult to guess where Captain Grant formed his little plantation on the island, but Mr. Amess found, when he bought the property, the remains of a very old garden not far from the eastern shore. Some of the fruit trees now in the garden are said to be the descendants by grafting of the trees sown by Captain Grant. On leaving the island, the words of the old navigator came into my mind, and with him I could not help saying, "I scarcely know of a place I should sooner call mine than this little island."

Bruni

President's report

Unfortunately Peter has been incapacitated and has been unable to give a report.

Several developments have occurred in the last few months including the completion of the draft Conservation Management Plan and of Rebecca Sanders' doctoral thesis. Both these documents offer direction for the future of Churchill Island.

FOCIS made a strong contribution to community day and some new volunteers were recruited. My thanks are due to all the members for support and involvement on the island and to Christine Grayden for the continued work on the historical collections and museum presentation.

Jeff Cole is establishing himself as Newsletter editor with great stories and layout.

David Maunders

Vice President.



At the February General meeting Graham Paterson presented a facsimile of the original publication of James Grant, RN's journal concerning the voyage of the Lady Nelson to NSW in 1800, 1801 and 1802 to the collection. Originally published in London in 1803.

FOCIS

On the open day a display of the Churchill Island collection items regarding Harry Jenkins was on display. Harry lead a very adventurous life including flying a light plane from England to Australia in 1931-32.



The Friends of Churchill Island Society
Newsletter

If undelivered return to FOCIS
PO Box 852, Cowes, 3022
Print Post Approved 100019101

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3922

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