

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

FOCIS

NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

Dates to remember

Annual General meeting: Saturday 15 August 2015

1.30 pm Churchill Island Visitors Centre.

General meeting Saturday November 14

1.30 pm Churchill Island Visitors Centre.

Working Bee: Saturday November 21, 2015

at 8 am to 10 am.

Members can find out lots more about Churchill Island by visiting our website:

focis.org.au

or by hopping onto our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Churchill-Island-Society-Inc>

Don't forget to Like us while you are visiting!



Ruth O'dea 'under the wagon' during the May 16th working bee. The cart is on loan from the Philip Island Historical Society.



Linda Patterson cleaning objects in Amess House at our May 16 working bee.

WORKING BEE REPORT

On Saturday May 16 an enthusiastic group of six FOCIS volunteers met at 8 a.m. and managed to get through a huge amount of work: Tom and Ruth completely cleaned out the scullery, then moved on to farm machinery; Graham Paterson cleaned the Amess store room, shook the mats and swept the verandah; Linda Patterson cleaned all the objects in Roger's Cottage dormitory and Amess House drawing room; David Maunders cleaned out the laundry, then Roger's Cottage kitchen, then moved on to farm machinery.

Christine co-ordinated, helped out in various ways and got morning tea ready, which consisted of her birthday cake served with tea and coffee in the clean Roger's Cottage kitchen, which was enjoyed and well deserved by all! We were joined at morning tea by volunteer co-ordinator and house cleaner Pat Jeffery, who arrived during the working bee to find we had left her with little to do - she was delighted! Our last working bee for the year will be on Saturday November 21, 8-10 a.m. to clean house and contents, so put that in your diary now. The more helpers we have, the more work we can get through. And it's fun!

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Committee member David Maunders wielding the broom as he cleans the dairy cart during our May 16 working bee.
The dairy cart is a patch up of old and older parts from carriage springs to wheels from a 1930's Essex car and was probably made during the 1940's.



Treasurer and Membership Officer Tom O'Dea cleans the 1920s seeder during our May 16 working bee.
The seeder was made by Mitchell and Co. who operated from a Bourke Street, Melbourne address from the 1880's to 1958.



Ruth and Tom O'dea enjoying coffee and birthday cake with Christine Grayden on her birthday which coincided with the May 16 working bee.



FOCIS volunteer Graham Paterson shaking out one of the big mats at our May 16 working bee!



FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND
SOCIETY INC

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
9.5.2015

Held in the Function Room, Churchill
Island Visitor Centre, 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT: David Maunders (chair), Tom O’Dea, Ruth O’Dea, Christine Grayden, Irene McKell, Pauline Taylor, Diane Burchill, Sue Hollingworth, Roger Hollingworth, Peter Brookes, Graeme Clausen, Jeff Cole, Terry Homan, Graham Paterson.

APOLOGIES: Jane Westworth, Wilma Carter, Lee Tierney, Bruce & Sue Chambers, Ann & Peter Jelly, Edith Johnson.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS Meeting
14.2.2015: Ruth O’Dea/Graeme Clausen
Carried

MATTERS ARISING:

Christine will have the A frame and VC sign updated asap.

CEO’s REPORT. (Read by Christine on behalf of PINP CEO Matt Jackson)

May I first take this opportunity to thank FOCIS for all of its ongoing support and the Nature Parks has had a very positive start to 2015 with a number of large and exciting projects underway.

Visitation

We had a very positive Easter period with peak capacity being achieved at the Penguin Parade. YTD visitation is up 51,000 compared to last year to which is a fantastic result as last year’s visitation was a record year for the Nature Parks. We are still seeing a strong increase in international visitation with a record Chinese New Year (February) at the Penguin Parade. We are now seeing a return of the domestic market in comparison to last year to which is also very pleasing.

Eco Boat Tours

The Nature Parks launched its new 47 seat Eco Boat tours to Seal Rocks and Summerland Peninsula that leaves from Cowes in December 2014. Over 3,000 visitors to date have experienced the Boat tours with great feedback being received from our customers. The Boat tour is an exciting new addition to the parks and an excellent complement to our existing wildlife experiences.

Nobbies redevelopment

Renovation works has now commenced on the Nobbies building redevelopment to establish an exciting cobranded permanent Antarctic exhibition with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The exhibition will focus on the Southern Ocean, its key wildlife and Antarctica. The project includes an upgrade to the inside of the Nobbies visitor centre and the exhibition is due to open December 2015. Where possible the building will remain open at all times to the community during the construction phase with access to the ground floor remaining free of charge moving forward.

Penguin Plus Upgrade

Construction has now commenced with the upgrade to the existing Penguins Plus product at the Penguin Parade. The area has now been closed to the public and will be reopened in early December 2015 with a new and exciting offering including seeing Penguins crossing the beach at eye level from an underground experience.

National Coastal Award

I am delighted to announce that the Nature Parks recently won a National Coastal Award for the rehabilitation and protection of the Summerland Peninsula over the last 20 years. This is a fantastic achievement for our organisation and the community, recognising the dedication and commitment to restore this very special place for future generations.

Churchill Island Conservation Management Plan

We have continued to work with Lovell Chen consultants towards developing a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Churchill Island. This is an action from the recently completed Churchill Island Key Area Plan completed in 2014.

Lovell Chen has now completed the first draft of the CMP and this will be presented to the Nature Parks Board for approval by June and then presented to an open community meeting to which will be scheduled over the coming months.



May I again thank Christine Grayden who has been liaising with Lovell Chen during the CMP development and Christine will update FOCIS on when the open community meeting will be scheduled to present the CMP summary.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Qn: Why is it necessary to keep both website addresses, i.e.

Friendsofchurchillisland.org.au & focis.org.au? Tom explained that it is not good policy to turn off a website address overnight in case some people are still using it.

Treasurer’s report moved Tom O’Dea/Jeff Cole Carried.

1. Bank A/c signatories will need to be updated at the AGM
2. Update of ROCO application for tax deductible donations. They need more information. Tom and Christine will liaise on this.
3. Permission for c/ee to decide on term deposits:

“That authority to decide on changes to the investment of our term deposits be vested in the committee.” David Maunders/Irene McKell Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Sally O’Neill thanking us for our involvement in the PINP Open Day.
- Friends of Phillip Island Library thanking us for the donation of Pat Baird’s book for their book raffle.
- Dept of Justice and Regulation notice of approval of our special resolution to alter the constitution.
- Carroll Schulz re post-contact archaeological sites
- Brian Paynter, MP, seeking a meeting with our group. Christine to reply inviting Brian to the AGM.
- The Penguin newsletter First quarter 2015
- MAV Insite magazine, Feb–April 2015
- Museums Aus Magazine, autumn–winter 2015.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Working bee next Saturday 16.5.15. Christine’s birthday. Cake for people who attend! We will be cleaning out scullery, store room, laundry and cottages. 8–10 a.m.

Christine then gave a Power Point talk on “The Extraordinary Life of Harry Jenkins”.

Meeting closed. 3.45 p.m.

Emma Fellows-Cooke, education officer and Zoe Sargeant, Curator, of Coal Creek Community Park and Museum visited recently and returned the two oil paintings, circa 1900, of Churchill Island scenes which Zoe has cleaned for us. They are pictured here beside the big blacksmith's bellows, which are on loan from Coal Creek. The ladies enjoyed their time, saying that Churchill Island is "a beautiful site".



Treasurers report as at 31 October 2014

Current Assets and Liabilities as at 30 April 2015

Fund	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/04/2015 Balance (last 10 months)	Difference
<u>The Operating Fund</u>				
Assets	\$54,028	\$56,877	\$57,121	\$243
Liabilities	-\$31,816	-\$33,280	-\$34,582	-\$1,302
NETT ASSETS	\$22,212	\$23,597	\$22,539	-\$1,059

NOTES:

- Total nett assets fell by \$1,059 from \$23,597 as at 30 June 2014 to \$22,539 as at 30 April 2015. However, we need to remember that we received a grant of \$1,500 from the Bass Coast Shire Council for the production of the working horses video last financial year (2013/2014) but we received the bill for this in the current financial year (2014/2015). This means that our nett asset position is still in good shape with little variation over the last 3 years.
- As at 30 April 2015 we had 519 copies of Pat Baird's book in inventory and available for sale. These are valued (at cost) at \$ 2,989.44.
- We also have \$34,581.87 held in reserve as a contribution to the new museum.

Income and Expenses as at 30 April 2015

Fund	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	1/07/2014- 30/04/2015 (10 months)	Difference (last 10 months)
<u>The Operating Fund</u>				
Income	\$34,636	\$9,063	\$18,551	\$9,489
Expenses	-\$35,788	-\$5,275	-\$17,766	-\$12,492
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-\$1,152	\$3,788	\$785	-\$3,003

NOTES:

- The income of \$18,551 for the period ending 30 April 2015 includes a grant of \$13,000 from PINP for the employment of the Curator.
- The expenses of \$17,766 for the period ending 30 April 2015 includes a payment of \$13,000 for the employment of the Curator.
- 14 copies of Pat Baird's book were sold directly by FOCIS and 80 copies were purchased by PINP for a total income of \$694.35.
- We achieved a surplus of \$785 as at 30 April 2015. This is \$3,003 less than the surplus as at 30 June 2014 which was \$3,788 but compares favourably with the result as at 30 June 2013 where we recorded a deficit of \$1,152.

Membership Report as at 30 April 2015

Category	30/06/2011	30/06/2012	30/06/2013	30/06/2014	30/04/2015	Increase or Decrease (last 10 months)
TOTAL Paying Memberships	229	211	198	184	167	-17
TOTAL Non-Paying Memberships	15	16	17	17	17	0
Unfinancial (Lapsed) Memberships	0	0	0	22	43	21

NOTES:

- Membership numbers fell by 17, from 184 paying memberships as at 30 June 2014 to 167 paying memberships as at 30 April 2015.
- The number of lapsed memberships increased by 21 from 22 as at 30 June 2014 to 43 as at 30 April 2015.

Curator's report

PINP had their annual Open Day on Sunday March 1st. Instead of a "walk and talk" I decided to do a mini-exhibition this year, and include children's activities. We were set up in the function room, with four FOCIS volunteers to help: Linda Patterson and Di Spencer on the children's activities table, and Ruth and Tom O'Dea on the FOCIS/volunteers table. We were able to recruit another member from the day – Jenni Wills – who has also become an archiving volunteer, and a second volunteer, Leigh Camm who is helping in the garden and odd jobs. It was a most successful day with about 60 adults viewing the display about Harry Jenkins and as many children participating in the butter churning, dough rolling, pestle and mortar herb grinding and wash board scrubbing; although we weren't allowed to have water. My thanks to the volunteers who helped for the day. There will be a debrief on the whole Open Day on Monday May 18. Given the success of the mini-exhibition format I am thinking of displaying pieces from the Amess lace collection for next year's Open Day.

The Phillip Island & District Historical Society has partnered with local community radio station 3MFM to produce 17 oral and general history talks regarding Phillip and Churchill Islands and San Remo. I have been the co-ordinator of this project. These talks are being broadcast each Saturday between 1-2 p.m. on the Local Focus program. 89.1FM on the dial, or you can stream it from their website. I have given two talks about Churchill Island as part of this series, and they were very well received.

I have also given the Harry Jenkins talk I am giving here today to the Phillip Island historical society, and will be giving it again next September to Bass Valley Historical Society.

I have been busy proof-reading and commenting on two major documents in the last quarter: Firstly, Rebecca Sanders's PhD thesis, and then on the draft Churchill Island Conservation Management Plan. Rebecca has now submitted her thesis. We are waiting on the consultants to finish the CMP and present it to the PINP Board, after which there will be a public information session on it.

I was fortunate to be loaned a copy of John Rogers's original diary from 1889-91 when he and his sons were farming near Warragul. I was able to copy some of the pages and have done an analysis of the diary's contents. Although not directly relevant to Churchill Island, the diary was most interesting as an example of the huge amount of work involved in pioneering a rural district in 19th century Gippsland, and also gives a clear picture of what a hard-working and enterprising man John Rogers actually was. It is also interesting in clearly showing the big age difference between John and his wife, Sarah, because he writes of small manual labour tasks he performs at an advanced age, and visits to and by the doctor for himself, but of social outings and entertaining the regional deacon for Sarah.

I have liaised with Katie Potter, curator in charge of the NT collection of CI, to revise the agreement between NT and PINP to make it more realistic. This has been successful, and we are just awaiting news of the fate of the grandfather's clock – which NT may want returned to them – before the new agreement is signed.

With the appointment of Sarah Craven as office manager for Museums Australia Victoria, the process of planning has started for the MAV conference to be held on Phillip Island in October next year. The key people involved are Sarah, Laura Miles and Bridgett Forbes from MAV, myself and Nicoleta from PINP, Frank Angarane from BCSC and Kim Storey from Destination Phillip Island. We meet together on June 1st to start the ball rolling.

Thanks to Linda Patterson for her help with changing the mannequins. We are still using Cheryl Stratford's replica costumes and now have Sam and Jane in 1890s holiday clothes and the other mannequin, Margaret, dressed in a side saddle riding outfit, complete with side saddle purchased by me on EBay with FOCIS funds. The saddle is circa 1900, and has come up quite well with much oiling and camouflage painting of a tear in the seat. I imagine very few of our visitors will ever have seen a side saddle before. New signage goes with these outfits.

Thanks very much to David Maunders for loading all the text information about the Amess lace collection onto our online cataloguing program: Victorian Collections. I have now uploaded all of the photos of the lace, so you can just go to the website and see a full view and close up view of each piece.

Thanks also to archives volunteer Margaret Geppart, who continues to archive our large photo collection into new archival pockets and albums. Jenni will be helping Margaret with this task from June.

It is two years since a maintenance check was done on all of the buildings, so Bob Baird and I will be doing this again in the next few weeks.

The Visitor Centre new signage banners have moved a step closer with the project being allocated to PINP staff member Rolli Pick. He and I will meet about this next Monday. All of the text has now been reviewed and corrected by communications officer Sally O'Neill, and I have sourced all of the needed illustrations.

Finally, many thanks to Jeff Cole who has been entertaining hundreds of our visitors while restoring a jinker wheel using hand tools and David Maunders for help on the open day.. Christine Grayden, 8.5.15.

Cheers, Christine.

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.

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Our new gardener

Dave Graham started a few weeks ago and is concentrating his efforts on getting the garden weed free and mulched with seagrass which has been washing up onto the road near the bridge with the current series of high tides. Dave was a ranger and gardener on Churchill Island during the 1990s when Scott Campbell was manager, and is very happy to be back in the garden he loves. He is quickly relearning the names of all of the plants, and has already taken some tours of the garden. Welcome Dave!



The Friends of Churchill Island Society
Newsletter

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Friends of Churchill Island Newsletter

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