

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

FOCIS

NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

Dates to remember:

*November 12. General Meeting.
1.30, Churchill Island Visitors Centre*

The Speaker for our general meeting will be

*David Maunders on Grant's diary
in November.*

FOCIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015-6

David Maunders

It has been quite an eventful year for FOCIS with some achievements and many projects still in train.

1. STRATEGIC PLAN.

Though not the first event of the year, the planning meeting in February defined a list of issues, some of which were already happening and others added. Ross Baxter led us in a process where members contributed their views and agreed a plan under five headings:

- Exhibition space
- Membership levels
- Member involvement
- Funding
- Engaging Nature Park staff

Some progress has been made with the first, fourth and fifth topics but attention needs to be given to membership levels and involvement.

2. MEETING WITH PINP CEO

I have met twice with Matthew Jackson over the past year and he has now suggested that we meet quarterly and dates have been agreed. Whilst both meetings covered a range of topics, the most significant from the first meeting were the use of the planned event centre for exhibitions and the development of a Churchill Island App. The second meeting took the App



idea into QR codes but focussed on the achievement of DGR status as this allowed us to apply for grants not open to non-exempt organisations Matthew suggested that FOCIS consider engaging a consultant such as Therese Howell who assisted with funding for the Antarctic Journey exhibition. The purpose of the grant might be the improved interpretation and display of the historic farm equipment.

3. DGR (TAX EXEMPTION) STATUS

I want to once again congratulate Tom on the achievement of DGR status after some years of trying. The success was a result of persistence and much research to revise FOCIS constitution to fit the criteria for approval. I had not realised just how for this can change FOCIS's ability to contribute to Churchill Island. It opens access to a range of grants and to corporate funding. Under General Business, I shall move to allocate funds to engage Therese Howell to prepare a submission for funding to display the historic farm machinery. Some years ago, Christine prepared a paper outlining a plan for this display. It involves the organisation, protection and provision of signs and provision of electronic (eg QR codes) information including video. A grant could cover much of this except for new sheds. However, I understand that the replacement of the shearing shed will include space for the transport section and I want to bid for the use of Pedro's Shed.

4. EXHIBITION SPACE

In March, Christine and I attended a meeting with Terroir Architects about concept plans for the event centre. Our ideas were well received and we were assured about the centre being appropriate to house short term exhibitions. However, more recently with the allocation of State Government funds to rebuild the Penguin Parade, Nature Park has deferred progress on the event centre until February when it can be clear what resources might be available. Hopefully plans might then be drawn up.

In the meantime, Jeff and Christine have built a display case for the Dungan woodcutting tools.

5. COMPLETION OF REBECCA SANDERS THESIS

I was pleased that Rebecca had at last completed and successfully submitted her thesis and I have also been able to read it. She is generous about the role of FOCIS and support of members. A draft of the thesis was submitted to the Lovell Chen Key Area Plan and influenced their view of our history. The planting of seeds by Grant's crew in 1801 influenced the government purchase in 1976 seeing Churchill Island as significant in the settlement of Victoria. This is now accepted as not the case and its importance is a leisure retreat for a significant 19th century Melburnian.

6. CONTINUATION OF CURATOR GRANT

The grant from PINP for the employment of our curator has been renewed for another year. The main tasks are to:

- Assist in providing interpretive content for machinery display improvements
- Catalogue acquisitions and update records
- Maintain museum accessions and loans registers

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- Provide advice to Nature Parks on requirements for ongoing maintenance of Australian Museum Accreditation and preparation for re-accreditation
- Complete photography archiving
- Plan, organise, interpret and present exhibitions
- Care for and digitise relevant parts of the collection
- Implementation of training guides and collation of historical information regarding the history of Churchill Island
- Handle enquiries from researchers, the public and schools
- Assist with and co-ordinate volunteers for working bees, e.g. cleaning the interiors of the historic buildings and collection objects; assistance with cataloguing
- Give presentations; talk to individuals and groups about exhibits
- Network with other museums and historical groups

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

Our November general meeting included a presentation by Dr Duncan Sutherland, PINP Research, on the progress of the Eastern Barred Bandicoots. February was devoted to the Strategic Plan and May included a guided walk by Dr Rebecca Sanders. All were well received.

8. REACCREDITATION OF MUSEUM STATUS

Reaccreditation occurs in 2018 and will be an increasingly important issue for the curator and those of us involved in the historic collection.

9. MAV CONFERENCE

The Biennial conference of the MAV will be held on Phillip and Churchill Islands on 6 and 7 October. The conference dinner will be on CI and we will be guiding participants around the historic precinct beforehand.

10. AND FINALLY

Thanks to all members and other volunteers who contributed to working bees, acted as guides or garden volunteers, helped with archives and cataloguing, attended meetings and discussions or supported us in any other way.



PINP Annual General Meeting

WELCOME: The President, David Maunders, welcomed members and Catherine Basterfield, Operations Manager, PINP.

PINP REPORT: Catherine reported on the PINP and Churchill Island:

- * State Government announced \$48.2m for Penguin Parade visitor centre redevelopment. Total cost is \$58.2m, to start by October 2017 and open in June 2019.
- * Operating surplus last financial year of \$3.4m with 1.3m visitors, including an appreciable increase in domestic visitors.
- * The new 'Penguins Plus' visitor experience opened in November 2015 and won a 'World Environment Day Award' in June 2016 for 'Infrastructure Innovation'. This project was completed in partnership with the RACV, who continue to drive domestic visitation to the Nature Parks attractions.
- * Antarctic Journey at the Nobbies Centre opened in December 2015, and has been the subject of outstanding visitor feedback. Developed in partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature-Australia, it will contribute to visitors staying longer on Phillip Island, benefiting the community as a whole. This was a significant capital project funded by the Nature Parks and the Victorian State Government.
- * In September 2016, the Nature Parks signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chengdu Giant Panda Research Centre in Chengdu, China. This acknowledges the international reputation of the Nature Parks research; both organisations will collaborate and share research, ecotourism and conservation expertise.
- * The Nature Parks won a Silver award at the 2015 RACV Victorian Tourism Awards in the 'Major Tourist Attraction' Category.
- * Our world-leading research program on little penguins is now in its 48th year. In December 2015, the Board congratulated and acknowledged Research Manager, Dr Peter Dann on his 35 years of outstanding service.
- * In August 2015, the Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water formally launched the release of 16 Eastern Barred Bandicoots onto Churchill Island as part of a pilot in partnership with Zoos Victoria designed to save the species from extinction. To date the pilot has been extremely successful with very positive breeding and survival results.
- * The Nature Parks 'Reconciliation Action Plan' (RAP) 2015-2018 was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and launched at the fourth annual Shearwater Festival in November 2015. The 32 actions within the plan are aimed at furthering the Nature Parks' commitment to reconciliation.
- * In September 2015, the Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water appointed new Board Members; Dr Danielle Auldish, Shelley Lavender, Kay Spierings and Liz Stinson who joined re-appointed Board Members Stephen Davie, Kevin Love, Andrew Paxton and Jeff Floyd.
- * Our dedicated fox eradication rangers and specialised dogs relentlessly protected Phillip Island's wildlife patrolling for foxes. The last confirmed evidence of foxes on Phillip Island was in August 2015.
- * On Churchill Island, the new Visitor Centre information signage will be installed within the next few weeks. An audit has been done by Period Conservation Builders of all of the historic buildings. The audit was very thorough and has listed all that needs to be done by way of conservation and restoration on the buildings. The Churchill Island bridge has been assessed and will require some work in the near future which will impact on access for a short while.

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2016

1. Summary of Results as at 30 June 2016

1.1 Summary of Assets and Liabilities

Fund	30/06/2012 Balance	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/06/2015 Balance	30/06/2016 Balance	Difference (last 12 months)
<u>The Operating Fund</u>						
Assets	\$50,710	\$54,028	\$56,877	\$58,391	\$61,460	\$3,069
Liabilities	-\$30,000	-\$31,816	-\$33,280	-\$34,582	-\$35,705	-\$1,123
NETT ASSETS	\$20,710	\$22,212	\$23,597	\$23,809	\$25,755	\$1,946
<u>The Heritage Fund</u>						
Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$612	\$612
Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NETT ASSETS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$612	\$612
OVERALL TOTAL	\$20,710	\$22,212	\$23,597	\$23,809	\$26,367	\$2,558

1.2 Summary of Income and Expenses

Fund	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	1/07/2014- 30/06/2015	1/07/2015- 30/06/2016	Difference (last 12 months)
<u>The Operating Fund</u>					
Income	\$34,636	\$9,063	\$20,111	\$19,889	-\$222
Expenses	-\$35,788	-\$5,275	-\$18,057	-\$16,820	\$1,237
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-\$1,152	\$3,788	\$2,054	\$3,069	\$1,015
<u>The Heritage Fund</u>					
Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$615	\$615
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$3	-\$3
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$612	\$612
OVERALL TOTAL	-\$1,152	\$3,788	\$2,054	\$3,681	\$1,627



Christine Graden and Jeff Cole have been building new displays and revamping old ones. The old black horse shoe display in the blacksmith's shop has been replaced by a new one including a display of farriers equipment and explanatory pictures. Still short of a clinching tool as the gap indicates.

1. The Operating Fund as at 30 June 2016

2.1 Operating Fund - Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 2016

Account	30/06/2012 Balance	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/06/2015 Balance	30/06/2016 Balance	Difference (last 12 months)
ASSETS						
Bank Accounts	\$20,280.39	\$17,270.78	\$7,484.78	\$8,283.27	\$9,884.42	\$1,601.15
Investments	\$30,000.00	\$31,815.91	\$45,279.86	\$47,051.34	\$48,586.08	\$1,534.74
Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Books	\$0.00	\$4,469.76	\$3,530.88	\$2,989.44	\$2,989.44	\$0.00
Other Assets	\$429.87	\$471.80	\$581.87	\$66.47	\$0.00	-\$66.47
TOTAL ASSETS	\$50,710.26	\$54,028.25	\$56,877.39	\$58,390.52	\$61,459.94	\$3,069.42
LIABILITIES						
Museum Reserve	\$30,000.00	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	34,581.87	\$35,705.27	\$1,123.40
Other Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$30,000.00	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	\$34,581.87	\$35,705.27	\$1,123.40
NETT ASSETS	\$20,710.26	\$22,212.34	\$23,597.53	\$23,808.65	\$25,754.67	\$1,946.02

2.2 Operating Fund - Statement of Income and Expenses as at 30 June 2016

Category	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	1/07/2014- 30/06/2015	1/07/2015- 30/06/2016	Difference (last 12 months)
INCOME					
Interest Income	\$2,300.68	\$1,752.30	\$1,915.25	\$1,643.80	-\$271.45
Subscriptions Income	\$4,053.55	\$3,243.75	\$3,270.90	\$3,849.75	\$578.85
Book Sales	\$1,671.50	\$1,247.05	\$694.35	\$0.00	-\$694.35
Donations	\$610.10	\$839.65	\$1,230.95	\$1,395.80	\$164.85
Grants Received	\$26,000.00	\$1,980.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$0.00
Other Income	\$0.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$34,636.05	\$9,062.75	\$20,111.45	\$19,889.35	-\$222.10
EXPENSES					
Administration	\$1,412.17	\$1,936.27	\$1,372.75	\$1,966.78	\$594.03
Promoting Moveable Cultural Heritage	\$34,375.65	\$3,338.46	\$16,684.13	\$14,828.15	-\$1,855.98
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$35,787.82	\$5,274.73	\$18,056.88	\$16,819.93	-\$1,236.95
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$1,151.77	\$3,788.02	\$2,054.57	\$3,069.42	\$1,014.85

2. Membership Report as at 30 June 2016

Category	30/06/2012	30/06/2013	30/06/2014	30/06/2015	30/06/2016	Increase or Decrease (last 12 months)
TOTAL Paying Memberships	211	198	184	167	183	16
TOTAL Non-Paying Memberships	16	17	17	17	17	0
Unfinancial (Lapsed) Memberships	0	0	22	43	33	-10



1. Budget Position for the Operating Fund as at 30 June 2016

Category	Budget for 1/07/2015 to 30/06/2016	Actuals for 1/07/2015- 30/06/2016	Achievement Against Budget
INCOME			
Interest Income	\$1,600	\$1,644	103%
Subscriptions Income	\$3,200	\$3,850	120%
Sundry Income	\$0	\$0	N/A
Movable Cultural Heritage - Book Sales	\$600	\$0	0%
Movable Cultural Heritage - Donations from Members	\$400	\$290	73%
Movable Cultural Heritage - Public Donations	\$400	\$1,106	276%
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,200	\$6,889	111%
EXPENSES			
Administration - Financial Services	\$150	\$61	41%
Administration - Government Fees	\$150	\$54	36%
Administration - Insurance	\$0	\$0	N/A
Administration - Membership Admin.	\$500	\$1,199	240%
Administration - General Office Expenses	\$500	\$623	125%
Administration - Post Office Fees	\$45	\$29	64%
Administration - Taxes	\$0	\$0	N/A
Administration - Other Admin. Expenses	\$0	\$0	N/A
Movable Cultural Heritage - Acquisitions	\$250	\$145	58%
Movable Cultural Heritage - Advertising	\$0	\$0	N/A
Movable Cultural Heritage - Archiving	\$0	\$0	N/A
Movable Cultural Heritage - Book Publishing	\$20	\$0	0%
Movable Cultural Heritage - Cataloguing	\$0	\$0	N/A
Movable Cultural Heritage - Communications	\$100	\$103	103%
Movable Cultural Heritage - Curating	\$250	\$17	7%
Movable Cultural Heritage - Educating the Public	\$0	\$0	N/A
Movable Cultural Heritage - Exhibitions	\$0	\$0	N/A
Movable Cultural Heritage - Networking	\$300	\$311	104%
Movable Cultural Heritage - Newsletter Publishing	\$1,000	\$998	100%
Movable Cultural Heritage - Presentation	\$0	\$189	N/A
Movable Cultural Heritage - Preservation	\$0	\$0	N/A
Movable Cultural Heritage - Research	\$1,000	\$0	0%
Movable Cultural Heritage - Restoration	\$400	\$0	0%
Movable Cultural Heritage - Video Publishing	\$0	\$0	N/A
Movable Cultural Heritage - Web Site Publishing	\$66	\$66	100%
Other Promotional Activities for Movable Cultural Heritage Items	\$500	\$25	5%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,231	\$3,820	73%
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$969	\$3,069	317%

The Heritage Fund as at 30 June 2016

6.1 Heritage Fund – Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 2016

Account	30/06/2012 Balance	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/06/2015 Balance	30/06/2016 Balance	Difference (last 12 months)
ASSETS						
Bank Accounts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$612.01	\$612.01
Investments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$612.01	\$612.01
LIABILITIES						
Other Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NETT ASSETS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$612.01	\$612.01

6.2 Heritage Fund - Statement of Income and Expenses as at 30 June 2016

Category	1/07/2012- 30/06/2013	1/07/2013- 30/06/2014	1/07/2014- 30/06/2015	1/07/2015- 30/06/2016	Difference (last 12 months)
INCOME					
Interest Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations to the Heritage Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$615.00	\$615.00
Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.21	\$0.21
TOTAL INCOME	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$615.21	\$615.21
EXPENSES					
Administration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.20	\$3.20
Promoting Moveable Cultural Heritage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.20	\$3.20
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$612.01	\$612.01



A combination of the donated Wilf. Duggan collection of cross cut saws and a selection of compatible tools and equipment from our own collection have been housed in a new display in the blacksmith's shop. Behind perspex panels, the sometimes sharp edges are safe from small fingers and the seat is still in use.

New signage for the visitor centre



After a thorough process of research, writing, editing by Christine and others, and conversion by the Nature Parks' graphic artist Kahren, the new banner signage is now in place in the Churchill Island Visitor Centre.

The new signage also features a wall display of photos and text on the period of government ownership of the island, and a very large aerial photo taken recently at high tide and clearly showing all of the features of the island - even the sheep! A display cabinet is now in place with an eclectic variety of objects, from aboriginal tools, through to mid nineteenth century china and glassware found on the island to Amess and Jenkins era pieces. Both the display and the cabinet are proving to be very popular.

The old stands have not gone to waste. Two have gone to Coal Creek Community Park and Museum and two have gone to the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka, located in Ballarat.

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Birds on the island have been very busy this spring. Clutches of Cape Barren Geese chicks are toddling about through the wetlands, so be careful as you drive onto the island.



The Friends of Churchill Island Society
Newsletter

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