

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

FOCIS

NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

Dates to remember:

Working bees:

14.10.17 (house and cottages 8-10 a.m.);

9.12.17 (house and cottages 8 -10 a.m.)

Meeting dates: Sat 13.5.17, 1.30 p.m.; Sat

19.8.17 (note third Saturday) 1.30 p.m.;

Sat 11.11.17, 1.30 p.m



HMS Lady Nelson returns to Churchill Island

Built for the Royal Navy at Deptford, London as an Armed Survey Vessel, commissioned 1799. She only weighed 60 tons (as measured) she carried 6 brass carriage guns. Rigged as a brig with a crew of 17. The Lady Nelson was originally intended for work as a cutter in the Thames and was constructed with three "sliding keels" (centre boards) to enable her to navigate shallow waters. This idea was developed by Captain John Schank originally for use in the Great Lakes in the American War of Independence. In 1798, Schank was a member of the Transport Board, a committee which ran much of the navy. When Phillip Gidley King was in England prior to

taking up his appointment as Governor of New South Wales, he arranged for the Lady Nelson to be allocated for use in exploration of New Holland and had her rigged as a brig as this would make her easier to sail. Her commission was:

"for the purpose of prosecuting the discovery and survey of the unknown parts of the coast of New Holland, and ascertaining, as far as is practicable, the hydrography of that part of the globe".



Her first Commander was Lt James Grant, a Scot selected by Schank. She left London in January 1800 and sailed for Portsmouth where she took on equipment and provisions ordered by King and four extra guns. The ship was so low in the water that many of the crew considered her unsafe for such a long voyage. The carpenter and another man absconded on Portsmouth and were not replaced. She set sail with a convoy headed for the east but was much slower and taken in tow. Grant let go the tow in bad weather and sailed on successfully to the Cape Verde Islands. There he took on water and provisions but still experienced unrest among the crew. Two absconded but were captured by the Portuguese authorities and the second mate, a source of discontent was imprisoned pending repatriation to England. Two Portuguese added to the crew.

The Lady Nelson reached Cape Town and in June 1800 and stayed until October. After she had left England, news had reached the government that Bass had sailed around Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) proving the existence of a strait. Orders were sent from the Duke of Portland to Cape Town for Grant to:

"sail through the said strait on your way to Port Jackson, by which means you will not only shorten your voyage, but will have an opportunity of more minutely surveying the said strait".

Grant reached the Australian coast in December 1800 near the present day Victoria – South Australia border. He named many of the features he charted: Mount Gambier, Mount Schank, Portland Bay, Cape Otway and arrived in Port Jackson (Sydney Cove) on 16 December 1800.

Grant was reappointed to command the Lady Nelson and ordered to complete the exploration of Bass Strait. He set sail with a largely convict crew with John Murray as mate, four soldiers of the New South Wales Corps as a guard and Ensign Francis Barrallier, also of the New South Wales Corps, as surveyor for the expedition. In addition there was George Caley, a botanist sent by Sir Joseph Banks to collect plants, John Lewin, a naturalist and artist, and an aborigine named Euranabie and his wife Worogan.

The Lady Nelson sailed through Jervis Bay, past Wilson's Promontory to Westernport. Passing Phillip island (which he named Snapper Island) he selected Churchill Island as a base and order land to be cleared. He named the island after a Devonshire farmer who had donated some of the seeds. He recorded:

"The ground was now prepared and I sowed my several sorts of seeds, wheat, Indian corn, and peas, some grains of rice and some coffee berries; and I did not forget to plant potatoes. With the trunks of the trees I felled I raised a block house of 24 feet by 12 which will probably remain some years, the supporters being well fixed in the earth".

Grant was very impressed by Churchill Island and commented:

"I scarcely know a place I should sooner call mine than this little island."

And he also tells how he planted the stones of fruit trees round the hut, which his men had built there: Building the blockhouse and planting the garden was a demonstration that Britain had taken possession of that land.

Matthew also was unable to attend on 20 January but the meeting took place with Catherine Basterfield, Christine and Trevor.

Matthew is leaving PINP to become CEO of Parks Victoria and as this will have happened before the FOCIS meeting, I have sent a message wishing him well.

Hello Matthew,

I have heard of your appointment to Parks Victoria and realised that you will be leaving before the next FOCIS meeting on 11 February. Our members will surely want to express their appreciation for your work and support of the contribution of FOCIS. May I convey this to you before you leave and also add my appreciation for your willingness to meet and share information about Churchill Island developments. I very much value you making time to meet and share.

We wish you all success in your new role which will be challenging but important to us all.



Working Bee

Terry Holman, John, Christine, Di and Kaye. Also present were Peter and David - all did a power of work on the farm machinery, blacksmiths shop and dusting the dining room, morning room, scullery and Amess store.

FOCIS

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Tom O'Dea reported that we have \$2500 in the Heritage Fund.

"That the two term deposits of \$13,000 and \$30,000 be rolled over with RACV Finance for a further 6 months at 3.05%" Tom O'Dea/Roger Hollingworth *carried.*

CURATOR'S REPORT:

A full report will appear in the next newsletter (March). However, Christine did report on the PROV Local History Grant which FOCIS has applied for. Part of this grant is to work with Offshore Theatre to develop 2-3 minute scenes from the history of residents of Churchill Island. E.g. Samuel Pickersgill confessing to his wife Winifred that he had gambled away the deposit for the island which she saved so long and hard for. Another example would be of John and Sarah Rogers discussing how he could sell his potato crop given that the cultivation of the islands of Western Port was illegal. Other vignettes will be developed and shown on iPads within the rooms of the cottages and house.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Inwards: Lynne Lumsden re possible wording for an article post LN launch for local paper

Matthew Jackson thanking for kind words on his resignation

BCSC grant information day: Thur 16 Feb, 9.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. Wonthaggi theatre. RSVP by Feb 10. CG is going.

Tom O'Dea re reduced rate for PayPal payments

Outwards: DM emailed Matthew Jackson on behalf of FOCIS congratulating him for CEO Parks Vic appointment and thanking him for his assistance with FOCIS matters and regular meetings.

PROV Local History Grant application 31.1.17

Invites for FOCIS members and CI volunteers to LN model 'launch'.

Email to Deakin University Media dept re LN footage on Welcome to CI DVD. Permission to use.

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10. General Business

a) Working bee Sat 8.4.17 (farm machinery 10-12). A few members volunteered. Email to be sent out and notice in the newsletter.

12. Speaker: Christine Grayden showed the new History of Phillip Island DVD made by the Phillip Island & District Historical Society Inc with a Bass Coast Shire Council community grant of \$1600. Christine has asked Roland Pick, communications manager for PINP if FOCIS could produce a similar DVD for CI and he has agreed. Something FOCIS can do at a later stage when we are not so occupied with the farm machinery and signage of same, dairy equipment and iPads within the historic precinct. All present enjoyed the History of PI DVD. The DVD is available from the museum at 89 Thompson Ave Cowes (Heritage Centre) for \$10 on Thur and Sat 10 am -12 noon.

Meeting closed 2.45 p.m.



The seat on the Milk Cart has been repaired to its original appearance.

The missing part has been made and the seat reassembled.

Incidentally we think the seat is much older than the cart.

President's report

1. Lady Nelson:
2. David Lumsden has worked furiously on the model of the Lady Nelson which is now complete. Pat and I with Tom and Ruth visited on 18 November during construction and I visited again in January to discuss transfer and launch. Christine has arranged transport and display case, Tom has uploaded data on to the website with QR code and we will have an official launch on 23 February at 4pm.
3. Farm Machinery Exhibit:
4. After Christine and I met with Catherine, Toby and Brendon to measure and define the project, I contacted Therese Howell about a grant submission. Therese was unable to undertake this having accepted a full-time position but referred us to Steve Sutton. Steve and I met on 15 December with Christine unfortunately unable to attend due to illness. Steve was very enthusiastic about the project and thought that the Phillip Island Community benefit grant was a possibility. He later provided us with a list of grant providers.

Christine and I met with Catherine and Trevor on 20 January. We considered that only the Public Record Office Historical grant really fitted but this was limited to \$15,000 and excluded buildings. The submission date was 31 January. We agreed to act as follows:

- Christine had previous experience of PROV grants and would prepared a submission which would be extended to cover the dairy exhibit in the stables and QR points in Amess House.
- Catherine would try to include funding for the structure in PINP estimates.
- Tom would undertake work to provide QR links
- We would thank Steve for his contribution but not ask him to continue further.

I contacted Steve who kindly donated his time without charge. He also urged strongly that we pursue the PICB grant. Consequently, I contacted the Bass Coast grants officer and proceeded to draft the submission, which is due on 1 March. If we are unsuccessful, Catherine will try to include in PINP estimates.

4. Volunteer Coordinator: Catherine informed us that Rachel Ferguson, PINP volunteer coordinator had started work and after settling in, would be in touch with us. Existing arrangements would continue with Pat Jeffrey drawing up our volunteer roster.

5. Friends of Coolart: On 26 November we received a group of six from the Friends of Coolart. Tom and Ruth came along with Pat Jeffrey. They were keen to discuss DRG status, our relations with PINP, how volunteers were involved and many other issues. Catherine approved free entry. Pat was keen to arrange a reciprocal visit of volunteers and possibly also some staff members.

Addendum:

Much of the report I gave to the FOCIS meeting on 11 February has been superseded. I referred to the resignation of Matthew Jackson as PINP CEO and to FOCIS good wishes for his new post at Parks Victoria. I am now able to extend a warm welcome to Catherine Basterfield as the new CEO of the Phillip Island Nature Park. and to extend all support from FOCIS in her new position. Christine and I have had a close collaboration with Catherine over the last few months in the Lady Nelson project and the preparation of grant submissions for the Historic Farm machinery display.

We have also welcomed Rachel, our new volunteer coordinator working across the Nature Parks. A number of us met with members of the Friends of Coolart to share our experience of volunteer contributions to our historic precinct.

I was privileged to be invited to Government House on 16 March, as your President, for a reception to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Phillip Island Nature Parks. It is satisfying to receive acknowledgement of the voluntary contribution of FOCIS members and many others to the various features of PINP.

We have much ahead: routine work such as working bees but I also hope that we will make progress this year in mounting new displays and information about our island.



CURATOR'S REPORT

1.3.2017

As usual I have been very busy over the last quarter. Here is a summary of curator's jobs over that period:

- I assisted botanist Alison Oates in finding photographs and documents in the collection that referred to the vegetation of Churchill Island in the early years of settlement.
- The FOCIS president David Maunders and I have been very busy working on preparing a Phillip Island Community Benefit Fund grant application for extending one of the sheds that houses the historic farm machinery. This has involved working with architect/designer Ross Lloyd, who did a computer floor plan for us, and PINP staff in sourcing quotes and other necessary information. The grant application was extensive and took a lot of writing and revising!
- Knowing that the historic farm machinery is not signed in any way at present, and that the historic dairy equipment is proposed to go into the stable adjacent to the milking demonstration to be on public display, David and I in consultation with PINP Operations Manager Catherine Basterfield, decided that FOCIS should apply for a Public Records of Victoria Local History Grant to cover our signage. Further to this we decided to enlist the help of Offshore Theatre to act out vignettes from the lives of the early settlers as videos and place these on iPads within the cottages and rooms of Amess House. Consequently I incorporated the three elements into the grant application.
- I organised a FOCIS working bee in the house and cottages. Thanks to all the volunteers who came along to help. These three working bees each year are always good events, and an excellent way for FOCIS to contribute to the upkeep of Churchill Island.
- David Maunders and I have been reviewing the glossy paperback book on Churchill Island that is sold at the Visitor Centre. It is no longer up to date, or in line with the new signage.
- FOCIS volunteer Margaret Geppert and I have been going through the archival albums of our photo collection, labelling photos wherever possible. This has been a long-term project for Margaret and I am very grateful for her assistance and perseverance.
- We have had various donations, especially of old tools, which FOCIS volunteer Jeff Cole and I have catalogued, and I have also put up on our online cataloguing program Victorian Collections.
- I have been reviewing all of the entries on Victorian Collections, updating information.
- Former Churchill Island manager, Scott Campbell, came to CI and went through the farm machinery catalogues with me, giving me information on the origin and restoration history of the various machines. This was extremely helpful.
- We have had various donations, especially of old tools, which FOCIS volunteer Jeff Cole and I have catalogued, and I have also put up on our online cataloguing program Victorian Collections.
- I have been reviewing all of the entries on Victorian Collections, updating information.

Eastern Barred Bandicoot diggings. Kate tells me it is the EBBs who are responsible for rolling the path border stones into the pathway as they ferret under them for grubs



Treasurer's Report for the Period Ending 31 December 2016

1. Summary of Results as at 31 December 2016

1.1 Summary of Assets and Liabilities

Fund	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/06/2015 Balance	30/06/2016 Balance	31/12/2016 Balance	Difference (last 6 months)
<u>The Operating Fund</u>						
Assets	\$54,028	\$56,877	\$58,391	\$61,460	\$60,148	-\$1,312
Liabilities	-\$31,816	-\$33,280	-\$34,582	-\$35,705	-\$36,257	-\$552
NETT ASSETS	\$22,212	\$23,597	\$23,809	\$25,755	\$23,891	-\$1,864
<u>The Heritage Fund</u>						
Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$612	\$2,541	\$1,929
Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NETT ASSETS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$612	\$2,541	\$1,929
OVERALL TOTAL	\$22,212	\$23,597	\$23,809	\$26,367	\$26,432	\$65

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	1/07/2016- 31/12/2016	Difference (last 6 months)
<u>The Operating Fund</u>						
Income	\$34,636	\$9,063	\$20,111	\$19,889	\$15,693	-\$4,196
Expenses	-\$35,788	-\$5,275	-\$18,057	-\$16,820	-\$16,985	-\$165
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-\$1,152	\$3,788	\$2,054	\$3,069	-\$1,292	-\$4,361
<u>The Heritage Fund</u>						
Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$635	\$1,912	\$1,277
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$3	-\$3	\$0
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$632	\$1,909	\$1,277
OVERALL TOTAL	-\$1,152	\$3,788	\$2,054	\$3,701	\$617	-\$3,084

2. The Operating Fund as at 31 December 2016

2.1 Operating Fund - Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2016

Account	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/06/2015 Balance	30/06/2016 Balance	31/12/2016 Balance	Difference (last 6 months)
ASSETS						
Bank Accounts	\$17,270.78	\$7,484.78	\$8,283.27	\$9,884.42	\$7,821.24	-\$2,063.18
Investments	\$31,815.91	\$45,279.86	\$47,051.34	\$48,586.08	\$49,337.09	\$751.01
Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Books	\$4,469.76	\$3,530.88	\$2,989.44	\$2,989.44	\$2,989.44	\$0.00
Other Assets	\$471.80	\$581.87	\$66.47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$54,028.25	\$56,877.39	\$58,390.52	\$61,459.94	\$60,147.77	-\$1,312.17
LIABILITIES						
Museum Reserve	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	\$4,581.87	\$35,705.27	\$36,257.18	\$551.91
Other Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$31,815.91	\$33,279.86	\$4,581.87	\$35,705.27	\$36,257.18	\$551.91
NETT ASSETS	\$22,212.34	\$23,597.53	\$23,808.65	\$25,754.67	\$23,890.59	-\$1,864.08

2.2 Operating Fund - Statement of Income and Expenses as at 31 December 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	1/07/2016- 31/12/2016
INCOME					
Interest Income	\$2,300.68	\$1,752.30	\$1,915.25	\$1,643.80	\$784.16
Subscriptions Income	\$4,053.55	\$3,243.75	\$3,270.90	\$3,849.75	\$1,908.80
Book Sales	\$1,671.50	\$1,247.05	\$694.35	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$610.10	\$839.65	\$1,230.95	\$1,395.80	\$0.00
Grants Received	\$26,000.00	\$1,980.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
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	\$15,692.96
EXPENSES					
Administration	\$1,412.17	\$1,936.27	\$1,372.75	\$1,966.78	\$1,952.52
Promoting Moveable Cultural Heritage	\$34,375.65	\$3,338.46	\$16,684.13	\$14,828.15	\$14,619.36
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$413.25
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$35,787.82	\$5,274.73	\$18,056.88	\$16,819.93	\$16,985.13
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		-\$1,151.77	\$3,788.02	\$2,054.57	

3. Membership Report as at 31 December 2016

3.1 Membership Summary

Category	30/06/2013	30/06/2014	30/06/2015	30/06/2016	31/12/2016	Increase or Decrease (last 6 months)
TOTAL Paying Memberships	198	184	167	183	167	-16
TOTAL Non-Paying Memberships	17	17	17	17	18	1
Unfinancial (Lapsed) Memberships	0	22	43	33	48	15

4. The Heritage Fund as at 31 December 2016

4.1 Heritage Fund – Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2016

Account	30/06/2013 Balance	30/06/2014 Balance	30/06/2015 Balance	30/06/2016 Balance	31/12/2016 Balance	Difference (last 6 months)
ASSETS						
Bank Accounts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$612.01	\$2,541.26	\$1,929.25
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	\$612.01	\$2,541.26	\$1,929.25
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	\$612.01	\$2,541.26	\$1,929.25

4.2 Heritage Fund - Statement of Income and Expenses as at 31 December 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	1/07/2016-31/12/2016
INCOME					
Interest Income		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations to the Heritage Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$635.00	\$1,911.80
Other Income		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.21	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$635.21	\$1,911.80

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Category	1/01/2012- 30/06/2013	1/01/2013- 30/06/2014	1/01/2014- 30/06/2015	1/01/2015- 30/06/2016	1/01/2016- 31/12/2016
INCOME					
Interest Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations to the Heritage Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$635.00	\$1,911.80
Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.21	\$0.00
EXPENSES					
Administration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.20	\$2.55
Promoting Moveable Cultural Heritage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.20	\$2.55
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$632.01	\$1,909.25

VALE



On Friday March 17 we farewelled a long-term friend of Churchill Island, devoted volunteer for 12 years, and Life Member of FOCIS - Ian Jonas. The day was perfect for his funeral service which was held below the orchard with a backdrop of contented farm animals chewing on lucern hay: Crash the Highland Bull and his Highland cows, the dairy cows, the big steer, Max the stallion and Tiger and Timmy the goats. Syd happily pulled the wagon with its precious cargo: Ian's wife Jan and their family with Ian's boxed ashes. Despite all the people and all the distractions, former ranger Scott Campbell guided Syd and the wagon safely through the obstacles. The celebrant Pam Lewis kept everything running smoothly. Ian's sons and grandson all spoke and Jan stood with them throughout their speeches. Ian's life-long friend Bill also spoke, and farm manager Trevor spoke on behalf of all CI staff and volunteers. A fellow table tennis player for many years from Leongatha spoke of never having beaten Ian, regardless of their age difference! FOCIS secretary Christine said a few words on behalf of FOCIS. It was a wonderful celebration of Ian's full and active life. He will be sadly missed. He and Jan were partners in their volunteer work on CI, but Jan is now back working among the island's beloved animals.

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Speaker for 13.5.17 will be Russell Kennery speaking on Matthew Flinders' Open Boat Voyages. Flinders was not only a brilliant navigator, but a brilliant sailor and leader. Russell will give us some dramatic examples.



The Friends of Churchill Island Society
Newsletter

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Friends of Churchill Island Newsletter

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