

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

FOCIS

NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

Dates to remember:

General Meetings: 10/2/18; 12/5/18;
11/8/18; 10/11/18.

Working bees:

10/3/18 (farm machinery 10-12);
13/10/18 & 8/12/18 (house and cottages
8-10)

PNP Open Day: Free for Bass Coast
residents. Sunday March 4.

Speaker for February meeting:

A selection of oral histories and associated
illustrations on DVD, Phillip Island and San
Remo.

**FOCIS Old Fashioned Picnic for Phillip
Island 150th anniversary: Sunday
March 18,
11 am to 3 pm**



Funding for the Agricultural Machinery Shed extension achieved

Christine Grayden and David Maunders receive the Bass Coast ShireCommunity Grant Certificate for \$5,000 from Councillor Le Serve. This will enable us to put all the agricultural machinery and associated items under one roof as an organised and documented collection. An additional amount of \$10,000 from FOCIS funds and \$10,000 from PINP is also allocated for the same purpose.



Patricia Baird's book combines the archives, the local papers, previous histories and genealogies. She has brought new facts and stories to light. Special offer to members: \$5.00 each + postage (depends on how many books ordered)

<http://focis.org.au/online-shop/online-shop-special-offer-4-for-20-00/>

MAKE A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT



Presidents report

I would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas.

We have had a successful year extending the presentation of the Churchill Island heritage. We started by launching the Lady Nelson model and subsequently submitted three grant proposals resulting in a \$5000 award from Bass Coast Shire. The shed extension to house the historic farm machinery exhibition should be built next year. Christine and I attended a presentation at the Council Chamber on November 13.

We shall shortly discuss our agenda next year with Nature Park staff on 7 December.

There has been lots of work gone into the forthcoming extension of the shed housing the historic farm machinery – plans have been drawn up, displays planned and PINP is on board. Christine and I will soon meet with Catherine Basterfield PINP CEO, Paul Sandells, Chief Operations officer, conservation and visitor experience, and Kate Adams, Visitor Experience manager.

Agenda items include PINP's management structure; full time gardener; working with PINP grants officer on further grant applications; can Pedro's shed be cleaned out and become part of the visitor experience in some way? Can we have a shed high enough for a hoist to do restoration or preservation work on wagons? Emphasis on heritage – where does heritage fit in with PINP? Garden festivals reintroduced; new ticketing gate to be installed at CI asap.

Cee decided that since the shed money was not needed for some time that \$8,000 - \$10,000 could be placed into a 3 month or 6 month term deposit.

Christine and I will also be meeting with acting Operations Manager, John Evans, and CI manager Trevor Heywood, in January to discuss budgeting matters, to include: full time gardener, re-funding curator's position for 2018-19; new ticketing gate; power and light to Amess Barn; UV filters on windows of Amess House and Rogers Cottages.



Manders

FOCIS crowdfunding campaign!

The Goal of this Campaign

The Society is raising money for the Heritage Fund so that we can provide signage for the items to be displayed in the new historic farm machinery shed. We are aiming to raise \$2,000 by 30 June 2018 for this purpose. The signage will include photos, text and QR codes for several items linking to the FOCIS website and showing the actual machines in operation, being pulled by Clydesdales. To donate you can send us a cheque or postal order, or pay online. Go to the crowdfunding website here: <http://focis.org.au/campaign/crowdfunding-campaign-signage-for-historic-farm-machinery-display/>

FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 11.11.2017

1. PRESENT: David Maunders (chair), Terry Holman, Christine Grayden, Tom O'Dea, Ruth O'Dea, Pauline Taylor, Graeme Clauscen, Jeff Cole, Kay Williams, Anne Davie, Margaret Geppert, Hagen Geppert, John Ballantyne, Pamela R Baker, John Baker.
2. APOLOGIES: Roger and Sue Hollingworth, Robyn Holman, Peter Brookes, Christine Tompkins, Lee Tierney, Marianne Cassar, Diane and John Baird, Coral Bourke, Irene McKell, Janet Richardson.
3. WELCOME to members, visitors. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of traditional owners
4. THE REPORT FROM PINP CEO Catherine Basterfield will appear in the December 2017 newsletter
5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:
 - a) Historic farm machinery shed extension received a \$5,000 Bass Coast Shire community grant. FOCIS cee decided our contribution to the project would be \$10,000. PINP contribution is \$10,000 + the build. David and Christine will attend the grants awarding event on Monday 13.11.17
 - b) We were unsuccessful with the PROV signage grant. However, the idea of having Ipads in a few rooms of Amess House showing vignettes of the lives of Amess family and servants is still with us and we will search for a suitable grant to apply for.
 - c) Pat Baird's books: Churchill Island History and Her Story. 100 have been sold to PINP. There is currently a special offer for members of 4 for \$20 + postage. To be advertised in the December newsletter
 - d) On Sunday March 18, 2018, FOCIS will hold an Old Fashioned Picnic on CI. People will be invited to dress in period costume, lots of games for children, and a costume parade. Helpers needed on the day, but must have Working With Children Check. This is done online at <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> Then photo and document citing done at your local post office. Free for volunteers, just put on form that you are volunteering for FOCIS. Please contact Christine if you are able to help on the day. 5956 8501. Members present suggested some music on the day – perhaps a guitarist and folk song sing a long; Mike Cleeland to recite a couple of poems. Need P.A. system. Also Western Port Water cart and sunscreen. A sub-committee has been formed to meet 23.11.17.
 - e) FOCIS cee is pursuing the possibility of making the CI gardener's position full time. We consider this a priority and will be ensuring that it is considered in the February 2018 round of PINP budget talks.
6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: David Maunders (see elsewhere)
8. TREASURER'S/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Tom distributed copies of the quarterly report and discussed various aspects of it. He reported that our assets continue to grow; that donations to our tax deductible Heritage account have diminished in the last few months, but we received \$50 from the donations box and \$200 from members. Thank you to all members who have donated to our Heritage fund. We had money invested that we made on call, and since it is not needed for some time for the shed extension we have decided to place half of it (\$8,000-\$10,000) into a 6 month or 3 month term deposit. Pat's books: we are now selling these to PINP for \$5 (previously \$7), and the cost was \$5.76 per copy, but since we have cleared our investment in printing the books, all moneys from the books from now on are profit.

In terms of membership we have a total of 250, but a number of others have not renewed this year. A reminder letter will go out with the newsletter to these people. While 78% of members have provided an email address, many of those have opted to have their communications by mail, which is a considerable expense. If you have an email address, please consider allowing FOCIS to use it for communications, newsletter, etc.

“That the treasurer’s/membership secretary’s report be accepted” Tom O’Dea/Graeme Clausen *Carried.*

9. CURATOR’S REPORT: (See elsewhere)

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

Inwards:

Invite to quarterly meeting from Catherine Basterfield – Thurs Dec 7 3-4 p.m.

Invite to budget meeting with John Evans, acting operations manager.

Irene McKell – apology for meetings and agreeing with whatever c/ee decides on shed funding.

BCSC notification of community grant funding \$5,000 for shed extension.

BCSC Community grants funding agreement and conditions of grant

BCSC Event registration for 150th old time picnic

Dept of Justice Jeff Cole Working with Children Check.

Amanda Price, Offshore Theatre, re PROV grant.

BCSC Australia Day Awards nominations now open.

Outwards:

BCSC community grant funding agreement

BCSC Mark Lindsay, co-ordinator of 150th celebrations, and Josie Kent, arts officer, re our old time picnic, Sunday March 18 2018.

Event registration for 150th

Various emails to John Evans re funding of shed extension, including time table of build from grant application.

To Amanda Price, Offshore Theatre, letting her know we were unsuccessful with our PROV grant.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Christine reported that PINP Open Day will be held on Sunday 4th March 2018. FOCIS will have an information table manned by David and a children’s old time activities table. Christine will give a talk: “The Remarkable Harry Jenkins”.

12. SPEAKER: Christine Grayden spoke on “Tovell’s journey from Melbourne to Phillip Island, 1869”.

Meeting closed 3.00 p.m. Next meeting will be the General Meeting to be held on February 10, 2018, starting at 1.30 p.m. in the Churchill Island Visitor Centre function room.



PINP volunteer outing 14 October.

Twenty or so volunteers including strong group from Churchill Island, went to the Gippsland Garden and Home Expo near Drouin.

Pat Jeffrey organised lunch for all.

Guest speaker was Tino Cavanale from ABC Gardening Australia, who engaged a large audience.

On the way home we stopped for coffee at Maru...



150th anniversary of european settlement of Phillip Island
Next year, 2018, It is 150 years since the closer settlement of Phillip Island in 1868. Lots of organisations across Phillip Island are holding celebratory events to mark the occasion. FOCIS is holding an "Old Fashioned Picnic" on Sunday March 18, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.. Some of the activities at the picnic will be:

Bocce, skittles, quoits, rice bag throw in the morning

Bring your picnic rug or chairs and enjoy a picnic on the lawns

More old fashioned games that don't need computers after lunch

Dress up in 19th century costume for the parade to end the day. CI has some ladies costumes available for loan. Contact the curator, Christine Grayden, m 0400 900 612 to book a time to choose your costume. Or just scout around the opportunity shops and make up your own! Kids can dress up too!

Lots of old-fashioned fun for everyone. We may even have a folk song sing-along! Mark the date in your diaries. We look forward to seeing lots of you there.



Curators Report

August to November 2017

Christine Grayden

(a) I have been mostly occupied in updating all the Museum reaccreditation documents.

(b) Working with Period Building Conservation specialist builders - packing up china prior to their removal of two windows in drawing room and one in kitchen. Replacing china. To be repeated when they come back to re-place renewed windows in a few weeks. They have also lifted the wash house and placed it on stumps to reduce chances of further rot, and taken all vents out of half cellar to clean those that can be salvaged and make others to replace those that can't. They are doing a number of conservation and restoration projects. I am hopeful that they will be able to repair the risers of the half cellar steps and replace the tread timber so that the half cellar can be open to the public again.

(c) Most of CI's volunteers attended Volunteer procedures and Occupational Health and Safety workshops which were most useful. I attended too.

(d) Sorted many historic photos of the CI gardens for Kate the gardener, who is planning to put together an updated garden management plan.

(e) Updating cataloguing filing and our Victorian Collections entries.

(f) Redid sign for "Dancing, Prancing Spoonbill" with Jeff and we discovered the bolts holding it to rotating platform are rotten. Reported this to Trevor and waiting for it to be repaired.



(g) Thanks as ever to Jeff Cole my Friday volunteer, who has cleaned the AH store room and reorganised it, cleaned the half cellar, done various odd jobs, oiled the wagon in Pedro's shed and also tackled cleaning Amess Barn, which was really dirty work!

(h) Thanks to the seven people who helped me at the Working bee Sat 28 Oct (farm machinery and sheds 10-12) - Terry, John, Di, Margaret, Hagen, Graeme and PINP volunteer co-ordinator Rachael Ferguson.

An illustrated talk given by Christine Grayden at the November 2017 FOCIS general meeting.

**A JOURNEY FROM MELBOURNE TO PHILLIP ISLAND
1869
BY RAY TOVELL**



Ray Tovell had accepted an invitation from William Harbison, a timber merchant of Bay Street Brighton, and a Councillor in the same municipality of long standing, to spend his Christmas holidays at Phillip Island, much of which was owned by Harbison. The island at that time was practically uninhabited and Tovell, feeling that his holiday under these circumstances would be an exciting one, duly set off for the “Bull and Mouth” to join the conveyance that would carry him for the greater part of the journey.

I have not been able to trace any original of Tovell’s manuscript, nor work out when he wrote these memoirs, but I guess at about 1900, given that he was a young man when he made the journey, and he speaks of the amount of development that had gone on since then.

At the “Bull and Mouth”, Tovell was introduced to “Old Bill”, also known as “Warrigal Bill”.

Tovell takes up the story:

“As we left the “Bull and Mouth” the coach was speeding on its way towards Hastings, with the horses appearing just as anxious to move as the driver. The journey had already been delayed by an over-indulgent passenger (a well-known popular sportsman of past years). Bill’s patience finally became exhausted and in a voice of harsh words representing “all aboard!” and to the cracking of whips amid which was the call of the ostler to “drag the cow aboard Jack and put him in the boot, or, by cripes, I’ll go without him.” The attendant knew Bill meant what he said and the command was quickly executed. Thus with a further crack of the whip accompanied by an “all clear” from Jack, the leaders started off on hind legs and the journey had begun.”

ST KILDA ROAD TOLL GATE

“Some short delay occurred at Prince’s Bridge, owing to the fact that its roadway was too narrow to permit our passage and the traffic was against us. “Bad luck,” said Bill, as he cleaned the flies off the restless leader’s ears with his whip without touching the ears. For Bill was the expert driver of that time, south of the Yarra. “That cursed tollkeeper will be our next stop I suppose, and that near side ‘un is pretty green and gets dirty with ‘er ‘ind legs at times,” grunted Bill”

(Tollgates were located on various roads in Melbourne at the time, as a way for Road Boards to raise funds to improve roads and other infrastructure. One toll on what is now the Nepean Highway charged these rates in the 1860s:

Every sheep, pig, lamb or goat 1/2d . Every ox or head of meat cattle 1d.

Every horse, mare, ass or mule 3d.

Every cart, dray, wain, wagon or other such every vehicle if drawn

by one horse or other such animal 6d; by two horses 1s; by three horses 1-6d;

by four horses 2.0d by five horses 2.6d; by six horses 3.0d and for each additional horse 3d. – so it was quite expensive. Just shows you that toll roads are certainly not new!

(To be Continued)

SUMMER 2017-18

FOCIS



Mirror-calm
waters off
Churchill Island
on an early
summer morning

Photo C Grayden.



The Friends of Churchill Island Society
Newsletter

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