

Friends Of Churchill Island Society Inc.

# FOCIS

## NEWSLETTER

ABN 78667051020 INC. No. A 002 19007W

**Dates to remember:**

AGM, 18/8/18;

General Meetings: 10/11/18.

Working bees:

13/10/18 & 8/12/18

(house and cottages 8-10)

**Speaker for the AGM:**

*Speakers for the Annual General meeting are Catherine Basterfield, CEO, and Kate Adams, Visitor Experience Manager. All positions to be declared vacant, come along and volunteer as a member of the FOCIS committee.*



### "Vale Scott Campbell"

Head ranger on Churchill Island in the 1990s and 2000s, then an environment ranger for Phillip Island Nature Parks. Scott and his little dog Jack and ferrets rid CI of rabbits years ago and made sure it stayed rabbit free from then on. Even after his retirement, and when he was not that well, he worked with Sophie's foal Nellie with Toby to train her to harness. He was always interested in CI going on and dropped in for a chat with the staff whenever he could, he so loved the place. He will be sorely missed. Scott wearing his kilt features in a photo with then Premier Steve Bracks on the 'government ownership' wall of the CI Visitor Centre."



## Presidents report

There have been some achievements since our last meeting. The restoration of the cottages is almost complete and the half cellar steps have been repaired. Christine and Jeff have cleaned it out and have begun to set up a display of dairy equipment for visitors. Work on laying a floor for the new shed for the historic farm machinery will start soon and we are optimistic that the display will be open by the end of the year. Christine formally retires as curator at the end of June and I was pleased to learn that Nature Park has appointed a new curator, Melissa Hayes. Melissa is qualified and experienced in museum management and has recently worked as grants office for the Bass Coast Shire Council. In this capacity, she was helpful to us in the submission of our successful grant application last year. I look forward to welcoming her on behalf of FOCIS., continuation of a curator after Christine's retirement and I am optimistic of a positive outcome. We have our AGM on August 18 and I hope to see many of you there.

FOCIS and other volunteers have played a significant part in making Churchill Island available to visitors. In the early years, when Carol Schulz was the only employed member of staff, volunteers managed all the visitor ticketing, refreshments and information.

Volunteers established their own roles. Later when a staffed visitors' centre was opened, many paid staff undertook voluntary roles over and above their job requirements and continued to volunteer after leaving employment. We now enter a period of managed volunteers, with roles clearly defined and restricted, with induction training and increased rewards. Some volunteers have been concerned about changes and this is an issue that we need to carefully monitor.



### **FOCIS Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 18th August 2018

at 1.30pm in the Visitor Centre function room

Speakers;

Catherine Basterfield, CEO, speaking about the new branding of PINP, and Kate Adams, Visitor Experience Manager, speaking about the new interpretation plan.

## FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY

### MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 12-05-2018

1. Welcome & Acknowledgement

2. **Present:** Terry Holman (chair), Graeme Clauscen, Irene McKell, John Eddy, Di Scukovic, Sue Chambers, Bruce Chambers, Carolyn Allman, Sue & Roger Hollingworth, Anne Davie, Peter Brookes, Stephen Paull, Jolanta Paull, Trevor Little, Rebecca Sanders, Nerida Melsmith

3. **Apologies:** David Maunders Christine Grayden, Tom O'Dea, Ruth O'Dea, Pauline Taylor, Robyn Holman, Ann Jelly, Peter Jelly, Lee Tierney,

4. Report on PINP and Churchill Island activities – to be in Winter newsletter.

5. Minutes of last meeting 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Graeme Clauscen/Irene McKell *carried.*

5. Matters arising from last meeting;

a) Farm machinery display extension of shed: site preparation under way soon.

b) Old time picnic on C I Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled due to rain & high wind. Perhaps try to hold in December

c) Full time horticultural officer. This is still being considered by PINP

d) PINP Open Day Sunday March 4. Christine gave a talk on Harry Jenkins at 11am. Attended by 16 people including two PINP Board members David was on FOCIS table and spoke to several people. Linda Patterson, was very busy with children's activities in Rogers Cottage.

e) David & Christine meeting with Kate Adams

6. **President's report – David Maunders:** Read by Terry in David's absence. Including notes David took from the meeting with Kate Adams on 19 April 2018.

I am sorry not to be with you at this meeting and I know that other committee members also have issues to keep them away. Unfortunately, the historic dress picnic arranged for March 18 had to be abandoned because of the weather. So much work had gone into this, so I hope we may be able to rescheduled it for the end of the year. A more positive result came from Christine's submission for museum Reaccreditation which was approved subject to very minor changes.

On 19 April we met with Kate's Adams who updated us on The Historical machinery shed.

Kate reported that a consultant had appraised the site prior to preparing drawings for heritage and permit applications. Ground levelling in front of the shed extension would take place in the next few weeks. It was expected that the projected would be completed within the grant requirements.

We also discussed the idea of modifying Pedro's shed (raising the roof height) to house more of the farm machinery. This could be a project after the completion of the current one.

The interpretation strategy will shortly be available to the public. An interpretation manager will be appointed. Kate agreed to come to the FOCIS AGM on 18 August to explain the strategy.

Kate has undertaken significant research into the reappointment of the curator. This included consultation with other regional museums including Coal Creek. PINP was willing to continue the financial allocation but when this was applied to a Nature Park staff position could only provide for one day per week. The position will be advertised but Kate is continuing discussion of job sharing with another museum.

We also talked about the playground to be built this year. Again we talked about the gate. Kate reported that the visitor centre layout will be changed to place the reception ticket desk by the window. This will improve entry control but also will free up space for an improved historical introduction. This is likely to include the transfer of the Lady Nelson from the dining room. Kate also mentioned the initiation of early or late in the day guided walks to see the bandicoots.

7. Treasurer's/Membership Secretary's Report - Distributed in Tom's absence.  
Summary of Results as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018

In summary total nett assets grew by \$7,394 [about 26%] From \$27,865 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to \$35,259 as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018. However this includes a grant of \$5,000 we received from BCSC towards the Historical Farm Machinery Project so the real increase in assets is about 8.6%.

During the last 10 months we spent \$1,310 on Heritage activities with a total of \$24,490 spent on Heritage activities over the last 6+ years

Membership numbers fell by 11 [about 6%] from 177 paying memberships as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to 166 paying memberships as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The total number of paying Members as at 30<sup>th</sup> April was 270.

8. Curator's Report - Christine Read by Terry in Christine's absence

1. I have had lots of preparation for the Museums Accreditation Program re accreditation inspection. This mainly included cleaning out the Volunteers' hut in the works yard, which houses much of the collection. I renewed and labeled all storage boxes and filing cabinets and disposed of much rubbish and recycling - including two old TVs! - and put up curtains and a mirror so that the guides can change in there if they wish. The hut is now a really nice facility within its limits.

2. Thanks to Kate Adams, Visitor Experience Manager and C I's boss these days, for all of her help with the documents. Thanks to Jeff Cole and John Eddy for help with all the inspection preparations.

3. I have been sorting files and generally getting everything ready for the new curator, as I finish on Friday June 29<sup>th</sup>. I still have all of my computer files and emails to sort. I have had several meetings with Kate Adams to discuss workforce planning for the curator's position, and I have also written a curator's procedures manual for the way I do the job, which I'm hoping will help the next curator.

4. The Period Conservation Building team have been back a few times doing much restoration work to Amess House and Rogers Cottages. There will be a comprehensive report and recommendations for further works from them at the conclusion of their contract.

5. FOCIS held a working bee on 10<sup>th</sup> of March where Graeme Clausen vacuumed throughout and David Maunders and I cleaned lots. A small but productive group.

6. Reaccreditation inspection was on March 28<sup>th</sup> with three inspectors on a lovely day and we passed with flying colours!

**Terry decided all reports would be moved together**

Moved Ann Davie seconded John Eddy *Carried.*

**.10. General Business**

Anne Davie moved that FOCIS should voice our concern on curator's hours being cut. Seconded by Graeme Clausen. Carried.

Discussion on remodelling Entry. Access to Cafe etc.

This may improve entry control to Heritage area?

All seems a bit vague. Graeme asked where Lady Nelson was moving to?

We also discussed space taken up by Tour groups. No space for general patrons?

Need to take wheelchair access into consideration, but PINP do this anyway.

Terry to ask Kate about strategy regarding Tour groups and amount of buses.

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The Friends of Churchill Island Society and Phillip Island Nature Park invite you to a buffet luncheon to recognise the achievements of

**CHRISTINE GRAYDEN**

as curator of the Churchill Island Museum.

To be held on Friday 17 August 2018, 12.30-2.30

In the meeting room, Churchill Island Visitors' Centre.

Please reply by 10 August to:

David Maunders

phone/text 0407540392

email [maundersdavid@gmail.com](mailto:maundersdavid@gmail.com)



Some of our volunteers who received a gift for their years of service with the Nature Parks.



Fred Allen receiving his gift for 20 years of service at Churchill Island.

**Welcome to the new  
Churchill Island curator**

Melissa Hayes. Melissa started on 12th July with three days handover by previous curator Christine Grayden. Melissa will be working on Tuesdays. She has a Graduate Diploma and a Masters in museum studies, and a background in museums, local history collections and local government. Melissa may be familiar to some of you in her previous role as grants officer with Bass Coast Shire Council - a role she now has with the City of Casey. She is a Board member with the Bass Coast Community Foundation and is very familiar with the Bass Coast community and environs. We are very much looking forward to working with Melissa and wish her well in her new role.



**Building the Churchill Island dam with a scoop and horse team.**

Using the scoop are brothers Bob and Ted Jeffery, who managed CI for Gerald Buckley during the 1930s.

You can see the scoop today with a tree stump in the middle of it below the vegetable garden close to the post and rail fence.

## A JOURNEY FROM MELBOURNE TO PHILLIP ISLAND 1869 - BY RAY TOVELL

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



Mordialloc Creek 1870

(continued from issue 139)

“When we reached Beaumaris, it was necessary to turn eastwards as we had a passenger for Cheltenham and mail was aboard. Cheltenham Township consisted of one hotel and a blacksmith’s shop; the proverbial bank of New South Wales had not yet arrived. Our journey to Mordialloc was uneventful and as we passed Rennison Hotel, we were greeted with a waving of hats, as the arrival of the mail coach was quite eventful; the same excitement was caused when we arrived at Bloxidge’s (the Bridge Hotel), where we were timed to stay the night.

“We boys slept the sleep of youth all right, and took some stirring up at daybreak, and with a hot cup of coffee to awaken us we were on our way to Mark Young’s Hotel at Frankston for breakfast. (Can I say it just shows that waking up in the morning with coffee is nothing new!)

“In the time I am writing about, Carrum was a huge swamp, the backing up of the waters from the Dandenong Hills, and having no exit bar the Mordialloc Creek, which blocks the water, spread itself, and over an area bounded by Frankston and Mordialloc through what are called “Bangham Holes”, right to Dandenong Township, which was frequently subjected to submergences. This was the condition we had to face and in addition the back country had been ablaze and was still burning. A quarter of a mile took us into the swamp with one wheel in the water, and very doubtful at that, our driver having a job to keep the horses from leaving the track, within the swingle bars area, and cracked at the whip as he brushed aside overhanging ti-tree branches. Old Sol was just showing his blood red nose on the horizon.

“Bronze-winged pigeons, innumerable, flew in all directions; black ducks and swans, and all kinds of swamp birds left their resting places along the banks and flew to safety, while a number of native companions stood out in relief on a small island, dancing their quadrilles – a peculiar habit of this bird – silhouetted in the rays of the blood red rising Australia sun.

“As we neared the half-way house – later called Carlyons – a small inn, we found to our concern that water had found an opening to the sea and was pouring across the road, and as quick-sand generally accompanies this condition, things looked only medium. Bill looked doubtful and got off his box then waded in to survey; he gazed at the expanse of water, then back at the coach and said: ‘We’ll risk it; let them have a blow first, they need it.’ (Meaning they needed a rest to stop panting)

“Our intemperate passenger in the meantime, like the swamp, seemed to have gone into liquidation and had refused to pay his fare. ‘My chance now,’ said Bill. ‘Hey there George Washington – your fare! We don’t run this concern for nix; your fare or you goes into the bloomin swamp’. He paid his fare.

“Bill then drove towards the running water and we got through all right, although the water did come into the coach. One of our leaders went down in the middle. We were soon out of the swamp proper. The rest of our journey with the exception of crossing Kananook Creek, was uneventful.

“Soon the beaming face of a genial Mark Young and the prospects of breakfast made us cheerful, and once the morning meal had satisfied our severe appetites, we were in anticipation of the last section of our journey.

(continued next page)

# FOCIS

“From here to Hastings the road was good in comparison. Wallabies frequently crossed our path, and one big ‘old man’ kangaroo, evidently a stray from the hills, appeared. He waited until Bill cracked the whip, ‘No mail today,’ shouted Bill, who then explained to us ‘He’s the postman who takes the mail to the fishermen; them fellows who they say deserted from a ship as come to Western Port Bay and landed at Settlement Pint’.

“At Hastings we took a little steamer for Phillip Island, (Likely the Sarah) where we were met by a bullock dray and had the prospect of a holiday that youths with sporting instincts enjoy.”



Boatbuilding Hastings, 1900



The Friends of Churchill Island Society  
Newsletter

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