



# FOCIS

newsletter

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

SPRING 2004

Dear Readers,

The FOCIS annual general meeting was held 24th July 2004 at Churchill Island Information Centre with 16 members in attendance and 10 apologies were received.

The following are the Office Bearers and Ordinary Members who were elected:

President - Neil Gladman

Vice-President - Keith Hocking

Treasurer - Roger Hollingworth

Sec/Membership Secretary - Jill Fitzroy-Kelly

Committee - Fred Allen, Pat Baird, Chesterman Chalmers, Joy Gladman, Laurin Martin, Ann Penaluna, Maureen Symmonds, Lee Tierney, Jan Beales - Friends of Koalas, Cherry McFee - Phillip Island Historical Society, Christine Grayden - Phillip Island Conservation Society (T.B.C.)

Representatives of Sub-Committees to be decided after consultation with Members.

The President, Neil Gladman, thanked Past President Ann Penaluna for the untiring work she had done on behalf of FOCIS during her time as President and moved that our thanks be recorded in the Minutes.

Pat Baird and Jocelyn Bradley tendered their resignation from the Newsletter Committee. The resignation was accepted with much regret by those present and a new Coordinator and Committee are being sought. In the meantime the President and others have undertaken to get the September issue out (and if you are now reading the Newsletter it can be assumed that they did!) The President expressed the thanks of all present to Pat and Jocelyn for the dedication and hard work over the years.

Our Honorary Auditor, Mr. Bill Hopkins has also retired so we seek the services of someone who could fill this need. We appeal to all members for assistance in appointing a new Honorary Auditor.

Our sincere thanks go to Mr. Hopkins for his services.

Dates for Committee Meetings 2004/2005

25th September 2004

27th November 2004

22nd January 2005

26th March 2005

28th May 2005

23rd July 2005 A.G.M.



## FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Work has already begun for Working Horse Festival 2005. We are busily working on funding applications for local and state government and sourcing stalls, exhibitors and entertainers. A working committee will be formed at the next FOCIS meeting, please contact Jill Fitzroy-Kelly if you are interested in being part of the team to organise this exciting event!



We will also soon be releasing the 2004/05 Churchill Island Events program. This calendar will include exciting events beginning with the Garden Lovers Festival in November. We will send the calendar out with the Summer newsletter. It will also be available at Churchill Island and from [www.penguins.org.au](http://www.penguins.org.au)



## NEW WEDDINGS & FUNCTIONS BROCHURE

Spring and summer are perfect times for weddings, functions and events on Churchill Island. With sweeping views across Western Port Bay, it provides a magical backdrop and peaceful atmosphere for weddings, functions, conferences and meetings. The facilities, catering and service provided at Churchill Island are unique to the Island and should be considered for any special event. We have just produced a weddings and functions brochure for Churchill Island. For further information please contact Courtney on: 5951 2809 or [cwood@penguins.org.au](mailto:cwood@penguins.org.au)



## VOLUNTEER GUIDING PROGRAM

All FOCIS members should say a big thank you for the wonderful work of our small, but dedicated, team of volunteer guides who have brought warmth to the Historic Area this winter.

The guides, dressed in period costume, add greatly to the Churchill Island visitor experience. They have also been seen churning butter in an original churn and writing secret letters with a feather quill!

At the end of September, we will be losing one of our valued guides, Jack Waterfield who has been a keen supporter since the program began. He is moving away from the island with his new bride and we wish him all the best for the exciting times ahead!

Guides are crucial for security and interpretation in the historic areas and we always need more guides to offer a day a fortnight or month to ensure the Historic Area is protected and interpreted. You don't have to know

everything or take formal tours you can just add a presence to the area for security and enjoyment of visitors. Please consider a small donation of time. If you are interested, call 5956 7214 to register your name and we will get back to you.

### And another thing....

- Churchill Island recently featured in Coxy on Tour on Channel 7. The story focussed on the Churchill Island Marine National Park. We are soon to feature on this program again and in the national newspaper, the Australian.
- Churchill Island recently hosted journalists from around Australia. The journalists visited the island and returned for a special dinner. The MC for the evening was Brian Dawe who spoke of his love of Churchill Island.



- If you haven't already seen it, don't miss the working horse sculpture carved by Dean Smith. The sculpture was carved by chainsaw and is a popular reminder of the annual festival. Dean was a hit at the 2004 festival where he carved many pieces which were auctioned on the Sunday of the festival.

Sally O'Neill - Communications Manager



### VOLUNTEER GUIDE REPORT

What a magic morning! Fog so thick you cannot see the water in Westernport Bay from the back verandah, and in the herb garden, two of our most handsome peacocks, looking very large with feathers well fluffed out and standing so still. It is a privilege to come to Churchill Island as a guide, especially as spring is on its way and Lisa has put daffodils and violets from the garden onto the kitchen table.

It feels almost like waiting to open Christmas presents as you listen for the footsteps, usually on the front verandah, of your visitors to be welcomed to "our" beautiful house. So many countries are represented, as well as our enthusiastic Aussies. It is not unusual to have one member of a small group translate for the rest as well as we speak to them. You

can hear your words echoed in Russian, Italian, Chinese, Japanese or German etc.. At times I feel slightly embarrassed waxing lyrical about a fine old house we all love that is just over 130 years old, when I often recall the response from a very pleasant English visitor when I said "you probably live in an English cottage that is 400 years old". His reply was "well we do live in a 350 year old barn my Dad converted!" There followed a most interesting discussion on restoration in England.

Every time I am on duty I learn something of interest. Once I was explaining how our 1872 stove was rescued from one of the sheds, to replace a "new" one put in during the Buckley's time. A delightful lass exclaimed "that's just like my Nan's!" When I asked where her Nan lived, she replied "South of Dublin" and I was in a little Irish cottage, so far from here.

Mary Mitchell



### FROM THE GARDEN

I have had lots of volunteers helping in the garden this winter, most notably I was able to have some Burnley College Horticultural students for one whole week in August.

The weather was absolutely foul for the whole week but they managed to get quite a bit done in the garden, they cleaned up the herb garden and did some pruning in the orchard and I took them on walks around the Island so that they could get the feel of what the Island was like originally. I gave them some moonah seeds of different aged trees, 5, 10 and 400 yr old trees to see if there was any difference in the viability of seed germination so it will be interesting to get the results of these.

They were very impressed with the different areas of the island and it is a pleasure to show people around that are fascinated with the historic and natural aspects of Churchill Island. The mangrove salt water community was a real eye opener as they were not aware of such a diverse array of plant life living in such a harsh environment, and that it could be so beautiful with the different types of glassworts, noonflower and stipas.

The weekly garden group continues to be a vibrant and worthwhile activity with lots of work done in the historic area and a great sense of companionship as well. Any new members are quite welcome especially now as the warmer weather is coming along. It really is a very pleasant time in the garden with every one chatting and chuckling while they weed and plant! Jill has been toiling away at the visitor centre indigenous garden and it is looking a treat, I got some pine bark mulch for the front bed which gives it a nice contrast for the plants and every thing is thriving including the weeds, but I am very happy with the way the garden is maturing.

I have also been researching lavender and vineyard crops, with a lavender paddock going in in front of the visitor centre. It will showcase about four different varieties of lavender and we will harvest and use the flowers for different crafts and products...lavender scones anyone? If anyone would like to be part of lavender planting when the paddock is cultivated in about a months time get in touch with me at Churchill Island...it should look wonderful when it is in full bloom.

Lisa



### RANGER REPORT

Replacement of the perimeter fencing is now complete; all the treated pine posts have gone at last.

Our little black lambs are not so little any more, their black

bodies are fading and they are living up to the reputation of the Suffolk breed being big and chunky. They have also been marked.

Work continues on the stockyard changes; hopefully the new layout will make handling cattle easier and a lot safer for us. The new cattle have settled in well and we have an addition of a new bull calf.

Unfortunately the two Clydesdales we had on lease did not work out. Despite the efforts of Lyle Drayton and Amy the geldings would not settle down to the work. Lolly has been with Max Phillips for the past few months, also for retraining. Max has discovered that Lolly is quite deaf which explains a lot about her behaviour. We are waiting on an assessment from Max before deciding what to do with her.

The rest of the menagerie, ducks, chooks, geese, guinea fowl and peacocks are doing very well, spring is definitely here. Everything is growing like crazy and the mowing is impossible to keep up with. Our oat crop is already four feet high and doesn't even look like heading yet. It has just rained too much and was too cold for our crop of peas oats and vetch and it didn't have a chance to strike.

Plans are going ahead with the lavender and grapevine planting also the blacksmiths shop. The preliminary drawings for the new toilet block are now being drawn up for approval. The automatic gate across the bridge is now operational.

Now the outside staff at Churchill has well and truly settled into their new workshop and the demolition of the old workshop buildings is in full swing. The concrete slab from the old workshop will be used as the site for our new office. Staff toilets will be built on the back of the new toilet block so we will be able to remove as many of the old ugly buildings as possible. The works yard will eventually be tidied up and planted out so it looks neat and tidy.

## WORKING HORSE FESTIVAL 2005

EASTER - March 26 and 27, 2005

We are already starting to plan our contribution to the festival. FOCIS has been asked to supply volunteers to help with the setting up and packing up (Friday afternoon & Monday morning), preparation and serving of meals to all exhibitors and volunteers (Friday night, all day Saturday & Sunday), FOCIS festival information tent and care for the various needs of all Exhibitors (i.e. spinners, woodworkers, Working Horse handlers etc.) during the festival.

As final details of our participation are yet to be decided, we would like all Members to start thinking about whether there is a part they can play in any of the activities. Can you give a few hours, bake a dessert, sit in the tent and talk to people? There are jobs for all - for the young and fit, the not so young and reasonably fit and the older not so fit!

In the next two Newsletters we will detail the work and hours required to carry out our commitment, then a Volunteer Form & Timesheet will be sent out in the January & March Newsletters.

## GARDEN LOVERS' FESTIVAL 2004

On Sunday 7th November at Churchill Island 10.00am-



5.00pm, the Garden Lovers' Festival will be held. Free Admission, Stalls & Displays, Workshops, Competitions, Kid's Activities. Your support would be appreciated so come along and have a great day out.

## **123** YOUR BUNCH OF DATES **456**

25th September - Farmer's Market

25th September - FOCIS committee meeting

15th and 16th October - Dinner at Churchill Island

23rd October - Farmers market

7th November - Garden Lover's Festival

27th November - FOCIS Committee meeting

6th December - Carols by candlelight, Churchill Island



## FOCIS COMMITTEE 2004 - 2005

President: Neil Gladman (03) 5956 6050

Vice President: Keith Hocking (03) 5821 9189

Treasurer/Public Officer: Roger Hollingworth,

Membership Secretary and General Secretary:

Jill Fitzroy-Kelly (03) 5672 5235



## RED STAR ALERT!

Does your address label have a red star? The star signifies that your 2004 subscription is now overdue. Any Members who remain unfinancial as at 30/09/04 will be delisted and no further Newsletters will be sent. The 2004/2005 subscription covers the period 01/01/04 to 30/06/05 - so you still have 12 months in which to use your card. Please send your subscription ASAP.

### FOCIS Members:

Staff have requested that Focis members make sure they have their membership cards with them at all times when visiting Churchill Island and that they show them at the desk on arrival. This will make it much easier to monitor current memberships.

# FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY INC.

To: Secretary FOCIS, PO Box 852 COWES 3922, Vic. Aust.

# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please Enrol/Renew a FOCIS Membership for

Name .....

YEAR .....

Address ..... Postcode .....

Phone: Home ..... Business .....

Email .....

Membership is from 1st July 2004 to 30th June 2005    **ADULT** \$15     **FAMILY** \$25     **CONCESSION** \$10

**Able to volunteer**     **In the Garden**     **As a Guide**     **Doing Restoration**

I understand that a current FOCIS membership entitles me to:-

**Visit Churchill Island any time during opening hours plus discount for special events.**

Visit **Penguin Parade** and **Koala Conservation Centre**

during opening hours 4 times a year for ongoing members and 2 times a year for new members,  
10% discount for accompanying visitors, 10% discount on food and souvenirs.

Participate in Churchill Island Projects.

*N.B. Membership card is not transferable. All privileges are dependent on production of your current membership card.*

If elected as a FOCIS member, I agree to abide by the Society's Rules as laid down in its Constitution.



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If undelivered return to: FOCIS, PO Box 852, COWES 3922

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**SPRING 2004**



**Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.**

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