



FOCIS

newsletter

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

SPRING 2006



EDITORS INTRODUCTION

On a lovely Spring day we had a coffee in the café and met Carlo, who has taken over the lease. The menu is excellent and reasonably priced, and, of course, the view from inside and outside marvellous.

As we walked on up to the house the scent of lavender and blossom was sweet and the birdsong lovely to hear. Everything is looking really great and a credit to all who contribute.

We also met Ben Clark PINP Farm Manager and had a look at the new water feature he built, very impressive and unusual.

The programme for the school holidays is interesting and we would urge all those with families to take advantage of what is on offer during future school holidays.

Also interesting to note is that there were 1,000 more visitors to C.I. in August 2006 than the same time last year!

Ann Jelly - Newsletter Editor



VICE PRESIDENTS CORNER

The Committee met on August 19, 2006 to revisit the matter of reforming the Committee structure. The Committee unanimously agreed four resolutions:-

1. That the elected officers comprising President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary shall be named the Executive Committee.
2. That the Executive would call for nominations for the following key positions:- Newsletter Editor Coordinator, Archives Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator and Social/Activities Coordinator.
3. That the Executive Committee will meet monthly (or as required) and the Coordinators shall meet with the Executive Committee one week prior to each General Meeting.
4. Identify and discuss matters to be raised at PINP Community Advisory Committee meetings

A Forum held September 9, 2006 was attended by members of the committee and members who had previously nominated for committee positions. Each attendee was given a copy of a discussion paper dealing with each subject. Those present unanimously agreed that the resolutions be put before the members for ratification at the next General Meeting.

CORRECTION RE 23RD SEPTEMBER 2006
MEETING PLACE.

Sorry to keep changing the venue but Meeting will be held at Education Centre, C.I. as usual.



"THE NOBBIES" UPDATE

FOCIS Representatives attended the briefing and were advised that "The Nobbies" work is proceeding at a fast pace. Completion is scheduled for March 2007. Attractions will include a family restaurant, childrens play area, conferencing facility, educational interactive marine theme activities, large screen television and Internet Cafe. Thirty additional carparks and a new Penguin mound with nesting boxes. Entry will be free of charge.



VALE EDITH JEFFERY AND REITA JEFFERY

Earlier this year Churchill Island lost two loved and respected identities.

During the Gerald Buckley era (circa 1929-1935) two brothers Ted and Bob Jeffery managed the farm on Churchill Island. They married respectively Reita Cleland and Edith Jenner. The Cleland and Jenner families were both long time residents of Phillip Island.

After they were married Ted and Reita lived in Amess House for a couple of years, followed by Edith and Bob who also lived there for a year or two.

Edith is well known as the lady who had to wade across the inlet while she was in labour with her first child Gerald (named after Gerald Buckley).

They both maintained an interest in Churchill Island throughout their very long lives and died within a few days of each other.



OBITUARY

As this Newsletter went to press we learned of the death of our friend and colleague Neil Gladman. Neil served FOCIS as a member, Newsletter Editor, Vice President and President and contributed in other ways for the betterment of Churchill Island. Neil's infectious grin, optimism and enthusiasm will long be remembered by those whose lives he touched.

Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to wife Joy, and children Shayne, Kylie and Michelle and their families.



PROFILE

MY CONNECTION TO SEA, LAND & HISTORY

My mother's family came from Newcastle Upon Tyne, U.K, which is known for its port on the River Tyne and its shipyards, which may account for my innate connection to the sea and those who sailed wooden ships across oceans to discover and settle new lands.

Several years ago I crewed on the "Endeavour" replica from Melbourne to Burnie, Tasmania. My son and I, built and sailed dinghies competitively in club events, and more recently built a 38 ft Catamaran in which we followed the sea steps of early explorers around the coastline of Tasmania, Flinders and

other islands of the Bass Strait.

It was predictable that I would choose to retire close by the sea. My home overlooks the verdant hump of Churchill Island and is a short walk following the mangrove edged bay coastline to the entrance bridge leading to Churchill Island. The discovery of the island by a sailor Lt James Grant and the island history as a working pioneer farm stirs deep in my soul. I have vivid memories of hand milking cows, churning and salting the butter and harvesting crops.

There is a tendency to view history as "past events". My personal view of history is that "we live history every day". Without history there is no today and most certainly there is no tomorrow.

Knowledge is the sum total of all previous experiences, discoveries and understandings. Each generation consolidates what is known and understood and from which base we push further the frontiers of our experience, knowledge and understanding. Understanding and appreciating our history is the key to progressing with confidence into our future.

Fred Allen



A.G.M. 2005/2006

Held on 22nd July 2006.

Twenty-four Members attended and 19 apologies were received.

Election of Office Bearers & Committee Members.

Office Bearers:

President: Ann Penaluna
V-President Fred (A) Allen
Treasurer: Roger Hollingworth
Memb. Sec: Marje Brophy
Gen. Sec.: Jill Allen

Committee Members:

Pat Baird (Newsletter)
Michael Barden (Archiving/ICT)
Chesterman Chalmers
Bruce Chambers
Anna Hepburn (Garden)
Keith Hocking
Ann Jelly (Newsletter)
Peter Jelly (Newsletter)
Doreen Johnson
Edith Johnson
John Johnson (Archiving)
Laurin Martin
Mary Mitchell (Heritage Area)
Marianne Pattison (Garden)
Maureen Symmonds (Garden)
Irene McKell (F.O.K.)
Gaye Cleeland (P.I.H.Soc.)
Christine Grayden (P.I. C.Soc.)

F.O.C.I.S Finances: \$34,239.60 CBA Cash Management Account.

F.O.C.I.S. Memberships for 2005/2006: 476

Membership Subscriptions for 2007/2008. No alterations

to Membership Categories or Membership Subscriptions.

Heritage Area Report: Fiona McCarthy (PINP) gave a general report of what was happening in the Heritage Area.

The Herb Garden is being restored, rampant agapanthus is being removed and seasonal pruning in the orchard has been carried out by National Trust Gardener Dougal Noyes.

Glass house and shade house are bursting at the seams with plants for Garden Festival in November. P.I. Patchworkers are working on a rug for "Rogers Cottage" and "Amess Barn" is being set up as a "typical farm workshop" dating from 1870's.

Meredith Manteit and Ben Clark have instigated an enormous clean up in the Works Yard, Works Shed and Machinery Store and Ben has displayed old machinery throughout the area.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Simon Longstaff, Site Manager of State Coal Mine, gave a most interesting and personal talk on the Life & Times of the Wonthaggi Coalmines. His grandfather was a miner. He showed a number of very historically relevant slides covering working in the mines and the closure in 1956. All present found his talk to be both informative and very entertaining.

The A.G.M. was followed by a General Meeting which set the Meeting Dates for the 2006/2007 year.

MEETING DATES FOR 2006/2007

1.00 p.m. Saturday at Education Room, C.I.

23rd Sept 2006

25th November 2006

27th January 2007

24th March 2007

26th May 2007

28th July 2007 A.G.M.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006/2007.

Members are reminded that **all subscriptions are now due.**

Individual fee \$15

Concession \$10

Family (2 Adults & 2 Children under 14 years) \$25

Reminders are not sent to Members.

If your mailing label carries an asterisk you could be unfinancial.

Application forms are printed on the back page of this Newsletter.



C.I. VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Our thanks to Sue (must have done miles on the sewing machine) and Roger (The Handyman) Hollingworth, and their side trips to the local Op Shops, for the work they have done to make the Volunteer Centre so much more attractive and comfortable. Those Members who attended a Forum held there recently all agreed that it is the ideal place for small meetings and get-togethers. The flower pots add a nice touch as well!



BEN CLARK'S REPORT

Here we are Spring already and the Island is starting to burst back into life. We have 16 new lambs and one new calf so far. The grass is shooting up, and if the late rain keeps coming it should be a great year considering the lack of rain through out winter.

The gardens are looking great with many thanks to Fiona and her troop of ever keen volunteers. We have now installed a water feature in the cottage garden which will be fed by way of a hand pump, this is also an excellent way to demonstrate the way they did it in the old days. The feature consists of an old plough steel seat and an assortment of shovels that I found lying around; it is in the garden and is just awaiting the pipe work to connect the pump. We have also been working on the Lavender patch to open it up to public access. This consisted of removing one section of fence and replacing it with a large wooden arch (made from old bridge timber) and the laying of a path down the centre of the rows. At the end I have placed an old ride-on plough which people can sit on for a photo, with the field and water in the back ground. There are also gates to go on should we need to close it off during the events. I am in the blacksmith shop over the school holiday period doing demonstrations and will be making a wrought iron sign to hang in the arch way.

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The site at Ibis Dam has been sprayed and our mulch has arrived in preparation for the planting day being organized by Mark Merryfull.

Over the September School holidays we are running a series of demonstrations and tours to showcase the Island, its Gardens, old time skills and its Heritage.

Thank you to all the Staff, Students, Volunteers and FOCIS Members who all work so hard to make Churchill Island "SHINE"

Now the sun is out and the birds are singing I look forward to seeing you all.

Ben Clark



CHURCHILL ISLAND BITUMEN ROAD TO BRIDGE

Mr. Mark Manteit, CEO, PINP has advised that the road from Phillip Isand side of Churchill Island bridge to the turn-off to the highway will be sealed in the very near future (depending on weather).

The President, on behalf of FOCIS, thanked Mark for advising us of this very important improvement to the C.I. precinct.

According to Mark, PINP has recently sought tenders for the asphaltting of the road. As it is a private road BCSC approval is not necessary. However, PINP has ensured that it will comply with all Vic Roads requirements and standards. In addition, it has been necessary to consider "soft spots" within the road and also potential flood zone areas. There will be 3 speed humps to slow traffic.

FOCIS congratulates PINP for this major undertaking, which will enhance the visitor experience to our Historic Working Farm and beautiful island surrounds.



Ben Clark's Water Feature



"CHURCHILL ISLAND CAFÉ"

On the 1st July 2006 Carlo Vassalli took over the management of the "Churchill Island Cafe". Carlo's experience includes thirty years of owning and operating several successful Italian/Mediterranean restaurants and cafes in prime tourist locations, beginning on Queensland's Gold Coast, through to Melbourne and now here on Churchill Island.

For several years Carlo acted as Restaurant Manager at "Seal Rocks", along with highly esteemed establishments in the town centre, where he has built a strong relationship with the local community.

Carlo plans to offer a permanent breakfast and lunch menu for visitors to Churchill Island, including Sunday Brunch, top quality European coffee, delicious cakes and a variety of drinks.



DISCOUNTS ON FOOD

Valid 2006/2007 Cards must be shown to obtain discount. **Green (Individual) & Mustard (Family)**

Discounts apply to Membership Card holders only. Discounts apply to meals only. Discounts do not apply to beverages, liquor or bottled/canned soft drinks. Discounts do not apply to Daily Specials on Menu.

There has been some confusion since the handover and I would ask FOCIS Members to note the above and abide by the rules.



WORKING ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS

The Office Bearers of FOCIS have met several times since the last General Meeting to facilitate "the business side" of our meetings. A number of recommendations, both general and financial will be put to the Committee at the September 2006 meeting for its decision.

These planning meetings should save all of us on the Committee precious time, yet continue our charter as the decision makers for our Organisation. By doing so we are able to reduce the "business time" so that we can concentrate on endeavours such as the archiving, gardening, tree-planting and history of C.I. and still leave time for social occasions!

Have you visited our Volunteer Centre yet? Di Spencer's wonderful painting should be hanging in Amess House by our meeting of the 23rd September. We are grateful to Di for capturing Amess House in its current historical period and presenting it to FOCIS.

Ann Penaluna. President.



Carlo Vassalli, Manager of Churchill Island Café

COMING EVENTS

IBIS DAM PLANTING DAY - SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2006

11.00 A.M. - 1.00 P.M. LUNCH PROVIDED ALL WELCOME.

(Bring gardening gloves, tools and wear sturdy footwear.)

"AMESS HOUSE" WORKING BEES

SAT. 28TH OCTOBER 2006 & SAT 24TH MARCH 2007 COMMENCING 10.00 A.M.

(Fiona McCarthy PINP) 0412 631 882

GARDEN FESTIVAL

SAT. 12TH NOVEMBER 2006

DON'T FORGET NEXT YEAR'S WORKING HORSE FESTIVAL - EASTER 2007

SAT & SUN 7TH & 8TH APRIL



THE 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
YEAR

Name

Address Postcode

Phone: Home Business

Email

Membership is from 1st July 2006 to 30th June 2007 **ADULT** \$15 **FAMILY** \$25 **CONCESSION** \$10

Family - 2 Adults & 2 Children under 14 years. Concession - Australian Pensions Card No.

Able to volunteer: Gardening Tree Planting Guiding Restoration Archiving Inf. Tech. **DONATION**

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 2 times a year for ongoing members and 1 times a year for new members,
10% discount for accompanying visitors, 10% discount on food and souvenirs.

N.B. Membership is NOT transferable. Identification may be requested at any time.

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The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. Newsletter
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