



FOCIS

newsletter

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

SUMMER 2005

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

The meeting schedule for January 28th (Australia Day Weekend)
HAS BEEN POSTPONED

NEW DATE IS SAT. FEBRUARY 4th
1:00pm - 3:30pm

The Workshop held on 3rd December was a success. People were enthusiastic, positive, and opinions were shared. Stella Axarlis, A.M., facilitated and excellent outcomes were achieved by attendees. Forty people attended and 18 apologies were received. The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. resolved a new Vision, Mission Statement, Goals, Activities and Measures of Success. Attendees and apologists receive a full copy of Workshop Report.

VISION: to preserve and enhance the unique historical significance of Churchill Island.

MISSION STATEMENT:

- To ensure all initiatives undertaken at Churchill Island are informed by our vision to preserve and enhance the unique historical significance of Churchill Island
- To support the sustainability of the historic working farm, houses and gardens
- To continue to share with the staff the historical knowledge that is available in our membership
- To assist in activities which are in harmony with our vision

GOALS

- To continue to protect our natural environment
- To continue to preserve and enhance the historic precincts of Churchill Island
- Deliver programs and services which reflect and raise understanding of environmental sustainability practices, natural resources management and research best practices
- Support and enhance the delivery of education and training
- Draw upon the knowledge and skills of the membership of F.O.C.I.S. in all activities on Churchill Island
- To increase awareness of the work of F.O.C.I.S. and its contribution
- To support the staff in the maintenance of the infrastructure, and create awareness of the knowledge that is available to them when changes have the potential to affect the historical significance of the infrastructure
- To continue to create opportunities for learning and



development of students and members of the community

- To support new activities to meet the needs of increasingly demanding visitors
- To advance our relationships with, and connections to, the wider community of Phillip Island residents, volunteers and supporters
- Undertake activities which reflect our community obligation to the general community
- Excite a younger generation to join F.O.C.I.S.
- Encourage activities, which support the sustainability of F.O.C.I.S.

RESTRUCTURE FOCIS EXECUTIVE

In order to assist with achieving the new Vision, Mission and Goals, the membership agreed that FOCIS needed to have a flatter structure. The membership agreed that the executive and committee be merged and henceforth called "the Committee". Roger Hollingworth to call a Special Meeting to approve changes to the constitution. Further, that individual members from the Committee be responsible for identified activities.

ACTIVITIES FOR SUCCESS

Activities that FOCIS currently undertake and that should continue:

- Working Horse Festival
- Newsletters
- Tree Plantings
- Historic Gardens

Other possible activities suggested included:

- Fully archiving and cataloguing the complete history of Churchill Island including heritage plants, animals, etc..
- Create a FOCIS website and link to the Nature Park's website
- Investigate funding opportunities to assist with achieving activities
- Volunteer guiding and the need to improve the rostering

system and uniform to ensure enough volunteers are on duty and are recognisable to the public

- FOCIS presenting to Nature Park staff about what FOCIS does
- Relationship building with other organizations (e.g. National Trust, etc.)
- Photography/art competition
- Writing competitions
- Disseminating information with new technology such as SMS messages
- Increase display of old tools etc..

KEY ACTIVITIES:

The following key activities were identified and given the following time-lines.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Archiving | Long term |
| Guiding | immediate |
| Gardening | immediate |
| Infrastructure | immediate |
| Relationships | now |
| Membership | vital to start now |
| Restructure of FOCIS | Special meeting to change constitution |

The meeting closed - thanks to Stella Axarlis who donated generously of her knowledge, skills, and time. Facilitation and Power Point Presentation were excellent. Thanks to Paula Forbes for her role as note-taker, preparatory work and typing and thanks to the Phillip Island Nature Park, its wonderful Café Ladies, facilities and afternoon tea.

The preparation and planning for this workshop included the participation of Stella Axarlis, Roger Hollingworth, Jill Fitzroy-Kelly and Fred Allen. Advice was provided by Christine Grayden, Mary Mitchell, Ted Bryant, Cherry McFee, and Pat Baird. Membership of the Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. thanks all who were involved and participated in this important public workshop. FOCIS is grateful for the community publicity by Anne Oswin who published pre and post workshop news in the "Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser".

A happy and prosperous New Year to all.

Ann Penaluna, President



GUIDE REPORT

It is great to see the shell grit topped up on the paths. It brings the whole garden together beautifully and it all looks splendid. Soon after it was put down, a visitor came and told an interesting tale about his family when he was a young man and lived on a farm at Grantville which ran all the way from the main road down to the beach. One of his jobs was to fill bags with shell grit from the beach and truck it away to poultry farms for the chooks (it assisted in the formation of their egg shells) and to produce stores who sold it to people who had chooks at home.

This took place in the 1940's during World War 2 when petrol was scarce, so the family had two charcoal kilns next to the main road. They sold charcoal to service the gas producers some vehicles were equipped with as petrol was rationed and very limited.

(It was during this time that Ted Jenkins was using his radio skills to do his bit for the war effort, such as picking up short wave secret messages from the enemy.)

An overseas visitor was delighted with the kitchen and scullery in Amess House as they were identical to her Grandmother's home on the Island of Jersey! The kitchen must have been larger than ours as it had easy chairs in it and the rest of the house was used in much the same way as our "family rooms".

Another girl, whose grandmother lived in the Seychelle Islands, told me in great detail how she frequently went back there to visit the home which was built in the same style as our local houses. She loves her grandmother dearly and it was quite clear her roots were in that special place, just as some of our roots are entwined here on Churchill Island.

May the special qualities here long remain!

MARY MITCHELL



PERSONNEL PROFILE

Josie Billman, Focis member and guide.

Josie was born and raised in Erica (Victoria), the eldest in the family of five children of Dorothy and Mervyn Morgan. The Morgans owned a farm and both parents were very active in their district, Dorothy as a teacher and Mervyn was President of the Narracan Shire on two occasions.



Educated at Erica, later attending Moe High School, Josie achieved Intermediate level then moved to Melbourne to work in a bank.

At this time Josie met Bernie Billman, a young man employed by her Uncle in his sawmill at Erica. They married in the newly renovated church in Erica and built a home in Berwick where they lived for some seven years, raising two daughters there.

Josie and Bernie were also cottage parents to four other children, three of whom were brothers. Another of the children about eighteen months old, came from the Berry Street Baby Home and had been in hospital environments since birth. He had to be taught all aspects of life other children take for granted. He remained with them for two years until adopted out.

They say that the Social Services qualification criteria to become cottage parents was harder to achieve than the actual parenting.

As well as raising her family, Josie worked at various jobs including a transport company and real estate, finally entering the school system in the administration area where she remained for twenty years until retirement.

Over some thirty years Josie and family holidayed in Cowes, owning an onsite caravan and then buying a holiday house there. On retiring, it seemed the natural thing to move permanently to Cowes where over the past six years she has been very active in local clubs and organizations. She does embroidery and patchwork, belongs to Probus, gardening and walking clubs, is a keen Churchill Island Volunteer Guide, a registered income tax assistant, besides being a loving grandmother to three grandchildren.

One very busy lady living life to the full.



AGRICULTURAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR CHURCHILL ISLAND

I have been responsible for the students, animals and paddocks for 4 months and there have been some ongoing changes. We now have more animals on permanent display:

- Ayreshire milking cow
- Suffolk dams and lambs
- Newly broken in and led highland bull calf that will be retained for use as a herd bull in 2008.
- We have also acquired via our "Work for the Dole person" Shane, a very tamed black pig who will shortly be getting a young girlfriend
- Unfortunately our bull Jefferson has had to be replaced due to a hind quarter injury. We are currently finalising negotiations to purchase a replacement.
- We now have 8 Agricultural students here on Wednesdays so please come and say hello.

Working to the Management Plan the following initiatives are underway.

- Trial Petting zoo/nursery for Christmas
- Many thanks to Ben Clarke for making the portable yards to house the nursery animals
- Glass house now ready for propagation

Lucerne has been planted in paddock 6 (out the front of visitors centre) which was done after a successful trial planting of a variety known as Seven. It has red legged earth mite resistance, drought tolerance and can be used for grazing or haying. The new seed was kindly donated by Graham Seeds Kooweerup.

Planting Lucerne can offer a variety of uses:

- High protein feed for grazing/haying
- Mulch for our market garden
- Converting atmospheric nitrogen to soil which our soil desperately needed after cereal cropping
- It is Perennial and should last 7 years (hence the name)
- Hay displays by our horse drawn equipment
- Educational tool for students
- Sale
- Always presents green, very good for first impression
- Good for weed suppression

We will be "loose haying" the trial plot between 14th and 21st of December (weather permitting) and storing in hay shed. The newly planted lucerne will hopefully be cut and raked during the Working Horse Festival.

Heather Goldberg, our Human Resource Manager is currently interviewing students for Certificate 2 in agriculture for 2006. There will be 8 plus the 8 who commenced in October 05. We have a new gardener Fiona McCarthy who will also be responsible for another 8 Certificate 2 horticulture students; we have a total of 24 students working on the island every week! Starting February 06.

All our sheep have lambed and this totals 35 lambs at foot. Most of the females will be retained for breeding.

Thanks to Keith Hocking for the delivery of some single harrows which Ben Clarke is currently restoring.

The plans for the Blacksmith shop have been approved and expected to begin construction around February 2006.

From all the staff at Churchill and PINP we wish FOCIS members a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes,

Meredith, Ben and Fiona.



WORKING HORSE FESTIVAL - 2006 EASTER 15TH & 16TH APRIL.

Invitations to participate in the Working Horse Festival for 2006 have been sent out and replies are already coming in. This year we will again be looking for volunteers - Area Managers, Catering & FOCIS Information Tent.

Area Managers - (Friday to Monday). Duties include site allocation and helping to set up, site holders, general liaison with PINP personnel and "trouble shooting" any problems which may arise.

Catering - (Friday to Sunday) On-site cooking and serving breakfasts, making sandwiches & boxing lunches, serving evening meals. Off-site preparing deserts for Sunday night FOCIS Information Tent- (Friday to Sunday) Communications centre. Check-in point for all volunteers. Very suitable for the "not so active".

Full information will be in Autumn Newsletter in March, together with a reply form. But if you could give some thought to how you may contribute to this great weekend now, it will mean a quick reply in March, and that will help in the timetabling.

Jill Fitzroy-Kelly.

123 YOUR BUNCH OF DATES

456

14th Jan Farmers Market

21st Jan Farmers Market

28th Jan 2006 Farmers Market

29th Jan 2006 Art Market

4th Feb 2006 FOCIS general meeting

25th Feb Farmers Market

26th Feb 2006 Art Market

25th March 2006 FOCIS general meeting

25th Mar 2006 Farmers Market

26th Mar 2006 Art Market

22nd Apr 2006 Farmers Market

29th Apr 2006 Art Market

27th May 2006 FOCIS general meeting

Please note:

No Art Markets after April until last Sunday in September. Farmers Markets are held on the fourth Sunday every month FOCIS AG.M. date to be decided.



FOCIS COMMITTEE 2005-2006

President: Ann Penaluna (03) 5956 9302

E-mail penaluna@waterfront.net.au

Vice President: Neil Gladman (03) 5956 6050

E-mail gladman@waterfront.net.au

Treasurer: and Public Officer: Roger Hollingworth

E-mail roger.m.hollingworth@bigpond.com

General and Membership Secretary: Jill Fitzroy-Kelly

(03) 5672 5235 E-mail jillfk@dcsi.net.au

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 2005 to 30th June 2006 **ADULT** \$15 **FAMILY** \$25 **CONCESSION** \$10

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

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 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.

Participate in Churchill Island Projects.

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

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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SUMMER 2005



FOCIS

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

ABN 78 667 051 020 Inc. No. A 00219007W