



# FOCIS

newsletter

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

WINTER 2006



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 22nd July 2006 1.00p.m. to 4.00p.m.

Venue: Churchill Island Visitor Centre Education Room

People are warmly invited to attend and socialize over afternoon tea.

Guest Speaker: **Mr. Simon Longstaff,**

Site Manager, State Coal Mine.

**"History of Wonthaggi Mine"**

(Power Point Presentation at 2.00p.m)



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP 2005/2006 and 2006/2007

The total membership for the 2005/2006 financial year is 476. This comprises 211 individual members and 256 Family memberships. We gained 47 new members last year. 2006/2007 Subscriptions are due on or before 1st July 2006.

**Vision:**

**To preserve and enhance the unique historical significance of Churchill Island.**

**Mission Statement:**

- To ensure all initiatives undertaken at Churchill Island are consistent with our vision;
- 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 within our membership;
- To assist in activities which are in harmony with our vision.

**AGM:**

On 22nd July 2006, your office-bearers invite all financial members of FOCIS to vote for its new Committee in its first flat structure. Our already approved new Strategic Plan will be implemented immediately. It should bring about exciting and, we trust, more enjoyable and inclusive participation.

FOCIS hopes that the people who volunteered in April for committee positions with an identifiable coordinating role will nominate for those positions again. Of course, there are Committee positions (4 or 5) for folk who do not wish to coordinate specific activities.

Very much needed is a new Membership Secretary (who can maintain the data bank on computer). Jill Fitzroy-Kelly has done a magnificent job as Membership Secretary, for which FOCIS is so grateful, but she is discontinuing as Membership Secretary. Marketing and raising the profile of FOCIS is another area, which needs a keen Member to coordinate.

Immediately following afternoon tea at the AGM there will be a short Committee meeting at which welcomes and meeting dates will be set. Reckon on about 15-20 minutes.

The AGM will include a discussion and motions by financial members of FOCIS about annual subscriptions. There has been

no change for about 15 years. The May 06 FOCIS meeting recommended that members who donate to, or carry out voluntary tasks for, FOCIS be exempt from an increase in subscription. A formal motion will be voted upon at this year's AGM.

**NOTICE OF MOTION FOR AGM on 22nd July 2006**

"That from the commencement of the financial year 2007/2008 the annual subscription for The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. be in two categories:

1. Inactive Members

- a) Fifty dollars Family Membership per annum
- b) Thirty dollars Adult Membership per annum
- c) Twenty dollars Concession Membership per annum. (youth/pensioner)

2. Active Members

Guiding, gardening, tree-planting, project management, festival participation, newsletter production, archiving, coordination duties and other Committee delegated duties.

- a) Thirty dollars Family Membership per annum.
- b) Twenty dollars Adult Member per annum
- c) Fifteen dollars Concession Membership per annum. (youth/pensioner)



## ISLAND FARM REPORT

The farm has never looked better! There is apparent expertise and care demonstrated everywhere. The plump Black-faced Suffolk sheep, inquisitive young Scottish Highland cattle, contented cows, well-maintained paddocks, filled dams and sound wooden post and rail-fencing evoke beauty and pride in our historic working farm. The house gardens are beautifully maintained and the vegetable garden provides a healthy and prodigious variety for 'the table'. Peace and pleasure exude as you meander through the historic precinct.

Thank you PINP staff for your wonderful contribution. And sincere thanks to the many FOCIS volunteers and guides who assist to preserve and enhance the unique historical significance of the island.



## SUCCESSFUL FOCIS PROJECTS IN 2005/2006

**1. STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPED AND APPROVED BY MEMBERS**

**2. HISTORIC COLLECTION**

FOCIS members are starting a keen and ongoing interest in Churchill Island's history. The "Churchill Island Historic Collection" is a top priority and ongoing project. A major objective is to preserve our historical records and equipment in such a fashion that it is a valued legacy for future generations. A number of members are hoping to participate in support seminars (29.07.06 and October 06) conducted by the Office of

Public Records in Melbourne. The Office is assisting organizations wishing to learn how to archive property. Cost is \$20.00 p.p. for each day.

### 3. 2006 WORKING HORSE & PIONEER FESTIVAL

The Working Horse Festival was successful once more! Thanks to all the staff from the Phillip Island Nature Park the Working Horse Association, the many demonstrators, stall-holders, volunteer guides and FOCIS folk, who so willingly gave of their valuable time to ensure a well-conducted 2006 festival. A big thanks also to the many adults and young people who visited over the two days. Some four thousand people came along.

### 4. THE RON HOCKING MEMORIAL BLACKSMITH SHOP

At Easter, a replica "smithy's shop" constructed next to the Cobb & Co. barn was opened. Do visit the smithy and watch it working live! Ben Clark, our PINP Churchill Island farm manager, is also a trained blacksmith. Ben does a wonderful job and is an excellent communicator. All the blacksmith's implements and smithy's equipment have been gathered. What fun to watch in the covered area next to the fire on a cool winter's day!

The shop has been dedicated to the late Mr. Ron. Hocking in appreciation of his excellent voluntary contributions as a FOCIS member, especially his "smithy" work, over many years, on Churchill Island. Ron died suddenly in 2005. His family attended the dedication ceremony during this year's Working Horse Festival.

FOCIS and PINP partnered this important project.

### 5. NEW VOLUNTEER CENTRE

The Volunteer Centre is completed and available for use by FOCIS Volunteers and Guides for the Historic Precinct. Mary Mitchell will prepare and display house rules of usage and security in the centre.

### 6. GARDENING

See them for yourselves! The native garden round the Visitor Centre, Trees planted twelve months ago at Ibis Dam, the house garden and vegetable garden. Under the knowledgeable and thoughtful direction of Meredith Manteit, Fiona McCarthy, Mark Merryful and Ben Clark, preservation and enhancement of gardens are excellent.

### 7. IBIS DAM TREE PLANTING PROJECT 2005

Lots of FOCIS members and keen locals joined together for a great tree-planting time followed by lunch provided by the PINP. The native trees are growing well and another tree planting time at Ibis Dam is ready to go in October of this year.

### 8. NOVEMBER 2005 GARDEN FESTIVAL

FOCIS assisted in the organization and administration of the very well patronized and marvellous array of plants for sale at the 05 festival. There's another festival coming in November this year.

**A call to Members!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

#### **IBIS DAM TREE PLANTING DAY**

**Sunday 1st October 2006**

**11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.**

**Picnic lunch provided.**

All members are invited to come and help with the planting. Bring gardening gloves and wear sturdy footwear. Tools will be provided. We will be having a picnic after the planting and this

will be a great opportunity for FOCIS Members and locals to spend some social time together.

### Some Real History of Churchill Island

We'd like to present an essay about Harry Jenkins, former Churchill Island owner. Pat Baird obtained the essay from Margaret Stott, daughter of Nan Stott, who wrote it for a school English Assignment sometime after 1966. Miss Docherty was Margaret's English teacher who rather harshly marked it 16/20 but nevertheless also gave it - "excellent".

"The Most Unforgettable Person I have Ever Met.

I knew him first from my visits to Churchill Island... He lived for most of his life in Brighton, but had retired to Churchill Island. His name was Harry Jenkins.

He had been a dentist in Collins Street, taking over his practice from his father. He was born in 1883 and died in 1963. When he was 15 he enlisted in the army putting his age down as 18. He went to the Boer War. When he returned he went to the Melbourne University to study dentistry. He became interested in Racing Motor Cycles, and was well known for this throughout Australia. He later raced a Bugatti Motor car. He fought in the 1914 war in the flying corps and it was after this that he decided to see more of the world and he and his friend bought a plane and flew home to Australia in 1928. They made a record flight without the aid of modern navigational equipment and no wireless. This plane may be seen today in Launceston Airport.

When I think of him, I recall a tall thin man, with very white hair and brown skin. He was fond of children, but he believed in strict discipline. My father had been one of his patients and was a friend of his son's. He was always ready to explain anything to you, but he usually went into a great deal of detail and I would sometimes forget what I had asked him.

When he was in his seventies he went crocodile shooting in Queensland and took many Resotours. During one of these trips, he went to Ayers Rock and he was determined to climb it with some of the younger generation. This he did much to the amazement of the whole party. (He was then 78.)

He was an expert with fire-arms and people came to him when they could not fix their guns. He would take a target outside and shoot at it and then would say where the gun was wrong. He was so accurate and sure of himself and he was usually right.

I chose Uncle Jenkins, as he was known to me, because I don't think I will ever meet again someone who typifies, for me, the true Australian pioneer spirit (as he does). He achieved so much in his life and did so much during his lifetime. He never lived for the past, but always looked forward to the future. He believed in young people.

Margaret Stott. English. Miss Docherty."

PAT. BAIRD

Thank you so much Pat.

Ed.

### ★ A PRESENT DAY WEDDING AT ROGER'S COTTAGE!

On 3rd June 2006 Jill Fitzroy-Kelly and Fred. Allen married in Roger's Cottage. Family attended including children from overseas. Later, a happy bride and groom and their families enjoyed a splendid reception in the Churchill Island Visitor Centre. Jill and Fred first met at a FOCIS meeting early last year.

FOCIS members congratulate and offer their best wishes to the couple who will make their home on Phillip Island.



Jill and Fred would like to thank all the PINP Management and Staff Members who worked "above and beyond the line of duty" to make their day such a special one.

Also, a thank you to the many Friends who sent cards and messages.



## AGRICULTURAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Many thanks to all the help from FOCIS members. Before, during and after the Working Horse Festival. Although we had some weather difficulties the festival was a great success.

A big congratulations to Fred and Jill for their recent hitching! Now we are losing our leaves and heading into winter, the following initiatives have been implemented.

- Livestock reduced to accommodate for reduced pasture growth
- Female livestock weaned and retained to grow on for herd improvement
- Hay bales fed out as needed with urea/mineral blocks supplied
- Pastures continually weeded
- Paddock 4 planted with mix of Italian rye and strawberry clover

It's germination is good. Unfortunately since we had to hand seed, due to seeder needing repair the coverage is less than perfect.

- Paddock 3 was planted late with white clover and oats. Germination has been poor due to probable late planting and inefficient seed drilling.
- Lucerne is winter dormant so we should see some good growth around spring.
- VET In-School students and 'work for the dole' folk have been putting in great effort. We have started a huge clean

up of works yard, tack room, garden shed.

- All harness equipment has been cleaned and stored appropriately in tack shed.
- Single horse carriage was kindly detailed before use by Peter Goldberg. Many thanks Peter.
- An inventory process is to be started of equipment and materials.
- Petting pen has been scaled down over winter. However we do have a new addition with a nanny goat kid who will be retained
- Meredith and Fiona have completed Farm Chemical Course

MEREDITH MANTEIT, PINP - Churchill Island



## WORKING HORSE FESTIVAL REPORT 2006

Once again many volunteers answered my call to help with the W.H.F. I would like to thank:

Fred Allen  
Sue & Roger Hollingworth  
Fred Allen (Fredrick)  
Robyn Elliott  
Diane & John Baird  
Margaret Hunter  
Pat Baird  
Adrienne Hutchinson  
Maureen Barden  
Ann & Peter Jelly  
Robyn & John Boldiston  
Edith & John Johnson  
Wendy Chadwick  
Coral-Lee & Russell Keep  
Jocelyn Bradley  
Mavis & Daniel Lelong  
Chesterman Chalmers  
Laurin Martin  
Sue & Bruce Chambers  
Cherry McFee  
Joy & Neil Gladman  
Irene McKell  
Narelle Crothers  
Mary Mitchell  
Eric Graae  
Ann Penaluna  
Christine Grayden  
Yvonne Robson  
Keith & Jan Hocking  
Fiona Smith  
Chabelle Hamilton  
Barbara, Jim & Ian Stephens  
Margaret & David Harrison  
Maureen & Terry Symmonds  
Celia Hendriks  
Christine Tompkins  
Anna Hepburn  
Donna Turner  
Jean & Karen Hocking

If I have overlooked anyone, please accept my apologies.

I would like to make special mention of Christine Grayden (FOCIS Tent Organiser) and Roger Hollingworth (Parking/Traffic Lights etc.Organiser), to be able to hand over those two areas, made my load much lighter! My sincere thanks.

The responses I have received from many of the Working Horse Demonstrators have been warm and enthusiastic and they were very pleased with the organizing of the Event. We had lots of lovely comments on the food we served (especially under such difficult weather conditions) and I was asked to make sure that I passed on their thanks to the volunteers concerned.

Using the Workshop Kitchen worked well, and it was a good distribution center.

Others may speak of the dedication of the Blacksmith's shop but I would like to say that all members of Ron Hocking's Family whom I spoke to over the weekend, told me they were delighted both with the plaque and the building. They felt it was a very fitting memorial to a very special man.

This year I had the opportunity to walk & talk over the whole area of the Festival. The comments of both participants and visitors were very positive. The families, especially, were

delighted by the many free attractions for their children a rare thing these days. And the number of children who were just thrilled to pat a horse, seemed to make all the time and effort worthwhile.

Again my thanks. JILL FITZROY-KELLY ALLEN!!



## HORTICULTURAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Flowery words from the Churchill Island Horticultural Officer

The winter chill has crept up on us but the delightful smell of jonquils already fills the air in the heritage gardens at Churchill Island.

Each day smoke curls its way from the Rogers Cottage open fire into the still, frosty mornings and jewel-like dew drops sway on the Nasturtium leaf cups.

I feel well settled into my job as gardener at the Island now and delight in each tiny change as the garden progresses from summer to autumn and now winter

.Our many garden volunteers have been working hard through autumn to prune the seasonal growth and keep in check the spread of self seeded herbaceous species and unwanted weeds eagerly growing after the post summer rains. They have raked many piles of fig and elm leaves, spreading them over the garden beds and compost piles.

Our Plant Sales have been very successful, funding the purchase of two roses at the end of our new vines as well as many annuals, some shrubs and wonderful heirloom vegetables.

After a face lift the glass house and shade area are bursting at the seams with cuttings and seedlings to plant in the kitchen garden or to pot-on for sale at the next Garden Festival in November.

Any FOCIS members who have not been to the Island for a recent visit will notice the growth of the indigenous native plantings outside the visitor's center almost a forest now.

I invite you all to visit or volunteer in winter and experience the frosty, drippy wonder that makes Churchill Island special. Search out the bulbs peeping through in every bed and inhale the wonderful aroma of damp, mulched soil.

FIONA MCCARTHY PINP - Churchill Island



## GOOD WISHES

FOCIS wishes Neil Gladman, Editor, and his wife, Joy, all our very sincere wishes at this time of your health difficulties. And may you both fully enjoy your travels.

May there be a speedy recovery. With our love.



## APOLOGY

Ann Penaluna offers her sincere apologies for the spelling and name errors she made in her newsletter copy re the spelling of Carroll and Amy Schulz.



## THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA AND WESTERN PORT BIOSPHERE an approved United Nations project

The Mornington Peninsula and Western Port catchment has been identified as an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve which encourages and promotes sustainable use of the region's natural resources. They contribute to global conservation because they involve conservationists, scientists, government authorities, development groups and LOCAL COMMUNITIES in tackling the challenging issue of sustainability.

Ecologically sustainable development needs to consider wider:

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental

impacts of our decisions and actions.

Participation is voluntary and the existing legal rights and responsibilities of property owners remain unchanged.

Mr. Rob Gell, environmental scientist, heads the conduct of our Biosphere. The region's great natural values include internationally significant wetlands, sandy beaches, lowland forests, grassy woodlands and a wealth of marine life.



## FOCIS COMMITTEE 2005-2006

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# TREE PLANTING PHOTOS



**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.**

\$



The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. Newsletter  
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**WINTER 2006**



**FOCIS**

**The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.**

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