



FOCIS

newsletter

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

WINTER 2007



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In this issue of the FOCIS Newsletter I wish to draw attention to the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday July 28, 2007 commencing at 1 pm

FOCIS Executive, Ordinary Members of the Committee and representatives of the Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc, Phillip Island & District Historical Society Inc, Friends of Koalas Society Inc, will all retire and be eligible for re-election.

An invitation is extended to all financial members of FOCIS to consider nominating for committee positions:-

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Membership Secretary

Newsletter Editor

Ordinary committee members forming working groups to research and advise on the following initiatives:-

1. Museum & Archiving
2. Commemorative Garden, Life Members & Roll of Honour.
3. Donations & Donor records, plaques & signage.
4. Membership drive

★ ANN PENALUNA

In accordance with the FOCIS Constitution, we give notice of intention to propose Ann Penaluna be appointed "Life Member of FOCIS" in recognition of her years of service, leadership, personal contribution and the many committee positions held and carried out with distinction.



WORKING TO ACHIEVE

The working relationship between PINP Management and the FOCIS Executive has matured cooperatively and beneficially for the betterment of Churchill Island.

PINP Management and the FOCIS Executive have agreed in principle to producing a "Memorandum of Understanding" recognising PINP Management Stewardship and FOCIS Custodianship of Historical Churchill Island.

The Memorandum of Understanding will enshrine responsibilities and guidelines for review, cooperation and communication on matters directly affecting Churchill Island.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The Executive Committee is working to clarify the issue of special and commercial events held on Churchill Island. The following motions will be put at the AGM:-

1) That Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc operates independently under the aegis of PINP Board of Management with responsibilities for informing, reviewing and advising on PINP Management policies affecting Churchill Island.

2) That Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc, endorses PINP Management policies for holding special and commercial events, which encourage "families" to visit Churchill Island.



FUTURE PLANNING

PINP Management has agreed in principal to building the Churchill Island Heritage Centre incorporating a Museum to house Churchill Island's Historical Collection and Archival workshop.

The project will follow PINP established procedures for seeking ideas, community input, concept development, design and planning. All being well, Churchill Island's Heritage Centre will be open for public viewing within three years.

The achievement of Churchill Island Heritage Centre heralds a new beginning for FOCIS and new and exciting opportunities for volunteers.



POINT OF VIEW

While FOCIS membership has remained strong and committed to the preservation of historical Churchill Island, the need for FOCIS Volunteers has changed due to PINP Staff taking much of the responsibility for maintaining the island's infrastructure and developing Churchill Island as a highly valued historical tourist destination.

Those of us who helped at the planting around the Ibis Dam, the Garden Festival and the WHF will know that the work of FOCIS Volunteers is highly valued and appreciated by PINP Management and Staff.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The principal new objectives for the incoming 2007/8 Executive Committee will be to:-

- 1) Research and identify strategic planning considerations for influencing the design of the Museum and Archival workshop facilities.
- 2) Research and develop procedures for collecting, recording, restoring, preserving and displaying historical artefacts, documents, photographs and training for volunteers.
- 3) Build on the social experience of the FOCIS SOCIAL DAY, which brought together former active members and friends of FOCIS.
- 4) Embark on a membership drive.



CHURCHILL ISLAND HISTORY

PINP Management has concluded an agreement with the University of Melbourne to appoint a PhD History candidate to research and record the verbal and written history of Churchill

Island.

The successful applicant is Rebecca Sanders. Rebecca is to write her PhD on Churchill Island, in partnership with PINP, Rebecca will complete a thesis on the history and heritage of the island. She looks forward to meeting the many people who have visited, worked or volunteered at Churchill Island.

Earlier this year Rebecca worked as a research assistant for Parks Victoria's heritage team. She has also worked as a research assistant for the Cultural Unit at the University of Melbourne. Last year she completed her Honours degree for her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne. Her majors were in History and English Literature.

We welcome and extend an open invitation to Rebecca to speak about the assignment at a FOCIS General meeting.

In the meantime, it would help if members would advise Secretary Jill of names and contact details of persons with connections, or have historical information, which may be of interest to Rebecca.



VOLUNTEER & DONOR RECOGNITION

Churchill Island represents a history of discovery, exploration and settlement of generations of pioneer families.

The fact that we can visit and enjoy the island today is due to the many volunteers and donors who contributed to the restoration and preservation of the Churchill Island's unique history.

We are committed to acknowledging the work of FOCIS Life Members and the contributions of Volunteers on a "Roll of Honour".

We are committed to acknowledging donors of historical artefacts with plaques carrying the artefacts description, donors name and historical date if known.

We thank and congratulate the SOCIAL DAY organising Committee; Christine Graydon, Irene McKell and Ann Jelly for a wonderful day of friendship and entertainment.



COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN

We are committed to commemorating deceased FOCIS members who contributed to the preservation and betterment of Churchill Island. We have in mind, a simple garden with seating where friends and families can gather for quiet moments of reflection.



FOCIS SOCIAL DAY

On May 12th we had a social day for FOCIS members, once again it was a beautiful day, and (hopefully it will pour with rain soon). All were welcome; we had 35 members who came along for the day. We were treated to a wonderful garden tour by Fiona McCarthy, her knowledge of the heritage plants is amazing, and her talk was informative and entertaining. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and pleasant young lady to be in charge of the garden area on Churchill Island.

During lunch we were entertained by readings from Pat Baird's new book, Churchill Island-History and Her Story.

Pat Baird, Denise Gray, John Eddy and Christine Grayden all read passages and brought Pat's words to life.

Then we had music, first Mike Cleeland recited a poem, then playing the guitar, sang some Australian folk songs, most enjoyable.

After Mike came "The Real Women", a Capella quartette. Billie Wilde, Anita Jones, Deborah Paul and Tarnya Wilson. What fun they were, and such lovely voices. One of the members of this group, Billie Wilde then gave us a wonderful solo.

A lot of members participated in the Treasures Hunt, and I think they all had fun. There were small prizes for the correct and neatest entries. All in all it was a great day and all who came along enjoyed it.

Fiona McCarthy (right) and Marianne Patinson



Denise Gray



John Eddy



Christine Grayden



Pat Baird



Mike Cleeland

From Left: Billie Wilde, Anita Jones, Deborah Paul & Tarnya Wilson



WORKING HORSE FESTIVAL

The Working Horse Festival this year was a great success, the weather was perfect and Churchill Island was at its best. Listening to comments as I wandered around during a break from afternoon tea duties, it was apparent that the visitors and exhibitors were all very happy. One of the most popular exhibitions was a new group, who had on display their vintage caravans and cars. People were reminded how much fun could be had with just a basic tiny van that was able to accommodate the family for a summer holiday. It was interesting to see how well equipped the caravans were. Of course the horses were, as always very popular, especially with the children.

The star attraction on the main stage was James Rayne who commanded a large audience.



JILL ALLEN'S WHF SUMMARY

The months of planning and hard work before and the perfect weather on the weekend helped to make the WHF 2007 a great success.

Around 6,000 people attended over the weekend, and if we add around 200 workers and participants, C.I. was very busy indeed!

One of the best things about being involved in the organization of such an event is that I have the opportunity to meet and get to know many of the people who put a great amount of time and effort to make it all work. This includes PINP Staff, Demonstrators and Exhibitors, and the Working Horse Guys & Girls. There are some great characters amongst them, and the work my FOCIS Volunteers do is really appreciated (especially the desserts on Sunday night!).

I would like to thank Christine Grayden for organizing the FOCIS Information Tent and Roger Hollingworth for handling the Traffic Team.

My thanks also to:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Fred (A) Allen | Jan Hocking |
| Fred (F) Allen | Jean Hocking |
| Fonnie Baird | Keith Hocking |
| Pat Baird | Roger Hollingworth |
| Maureen Barden | Sue Hollingworth |

Mick Barden
 Dianne Barlow
 Ian Barlow
 Brenda Berry
 David Berry
 Josie Billman
 John Boldiston
 Robyn Boldiston
 Nancy Brain
 Judy Brewer
 Marje Brophy
 Ted Brown
 Bruce Chambers
 Sue Chambers
 Pam Copeland
 Helen Edwards
 Harald Gasman
 Hogan Geppert
 Eric Graae
 Christine Grayden
 Celia Hendriks
 Anna Hepburn

Adrienne Hutchinson
 Ann Jelly
 Peter Jelly
 Ian Jonas
 Jan Jonas
 Coral-Lee Keep
 Russell Keep
 Daniel Lelong
 Tonia Luther
 Laurin Martin
 Mary Mitchell
 Marianne Patinson
 Fiona Smith
 Barbara Stephens
 Jim Stephens
 Bev Swift
 Maureen Symmonds
 Terry Symmonds
 Christine Tompkins
 Andy Williams
 Lorraine Williams

If I have overlooked anyone please forgive me, but it also means I have not got your paperwork!

Because of the changes at the café, this year catering looked as though it was going to be a bit more complicated, but thanks to the help and assistance of Heather Goldberg PINP (a great girl in a crisis!) and husband Peter all went very smoothly.



Peter Coleman & Magnificent Foden



Col Sellings' Ever Popular Sheep Dog & "Girls"



Hardworking Volunteers Serving Desserts



1907 Foden as Stationary Engine & Pump



Festival Stars - The Horses

★ HORTICULTURAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Green, green, green! What a wonderful sight to see on Churchill Island. We have had thirty millimeters of rain over the month of May and it has turned Churchill Island an instant hue of emerald green. The grass on Fiddlers Green grew two centimeters from the dust overnight and of course the weeds that vanished over the dry summer are now growing with a vengeance.

The water is slowly rising in the dam and all our plants are now retrieved from the Penguin Parade nursery. Our heritage plant sale table has been restocked and sales are doing well, funding further plant purchases to replenish the cottage area. Many of the plants such as our hydrangeas, which were lifted to save them over summer, are being replanted in the heritage area.

It is a delight to say hello to my 'good morning Wallaby' as I drive in along the sealed road. He can't hear me coming now that the road is quiet and is happy to sit and watch as I drive slowly past in the early mist of the autumn mornings.

Meredith has had our stock tested by the vet and all the females are pregnant so it will be a busy spring with lambs and calves.

Scott has planted crops of oats, rye and clover in the front paddocks giving Sophie a work-out with the horse-drawn farm equipment.

Work is starting in earnest now to finalise our garden plan and have a plant identification list available in Roger's Cottage for the public to browse through. Don't forget to have a look at the information folder in Roger's Cottage; there are lots of interesting articles on show now.

Well, here's looking forward to a wet winter and maybe an end to those strict water restrictions.

Fiona McCarthy, Horticultural Officer.



WHF EVENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2007 Working Horse Festival

A big thank you to everyone involved in this year's Working Horse Festival. We are pleased to announce that it was the biggest so far! Over 6000 people attended the festival over the two days and our visitor research shows an 82% of visitors rated

that they were highly satisfied with the event, 98% said they would highly recommend it to a friend and 95% said they would come back again next year.

The festival is a huge effort by many dedicated volunteers, especially from FOCIS. In particular, the work of Jill Allen needs to be highlighted. Jill works on the event throughout the year putting in countless hours of organisation, not to mention her supreme efforts on the event days. There are many others who also make the event the success it is - too many to name, so thank you!

The event will be held on Easter weekend again next year, so please note it in your diary to lend a hand and enjoy this unique experience!

Sally O'Neill, Event Director



PRESIDENT'S PROSE

Churchill Island bounded by shores of sand and scattered scoria, lapped by timeless tides of seas. Then, now and ever distant hills beckon reminding we are not alone. We are connected to this timeless land.

This rock strewn island overlaid with soil tilled by sailors, planting seeds from far away with hope of harvests yet to come and settlers soon to follow.

A handful of soil prompts thoughts surreal. Come walk with me where aboriginals came to fish and hunt. Where Bass, Flinders, Grant, Murray, Barrallier walked and breathed the cool and fragrant breeze, and gazed in wonder beneath the Moonah trees at cat's paws rippling waters, receding, revealing sandy spits and mudflats on which the seabirds feed.

It is not so much the island that so enchants. It is the beauty wrought by nature and the boundless pulse of life of tides and endless possibilities for renewal.

Come, join with me and share the thoughts that come to mind. Feel the energizing flow of pure contentment of those who tread my paths.

But, spare a thought for those who braved the ocean's wildest seas, climbing ratlines, breasting futtock then out along the yards to bend or reef a gale blown sail.

At watches end a bowl of gruel or hunk of salted

pork or beef and hard tack weevily biscuits ate, with luck, a cup of water or ale to wash it down. Such is the life of hardy sailors and the settlers who followed in their wake.

Yes, we are the custodians of Churchill Island in name alone, until we know and feel the history of those long gone. We must never forget from whence we came nor the covenant we keep



SPELLING ERROR CORRECTION

In the last Newsletter the surname of the well known Churchill Island personality Carroll Schulz, was incorrectly printed as "Schultz". The editors apologize to the Schulz family for this error.

F.O.C.I.S. Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SAT. 28TH JULY 2007
1.30 P.M.

Education Room, C.I. Information Centre

All positions will be declared vacant.

Nomination Forms will be available at May 26th 2007 Meeting or may be obtained from The Secretary prior to the A.G.M.

e-mail nellaa32@waterfront.net.au or send a stamped self-addressed envelope to F.O.C.I.S. Inc., P. O. Box 852, Cowes 3922 marked Nomination Form.



The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. Newsletter
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