...newsletter...

VISION STATEMENT:

To preserve that which is precious

All correspondence to:
The Secretary,
Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.,
RMB 1, Churchill Island,
Victoria, 3922.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
At Churchill Island - 29th August 1998

OFFICE - BEARERS 1998/99

President:	Ann Penaluna
Vice-President:	Keith Hocking
Treasurer:	Terry Holman
Secretary:	Jocelyn Bradley

Ordinary Members
Maureen Symmonds
David Graves
Brenda Luke
Roger Hollingworth
Owen Weeks
Pauline Taylor
Jan Fleming

Coopted Members
Cherry Macfee - P.I. & D. Hist. Soc.
Patsy Hunt - Friends Koalas Soc.
To be announced P.I. Conserv. Soc.

Rangers:
Scott Campbell
David Graham

Meeting Dates - 1998/99
Nov. 21 1.30pm - VENUE - Churchill Island - ***Discuss response to Phillip Island Nature Park Draft Management Plan - FOCIS response is very IMPORTANT***
Feb. 6th 1.30pm - VENUE - Coach Room - Penguin Parade
Apr. 17th 1.30pm. - VENUE - Coach Room Penguin Parade
June 19th 1.30p.m -VENUE - Co.R. P.P.
Aug. 21 1.30p.m *Annual General Meeting - AT CHURCHILL ISLAND*

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PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARK WILL HOLD

"BROADWAY AT SUNSET"

ON CHURCHILL ISLAND ON 9Th JANUARY

A fabulous evening for everyone - come along!

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ARE YOU KEEN
TO
HELP FOCIS
PLEASE?

FOCIS WOULD LOVE
TO HAVE YOU HELP
WITH
EVENTS AND
FESTIVALS

THE MORE
HELPERS
THE MERRIER

COMING EVENTS 1999

AUSTRALIA DAY weekend FESTIVAL -with Bass Coast Shire Council and the Phillip Island Nature Park - let's make it our best yet!

JAZZ FESTIVAL - Feb. 6th 2.00 - 8.00p.m. - a new Melbourne Jazz Band - a Phillip Island Nature Park production with FOCIS participating

AUTUMN FESTIVAL - March 8, 9, 10th. FOCIS participation on Sunday & Monday. (Please let our Secretary know if you can help)

FOCIS members are invited to attend - bring your family and friends and make a day or weekend of it. Think about popping C.I. on your '99 calendar.

FOCIS always appreciates help from its members in the conduct of events. e.g. Devonshire Teas' servers, Sausage Sizzle cooks, car park assistants, Bush Tucker cooks, Bush Games Supervisors and Judges

In November 1998, FOCIS will receive a copy of the Phillip Island Nature Park Draft Management Plan. The Nature Park Board invites organisations and individuals to respond within a month so that the Management Plan for the Park (which, importantly, includes Churchill Island) can be finalised.

The plan will determine the future directions for the Park, including Churchill Island, for the next five years. FOCIS will make its response on behalf of its members. **We would value your attendance at our Nov.21st meeting to put your point of view. Our Vision Statement is fundamental to our response.** We acknowledge that Park developments consistent with conservation philosophies and ecotourism are necessary. We are aware that C.I. must "pay its way", and that it is in need of major and costly work.

HISTORIC FARM GARDENS AND ORCHARD - NATURAL BUSH WITH ANCIENT MOONAH TREES

The beautiful and tranquil gardens and orchard, farmlands, and natural bush with its ancient moonah trees make Churchill Island that special place which is so precious. It was the first place of European landing in Victoria - an important historic place.

For many years Churchill Island was a privately owned working farm. In more recent times, it was purchased by the Government of Victoria for its people, by the then Premier, Sir Rupert Hamer.

Responsibility for the care of the island for future Victorians and others is vested in the Phillip Island Nature Park, by the State Government led by Premier Jeff. Kennett.

The FOCIS group assists in the care of the island by the magnificent contribution from its members. The FOCIS Committee and the Nature Park are indebted to you for your excellent work. Recently, in addition to upkeep of the farm-house gardens you have erected post and rail fences for the Clydesdale 'girls' so that they are secure and safe. This help has come mainly from our enthusiastic central Victorian members ably lead and encouraged by FOCIS Vice-President, Keith Hocking.

So much good work has been undertaken by Keith and his team of volunteers. We take this opportunity to thank them so sincerely.

The most recent land works, the revegetation of the northern point were carried out by a few (we'd have loved more!) FOCIS folk under the able direction of Scott Campbell and David Graham, Nature Park Rangers, whose roles include the care and management of Churchill Island. Scott and David have achieved so much for the island and would value contact with as many volunteers from FOCIS as is possible. (their tel no. is 59567214).

Scott Campbell ensures that the farm lands continue to grow the same strains of grain, which were planted in earlier days. FOCIS considers we are fortunate to have a ranger with the experience and interest to retain the island's historic working farm. Scott's demonstrations of ploughing with the Clydesdale's merit special visits to observe.

The high standard of the gardens is a credit to David Graham. His keeness and hard work to bring the gardens to their best are reflected in its continuing improvement. David holds a "VOLUNTEERS WELCOME TO THE GARDENS" DAY ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH. PLEASE SPARE A FEW HOURS FOR A WORTHY GARDENING CAUSE. *Come and help and enjoy some bonhomie outdoors with David and the farm's free-ranging rooster and his feathered lady friends*

Last Saturday
each month
Volunteers Welcome
on Churchill Island
(03) 5956 7214

Helen Baptist, of Cowes, has given splendid advice concerning the type of plantings consistent with those of the old farm gardens. From the extensive range at her nursery, David Graham, with the financial support of FOCIS, has been able to undertake some restoration of the earlier gardens.

Helen's input to the Churchill Island farm gardens is valued and appreciated.

WHERE DO FOCIS FUNDS GO?

In the 1998/99 year, FOCIS has committed funds to the following:

- Stables $12,000
- Public barbecues $ 4,000
- Garden restoration $ 6,000
- FOCIS barbecue $ 400
- Spring Festival $ 2,000
- Horse harness $ 4,000

TOTAL $28,400

Current Cash at Hand $41,552

The FOCIS Committee, which acts on your behalf, would appreciate your ideas on how we best assist Churchill Island to be a place of continuing beauty and tranquillity, while retaining its historic working farm environment.

The Phillip Island Nature Park does consult with FOCIS concerning its management of C.I. We value the communication opportunities established between the Park and FOCIS.

ROGERS COTTAGE, AMESS HOUSE & OTHER BUILDINGS

The Phillip Island Nature Park is working towards the restoration of the important buildings, which comprise the Churchill Island historic working farm: Mr. Granville H. Wilson, architectural historian was engaged as an honorary consultant, and prepared a brief to this effect.

FOCIS has submitted a request for financial assistance, by way of the Community Grants Scheme offered by the Bass Coast Shire Council, to assist in this urgent restoration project.

FOCIS Committee members have noted that the Park has commenced on some of this needed work. The Park's General Manager, Mr. Ray Leivers has stated that a new kitchen is a high priority. FOCIS would endorse strongly this priority.

FOCIS will be enthusiastic about the needed Master Plan for all works for Churchill Island.

Don't Forget this year's

Spring Festival

Sunday and Monday
1st and 2nd
November 1998

Fun for All

The Master Plan will include a new front entrance to the farm buildings, with appropriate, unobtrusive car-parking arrangements.

Some form of under-cover "event" facility, in keeping with the architectural style of the historic buildings, will be considered. As members are aware, a new bridge is necessary also. The replacement bridge will conform to the visual appearance of the existing one, but it will be wider, so that emergency vehicles and coaches are able to traverse it. The number of coaches on the island, at any one time, will be restricted by booking requirements of the Phillip Island Nature Park.

THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY INC.

The Phillip Island Nature Park assumption of the management of Churchill Island has clear implications for the future role and responsibilities of the Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc. For example, FOCIS no longer conducts the shop in Amess House, festivals and events are conducted in partnership with the Nature Park, and the Park conducts its own programs for Churchill Island.

This is a major consideration for your Committee this year. Further advice will be forthcoming in later newsletters. Your participation is welcomed and we would be very pleased to have you attend the Committee meetings on the dates and times included in this newsletter. Or, you may care to correspond with our FOCIS secretary concerning this matter.

SPRING FESTIVAL NOV 1,2 - 1998

Bush tucker, bush triatholon, animal farm, devonshire teas, face-paints and LOTS MORE. **Love to see you!**

Island Birds

White Faced Heron

600mm-700mm (large) Striking pale grey body with white face and yellow legs. Dark brown bill. Habitat - shallow salt and fresh water wetlands

Purple Swamphen

440mm-480mm (medium) Bill, eyes and forehead-shield red. Purple breast, black/purple head and underparts, legs red. Frequents swamps and marshy areas.

Willie Wagtail

190mm-220mm (small) Well known and much loved chattering bird with black back, upper chest and legs. White eyebrow and underparts. Long black fan tail which is wagged to disturb insects etc. Found in most areas.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To: Secretary FOCIS, RMB 1 COWES 3922
Please Enrol/Renew a FOCIS Membership for
Name.....
Address.....
..... Postcode.....

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

ADULT $15.00

FAMILY $25.00

CONCESSION $10.00

I understand that a current FOCIS membership entitles me to:

- visit Churchill Island during opening hours and with discounts to special events;
- visit the Penguin Parade and the Koala Conservation Centre four times if an ongoing member and twice if a new member;
- a 10% discount applies to accompanying visitors to attractions;
- a 10% discount off all food and souvenirs purchased, excluding stamps.

N.B. Membership Card is NOT transferable. Identification may be required.

I agree to abide by the FOCIS Society's Rules as laid down in its Constitution.

Signature.....

As a member, I am/am not able to offer the Society help with it's projects on.... days per year.

Painting Festivals
Restoration Gardening

OFFICE USE ONLY
Membership no.....
Paid to..... Receipt no.....
Cheque/Cash Received.....
Card Sent .....

Surface Mail

Postage Paid Cowes 3922

Friends of Churchill Island Society Newsletter
If undelivered return to: FOCIS, RMB 1. COWES 3922
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FOCIS

FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL ISLAND SOCIETY INCORPORATED

SPRING 1998